



MP for Napier

Minister of Police

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Minister for Small Business

B19-0704

NZ Recreational Fishing Council
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NZ Sport Fishing Council
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NZ Underwater Association
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28 JAN 2020

Dear recreational stakeholders

Request for recreational representatives for the National Rock Lobster Management Group

The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) is a primary advisor to me on rock lobster fisheries management matters, including catch settings and allowances, regulatory reviews, and other management advice.

Membership review

In 2019, the NRLMG undertook a review of its membership. The review focused on ensuring that membership of the NRLMG is fit for purpose, and representative of all sectors involved in rock lobster management.

In summary, I have agreed to:

- Maintain two tangata whenua members;
- Broaden recreational representation and identify two recreational representatives;
- Re-establish environmental representation and identify two environmental representatives;
- Maintain two commercial members from the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council;
- Maintain Fisheries New Zealand membership from Science and Fisheries Management (including the secretariat);
- Strengthen fisheries compliance presence by adding one member from the Ministry for Primary Industries' Fisheries Compliance Directorate; and
- Continue to allow expert advisors to attend NRLMG meetings as required.

I expect that all members of the NRLMG will abide by Terms of Reference (as enclosed), to ensure constructive behaviour and decision-making, and efficient functioning of the Group. Key aspects that I am looking for in current and future members, includes: representatives have mandate; are focused on ensuring the wellbeing of the rock lobster fishery; can engage constructively; commit to participation; have good communication and listening skills; and, have knowledge of fisheries management or experience with fishing.

Members should also be available to attend approximately six meetings a year in Wellington. The meetings are all day and during the work week.

Recreational representation

I am now seeking a total of two recreational representatives from across your collective organisations, to broaden the representation on the NRLMG.

I acknowledge that there is no single mandated group of organisations for the recreational sector, which creates challenges for finding national-level mandated representatives. Your organisations have been selected to collectively put forward two recreational representatives for the NRLMG, based on your interest in rock lobster fisheries management, and that you are sufficiently representative of your constituents at a national or a broad geographical area.

Representatives of the NZ Recreational Fishing Council have represented recreational fishing interests on the NRLMG since it was established in 1992. Representatives of the NZ Sport Fishing Council have also attended NRLMG meetings as observers in recent years.

I encourage you to work together and decide amongst yourselves on two members to represent recreational interests on the NRLMG. Please provide your recommendations to Sonja Hempel, the NRLMG secretariat, by 26 February 2020. Her contact details are sonja.hempel@mpi.govt.nz or 04 894 0018. Miss Hempel will also be able to assist with any additional information you may require on the NRLMG.

It is proposed that the new membership of the NRLMG will commence from April 2020.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash'.

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Fisheries