



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana

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8 June, 2011

Stuart Ryan
PO Box 1296
Shortland Street
Auckland 1140

RE: Fishing the Gulf – Decision making by the Minister of Fisheries

Dear Stuart

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 March 2011 noting decisions of the Supreme Court made in relation to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and fixing the total allowable commercial catch for kahawai.

These matters were brought to the attention of the Hauraki Gulf Forum at its last meeting through my manager's report.

With regard to your enquiries made of the Minister of Fisheries through the Forum - of how other fisheries management decisions might reflect the legislation in the future - I append a response from the Minister's representative on the Forum, John Taunton-Clark.

Your advocacy on these important matters of aligning fisheries management with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Tim Higham
Manager,
Hauraki Gulf Forum



7 April 2011

Tim Higham
Manager Hauraki Gulf Forum
c/- Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
AUCKLAND 1142

Dear Tim

Fishing the Gulf – Decision making by the Minister of Fisheries

Thank you for forwarding the letter (dated 24 March 2011) from Stuart Ryan, asking questions about how the Minister and Ministry of Fisheries interpret and apply the provisions of ss 7 and 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (the Act).

I have summarised the specific questions asked and provided responses below:

- a) *How does the Minister intend to give effect to the Court of Appeal's direction to have regard/particular regard to the Act when making fisheries management decisions?*

When the Minister reviews the sustainability settings for a stock, he considers the information provided to him by the Ministry of Fisheries and in stakeholder submissions on all relevant statutory considerations, including the Act referred to. The Ministry of Fisheries role is to provide best available information that is relevant to those considerations. For an example, refer to the 2010 review of all kahawai stocks which is available on our website at www.fish.govt.nz.

- b) *Does the Ministry of Fisheries have a programme to provide better scientific input into sustainability decisions for stocks with 'unknown biomass'?*

The Ministry's requirement for research information to inform fisheries management decisions is extensive, but the budget for fishery research is capped. Priorities for research must be carefully determined to ensure that the best value is obtained from our research spending. To assist in priority setting, the Ministry is developing fishery plans that set clear management objectives and performance measures, as well as transparent prioritisation criteria to support prioritisation of service (including research service) needs.

- c) *Does the Ministry have any prioritised action or review planned for trevally, described as 'in decline' in the Forum's document 'Fishing the Gulf'?*

A research programme to estimate the trend in relative abundance of the trevally stock (TRE 1) which overlaps with the HGMP boundaries will be completed later this year. Final results of that programme and other fishery monitoring information will be available to inform consideration of a review in 2012.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Kind regards



John Taunton-Clark
Team Leader Inshore Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries
AUCKLAND