



# Your fisheries – your say

Submission form

## OUR VISION

Abundant and sustainable fisheries, thriving communities, and a healthy marine environment for the benefit of all New Zealanders.



**Fisheries New Zealand**

Tini a Tangaroa

New Zealand Government

# Overview

Fisheries New Zealand is proposing changes to improve our fisheries management system. The proposals are:

- Amending the rules for commercial fishers that set out what fish must be brought back to port and what fish can be returned to the sea.
- Reviewing the offences and penalties regime.
- Streamlining the decision-making process for setting catch limits.
- Technical fisheries management changes.

The following questions are designed to stimulate your thinking and help us report back clearly on people's feedback. There are spaces after each question to provide your response.

Your feedback will inform the next steps in this process, which includes developing and seeking approval for policy changes and any necessary legislative changes.

Once the policy settings have been considered by the Minister of Fisheries and agreed in 2019, the next step will be to consider appropriate options to improve our monitoring and verification capabilities for commercial fisheries.

## Full consultation document available

You can read the full consultation document: "Your fisheries – your say" on the Fisheries New Zealand website: [www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

## Have your say

Submissions can be emailed to:  
[fisheries.review@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:fisheries.review@mpi.govt.nz)

Alternatively, the postal address is:

Fisheries Change Programme  
Fisheries New Zealand  
P.O. Box 2526  
WELLINGTON 6011

Consultation closes at **5pm on 17 March 2019**.

## Attend a public meeting

We're holding nationwide public meetings and welcome your attendance. Check our website for meeting times, dates, and locations: [www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

## Have a question?

Look at our FAQs at [www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay), or email the team at: [fisheries.review@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:fisheries.review@mpi.govt.nz)

## Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate, Fisheries New Zealand does not accept any responsibility or liability for error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, nor for the consequences of any decisions based on this information. Any view or opinion expressed does not necessarily represent the view of Fisheries New Zealand.

# Tell us about yourself

1. Please provide the below details\*:

Name:

Email address:

Organisation  
name:

Postal  
address:

If you would like to have your submission or personal details withheld, please set out your reasons below.

**\*Please note:** your submission is public information. Submissions may be the subject of requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982. The Act specifies that information is to be made available to requesters unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it, as set out in the Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting to have your submission or personal details withheld, please set out your reasons in the submission. Fisheries New Zealand will consider those reasons when making any assessment for the release of submissions if requested under the Act.

2. What group do you **most** identify with or are involved in?

- Recreational fishing
- Amateur fishing charter vessel operator
- Commercial fishing
- Tangata whenua
- Environmental interest group
- General public
- Prefer not to specify

3. In what province do you **normally** live?

- Northland
- Auckland
- Waikato
- Bay of Plenty
- Gisborne
- Hawke's Bay
- Taranaki
- Manawatu-Wanganui
- Wellington
- Tasman
- Marlborough
- West Coast
- Canterbury
- Otago
- Southland
- Not in New Zealand
- Prefer not to specify

4. If you are a fisher, what area do you normally fish and what is your normal fishing activity?

Fishing area (e.g. Hauraki Gulf):

Fishing activity (e.g. set netting):

5. What is your age?

- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80 and above
- Prefer not to specify

# Amending the rules for commercial fishers that set out what fish must be brought back to port, and what fish can be returned to the sea

Please refer to pages 8 to 14 of the consultation document.

## Questions

6. We have identified the following objectives for our landings and returns policy:
- Clear and practical rules for fishers.
  - Incentives to reduce unwanted catch.
  - Future-focused and efficient.
  - Improves sustainability.

Which of the proposed options do you think best meets these objectives? Why?

7. Are there any other options that should be considered when thinking about commercial landings and returns to the sea?

8. Are there any other objectives you think should be included? Why?

9. Our proposed options include the use of:
- Minimum legal sizes for commercial fisheries.
  - Schedule 6.

What do you think is the best way to set these rules in a way that encourages good fishing practice?

10. Any changes to the existing rules could have an impact on the way in which fish are disposed of and received, and in the profile of catch landed. What opportunities and challenges would you see under each of the proposed options for changing the existing rules?

11. Do you have any further comments?

# Ensuring effective and fair offences and penalties

Please refer to pages 15 to 17 of the consultation document.

## Introduction of new criminal offences

### Questions

12. Do you think new offences based on the quantity of fish illegally returned to the sea will support a more proportionate system? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Do you have an alternate option for changing the offences and penalties regime (for example, using a demerits points system similar to driving offences)?

## Introduction of infringement offences

### Questions

14. We think infringement offences are a useful tool to address offending that involves small amounts of fish. Do you agree or disagree?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. If you agree, what amount of fish should have infringement offences, rather than criminal offences? For example, 10 fish.

## Changes to defences for illegal discarding

### Questions

16. We think a defence for returning fish to avoid the capture of protected species achieves the right balance between protection and catch accountability. What do you think?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. We are proposing to remove the defence for returning fish if a fisheries officer or observer approves. Do you agree or do you think there are good reasons for retaining this defence?



# Technical fisheries management changes

Please refer to pages 23 to 24 of the consultation document.

- **Better estimating other sources of fishing mortality**
- **Amendment of the powers relating to the installation and maintenance of equipment to observe fishing**
- **Amendments to ensure continuity between the North and South Island**
- **Removing redundant provisions from the Fisheries Act 1983**

## Question

24. Do you have any comments on any of the technical changes we are proposing?

## Stay up to date

25. If you would like your email address to be added to our mailing list please check your area(s) of interest?

- Commercial fishing updates
- Recreational fishing updates
- Digital monitoring updates
- On-board camera updates
- General updates

26. How did you hear about this consultation?

- Fisheries New Zealand website
- Fisheries New Zealand Facebook pages
- You received an email from us
- Other Facebook page
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Magazine article
- Digital banner
- Other (please specify)

## Other ways to have your say

Fisheries New Zealand also welcomes online submissions. You can find this on our website:  
[www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

Consultation closes at 5pm on 17 March 2019

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New Zealand Government

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