

11 March 2008

Stefan Leslie  
Manager: Deepwater Fisheries Operations  
Ministry of Fisheries  
PO Box 1020  
Wellington

Dear Stefan

## **SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES ON THE INITIAL POSITION PAPER FOR SBW 6B SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 1 APRIL 2008**

### **Introduction**

1. The Deepwater Group Limited (DWG) makes this submission on the Initial Position Paper (IPP) for SBW 6B sustainability measures for the 2008–09 fishing year, on behalf of 89% of SBW 6B quota owners who are DWG shareholders (including through their related companies).
2. DWG was formed in November 2005 by the amalgamation of the Hoki Fishery Management Company Ltd, the Squid Fishery Management Company Ltd and the Orange Roughy Management Company Ltd. It represents participants in New Zealand's major deepwater fisheries including squid, hoki, hake, orange roughy, oreos and southern blue whiting.

### **Management of SBW 6B**

3. The IPP proposes two TAC/TACC options:
  - Option 1 - maintain the *status quo* TAC and TACC at 3,500 tonnes
  - Option 2 - increase the TAC to 10,000 tonnes, comprising a TACC of 9,800 tonnes and a 200 tonne allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality
4. DWG has considered the Ministry's IPP and the two proposed TACC options in conjunction with SBW 6B quota owners. We have taken into account the current estimation of stock status and social and economic factors, namely the importance of SBW within their seafood businesses.

5. DWG can advise the Ministry that 85% of SBW 6B quota owners support an increase in SBW 6B TACC to between 8,000 - 10,000 tonnes. On this basis DWG supports Option 2 (i.e. an increase in the TAC to 10,000 tonnes and a TACC of 9,800 tonnes), from 1 April 2008.
6. SBW 6B quota owners agree that, through DWG, they will:
  - Continue a close working relationship with the Ministry and the Minister on the management of this fishery
  - Plan an acoustic biomass survey of spawning aggregations on the Bounty Platform in 2008, using an industry vessel, to inform a revised stock assessment in 2009
  - Re-evaluate the desirability of a further TACC increase, within the sustainability parameters for the stock, from 1 April 2009

Regards

George Clement  
CEO

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