

**Report:** Fisheries Management team meeting with MPI fisheries review team, 28 October 2015

**For:** New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Management Board

**By:** Scott Macindoe, Fisheries Management Committee

**Date:** 3 November 2015

**Attendees:** Andy Hill (MPI, Policy manager), Anne Wietheger (MPI, Policy), Tim Persen (MPI, Policy), John Holdsworth (NZSFC), Trish Rea (NZSFC), Barry Torkington (NZSFC), Scott Macindoe (NZSFC), Andy Stewart (Observer, NZ Underwater Association), Jim Yeoman (Observer, New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, LegaSea Hawkes Bay).

**Apologies:** Richard Baker, Peter Campbell, Mark Connor, Phil Appleyard.

**Duration:** 3.5 hours



## 1. Purpose of meeting

This meeting was an opportunity to meet with the officials responsible for reviewing the fisheries management regime and clarify what feedback will be useful and what aspects are not being reviewed.

It was a worthwhile meeting, with free and frank discussion, and the NZSFC team now has clarity on which areas to focus their feedback, and what areas are not so important to this process.

## 2. Discussions

This review is supported by the Minister, is being led by MPI Policy, and is separate to any Operations activities. It is in part a response to various local and national issues that have emerged over the past few years, and the various local initiatives that have arisen to address these issues.

Aspects not being reviewed include:

- Fisheries Act, Section 8 requirements
- Treaty Settlements
- QMS tools
- Quota allocations or allowances
- Recreational fishing rights
- Customary interests.

After some discussion it was evident that the range of issues out of scope of this review is quite narrow. MPI is intent on listening to all feedback so they are encouraging the NZSFC and others to submit on a range of issues. Submission deadline is 11 December. MPI has established an online submission form. All feedback will be collated and presented to the Minister by January 2016, and made publicly available. The Minister will then decide which issues will be discussed further in 2016.

NZSFC committed to present constructive criticism, identify problems, and provide potential, practical solutions, if available. NZSFC is concerned the online submission process would attract a myriad of responses from the public, risking public input being dismissed in favour of collective views of other interest groups. NZSFC emphasised the need for case studies to support any future proposal, to test the efficacy of the proposal, and identify weaknesses and benefits. MPI was encouraged that the NZSFC wanted for the future a more flexible system that did not rely on Court resolutions. NZSFC is committed to both achieving the best outcome for our fisheries and to unlock more value and benefits for the country.

MPI is interested in the outcome of the NZMRF project to measure the contribution of recreational fishing to the New Zealand economy. The early 2016 publication of the results could work in well with this review.

MPI perspective, encourage comments on or about:

- Good and bad aspects of QMS
- Overseas academic's view on New Zealand's QMS

- The relationship with other MPI units i.e. Operations
- Consistent views across a number of aligned organisations will be helpful. MPI will take collective views into account.
- Cost recovery, who and how initiatives are paid for, by government, partnerships, groups, GST payments, resource rentals or royalties. The cost of running the QMS.
- Resourcing of recreational representation, government or other funding sources
- Effectiveness of engagement, lack of acknowledgement or interest in other views.
- Is some sort of structure needed for representation?
- Need for more transparency, and information sharing in decision making, management and science processes.
- Is the political nature of fisheries management adequate for all stakeholders? Can we get more clarity about objectives, policy and process?
- Perceptions of MPI's relationships with other stakeholders i.e. commercial, customary and environmental interests.
- How more emphasis on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management could be achieved?
- The role of the Harvest Strategy Standard in future.
- What is the opportunity cost of depletion?
- Is reference to the TAC valid in a mixed fishery, or are there alternative metrics?
- Fisheries 2030 performance indicators, at a high level MPI consider its ok.
- Fisheries management pathways, flexibility or suitability of Fisheries Plans for future use.
- Resolving an increasing number of local fisheries and area issues.
- Education and communication with the public.

NZSFC agreed that problem definition will be a relatively easy exercise; the challenge will be to describe the pathway to change. Any change exercise will need clear objectives, performance indicators and cost/benefit analysis.

Restoring abundance is the key to resolving many local and national issues. The public has signalled its willingness to conserve fish for the future. International literature now supports fish stocks being managed at higher abundance levels.

MPI encouraged ongoing dialogue with their team to ensure the NZSFC submission is focused and relevant.

### **3. Process timeline**

- Submission deadline – 11 December 2015.
- MPI report to Minister – early 2016.
- Formal consultation process – mid 2016.
- Required system and/or legislation change – 2017.

### **4. Actions**

- NZSFC to send to MPI –
  - Overseas papers reviewing New Zealand's QMS.
  - NZSFC submission Fisheries 2030 performance indicators.
  - Marine Policy Paper –New Zealand's QMS – Incoherent and conflicted. Torkington 2015.
  - SNA1 review – Greenaway report, August 2013.
- NZSFC to work with other representative organisations to submit a collective view.
- NZSFC to develop a response and submit by 11 December deadline.