

Fisheries 2030 Multi-stakeholder Workshop

MFish Head Office, Wellington, 28 May 2009

A report for the Hokianga Accord, option4 and NZBGFC
By Trish Rea
2 June 2009

Attendees

- Chair: Brian Roche (PricewaterhouseCoopers).
- Non-commercial: Geoff Rowling (NZRFC), Tom Paku (Te Kahui Maunga o Tangaroa), Kirsty Knowles (Forest & Bird), Richard Baker (NZBGFC), Mike Noho (Te Kahui Maunga o Tangaroa), Barry Webber (ECO), Trish Rea (option4, Hokianga Accord), Cath Wallace (ECO), Kim Walshe (amateur fishing), Karli Thomas (Greenpeace), Tom Moana (Nga Hapu o Te Uru o Tainui).
- Commercial: Vaughan Wilkinson (Sanford), Nici Gibbs (SeaFIC), Greg White (TOKM), Craig Lawson (TOKM), Mike Burrell (Aquaculture), Mark Soboil (AFL), Tom McClurg (commercial), Peter Douglas (TOKM).
- MFish: Stan (GT) Crothers, Phil Kirk, Jonathan Rudge, Mark Edwards. Wayne McNee (MFish CE).
- Apologies: Wira Gardiner (customary), Riki Ellison (Aquaculture), Anake Goodall (TOKM). Mike Britton (Forest & Bird), Allen Wihongi (Hokianga Accord/Te Kahui Maunga o Tangaroa).
- Duration: 5.0 hours.

Overview

In November 2008 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) provided the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) with a final report setting out the vision, result areas and action plan for Fisheries 2030. The report was given to the Minister, Phil Heatley, in early March, who then referred it to the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI). On March 16th the EGI Committee considered the report and the Cabinet paper *Actions to Unlock the Economic Potential of the New Zealand Fisheries Sector*.

The Committee agreed that MFish work with tangata whenua and fisheries stakeholders to build on the PwC report and “*confirm a shared direction and plan of action for the fisheries sector¹*”.

PwC and MFish officials held several meetings in 2008, with commercial and amateur fishing interests, to discuss the 2030 Vision. The first meeting with Te Kahui Maunga o Tangaroa, the National Customary Fisheries Council Inc. occurred on April 30th 2009.

The Minister is due to report back to the EGI Committee in July 2009, “*with recommended actions that will enable the fisheries sector to make a significantly greater contribution to the New Zealand economy²*”.

More information is online at the MFish website -

http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Fisheries+2030/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=Presentati

and

http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/2030.htm

¹ Cabinet Minute of Decision, CAB Min (09) 9/8A, para 4.

² Cabinet Minute of Decision, CAB Min (09) 9/8A, para 8.

Introduction

Brian Roche of PricewaterhouseCoopers opened the meeting and introduced Wayne McNee, Chief Executive of MFish.

Wayne gave a brief outline of the 2030 process and confirmed that the Minister was due to report to his Cabinet colleagues in July. While the 2030 Vision project had a long-term focus the short-term initiatives included “*effective engagement with Maori and measuring the needs of amateur catch*”.

The government was due to release its budget during the meeting and Wayne acknowledged that all departments were expecting less than what they had anticipated due to the economic downturn.

In response to questions raised at the previous meeting Wayne advised that the current review of MFish’s structure was designed to ensure that the Ministry could deliver on anything that comes out of the 2030 process and other government priorities.

MFish has “*a reasonably good indication of where 2030 is going to take us*”. A decision for departmental restructuring is due to be made on 12th June.

Outcomes sought were more standardised fisheries management processes and a more focussed engagement process.

The Minister has specifically asked MFish to work with industry on a number of projects. Discussions are also occurring with Non-Governmental Organisations (Environmental NGOs). Terms of Reference for these discussions were available on request.

There could be some overlap between the current Treaty Strategy review and the 2030 Fisheries programme. MFish will be talking with Maori over the coming months and is due to discuss these matters with iwi leaders next month, in June.

Wayne confirmed the feedback from this meeting and up to 9th June would be used to inform their comments to the Minister. Later in the meeting Mark Edwards, National Policy Manager, advised that feedback would be accepted up to 16th June. This information would be given to the Minister so he could report to Cabinet by July. However, because the process is ongoing there were further opportunities for people to have input after June.

