

Friday, 18 July 2008 4:32 PM

Kia ora Trish,

First let me apologise for not being in contact on the progress amendments to section 13 of the Fisheries Act to allow the Minister to set total allowable catches in situations where there is no reliable estimate of current biomass or BMSY for a fish stock.

Since the last meeting on this subject in Wellington at which Bruce Galloway and Barry Torkington represented some recreational fishing groups, the Ministry has been working with the Minister to develop an amendment that would be supported for enactment in this term of Parliament. Progress has rapidly accelerated recently to the stage where a bill will be submitted to the House next week. The attached letter details the problem, approach and proposed timetable for the bill progress to a select committee consideration.

We carefully considered the approach Bruce and Barry raised at the last meeting regarding an approach using section 14. It was decided that this approach was too great a change from the objective of limiting legislative amendments to returning section 13 to an operatable state. The Ministry is commencing a wider review of the Fisheries Act and the consideration of an amendment to section 14 is something that is better dealt with in that process where the wider impacts on other aspects of the Act can be carefully assessed.

I have sent this letter to Bruce and Barry as well.

I will try to phone you directly to clarify any points you may have.

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