



How can the fisheries management system best ensure sustainability?

What is sustainable fishing?

Fishing in a sustainable way means:

- making sure that enough of the fish population remains to breed in the future
- not destroying the marine habitats essential for spawning, migration and feeding.

Ensuring the sustainability of New Zealand's fisheries is the fundamental principle of the fisheries management system. It's in the legislation that MPI administers.

"...ensuring sustainability means –

- maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment".

- Fisheries Act, 1996

Are we fishing sustainably?

Yes. Our fisheries management system is considered world-leading and scientific assessments show that overall our fisheries are sustainable. This review will help us ensure it continues to deliver for current and future generations.

Local communities and international markets are taking a growing interest in the environmental impacts of fishing. Expectations of what a fisheries management regime can and should deliver, including resource sustainability and product traceability, are increasing.

New Zealand's fisheries management system must be able to respond.

How to ensure resource sustainability into the future

Building on this track record of sustainable fisheries management is essential to future-proofing our fisheries. How do we do this?

- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management system work well to ensure sustainability?

- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management system do not work well to ensure sustainability?

 - What changes (if any) are needed to better ensure fisheries sustainability?

 - How do you think those changes would affect the cost of fisheries management? Who should cover any additional costs, or benefit if costs are reduced?
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How can the fisheries management system best deliver benefits for all New Zealanders?

What our fisheries offer

New Zealand has a relatively small land area and a very large marine space. Most people live within easy reach of the coastline.

A diverse range of individuals, groups and organisations have an interest in the management of our fisheries resources, each with their own view of the benefits available from that resource – ecological, cultural, social, and financial to name just a few.

The Fisheries Act 1996 provides a framework for balancing those often competing interests so that all can benefit.

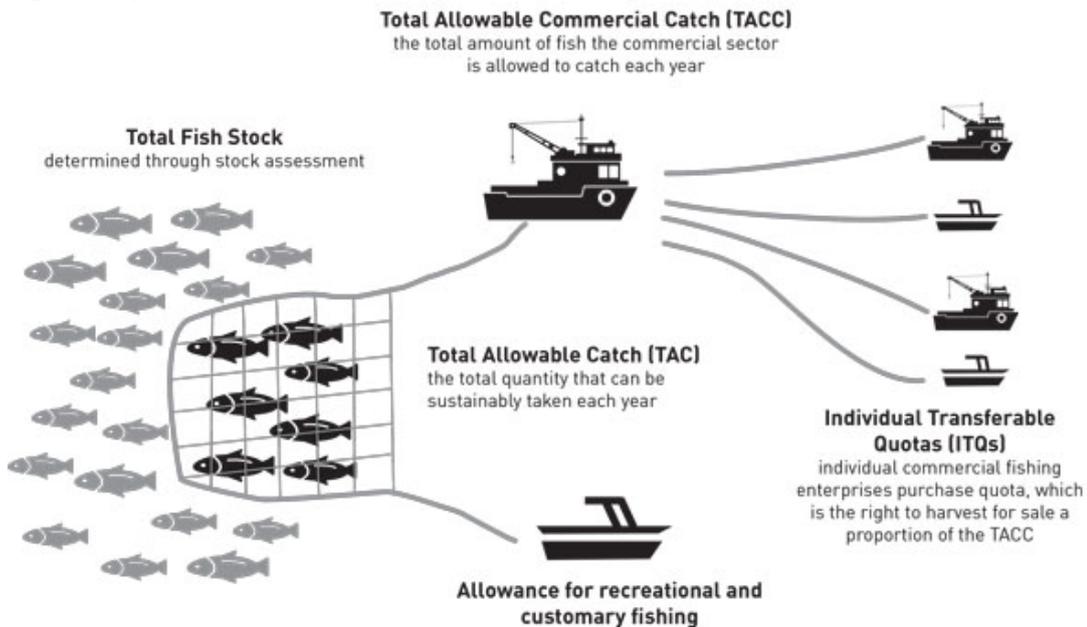
Balancing competing interests

The Fisheries Act requires that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit is set for every fish stock in the Quota Management System (QMS).

Allowances for customary and recreational interests, and other fishing-related mortalities must be considered prior to setting the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for each stock.

The QMS then provides for a market based system, quota and annual catch entitlements. These rights encourage best economic use of the commercial sector's share of the resource.

Fig 1: Simplified model of how the Quota Management System allocates fish stock between users



Demands on the fisheries resource

Over the past 30 years, the fisheries management system has come under increasing pressure as different interests seek increased benefits from the same resource.

