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cc NZSFC delegates  
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17 November 2013

### **MPI invitation to nominate a representative to SNA1 Strategy Group**

Dear Nathan,

This letter is in response to an invitation for the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) to nominate a representative for the Snapper 1 Strategic Planning Group, to be chaired by Sir Ian Barker.

The invitation, from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), sought nominations from the FMA 1 and 9 regional recreational fisheries forum, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council/LegaSea and presumably others, to give MPI a selection of possible candidates from which they would appoint the two recreational representatives.

The NZSFC Management Committee met yesterday and agreed to highlight our objection to this inadequate process.

Given the opportunity we would appoint John Holdsworth, Barry Torkington and Trish Rea, all of whom have considerable experience in MPI fisheries management processes and representing recreational fishing interests. However, in the absence of an invitation to appoint no less than all three representatives we are unable to nominate any for MPI selection.

Firstly, it is not possible to properly represent the membership of the NZSFC member clubs and supporters by a single delegate, at most. There is little point in going through with a strategic planning exercise if there is no capacity to carry the views of the constituents.

Secondly, it is inconceivable that MPI will be nominating the commercial and customary candidates so we do not accept that MPI appoints the recreational representatives. Representatives must be appointed by mandated bodies exercising good process; not selected by third parties.

For some time the NZSFC has advocated for a strategic plan, but objects to the arbitrary manner in which this nomination process is being executed.

Moreover, MPI has listed the topics, a terms of reference, for the group to consider in a strategic context. The topics chosen by MPI are very tactical by nature and lack the strategic direction envisioned when submitting on the 2013 Review of Snapper 1.

It seems as if MPI are attempting to unduly control representation and membership, then have the two representatives, selected by MPI, to take responsibility for ensuring buy-in from the rest of their sector.

The NZSFC/LegaSea could not participate in any such group without three members on the strategic planning group. As a minimum we envisage requiring science, policy, and liaison/public awareness support.

Given the largely volunteer status of our membership and Management Committee and our need to resource our technical team, we need everyone to be clear about our intentions. We are not jockeying for any advantage over the other participants, these are our simple realities.

Our representatives must be on solid ground, capable of answering to and receiving direction from a wide range of clubs, members and supporters. It is unrealistic to expect a single person to complete that task.

Our reality is, there will be times when a single representative is unavailable, requiring continuity of representation by the rest of our team.

The exclusion of environmental interests also diminishes the likelihood of achieving any useful strategic outcome. The NZSFC sees no point in a strategic plan easily opposed by environmental interests on the basis that their views were not considered. This Council has high regard for the environmental advocates likely to be appointed.

The NZSFC asks you to both direct the Ministry to reconsider the approach taken to appointing the Snapper 1 Strategic Group, and to define more strategic terms of reference for the Group so we can all achieve an enduring outcome of abundance for future generations that is supported by the public, environmental, non-commercial and commercial fishing interests.

Any questions or comments you have are most welcome. Our Council contact is Roz Nelson, [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).

Yours sincerely,



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