

# SUBMISSION SUMMARY

## Future of our Fisheries 2016

New Zealand Sport Fishing Council

January 2017



In December 2016 a joint recreational submission advocating for more abundant fisheries and an industrial fishing-free inshore zone was made in response to the Future Of Our Fisheries proposals, issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries in November.

The submission was a collective effort by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and affiliated members, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, and LegaSea supporters.

Managing for abundance is one of the two most pressing fisheries management reforms required in New Zealand. That is, managing fish stocks at no less than 40% of original, unfished biomass (B40). For many species, including foraging baitfish, a minimum of B60 is required. More conservative catch levels are required to achieve abundance, none have been proposed.

The other urgent reform is a new Allocation Principle to be added the Fisheries Act. This Principle would guide Ministerial allocation decisions and be based on Moyle's Promise –

“ Where a species of fish is not sufficiently abundant to support both commercial and non-commercial fishing, **preference will be given to non-commercial fishing.**

This position reflects Government's resolve to ensure all New Zealanders can enjoy and benefit from our fisheries. ”

[Minister Colin Moyle, June 1989]

The recreational fishery generates up to 10 times the GDP of commercial caught fish, offering foreign exchange earnings with over 100,000 international visitors per annum spending money on fishing, with unlimited growth potential.

Non-commercial fishers harvest less than 6% of total catch while commercial fishing extracts over 90% of the total harvest, exporting the bulk of that take. This puts undue pressure on inshore fisheries valued by the public.

If the Government is serious about restoring public confidence in management and increasing the national benefits from the use of our marine resources it must stop fiddling and implement, as a priority:

1. A revamp of MPI following an independent review of decision-making and the Quota Management System.
2. Establish a responsive, well-resourced management regime tuned to local communities' needs.
3. Create an inshore zone free of industrial fishing.
4. New research into maximising utilisation of harvested fish.
5. Thriving regional community development supporting artisanal, small-scale commercial fishers and recreational fishing opportunities.

Legislative amendments are expected soon. The joint submitters will be monitoring and commenting on future developments.

Stay informed. More info at <https://goo.gl/21jgzx>