

Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group Meeting

Ministry for Primary Industries chaired meeting 19 August 2016

Report by John Holdsworth & Trish Rea
22 August 2016

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION IN NEWSLETTERS OR MEDIA

Chair:	Martin Cryer (MPI)
Recreational Reps:	John Holdsworth, Trish Rea, Rob Southwick (Skype), Lisa Bragg (Skype) (New Zealand Marine Research Foundation).
Commercial Reps:	Tom Clarke (FINZ).
Research Providers:	Bruce Hartill (NIWA), Andy Heinemann (NRB), Adolf Stroombergen (Infometrics),
MPI:	Mark Chambers (science), Eugene Rees (sector policy), Graham McGregor (analyst), John Taunton-Clark (manager), Marty Bowers & Andy Mackay (recreational fishing team, Andy (Skype)), Nick Fish (analyst), Alicia McKinnon (analyst, Skype), Mark Geytenbeek (Skype).
Duration:	2.25 hours

This meeting reviewed the revised technical report, *Estimating Marine Recreational Fishing's Economic Contributions in New Zealand*, and external reviews by two researchers. Another review by Tom McClurg (Torora Strategy) was not discussed in detail as most of his technical points were covered by the two independent reviews. This Working Group was concerned with a scientific review of the survey and not management and political issues.

There was an unusually high number of MPI staff involved or tuning into this meeting, all very interested in whether the report was going to be recognised as adequately robust to inform future management decisions. That decision will depend on the development of a 2-page cover note for the technical report that will be drafted by the NZMRF team and MPI between now and the next Working Group meeting in 6 to 8 weeks time.

NIWA provided brief progress reports on the recreational harvest survey in FMA7 and web camera monitoring programme. Good weather had enabled all flights to be completed in the FMA7 survey. The boat ramp camera network was working well aside from one site in Tauranga where the camera had been removed due to site maintenance. NIWA was hoping it would be reinstalled soon.

Economic report – recreational fishing in NZ

Project - New Zealand Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF)
John Holdsworth (BWMR)
Trish Rea (MCL)
Rob Southwick, Lisa Bragg (Southwick Associates)

John Holdsworth briefly described earlier projects that sought to measure the economic value of recreational fishing in New Zealand. This current research was about the size of economic currently supported by recreational fishing, it is not a valuation of fisheries or an estimation of consumer surplus.

The Working Group had earlier opportunities to raise concerns with the methodology used in the NZMRF research project. A proposal was tabled with the Research Advisory Group in April 2015. The NZMRF had no intention or budget to write a Fisheries Assessment Report. The Foundation appreciated the comments received so far and would use the reviewers' useful comments when developing a peer review journal paper for publication in the international literature.

The research was not intended for allocation purposes or to downplay other industries, it was to identify and quantify the recreational fishing industry, recognising that this is the first step in a process to measure the values associated with recreational fishing. Social and cultural values were not measured.

MPI emphasised this meeting was to assess if the research was of sufficient robustness to be used to inform management decisions. MPI recognised the report was not a guide to specific management actions, but does give a broad guide to the size of the recreational fishing industry.

Martin:

1. Asked if the NZMRF was going to rewrite the report to take into account the points raised.
2. MPI could do grading with some commentary attached, recognising the 'thin' methodology and broad nature of the research.
3. The report can be assigned a Ministry grading between 1 and 3, with 1 being the highest score. More discussion is required to determine if it will be given a 1 or 2.
4. Martin and G. McGregor to work with NZMRF to develop a 1-2 pager cover letter to accompany the report. (cover letters are a fairly common practice for reports to Government depts)
5. MPI does not have any funds to commission a research project into recreational fishing spending but may consider including additional questions in the next NPS.
6. Next meeting to discuss research planning will occur within 6 to 8 weeks.

MAFWG recommended changes to the technical report:

7. **Clarify:**
 - a. the objective – to measure spending on recreational fishing.
 - b. the report does not intend to measure net economic benefits.
 - c. percentages of international arrivals visiting primarily for fishing, and how that extrapolates to charter boat hireage.
 - d. spending by species seems high, explain if based on target or actual catch.
 - e. methodology; not sufficient to just say researchers 'used established methodology' and not explain further details.
 - f. there is a difference in summer and winter fishing *activity*, but *spending* is similar between seasons.
 - g. income of participants not used as a weighting factor in the report.

Next steps

8. Martin, Graeme McGregor (MPI) to work with NZMRF technical team to develop a covering letter to accompany the technical report.
9. John and Trish to advise Southwick Associates if any changes are required to the technical report.
10. Southwick Associates to develop a peer review journal paper.