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Tena Koe,

HARVEST MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF BLADDER KELP STOCKS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministry of Fisheries is currently consulting stakeholders and Tangata Whenua on additional sustainability measures for the KBB3G and KBB4G stocks, which are designed to support the proposed Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and associated allowances that have been consulted on previously. In this submission we present the views of Te Ohu Kaimoana (Te Ohu).
2. We have discussed the MFish proposals with Ngati Mutunga, Moriori, Chatham Island Enterprise Trust, Ngai Tahu and SeaFIC, and we support the views that have been expressed in their submissions relating to KBB3G and KBB4G.

PROPOSALS

3. MFish is proposing the following additional sustainability measures (i.e. harvest management measures) relating to KBB3G and KBB4G:
 - a. Option 1 - Maintain the status quo and do not institute any additional harvest management measures.
 - b. Option 2 - Implement one or more of the following harvest management measures:
 - Maximum cutting depth - Institute a maximum cutting depth of no more than 1.2 metres;
 - Finer spatial scale reporting – Require the latitude and longitude location of each harvested kelp bed to be reported
 - Maximum canopy removal – Allow no more than 50% of any one kelp bed's canopy biomass to be harvested over a period of less than 6 months;
 - Maximum canopy harvesting frequency – Require that no one area (i.e. kelp bed) may be harvested more than twice in one year; and
 - Maximum canopy harvest width – Constrain harvesting of the canopy biomass to strips no greater than 5 metres in width.
4. If the harvest management measures outlined under Option 2 are supported in full, or in part, then MFish proposes implementation of those measures via:
 - a. Option A - Implement the harvest management measures by regulation, using s 190, and Gazette Notice enacted under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

- b. Option B - Implement the harvest management measures using voluntary industry mechanisms, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or agreed-to Code of Practice (COP) agreed among all potential quota holders.
- c. Option C - Implement the harvest management measures using a combination of regulation and voluntary industry mechanisms.

GENERAL COMMENTS

5. We are disappointed in the direction MFish is heading with regards to bladder kelp stocks, TACs, and now harvest management measures. Unless there is a change in course we believe the kelp industry will not develop at all. MFish will have unnecessarily removed the incentives for the industry to develop a sustainable kelp industry. The proposed "initial" TACs will have been set too low and the harvest management regime will have been unnecessarily regulated. These combined with the cost to develop the fishery will amount to no development. Te Ohu has considerable experience with developmental fisheries and this is our strong impression of the current situation.
6. In our view the minimum TAC for each management area should be at least 100 tonnes, the minimum amount needed to fill a container. We see no reason why the TACs cannot be set at more than 1000 tonnes.
7. In terms of a harvest management regime our preference is to keep it voluntary. There is no point in locking in management specifications before industry has had time to test and develop what has been applied in other countries. The management approach must be adaptive and able to be changed quickly if it is found necessary. Our experience with regulations is they are unlikely to be changed quickly because of the processes involved and other MFish priorities.
8. We reiterate what we have stated previously. If the Minister was to align with the recommendations made by Ngati Mutunga, Moriori, Te Ohu, the Chatham Island Enterprise Trust, and Sea-Right Investments – that is to re-consult on higher options for a TAC (including a 1000 tonne option) – it will be possible for all prospective shareholders to receive the benefits they are seeking. We encourage MFish to include this in their Final Position Paper to the Minister or preferably we urge MFish to simply re-consult on this matter. If MFish were to follow the latter Te Ohu would collect more scientific information to support the position for a higher initial TAC.
9. We noted in our last submission that the Government treated the Chathams as a special case when the Chatham Enterprise Trust was established. MFish is acting inconsistent with the intentions of Government and this must to be corrected.

RECOMMENDATIONS

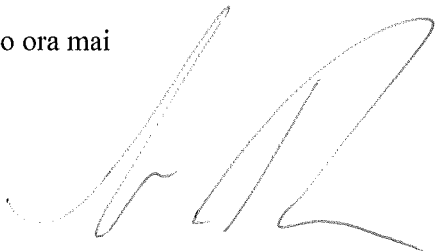
10. Te Ohu:
 - a) In relation to harvest measures:
 - Support Option 2- support one or more of the proposed harvest measures
 - b) In relation to implementation of measures:
 - Support Option B – Implement harvest management measures using voluntary industry mechanisms

c) In relation to TACs

- Recommend MFish re-consults using a higher option of 1000 tonnes

11. Please do not hesitate to contact the writer if you have any queries.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. T. Riwaka', written in a cursive style.

Alan T Riwaka
Senior Fisheries Management Advisor