

SUBMISSION RE DEEMED VALUES

My name is Wayne Bicknell. I am a recreational fisherman from Hawke's Bay. I am a representative on the North Island South East Fishing Forum. I am a member of the Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club Inc. and am one of their delegates on the NZ Big Game Fishing Council. I am also the recreational representative for the Moremore Maitaitai Reserve.

The following are my views and personal recommendations on the Public Discussion Paper on Deemed Values (the Recommendations of the Crown and Industry Joint Working Group on Deemed Values).

As a recreational fisherman, I must say that I find it very ironic that the Crown and Industry came up with these recommendations when it is the Recreational and Customary sectors' fish that are being deemed, with no initial input from these sectors!

The fish we are talking about are in excess of the TACC but are still included in the TAC so these fish are ultimately part of the allocation to Recreational and Customary. As these fish have already been taken out of the water by Commercial, the other sectors, ie Recreational and Customary, have been denied the opportunity to harvest these fish, or the species themselves denied the opportunity to reproduce and rebuild.

I initially started this submission by going through the nine recommendations in the document. However, I feel that all of the recommendations are along the same line, focussing on more revenue for both MFish and the commercial sector, and don't address the real issues.

I can only relate to the area I am familiar with, ie Area 2, and the following are examples within that Area that show the imbalances occurring within the TACC. No doubt there are other areas throughout the country with equally tragic statistics.

With respect to Snapper (SNA2), in the 10 years up to 2003/04, 53.7 tonnes average over-catch. 2004/05 - 84 tonnes over-catch (that's 56,000 fish at 1.5kg each). Pay a deem value of \$3 per kg and then retail the fish at \$28 per kg - no quota required - thanks for shopping!

On the other hand, GUR2 the average over 10 years up to 2003/04 - 184 tonnes per year under TACC; 2004/05 reportable landings were up by 196 tonnes but still 17 tonnes short of TACC.

It is no coincidence that the deeming of Snapper, Trevally and Terakihi has increased dramatically with the additional Gurnard take. Lower the Gurnard TACC and there is no reason to carry on fishing after you have caught the TACC for other species.

I appreciate we are in a very mixed fishery and the problems that come with balancing ACE. However, I am sure that there is only a few commercial boats that are over-fishing their TACC and the majority of commercial operators want a sustainable fishery for generations to come.

The proposal to redistribute a portion of the deem money to quota-holders borders on being criminal and is very insulting to the other sectors. How can the Joint Working Group on Deemed Values justify someone over-catching their TACC, paying a \$3 "fine", then selling it for \$28 per kg, and now recommending giving back some of the \$3 fine?

I also find it ironic that one recommendation is that "*chronic over-catch should not be tolerated and should trigger management action*". What has been happening for the last 20 odd years? Surely these signs should have already been recognised and remedial action taken?

Possible solutions

I can appreciate the fine balance between setting the deemed value too high and then risk the dumping of fish. In my view, the first area to look at is the balance of the TACC.

Clearly, the Gurnard TACC (GUR2) has always been way too high resulting in over-catch of other species and that in turn, resulting in justification to increase the TACC for those other species (more fish out of the water).

Talking to some of the local commercial operators, the redundant by-catch trade-off system seemed to be a better option than low deem values. However, I am not 100% sure on how that system worked.

Logically, I believe that any fish that are taken above the TACC should come off the next season's ACE. This, combined with a more accurate balance of the TACC and maybe some by-catch trade-off, would go a long way to solving some of the problems.

Whilst very good money can be made from deeming, things will only get worse. Promotion of all sectors working together would also help a great deal.

I look forward to a positive outcome for all sectors.

Wayne Bicknell



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