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cc NZSFC delegates
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2 December 2013

NZSFC representatives to SNA1 Strategy Group

Dear Nathan,

Following on from our letter dated 17 November, “MPI invitation to nominate a representative to SNA1 Strategy Group”, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) would like to confirm our willingness to participate in the Strategy Group, if we are given the opportunity to appoint John Holdsworth, Barry Torkington and Trish Rea, if the terms of reference are designed to achieve a strategic, long-term outcome, and environmental interests are included in the process.

Minister, in your SNA 1 decision letter you said that “stakeholders are in the best position to provide more detailed guidance....on the future management of the fishery”. Our intention is to provide the best guidance possible.

We have not received a reply to our 17 November letter nor are we aware of any progress in developing the Strategy Group. However, we are looking forward to working with Group chair, Sir Ian Barker, a man of high repute.

The NZSFC has invested heavily in snapper management over the years and we have an ongoing commitment to serve our members, supporters and the public’s interests by advocating for abundance to meet the needs of future generations.

As noted previously, we have no desire to influence who the other sectors choose as their representatives, but we are obliged to be upfront that we need a team of three to service our members’ and supporters’ needs. Each person has particular skills and attributes that will aid a strategic approach to fisheries management, with no one person with the depth of knowledge in all fields. Those three people are:

John Holdsworth – has more than 25 years of fisheries science and management experience. He has been an active member of many of the key science working groups that review the design, implementation and results of research projects on snapper, mainly the Northern Inshore Working Group and the Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group. He has had a close working relationship with the NZSFC for 15 years providing science and policy advice, and is a contract fisheries research provider to MPI through the company Blue Water Marine Research Ltd. As such he can contribute to the meetings but not speak for the NZSFC.

Barry Torkington – has been involved in fishing for more than 50 years as an amateur and commercial fisher off the northeast coast. He has served on the Executive of the Federation of Commercial Fishermen, was intimately involved in the introduction of the QMS, has a 30 year history in advocating for increased benefits from the SNA1 fishery and has planning experience. Barry has a long history of commercial advocacy and innovation and has recently moved to advising the NZSFC on matters concerning the wider public fishing interest, and is currently a principal strategic policy adviser.

Trish Rea – has more than a decade of fisheries management, advocacy, communications, participating in various Ministry forums, Working Groups, and is a member of the FMA 1 and 9 Regional Recreational Fishers Forum. She is one of the few full time professionals working on recreational fisheries in New Zealand and as such has cultivated an extensive network of contacts and supporters. She has been nominated by the NZSFC as one of their representatives on the SNA 1 Strategy Group.

Our appointees will be expected to communicate with our management team and report on meeting discussions in order to gain directions for the following Strategy Group discussions. The above three people have a history of providing us with sound advice and being able to communicate any subsequent response from the NZSFC management team.

We look forward to being a part of a process that seeks to have Snapper 1 managed at higher abundance levels, to enable our members, supporters and the public the opportunity to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing from fishing between North Cape and the eastern Bay of Plenty. And more importantly, provide abundance for the needs of future generations of New Zealanders.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council looks forward to your earliest response. Our Council contact is Roz Nelson, secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Connor
President
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council