

Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc & Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

31 March 2004

**Manager of Corporate and Planning Services
Ministry of Fisheries
P O Box 1020
Wellington.
Attention Brian Ashton**

Dear Brian,

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2004/05

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed New Initiatives for the Ministry of Fisheries.

We note that the initiative going forward are again limited, especially when compared with the proposals that have been rejected by the Ministry.

1. Implementation of MFish Treaty Strategy

We support funding for the implementation of the customary fishing provisions in the Fisheries Act.

The Groups support the establishment of a contestable fund which iwi can bid for to establish Mataitai and Taiapure. We have been concerned at the slow progress in developing mataitai and taiapure sites.

2. Health and Safety – Compliance Field Communications

We support funding for improved co-ordination of compliance.

3. Improved Information on Marine Recreational Fishing

Information on recreational fishing is a priority in fisheries where the recreational component is a significant proportion of overall catch. Given the controversy over conflicting results from recreational surveys and the need to get better information on major recreational fisheries (eg rock lobster), this proposal is strongly supported.

4. Serious Offences Unit

We support increased funding to deal with serious offences. The potential for large catches to be taken by commercial fishers and damage to stocks and the aquatic environment means that this area must be a priority.

5. Corporate Infrastructure Projects

This would be the lowest priority project and would be a lower priority than the many of the projects not going forward as new initiatives eg marine biodiversity and Antarctic research and poaching and black market enforcement.

The Ministry needs to be more honest about the failings of the QMS rather than be focused on PR and spin in its support. Without that honesty, we could not have confidence that this project is an appropriate new initiative.

INITIATIVES NOT TO BE FURTHER CONSIDERED

We note that the Ministry has decided not to pursue any of these new initiatives.

- **Sector Engagement**
- **Development of Compliance Analytical Capability**
- **Poaching and Black Market Enforcement**
- **Review of forensic science in enforcement**
- **Monitoring for socio-economic objectives**
- **Customary fisheries research**
- **Marine Biodiversity research programme**
- **Antarctic fisheries research**
- **Support for Pacific Island countries**

Conclusion:

If you have any questions about this submission please do not hesitate to contact Barry Weeber at 04-385-7374.

Yours sincerely



Barry Weeber
Forest and Bird

Cath Wallace
For ECO Executive