

# New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council

(Incorporated)

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## **Submission on Fisheries Services Proposed for 2006/07**

1 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fisheries Services Proposed for 2006/07. The draft plan provides a reasonable overview of the services provided by MFish and what they are projected to cost.

2 The NZ Big Game Fishing Council was formed in 1956 has been actively involved in fisheries management issues for over 20 years. We are committed to ensuring good fisheries management outcomes for all non-commercial fishers and have engaged in a number of processes to try and further that goal.

3 Through our involvement with the Hokianga Accord and regional recreational forums our representatives are engaging with the tangata whenua, other recreational fishers and the Ministry. Our submission to the draft plan for fisheries services is that MFish need to make resources available for well funded and staffed consultation and information dissemination processes with non-commercial fishers during 2006/07. These resources are critical to delivering good process for the shared fisheries project that is underway and to allow for informed contributions from the public on a wide range of other issues.

4 For example, the marine protected areas strategy encourages stakeholders to explore the available options. As the agency responsible for giving effect to the implementation of maitaitai and taiapure it is the Ministry's responsibility to engage with the public and increase awareness of how these tools work. Research into current public understanding of these and other marine protection tools is an essential first step in achieving good processes and outcomes for the MPA strategy. NZBGF agrees with option4 and the Hokianga Accord that improved public awareness is necessary for these tools to be used successfully.

5 Having a two tiered research services list adds some transparency to the process of selecting research projects to put out to tender and is supported. Second Tier projects may miss out on funding.

6 NZBGFC submit that project KIN2006/02 “Commercial handling mortality of kingfish” must be moved into the first tier projects. In the 2004/05 fishing year the kingfish TACC in KIN7 was exceeded by 168 % (TACC 7t and landings 18.76t ) and the TACC in KIN8 was exceeded by 48% (TACC 36t and landings of 53.2t). This is not a good outcome for commercial fishers, nor for non-commercial interests.

7 On 1 October 2005 kingfish were added to the Sixth Schedule of the Fisheries Act 1996 to allow the release of kingfish taken commercially, subject to conditions. Only kingfish with a high likelihood of survival may be released under this provision (reducing the mortality on the stock as a whole). The released fish do not count against ACE. It is our view that KIN2006/02 is required to monitor the effectiveness of this management measure and to help improve where possible the code of conduct that is being developed.

8 This submission from the NZBGFC has been reviewed endorsed by option4.

Yours sincerely

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President  
New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council