

## **Key themes of reform discussed at national hui**

### **Engagement with the amateur sector**

- MFish's current engagement model is advisory, rather than representative. Forum members are appointed by MFish on the basis of their expertise and/or affiliations;
- This engagement model means that while individual experts are sometimes mandated to engage in management discussions on behalf of their specific organisations they are generally not mandated to engage on behalf of the wider amateur sector;
- The amateur fishing trust would provide amateur fishers with a vehicle for the amateur sector to work towards a mandated and representative structure and would make professional services available to existing organisations and representatives to assist the development of their own capacity;
- The trust is not in itself a representative organisation nor a replacement for current organisations' involvement in fisheries management.
- In the future a representative structure for the sector would mean MFish engagement is targeted at mandated representatives of the amateur fishing sector and not at appointed experts;
- The government has no preconceived idea of what the details of this representative structure should look like. However, in general, it should be independent from government, financially sustainable and accountable to its members.
- The establishment of an amateur fishing trust and any move towards a representative structure would not remove the government's obligations to consult with all stakeholders on fisheries management issues; and
- Delegates noted their support in principle for the trust concept but noted that it needed to be set up appropriately and be adequately resourced.

### **Activity and catch reporting for the recreational charter vessel sector**

- Charter vessels provide the amateur sector with the means to go fishing, and catch from these vessels is part of the amateur allowance;
- Relatively little information is known about the size of the charter vessel sector. Analysis of the Maritime New Zealand database suggests approximately 600 vessels, implying a 50% increase in the number of vessels in the last decade;
- During the shared fisheries consultation process there was widespread support for charter vessels to report their catch;
- The Minister of Fisheries has agreed to consult with charter vessel sector representatives on the introduction of activity and catch reporting by recreational fishing charter vessel operators
- Activity and catch reporting will help with stock assessment in some fisheries and allow MFish to monitor fishing pressure in specific areas so that management action can be taken if necessary;
- Much work remains to be done, immediate challenges include:
  - Defining a marine recreational fishing charter vessel operator
  - Defining generic activity reporting
  - Defining triggers/criteria to move to catch reporting

- Ensuring information is appropriate to management systems
- Delegates supported the idea of charter vessel activity and catch reporting and highlighted the need for such reporting to be compulsory; and
- The rest of 2007 will involve communicating the Minister's decisions to charter vessel operators. In early 2008 MFish will begin work with sector representatives to develop proposals and then consult with the sector over proposed changes to regulations. Regional recreational forums will also be involved in this consultation process.