Following the introductions, both Richard Baker and Trish Rea left the meeting to attend the Supreme Court delivery of the judgment relating to the Kahawai Legal Challenge appeal. Both returned to participate in the later workshop session and final group discussion.

During their absence a full group discussion occurred about the proposed vision, including the material developed at the previous meeting held on 14th May. There did not seem to be any agreement reached on either the vision or objectives during this period.

Participants were sorted into workshop groups for an hour’s discussion on the action points identified to achieve the objectives and ultimately the vision. Feedback from each group was presented to the forum, recorded by MFish and will be distributed after the meeting. No minutes of the meeting held on 14th May had been distributed prior to this meeting.

2030 Fisheries strategy

Currently the vision remains as originally proposed, 'New Zealanders maximising benefits from the use of fisheries within environmental limits'.

There are three result areas identified to achieve the vision, these are:

- ⇒ Utilisation benefits enabled
- ⇒ Aquatic environment maintained; and
- ⇒ Accountable governance ensured.

Fifteen objectives have been identified to deliver on these result areas. These objectives are then broken down into 46 action points, to be achieved over five or more years. (Refer Appendix One.)

Workshop feedback

Each workshop included at least one MFish official and a person from each interest group of customary, commercial, amateur fishing and environmental. The workshops considered these action points and were due to report back to the wider forum with their priorities.

All participants seemed to agree that we could do better in fisheries management and environmental performance.

There was some debate about whether the identified objectives and action points were valid given that there was no agreement or clarity on the vision statement.

There was no unanimous agreement on the priorities of action points.

Prioritisation of action points is difficult without any criteria to measure them against or any role definitions. Another impediment was the lack of meaningful input from customary interests.

Commercial interests seemed keen on the objectives and action points to improve inter-sector allocation (objective 1), enable collective management action (4), improve fisheries information (9) and improve management system performance (13).

Non-commercial interests, including environmental, seemed more focussed on objectives and action points to ensure sustainability (objective 6), manage impacts of fishing and aquaculture (7) and enable Maori participation (12).

There was also some discussion to include sustainability (objective 6), impacts (7) and enabling Maori participation (12) as overarching principles on which all other objectives and actions are based.

Environmental limits seemed to be the only mechanism to protect the wider public's interest in fisheries management so it was concerning that the public were not being given the opportunity to participate in this process.

Customary feedback

Mike Noho and Tom Paku from Te Kahui Maunga o Tangaroa, the National Customary Fisheries forum, explained that their forum was committed to working with MFish and the Minister to achieve the best outcome for customary interests from the 2030 process.

They presented a proposal which, if implemented, would use the allowances that have been set aside for Maori customary non-commercial fishing interests as a source of income. The national forum has not agreed on the details of the proposal nor how it will operate so further discussions are required. The proposal includes the establishment of an allocation model that will enable financial returns to be made from the portion of their customary allowance that is not currently being utilised.

Feedback from joint non-commercial interests

The document developed prior to this meeting by the Hokianga Accord, the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and option4 teams was not formally presented to this meeting. Much of the discussion in that document was based on arguments presented to the Supreme Court during the Kahawai Legal Challenge appeal. That information needed to be reviewed in light of the Supreme Court's dismissal of the appeal.

Further discussion will be required before the document is presented to MFish by 16th June.

Conclusion

Mark Edwards concluded the day's session with a summary of feedback received from the workshop groups.

He noted that there seemed to be some consensus, from three out of the four workshop groups at least, around the action points associated with objectives 4, 6, 9 and 13.

Mark acknowledged that there was some omissions and that there needed to be more emphasis on environmental performance. He also noted that there needed to be more clarity about the framework and, if the action points were given effect, how those will be measured and/or adjusted to achieve the vision.

MFish will continue to develop the 2030 Fisheries Vision strategy and will be asking Cabinet to approve actions and management decisions. They accept that more specific outcomes would be useful so they will be engaging further to discuss details as to how the actions will be given effect. This will occur after the Cabinet decision, possibly during the process to discuss the MFish Statement of Intent document.

MFish would appreciate any feedback from the group by 3rd June. MFish will provide an analysis on the action points and discussion by 9th June.

June 16th is the last possible day MFish can receive feedback to be included in the report to the Minister on the 2030 Fisheries strategy.

MFish acknowledge the feedback from the workshops is not necessarily a consensus position. The 2030 Fisheries strategy is *"not an agreed document, it's progress of a shared vision"*.

