

# INTRODUCTION

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- 1 This Initial Position Paper (IPP) provides you with the Ministry of Fisheries' (MFish) initial position on those regulatory and other management controls that MFish has confirmed for review for the 1 April 2008 regulatory round.
- 2 The IPP has been developed for the purpose of consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act). MFish emphasises the views and recommendations outlined in each paper are preliminary and provided as a basis for consultation with stakeholders.
- 3 Each paper has regard to the legal obligations required under the Act. A standard section outlining MFish's statutory obligations and policy guidelines for a proposal contained within any IPP is available from MFish should you wish to refer to these matters.
- 4 MFish does not intend to use the IPP, and the consideration of proposals contained within it, to debate its generic statutory interpretations.
- 5 The individual papers within the IPP present and analyse information with the aim of focusing each paper on fisheries management outcomes. In particular, the body of the advice places an emphasis on analysis and application of the facts to the issues that need to be addressed. Most technical information, including information from stock assessments, has been attached as Appendices.
- 6 A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been attached for each proposal. The RIS have addressed all relevant aspects of the requirements specified by Cabinet in the Cabinet Office Circular CO (07) 3.
- 7 The proposals in the IPP include:
  - Review of the regulation that permits the stalling of nets in Kaipara Harbour;
  - Amendment to the recreational scallop season in FMA 9
  - Surf Clam Dredge Size
  - Review of regulations relating to fishing interactions with marine turtles
  - Container type reporting for Schedule Six discards
  - Paddle Crab: Allowing for return to sea
  - Proposal to list deepwater crabs on Schedule Six of the Fisheries Act 1996
- 8 In September 2007, MFish will compile the Final Advice Paper. This document will summarise MFish and stakeholder views on those issues being reviewed, and will provide final advice and recommendations for each issue. Copies of the Final Advice Paper, and subsequently the Minister's letter setting out his final decisions, will be put on the MFish website as soon as it becomes available.

## **Deadline for submissions**

- 9 All written submissions on this consultation document are to be received by MFish by **Friday 24 August 2007**.
  
- 10 Written submissions should be sent directly to:  
  
Tracey Steel,  
Ministry of Fisheries,  
PO Box 1020,  
Wellington;  
  
or emailed to [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)
  
- 11 Please note that all submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and can be released, if requested, under the OIA. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission withheld, please set out your reasons in the submission. MFish will consider those reasons when making an assessment for the release of submissions if requested under the OIA.