- What benefits do you think the fisheries management system should deliver?
- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management system work well to deliver benefits for all New Zealanders?
- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management system do not work well to deliver benefits for all New Zealanders?
- What changes (if any) are needed to better ensure the system delivers benefits for all New Zealanders?

- How do you think those changes would affect the cost of fisheries management? Who should cover any additional costs, or benefit if costs are reduced?

How can we ensure decision making processes are effective, efficient, and timely?

How decisions are currently made

The Fisheries Act 1996 contains a variety of decision-making functions and powers to ensure resource sustainability and allow for utilisation by customary, recreational and commercial fishers.

Most decisions are made by either the Minister for Primary Industries or the Chief Executive of MPI. Their decisions are informed by consultation with other parties and a range of information, including scientific research. Generally speaking, the Minister sets the parameters on fishing, and the Chief Executive supplies the management services (research, compliance monitoring, enforcement, and administration).

Decision-making must be supported by appropriate checks and balances to manage risk and protect the interests of all New Zealanders.

- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management decision making processes work well?

- What aspects of New Zealand's current fisheries management decision making processes do not work well?

- What changes (if any) are needed to better ensure fisheries decisions are effective, efficient and timely?

- How do you think those changes would affect the cost of fisheries management? Who should cover any additional costs, or benefit if costs are reduced?

- What changes (if any) are needed to ensure fisheries monitoring and enforcement arrangements are optimal?
 - How do you think those changes would affect the cost of fisheries management? Who should cover any additional costs, or benefit if costs are reduced?
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What challenges will New Zealand's fisheries management system need to respond to in future years?

This review aims to build on the foundations of the Quota Management System and the Fisheries Act 1996. The fisheries management system has to be able to respond to current and emerging challenges over the coming decades.

Challenges include:

- New Zealand's marine areas are increasingly busy and likely to become more so over time as our population grows. An increasing number of diverse stakeholder groups share an interest in the management of our fisheries but sometimes compete for the same space or resources.
- Recreational fishers, tangata whenua and local communities are seeking greater involvement in managing local areas.
- Interest in environmental impacts has grown.
- International seafood markets are seeking assurances that seafood products are sustainable and can be traced.
- Fisheries management has become more complex and costly as a growing number of 'one-off' arrangements are established, such as local recreational rules for the Kaikōura marine area. Improving the fishing management system's ability to respond to local interests can place new demands on information, decision-making and compliance systems.
- The effects of global warming and climate change are already measurable. New Zealand's climate and ocean acidity levels are changing.

- What challenges do you think New Zealand's fisheries management system will face over the next 20 years?
- What changes (if any) are needed to better enable the fisheries management system to respond to new challenges?

- How do you think those changes would affect the cost of fisheries management? Who should cover any additional costs, or benefit if costs are reduced?

- If the fisheries management system works well over the coming years, what will the fishery look like in the year 2050? How will your experience of it have changed?

We appreciate your time to provide feedback. If there are any other issues or opportunities you would like to raise, please add below.

Finally, a few questions about you ...

Which of the following groups/sectors do you belong to? Select all that apply.

- Commercial – deepwater
- Commercial – inshore
- Commercial – shellfish
- Commercial – aquaculture
- Commercial – other
- Recreational – charter vessel operator
- Recreational fisher
- Customary
- Other

In which region do you live?

- Northland (including Whangārei)
- Auckland
- Waikato (including Hamilton and Coromandel)
- Bay of Plenty (including Tauranga and Rotorua)
- Gisborne
- Hawkes Bay (including Napier and Hastings)
- Taranaki (including New Plymouth)
- Manawatu-Wanganui (including Whanganui and Palmerston North)
- Wellington
- Tasman (including Takaka, Motueka, and Mapua)
- Nelson
- Marlborough (including Picton and Blenheim)
- Canterbury (including Kaikoura, Christchurch, Lincoln, Ashburton and Timaru)
- Otago (including Dunedin, Oamaru, Queenstown and Wanaka)
- West Coast (including Westport, Greymouth, and Hokitika)
- Southland (including Invercargill and Te Anau)
- Other (please specify) _____

Are you...?

- Male
- Female

Which ethnic group(s) do you identify with? Select all that apply.

- NZ European
- NZ Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Island Māori
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Another Pacific Island group
- Chinese
- Indian
- Another ethnic group (please specify) _____
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following age groups are you in?

- 18–34
- 35–49
- 50–64
- 65 or more
- Prefer not to say

Please return this questionnaire to:

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