The Ministry will be asking for further comments on how MFish can engage with different sectors.

Wayne McNee thanked everyone for their participation and acknowledged the value of having a multi-sector meeting. He indicated that it maybe worthwhile continuing with a mixed forum, to improve understanding of different views.

Mike Noho closed the meeting with a karakia.

Future Strategy

Non-commercial sector working together on fisheries issues

Further discussions were held with the NZRFC, Forest and Bird, Greenpeace and ECO representatives in respect of finding objectives that we could all agree on. The current focus of this process is on economic drivers rather than the environmental and social and cultural aspects of managing fisheries.

It was agreed that we will work on a joint strategy to improve sustainability outcomes for our fisheries. A draft strategy will be distributed and discussed prior to the Hokianga Accord hui on the 11th and 12th June, at Whitiara marae. Discussions will continue at the hui so that feedback from the wider interests of mid north iwi and hapu is received and included.

Appendix One

Figure 1: Result Area 1, Objectives and Actions

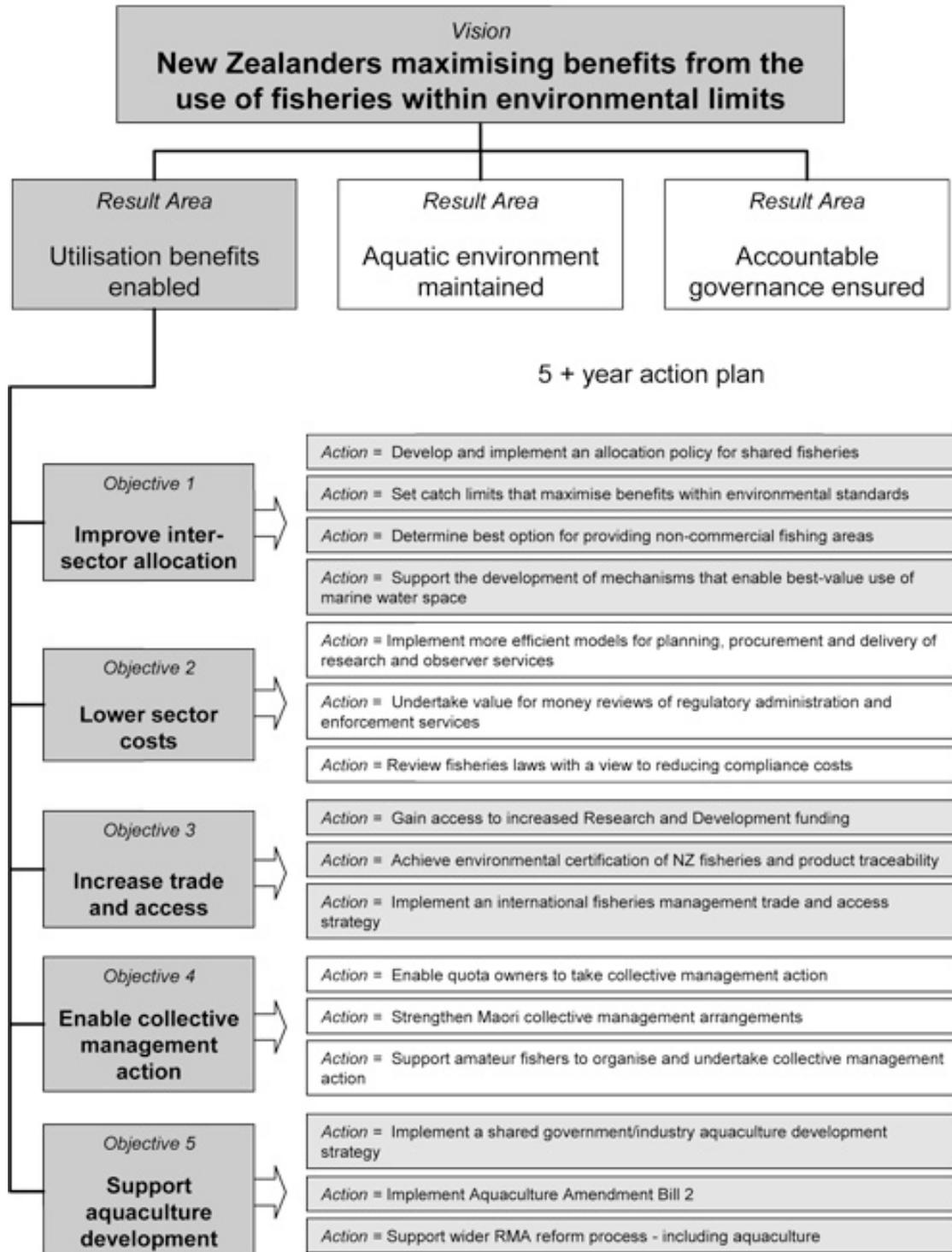


Figure 2: Result Area 2, Objectives and Actions

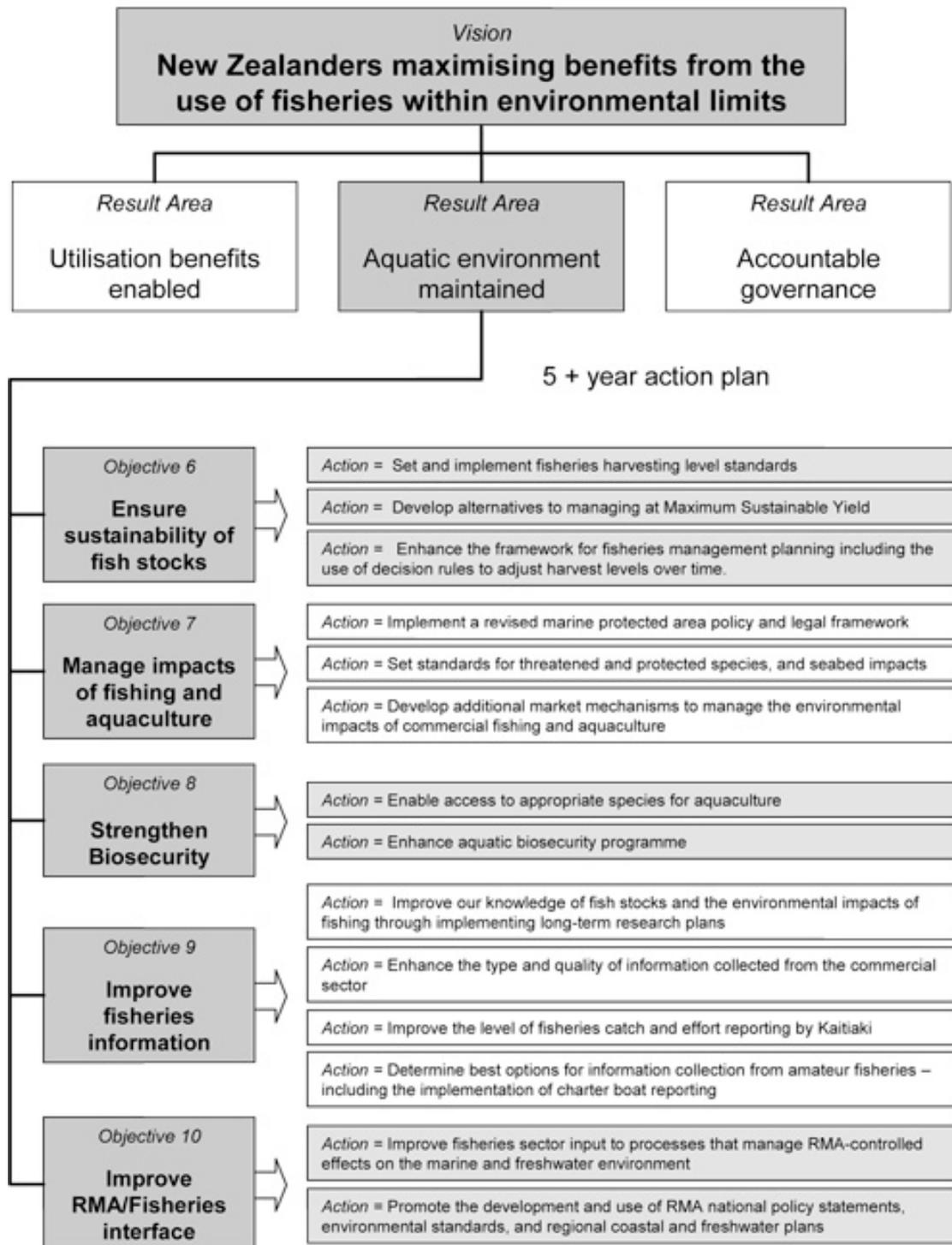


Figure 3: Result Area 3, Objectives and Actions

