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Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2008 10:01 a.m.
To: 'Ken.Kirkpatrick@dpmc.govt.nz'
Subject: Proposal to amend Section 13 of the Fisheries Act

[SEEMAIL]

Kia ora Ken

The attached briefing document provides you with information on an urgent problem with the Fisheries Act 1996 identified in a recent review of a Ministerial decision on catch limits by the High Court. In response to advice on the legal implications of the Court findings, we were asked to prepare an urgent paper for Cabinet and seek to involve other agencies in subsequent stages of the process to address this problem.

The Minister of Fisheries, with Cabinet endorsement, has asked that a proposal for amendment of the Act be prepared urgently. The Ministry would like to ensure that agencies with an interest in this issue have adequate opportunity to engage in the process, despite what will inevitably be a compressed timeframe, to ensure that:

- The problems with the Act are well defined and understood
- Interested parties have an opportunity to contribute to the solution
- Agencies are provided with appropriate information on both the process going forward and the progress made.

The Ministry will provide an early opportunity to meet with government agency staff to provide a full briefing and answer any questions. We will let you know when this is scheduled once we have an initial indication of interest from agencies.

I look forward to your engagement in addressing this matter over the coming weeks.

Our engagement with stakeholders on this matter will need to be dealt with carefully. We ask that, until we have determined a process and advised stakeholders that this material is not discussed with anyone outside relevant government agencies.

Thanks for your help.

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