

DECISION ON INTRODUCTION OF SPECIES INTO THE QMS ON 1 OCTOBER 2008

- 1 In May 2007 MFish released a paper for consultation to stakeholders containing preliminary risk analyses for 10 species or species groups that were candidates for QMS introduction on 1 October 2008. The species or species groups had been identified using a draft QMS introduction standard and were:
 - i) Hagfish
 - ii) Lamprey
 - iii) Bellowsfish species
 - iv) Seahorse
 - v) Scabbardfish
 - vi) Capro dory
 - vii) Mirror dory
 - viii) Silver dory
 - ix) Broadnosed sevengill shark
 - x) Sharpnosed sevengill shark
- 2 Submissions in response to the preliminary risk analyses were largely unanimous in opposing further consideration of these species for QMS introduction. MFish concurs with the majority of submitters who supported this position and will not proceed with further steps to introduce any of the 10 species or species groups into the QMS on 1 October 2008.
- 3 The draft QMS introduction standard proposed that if stocks or species listed on Schedule 4C of the Fisheries Act 1996 were not identified as being a candidate for QMS introduction they should be removed from Schedule 4C. For this reason MFish proposes to ask the Minister to make a determination to remove lamprey (*Geotria australis*) and seahorse (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) from Schedule 4C of the Act.
- 4 However because of generic concerns about sustainability of shark species MFish considers it prudent for the Minister to postpone any consideration of removing sharpnosed sevengill shark from Schedule 4C until such time as the New Zealand's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) has been finalised and the species has been evaluated against the proposed prohibited utilisation standard contained within the NPOA-Sharks.

- 5 The NPOA-Sharks was released for consultation in October 2007 and includes proposed measures to improve the information reported by commercial fishers on the take of shark species. The finalised NPOA-Sharks is expected to be provided to the Minister of Fisheries for his approval in June 2008.
- 6 MFish anticipates that better information will indicate more definitively whether other management measures should be considered for both sharpnosed and broadnosed sevengill shark in the future.