

Notes for Recreational Fishing Forum Meetings January-February 2006

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Shared Fisheries Policy Initiative

- MFish has begun a new process to improve policies for management of shared fisheries.
- Shared fisheries are those in which both commercial and non-commercial fishers have significant interests and share in the total catch.
- An emphasis on shared resources reminds us of the need to acknowledge the range of interests involved, and the need to accommodate differing objectives and values in the management framework.
- Currently there are ongoing conflicts over shared fisheries, dissatisfaction with management among stakeholders, and difficulties for MFish and the Minister in administration of the system.
- The new initiative will build on previous work (Soundings and Ministerial reference groups).
- The resulting policy will provide a framework – a set of criteria, processes, and management tools that can be applied to particular fisheries, generally through the use of fisheries plans.

We are talking to you now to find out stakeholder views on workable options, and whether we have correctly identified the key issues/challenges. Later (after mid-year) we will seek formal feedback on policy options.

Key Issues and Challenges

1. Criteria and processes for setting the TAC
 - Need to strike balance between commercial and non-commercial values – that is, yield on one hand, and catch-rates/fish-size on the other
2. Increased certainty in allocation of TAC (setting and adjusting customary, recreational and commercial shares) while maintaining flexibility for responding to changing demands (e.g. population)
 - Important to secure benefits of the QMS through predictable and fair processes of adjustment
 - System still needs flexibility to be able to adjust shares in an orderly and fair way
 - Increased certainty and reduced conflict will encourage cooperative approaches to managing shared fisheries
3. More accessible management tools to allow for the enhancement of non-commercial values, for example
 - to provide for separation of commercial and recreational fishing effort in key areas or fisheries
 - to provide for increased local participation in management where interest and values are high
4. Effective management measures to ensure there are appropriate incentives for commercial and recreational take to be maintained within their share
 - Especially important in fully developed shared fisheries
5. More cost-effective and reliable information on non-commercial catch and participation rates
 - Knowing the extent of non-commercial fishing is important for all of the above issues, especially 1 & 2
 - Important to monitor (and respond to) changes in demand
 - Participation rates are a critical unknown factor

Are there other key challenges that we have missed?

Do you have any suggestions on how we can address any of these issues?

Where to from here?

- Preliminary discussions with key stakeholder groups – NOW
- Release of public discussion document ~June 2006
- Period for public feedback - 4 months
- Government decisions on final policy ~June 2007
- Legislative change, Select Committee process ~mid-2008.

We welcome your input into the policy development process at this important stage, and encourage members of the forum to contact the project team at any time to discuss the issues. If you wish, a further discussion could be at your next meeting.