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Trudie MacFarlane
C/o Ministry of Fisheries
PO Box 1020
WELLINGTON

Trudie.macfarlane@fish.govt.nz

Tena koe Trudie

REVIEW OF REGULATORY MEASURES FOR DECEMBER 2010 - RETURN OF KINA TO SEA

Introduction

1. The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is currently consulting on four proposals that could result in changes to regulations by December 2010. In this submission Te Ohu Kai Moana (Te Ohu) deals with the proposal to allow commercial fishers to return kina to the sea after they have been landed on a commercial fishing vessel. In preparing this submission we have consulted the 57 Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) and taken into account their responses.

Issue

2. The kina Initial Position Paper (IPP) says that commercial kina fishers are currently unable to legally return small low roe-recovery kina to sea. The IPP says that this results in fishers incurring significant costs in having to freight these kina to processing facilities where they are subsequently dumped in landfills.
3. The kina IPP also suggests that the problem is made worse because fishing is restricted to free diving and this makes it impossible to assess dived kina until it has been brought to the surface and landed aboard the dive tender.

Proposal

4. The IPP proposes two options for dealing with these issues.

Option 1 – Status quo. Under this option the current management settings prohibiting the return of kina to the sea are retained;

Option 2 – By adding kina to the Sixth Schedule fishers will be able to legally return kina to sea. Under this option kina will be included on the Sixth Schedule and made subject to the following.

- Kina must be likely to survive return to the water
- Kina must be taken by the method of hand gathering.

GENERAL COMMENTS

5. Any management decisions by MFish will need to be cognisant of the fact that kina is an iconic stock and of significant cultural value to iwi.
6. Paragraph 3 implies that significant amounts of low roe-recovery kina are dumped at land fills because:
 - a. they are unable to be legally returned to the sea; and,
 - b. the recoveries are too low to justify processing.
7. If the numbers are as significant as we are led to believe then one would have to ask what systems and information are being used to ensure only “fat” kina are being landed? There appears to be nothing in place.
8. We consider that the condition of kina should be checked regularly by divers and boatmen, and areas that are known to have only ever produced “skinny” roe avoided. Systems on board the vessel should ensure fish are checked at appropriate times to ensure there is no build up of kina that may need to be returned to the sea. Ideally kina that are to be returned to the sea should not be on a fishing vessel for a period longer than 30 minutes. The sooner that kina are returned to the water the greater the survival rate. When putting kina back into the water we prefer it be into the bay or onto the reef from which it was originally taken.
9. In paragraph 23 there is discussion relating to on-board processing. We are not averse to vessels operating in this way but consideration will need to be given to how waste is disposed of. We do not support dumping waste over the top of kina beds or in a way that could be harmful to important fish stocks.
10. In principle, Te Ohu supports the use of Underwater Breathing Apparatus (UBA) or hookah in the commercial fishery. However we are aware that many iwi have concerns about the potential effects of the use of UBA or hookah on local areas that are important to them for non-commercial customary purposes - and the potential for local depletion. If the industry was prepared to work with iwi to develop a planned approach to harvesting, then they are more likely to gain iwi support for using UBA. Te Ohu would be prepared to facilitate dialogue on this matter between the industry and iwi.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Te Ohu:

- i) Supports Option 2
- ii) Recommends the Kina Industry develop protocols that:
 - a. minimise or remove the opportunity for low roe-recovery kina to be landed on a dive vessel;

- b. ensures good survival of kina that are returned to the sea;
- c. ensures kina are placed back into the specific area from which they were taken.

iii) Recommends the Kina Industry work with Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) to develop a planned approach to harvesting using UBA and/or hookah gear.

11. If you would like to discuss this submission please contact the writer on 049319512 or via email alan.riwaka@teohu.maori.nz

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Riwaka', written in a cursive style.

Alan Riwaka
Senior Fisheries Management Advisor