



24 July 2008

Dear Stakeholder

### **1 October 2008 Sustainability Round - Update**

1. On 30 June 2008 you were advised of a range of sustainability measures on which the Minister of Fisheries (the Minister) may make decisions for the fishing year commencing on 1 October 2008. You were invited to make submissions on a range of management measures for: orange roughy (ORH 3B); bluenose (BNS 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8); and deemed value rates for selected fishstocks. Submissions are due on 11 August 2008.
2. I wish to advise you that the Minister has just introduced into Parliament the Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill (No 2) (the Bill). The Bill, if passed will amend section 13 of the Fisheries Act 1996. It is under section 13 that the Minister sets a total allowable catch (TAC) for a fish stock.
3. The purpose of the Bill is not to change the overall approach to the setting of TACs but rather to enable TACs to continue to be set under section 13 using existing management approaches, even where the current biomass and the biomass that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) cannot be estimated reliably for a stock.
4. The hope is that the Bill will be passed into law by early September 2008. If enacted this means that it would be part of the statutory framework under which the Minister would make his decisions for the October 2008 sustainability round and therefore may be a factor you wish to take into account when making submissions on orange roughy and bluenose TACs.

5. A copy of the Bill is available for you to view on our web site, [www.fish.govt.nz](http://www.fish.govt.nz). The Bill includes an explanatory note which explains the Bill in more detail. If you are intending to make submissions on the October 2008 sustainability round please feel free to consider the proposed amendments contained in the Bill, as part of the possible statutory framework the Minister will be required to operate within, when he makes his decisions. If you cannot access the Bill on our website and would like us to send you a copy please contact Tracey Steel Ph (04) 819 4548, or e-mail [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



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