

13 April 2004

Dear Stakeholder

PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SEaweEDS INTO THE QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON 1 OCTOBER 2005

Since the Fisheries Act 1996 came into full effect on 1 October 2001 the Ministry of Fisheries has implemented a programme to introduce around 50 species into the Quota Management System (QMS). As part of this programme seaweeds are being considered for QMS introduction on 1 October 2005.

Section 19 of the Fisheries Act 1996 requires the Minister of Fisheries to consider several matters when making a decision as to whether or not a stock should be introduced into the QMS. These matters include the costs and benefits of QMS introduction, the Quota Management Areas that will apply, the proposed fishing year, the unit of measure for the expression of the Total Allowable Catch and Annual Catch Entitlements, and provisions for such other matters that may be contemplated by the 1996 Act.

The document containing the matters relevant to the Minister's decisions, as outlined above, is available on the Ministry of Fisheries' website for your comment:

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/information/quotams.html>

The Ministry's preliminary recommendations on whether or not seaweeds should be introduced into the QMS are also provided. You are requested to submit comments by **11 June 2004** at the latest.

If you have any questions regarding the consultation document, require a printed copy of the document or wish MFish staff to attend a meeting/hui to discuss the proposal, please contact Rose Grindley, Private Bag 1926, Dunedin (03) 474 2689; GrindleR@fish.govt.nz or Allen Frazer, Private Bag 1926, Dunedin (03) 474 2682, FrazerA@fish.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Michael Arbuckle
for Chief Executive
Ministry of Fisheries