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## Review of the National Rock Lobster Management Group

1. Fisheries New Zealand released an online survey on aspects of the NRLMG on 28 June 2019. It was distributed by email and has not been released for public consultation. Responses are due by 10 July. There was discussion on this review at the NZSFC Fisheries Management Standing Committee Meeting in Auckland on 5 July 2019. Present were NZSFC representatives from Taranaki, Canterbury, Waikato, Gisborne, Auckland, Coromandel, Tauranga and Hawkes Bay. This included the current NZSFC president Bob Gutsell and two past presidents. Also present were the President of the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (Hawkes Bay) and the LegaSea team leader.
2. There was discussion about the role of NRLMG, how it has changed and what that might be in the future. It is fair to say a wide range of options were discussed. The decision was made to put someone forward for the revised NRLMG so that NZSFC would have a say in the revision of the Terms of Reference for the group, which must be undertaken by the new members.

### **Response to Fisheries New Zealand survey questions**

3. What other national groups or organisations should be represented on the Group? NZSFC and the New Zealand Underwater Association to represent recreational fishers and an ENGO with the right credentials like Forest and Bird. Why? These groups represent a broad spectrum of the public with an interest in fisheries and the marine environment. They also have high profile outreach through their national organisational structure, magazines and websites.
4. What criteria should be used to ensure there is appropriate sector membership in the NRLMG? A proven ability to communicate to their members and the wider public on fisheries and marine issues. The mandate to speak on behalf of their board or management group rather than as individuals.
5. Do you think the current member nomination process is appropriate? The Terms of Reference need changing. This review must be wider than the nomination process. Why? The current process has largely been ignored.
6. What term should members be appointed for? To be discussed by the new members. Probably three years with a renewal for a second term available.
7. What makes a good representative? The ability to communicate fisheries management issues to the group they represent and contribute to discussions at the NRLMG. The time to prepare and read material and submissions before meetings. The flexibility to attend meetings mid-week.

8. Additional comments? Some of the issues that need to be considered by the new group, including FNZ.
- Revised the Terms of Reference, including new purpose statements aligned to the purpose and principles of the Fisheries Act (1996)
  - A change of name to reflect the groups role
  - Support for ongoing development of management approaches that can adapt to declining productivity in many CRA stocks and rebuild abundance.
  - Support for using finer scale catch and effort information when assessing stocks and eventually in management measures
  - The chair of the science working group, or similar expertise on science-based fisheries management, at each key meeting.
  - Ability to Skype/Zoom into meetings if required
  - A change of meeting venue
  - More focus and resources on engaging with the public and other stakeholders.

### **The submitters**

9. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation with over 35,000 affiliated members from 55 clubs nationwide. In 2012 the Council initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support for the need to restore abundance in our inshore marine environment, as well as to encourage people to help resource the NZSFC engagement and participation in marine fisheries management, marine protection, advocacy, research, education and alignment.
10. Our representatives are available to discuss this submission in more detail if required. We look forward to positive outcomes from this review and would like to be kept informed of future developments. Our contact is Helen Pastor, [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).