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Future Of Our Fisheries
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Recreational interests

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Tēnā koutou

On behalf of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea teams, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi, the NZ Underwater Association, Yachting New Zealand, Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae, NZ Marine, the Outboard Boating Club of Auckland and the New Zealand Fishing Community I would like to thank you for your time on Wednesday and to wish your team well on the process that lies before you.

As you will have seen from our submission and from our time together we represent a passionate and committed recreational fishing sector with well considered and soundly based views on the failings of the Quota Management System (QMS). Those failings have become increasingly evident as many Total Allowable Catches (TACs) remain unreasonably high and issues of local depletion remain unresolved.

We have witnessed the decline in many of our fisheries and have now developed sound strategies on how best to rebuild stocks, to allow for future generations of New Zealanders while providing the best economic return from our inshore fisheries.

Between the groups represented at our meeting we account for more than 100,000 members and supporters from the Far North to Stewart Island, and we have a clear mandate from these supporters with regard to improving outcomes for recreational fishing, increasing abundance and diversity in inshore waters, and improving legislation to enable the Minister to make more precautionary decisions for the future use of our marine resources.

To clarify our main points:

- Policy reforms are required to manage for abundance, rather than enabling maximum exploitation of individual stocks of our precious marine resources. This is consistent with ecosystem-based fisheries management.
- The Information and Environmental Principles (ss9 & 10) in the Fisheries Act 1996 need to be used or strengthened to enable the Minister to make more precautionary decisions.

- Public fishing must remain outside of the Quota Management System. Attempts to force public fishing into the QMS with some sort of comprehensive reporting system is operationally unachievable and as such unenforceable. Recreational fisher registration and saltwater licencing do not have the public or political support to succeed, and fishers are strongly opposed to being squeezed into a proportional allocation of the Total Allowable Catch.
- A new Allocation Principle based on Moyle's Promise is required in the Fisheries Act 1996 to guide Ministerial decisions and reduce tensions.
- We seek a full, independent review of the Quota Management System and decision-making processes for the necessary reforms that are beyond the scope of the FOOF process.
- We want to establish inshore fishing zones that are free of industrial-grade fishing. The most productive waters and sensitive habitats are inshore, where most recreational fishing occurs. These habitats are at most risk from industrial, bulk harvesting methods such as trawling, seining, and dredging. These methods and industrial-scale long lining must be shifted offshore to enhance marine productivity and diversity.
- We want to help develop thriving coastal communities that enable artisanal, high value – low impact fishing ventures to support regional economic development.

At our meeting we discussed the joint recreational submission to the 2015 Fisheries System Review. That submission is available online at <https://goo.gl/Kh0qX4>. A 2-page summary is also available here <https://goo.gl/YGylz1>.

This 2015 submission provides comprehensive commentary on many aspects that we did not have time to discuss at our Parnell meeting. We encourage you to read the 2015 submission, particularly our thoughts on –

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| 1. The economy of fishing. | 2. Research. |
| 3. Allocation. | 4. Self-reporting of recreational harvest. |
| 5. Spatial conflict. | 6. Co-management. |

As discussed, recreational fishers are increasingly willing to conserve fish to accelerate the restoration of fish stocks for the benefit of future generations. However, people are vehemently opposed to conserving fish if their sacrifice is used to prop up excessive commercial allocations and enable the continued use of industrial-scale commercial fishing methods in the inshore environment.

Recreational fishers take less than 10% of the total harvest from New Zealand's waters, mostly inshore. If the Government is truly intent on maximising value from marine harvest and securing a prosperous future for New Zealand then we must commit to encouraging high value use of our fisheries resources.

If you require any further information from us, or clarification of any points we have made in our submissions please do not hesitate to contact us. We are also available to respond to any specific issues raised by other submitters.

Ngā mihi nui,

Richard Baker

Spokesperson