



MPI Recreational Fishing Initiative

1. What is the problem?

Some recreational fishers and fishing groups have raised concerns about the management of fisheries which they see as being important to them and also how they engage with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

Key concerns expressed by recreational fishers are:

- a) Recreational fishing issues have not had the priority they deserve from MPI given the large numbers of recreational fishers in New Zealand and their estimated contribution to the economy.
- b) Recreational fishers have not always felt involved or heard as part of the process of making fisheries management decisions.
- c) Previous engagement has not effectively ensured a flow of information between MPI and recreational fishers.

To respond to these concerns MPI has developed the recreational fishing initiative.

2. What is MPI going to do?

Key areas of focus will be:

- a) Engagement – improving how MPI engages with recreational fishers so that:
 - (i) MPI can better understand recreational fishers concerns and improve the quality of information when making fisheries management decisions.
 - (ii) Recreational fishers better understand MPI's processes and feel their concerns are being heard. MPI will attend major boats shows, recreational fishing contests and facilitate local issues meetings and discussions.
- b) Communication – investigating and utilising effective and appropriate communications channels. MPI will ensure better availability of information and discussion through a dedicated subscription email. The process is intended to ensure people only receive plain language information for their nominated areas of interest. MPI will also have an active website and social media presence on key recreational issues.
- c) Fisheries Management - identification of key recreational fishing issues. First priority is development of a shared fisheries engagement approach. This will entail a different way of engagement on issues for identified fisheries of

importance to recreational fishers. A process to identify these fisheries is planned.

Key recreational issues for analysis will be identified through direct discussion with recreational fishers and through the email process.

A dedicated recreational fishing team consisting of two people has been established within the inshore fisheries group to implement this new communication and engagement approach and provide greater attention to recreational issues.

3. How do we do it?

The desired outcome of the recreational fishing initiative is:

“Shared sustainable fisheries for the future.”

Many fisheries are shared by customary, recreational and commercial fishing interests. Acting alone MPI cannot guarantee shared sustainable fisheries. All fishers have a role to play to better manage shared fisheries. To facilitate this process:

- a) MPI will connect more effectively with recreational fishing interests.
- b) MPI will support local discussions in key shared fisheries/issues to give recreational fishers effective involvement.
- c) MPI will work with recreational fishers to improve communication of information and ideas. This will help to realise the benefits available to recreational fishers through the sustainable use of New Zealand’s fisheries.