

SHARED FISHERIES INITIATIVE

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What is it?



- Attempt to get agreement with recreational and customary sectors
- Feeding into MFish process
- Aim – agreement rather than imposed solutions

Why this approach?



- Dialogue better than imposed solutions
- One off chance
- Want issues dealt with comprehensively
- Current system incapable of dealing with issues
- Sectors do not have equivalent rights – therefore decisions are political
- Ideally want MFish out of process

What has happened?

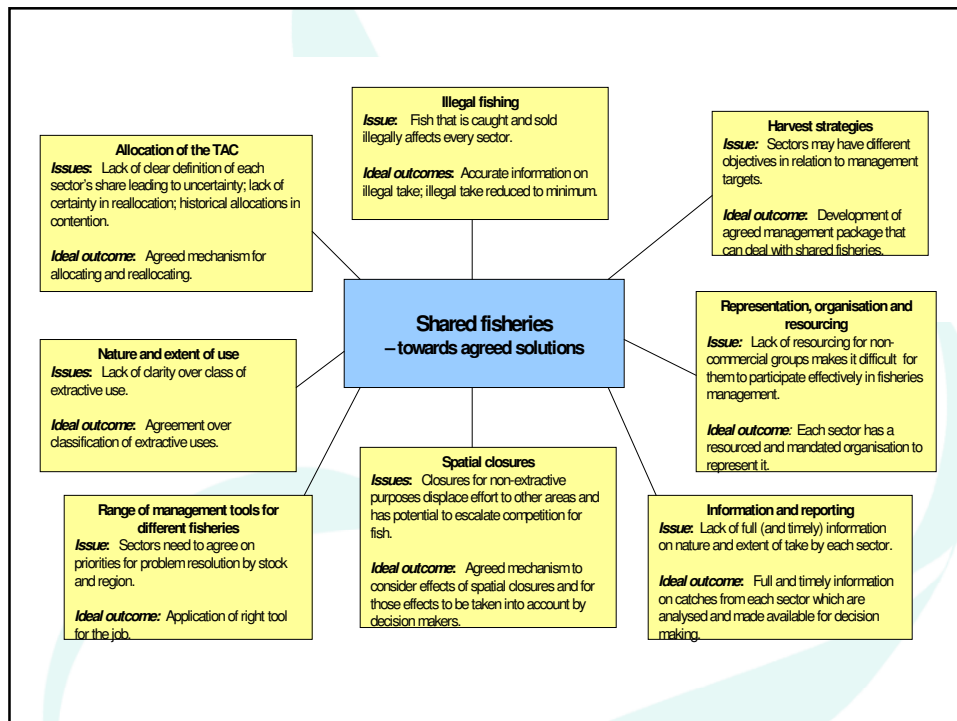


- Preliminary discussions with NZ Recreational Fishing Council and Te Ohu Kaimoana
- No prejudice talks
- Aim – identifying areas of common ground and areas where further work needed
- Joint paper
- Further talks planned

Results of preliminary discussions



- Some looking back at past grievances by rec. sector
 - the “Moyle promise”
 - initial allocations
 - snapper & fishery, etc.
- Recognition of need to look forward
- Overall – positive and constructive
- Agreement to meet again to discuss possible solutions



Common ground



- Concern about illegal fishing
- Concern about lack of clear definition of shares
- Concerns about arbitrary nature of MFish decisions
- Concern about spatial closures
- Information and reporting issues
- Concern that no adequate process for allocation or reallocation
- Resourcing of recreational sector

The tricky issues



- Allocation/reallocation of shares in TAC
- Different harvest strategies

Moving forward



- Need agreed mechanism for allocating and reallocating
- Need to develop agreed management package for shared fisheries

What are the solutions?



- Rights framework needs to be extended to include other sectors
- Reasons:
 - Non-commercial sector takes significant part of catch
 - Allocation decisions are political – based on “values”
 - All operate under TAC but no commonality

An ideal – allocation of the TAC



- Ideal – to agree initial allocations by direct negotiation
- Comprehensive negotiations including:
 - setting of shares
 - stock management targets
 - other management measures
- Possibly stock by stock or region by region
- If sectors unable to set initial shares by negotiation need for agreed policy on allocation
- Compensation?

An ideal – changing shares over time



- Ideally government not involved
- Sectors would need incentives and resources to enter into negotiations and alter shares when necessary
- Exchanges on temporary or permanent basis

Pre-conditions



- Need resourced and mandated organisations
- Need reliable information on catches of all sectors
- Illegal catches reduced to level where no impact on sustainability or allocations
- Sectors have tools to manage catches within allocations

Moving forward



- Each sector needs to discuss preferred solutions
- Industry meeting 10 August
- Further discussions
- Package agreed by constituents of each sector
- Feeding into MFish process

Risks



- Negotiating with right people?
- MFish could ignore process
- Divergent views in industry
- Not enough time
- Political uncertainty