

MSC Re-Assessment of the New Zealand Hoki Fishery

Announcement of Determination and

Release of Final Report for Stakeholder Consultation

The independent Certification Board of SGS has reviewed the report of the assessment team, the reports of the Peer Review panel and all stakeholder comments in relation to the Deepwater Stakeholder Group Commercial Hoki fishery in New Zealand.

The Determination reached by the certification body is that the Deepwater Stakeholder Group Commercial Hoki fishery in New Zealand should be certified according to the MSC Principles and Criteria.

The Final Report relating to this assessment is now available on the MSC's website (www.msc.org).

Please note that this is a determination, not a final re-certification result. The fishery therefore remains certified under their current certificate until the final consultation period has been concluded.

There is now a 21 day period during which any party that disagrees with this determination, **and** which has previously provided input to the assessment team, may send a written statement of intent to lodge an objection. Any party(s) wishing to object may lodge an objection on Merit and/or Procedural grounds. A description of the grounds for objection can be found in the MSC Objections Procedure, on the MSC's website (www.msc.org).

Additionally, any party (regardless of prior participation) may file briefs in support of a Merit Objection.

Any intent to file an Objection should first be addressed to Ir Aldin Hilbrands at SGS and copied to the MSC's Chief Executive (Rupert.Howes@msc.org), by **15 May 2006**.

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