

Aquaculture & Fisheries

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR ALL

National will ensure the sustainability of our fisheries for the benefit of all New Zealanders – recreational, customary, and commercial fishers alike.

It is the birthright of every New Zealander to be able to go fishing with success. We will protect that heritage for future generations.

We are committed to the Quota Management System (QMS) as the best way to manage the vast majority of fish species and ensure sustainable utilisation. We will work with the sector to reduce bureaucracy and improve the management of our shared fisheries.

Aquaculture is a great example of Kiwi businesses making the most of our natural resources with cutting-edge research and development, and National will improve the legislative framework that governs the industry to ensure it can reach its potential.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries.
- Frontline services, not more bureaucrats.
- Practical environmental protection.

NATIONAL'S PLAN

1. Ministry of Fisheries

Remove all administrative, operational, or policy focus that is unnecessary for the sustainable utilisation of the fishery. Direct those resources into:

- Bolstering the research and monitoring of fish-stock health.
- Improving frontline fishery officer policing, with a focus on combating poaching.

2. Marine Reserves and Protected Areas

- Amend the Marine Reserves Act to prevent DOC being both the applicant and decision-maker.

- Give fishers a direct say in the decisions and location of marine reserves.

3. Emissions Trading Scheme

Amend the ETS legislation to provide for a 90% allocation to fishing.

4. Shared Fisheries

- Not introduce recreational fisher licensing.
- Facilitate recreational, customary, and commercial agreement on the location of 'recreation-only' fishing reserves.
- Commit to well-resourced surveying and monitoring to better quantify the extent and location of recreational fishing catches.
- Support charter boat operators to develop their own catch-recording system, and improve our knowledge of recreational catches.

5. Aquaculture

- Improve the legislative framework to ensure certainty for investors. Pay full attention to the findings of the industry-led review.
- Allow aquaculture research to be considered outside AMAs.
- Allow farmers to change the species farmed in an area (where two species are broadly similar) without an arduous bureaucratic process.
- Reduce the bureaucracy and cost of making a private plan change to create an AMA.
- Remove the veto of the Conservation Minister over restricted coastal activities
- Continue to support research and development for aquaculture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

READ › [Our Aquaculture & Fisheries Policy.](#)

SEE › [Our webpage on the Primary Sector.](#)