

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This Initial Position Paper (IPP) provides you with the Ministry of Fisheries' (MFish) initial position on management controls that MFish is reviewing for 1 October 2008.
- 2 This IPP has been developed for the purpose of consultation as required under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act). MFish emphasises the views and recommendations outlined in each paper are preliminary and are provided as a basis for consultation with stakeholders.
- 3 Each paper has regard to the legal obligations required under the Act. MFish does not intend to use the IPP, and the consideration of proposals contained within it, to debate in full its generic statutory interpretations. The section of the IPP that discusses generic statutory interpretations should guide the reader when interpreting each of the individual papers.
- 4 Initial positions in each paper consider recent research, analysis of commercial and non-commercial catch data, and any other relevant information.
- 5 The individual papers within the IPP presents and analyse information with the aim of focusing each paper on fisheries management outcomes. In particular, the body of the advice places an emphasis on analysis and application of the facts to the issues that need to be addressed. Most technical information has been attached as an Appendix to some papers.
- 6 In May 2008, MFish will compile the Final Advice Paper. This document will summarise MFish and stakeholder views on those issues being reviewed, and will provide final advice to the Minister of Fisheries and recommendations for each issue. A copy of the Final Advice Paper and subsequently the Minister's letter setting out his final decisions will be posted on the MFish website as soon as it becomes available and hard copies will be available on request.

Deadline for Submissions

- 7 All written submissions on this consultation document must be received by MFish by Wednesday, 23 April 2008. If you intend to make a submission but need an extension of time, please contact:

Tracey Steel,
Ph (04) 819 4548

Late submissions may not be able to be considered for the Final Advice Paper.

8 Written submissions should be sent directly to:

Tracey Steel,
Executive Assistant,
Ministry of Fisheries,
P O Box 1020,
Wellington;

or faxed to 04 819 4208
or emailed to tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz

9 All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and can be released, if requested, under the Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission withheld, please set out your reasons in the submission. MFish will consider those reasons when making any assessment for the release of submissions if requested under the Official Information Act 1982.