

Update on Joint Paua Compliance Working Group



Thinking back

- JWG was set up by the then Minister of Fisheries David Benson-Pope – theft being the key issue for the paua fishery
- It was a joint working group between the commercial industry and the Ministry reporting directly to the Minister.
- Final Report presented to in August last year.
- The joint Working Group was disbanded and a strategic compliance working group set up.
- The new Minister has been briefed on the work.



Thinking Back – The Process

- Analytical model - looked at risks through the chain of custody, what was already being done and what else could be done.
- No silver bullet that would solve the problem
- Need to find a common reference point and understanding of the problem, the options available, and the language used to describe them
- The group made 14 recommendations to the Minister.
- I'll provide feedback on each one.



The List of Initiatives

1. Methodology for estimating illegal take
2. Improve voluntary compliance through review of regulation 27
3. Remove amateur accumulation defence move
4. Limit personal export allowances
5. Review reporting regulations to clarify when CELFs should be completed
6. Improve relationships between stakeholders and Government
7. Increase liaison between MFish and other agencies
8. Increase public awareness
9. Improve forensic accounting capacity
10. System to confirm the legitimacy of commercial fishers
11. Establish system to use paua industry intelligence
12. Increase ability of fishery officers to apprehend suspected offenders
13. Develop scheme to identify commercial catch on the domestic market
14. Increase collaboration between industry sectors





Methodology for estimating illegal take

- Important for TAC/TACC allocations and establishing the true impact of compliance and management initiatives
- No simple model – poachers do not report
- Working on phase one – essentially an academic exercise and will roll out phase two this year - the practical model and case studies.



Improve voluntary compliance through review of regulation 27

- Review completed
- Changes implemented March 2006





Remove amateur accumulation and limit export allowances

- Developing discussion document considering different combinations of change to the amateur accumulation defence and personal export allowance.
- Considering efficacy of proposals to improve compliance
- Needs plenty of engagement with recreational fishers if the Minister chooses to proceed
- Planned for discussion this year



Clarify when CELRs should be completed

- A review of the current regulations was undertaken
- No regulatory requirement required.
- Needs changes to the explanatory notes and improved / consistent understanding by industry
- How can we do this?





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Improve relationships between stakeholders and Government

- Continued development of the relationship
- Strategic Compliance working group
- Fisheries plans are the future model for engagement



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Increase liaison between MFish and other agencies

- MFish continues to develop relationships with other Government agencies
- MOU with Customs
- Working on MOU with Ministry of Transport





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Increase Public Awareness

- Continuous improvement in MFish use of print and other media
- Publicising prosecutions
- Coast Watch
- New and improved pamphlets



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Improve forensic accounting capacity

- Have been trying to recruit additional staff but market is very difficult
- Trialling use of contracted services.
- Remains an area we want to develop further





System to confirm the legitimacy of commercial fishers

- Mechanisms to tell who are legitimate commercial fishers ARE on the water to get better targeting of compliance resources
- On going review of a number of options
- Longer term issue across multiple fisheries



Establish system to use paua industry intelligence

- Continuing development of system to capture and exploit voluntary information
- MFish never going to be able to always respond in real time
- No formal arrangements with paua industry at this time





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Increase ability of fishery officers to apprehend suspected offenders

- Increase in Fishery Officer's power of arrest beyond those currently available
- Complex concept requiring statutory amendment
- MFish considers powers sufficient at present



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Scheme to identify commercial catch on the domestic market

- Mandatory marking of fish sold on the domestic market
- It remains an area for future review





Increase collaboration between industry sectors

- Responsibility of industry
- Work in progress
- CRA5 – PAU7 initiative.



What next.....

- Strategic Compliance working group continues
- A number of initiatives are “works in progress”
- Relationship is good and needs nurturing

