

# BILLFISH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

## Between Commercial & Recreational Fishing Interests

October 1996

This Memorandum of Understanding updates and replaces the memorandum signed in November 1995

1. The organisations represented by the signatories to this document agree that the management measures contained in this Memorandum of Understanding, and the regulations which prohibit the commercial targeting of marlin in the New Zealand EEZ, are vital for the coexistence and development of the commercial longline fishery and the big game fishery and associated tourist industry.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding will replace the previous Memorandum of Understanding when signed and will be reviewed as required.
3. The organisations represented by the signatories to this document will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that members of their organisations, and others in their sector of the fishery, are made aware of the contents of this Memorandum of Understanding and the importance of complying with it.
4. Any conflicts between recreational and commercial fishers will be resolved by timely meetings and discussions between representatives of the recreational and commercial fisheries.
5. In the interests of good management all parties agree to maintain and make available appropriate documentation (including log books), of dates and areas fished, fishing effort, catch by species and number and size of fish to assist in the assessment and future management of the billfish fisheries.
6. The Ministry of Fisheries should monitor the recreational and commercial fisheries and provide reports on catches of billfish species. Analysis of the factors influencing the availability of billfish species in NZ waters will be undertaken. This information can be used to modify management measures for the fishery.
7. The regulations relating to the taking of billfish in the NZ EEZ should be strictly enforced by the Ministry of Fisheries.

*Billfish Memorandum of Understanding 1996*

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8. Voluntary tagging of live marlin should continue in both the recreational and commercial fisheries. MFish should provide fishers with tags and tagging equipment.
9. Fisheries regulations prohibit the targeting of broadbill by commercial fishers in New Zealand waters but allow broadbill taken as a by-catch by commercial fishers to be landed and sold. Given the overall level of catch attained during 1996 as a by-catch, recreational and commercial representatives agree to the continuation of data collection with a focus on indicators of broadbill abundance in FMA1 and to keep fisheries management controls under review. Representatives reaffirm their commitment to broadbill remaining a by-catch fishery only.
10. The commercial fishing industry undertakes not to use longlines to fish for tuna inside the 200 metre depth contour in the AFMA, except in the area bounded to the west by the eastern shore of Great Barrier Island and a line extending due north from the northern tip of Great Barrier Island, and to the south by a line extending due east from the southern tip of Great Barrier Island.
11. Commercial longline vessels will not set tuna longlines inside the 1000 m depth contour at the following positions in the AFMA;
 

A. 34° 05' S, 174° 08' E	B. 34° 31' S, 174° 12' E
C. 35° 00' S, 175° 14' E	D. 37° 33' S, 176° 58' E

It is understood that while fishers will set their longlines in such a way that minimises the likelihood of the lines drifting inside the 1000 m contour line, such drift is sometimes unavoidable.

12. Minimum Sizes

- \* No recreational fisher should take any marlin smaller than 90 kg green weight or less than 2.40 m length measured from the bottom jaw to the fork of the tail.
- \* All undersize billfish are to be released alive where possible.
- \* Released billfish should be tagged where possible.

13. The current exclusion of foreign licence tuna longline vessels from the Auckland Fisheries Management Area, and the agreement by which foreign tuna longline vessels chartered by New Zealand companies will not fish in FMA 1, should be maintained.

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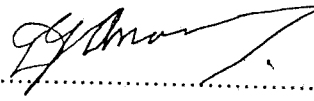
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**Signatories**

**David Anderson**

Deputy Chairman  
NZ Fishing Industry Board

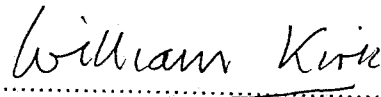
11. New Zealand Fishing Industry Board



26-1-97

**Bill Kirk**

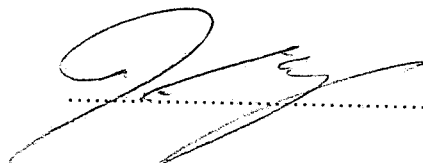
Vice President  
NZ Recreational Fishing Council



21 January 1997

**John Hough**

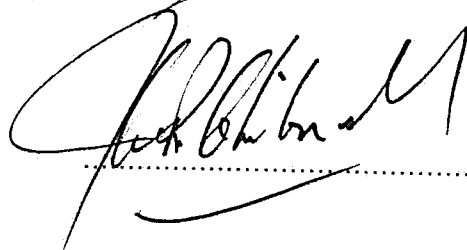
President  
NZ Big Game Fishing Council



23rd Jan. 1997

**John Chibnall**

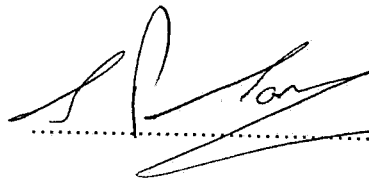
Chairman Liaison Committee  
NZ Big Game Fishing Council  
NZ Representative  
International Game Fish Association



8-2-97

**Peter Jones**

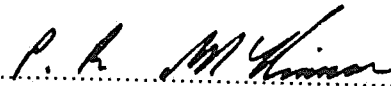
President  
NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen



28-1-97

**Peter McKinnon**

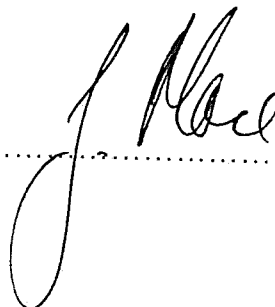
Executive Secretary  
NZ Fishing Industry Guild



3-2-97

**Jim Mace**

President  
NZ Fishing Industry Association



7/3/97