

FAQs

How did you develop the plan, who did you talk to?

The Draft Plan has been developed following a robust process involving expert working groups attended by commercial, recreational and environmental sectors, input and participation through the iwi fisheries forums, and one-to-one meetings with Fisheries Inshore New Zealand, Te Ohu Kaimoana and the Environmental Defence Society.

Will stakeholders have the opportunity to work with Fisheries New Zealand to refine the plan before it is finalised?

Iwi and members of the public are invited to submit feedback on the Draft Plan during the consultation period which closes on Wednesday 12 February 2020. Fisheries New Zealand will engage with submitters or stakeholders if further work or clarification is required on any points raised during consultation.

When will the plan be finalised?

Submissions will be analysed after consultation closes, and the revised Plan will then go to the Minister of Fisheries for his consideration.

When will you start implementing the plan?

Once approved, the Plan will immediately start influencing the management of inshore finfish fisheries. Implementation will occur through our annual planning cycle. This involves monitoring progress through our Annual Review and prioritising and implementing services through Annual Operating Plans. We engage with Iwi and Māori, and stakeholders as part of the annual planning cycle which contributes to prioritisation.

The services in the plan are quite broad, why are they not more specific?

The services outlined provide a high level direction for how the objectives will be met and implemented. Over the five year term of the Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan, specific detail of services to be delivered will be identified in the annual planning process and the Annual Operational Plans.

How will you measure performance and progress against the plan?

Fisheries New Zealand will report against performance in an Annual Review Report, as part of the annual planning cycle. The Annual Review Report assesses the annual performance of inshore

fisheries management against the actions specified in the previous AOP and reports on progress towards meeting the management objectives outlined in the Plan.

The plan proposes many new initiatives or ways of working, do you have the resources available to implement the plan?

The majority of the plan relates to new ways of working, bringing together existing services in a conscious effort to create a more integrated and co-ordinated approach. These can be implemented within current budgets.

For initiatives such as local area management, we will develop these with current resources through a pilot programme. We expect wider implementation will require additional resources and this will be informed by the pilot.

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) means different things to different people, how can you have an overall goal of taking or implementing an EBFM approach when you haven't defined what it is in the plan?

We have adopted a broad high level approach to EBFM that is consistent with the Fisheries Act. The EBFM approach in the plan is about taking some steps in the right direction.

Does the Plan prevent other stakeholders developing Fish Plans to be approved by the Minister?

No, the Draft Plan does not preclude the development of species, stock or area specific Fisheries Plans. For example the Minister recently approved a Pāua Fisheries Plan for the Chatham Islands (PAU 4). Instead, the Plan provides an enabling national framework for such management approaches while ensuring a dialogue between all users of the resource.

Why only inshore finfish, what about Shellfish ?

The work that we undertook to develop the plan with tangata whenua and stakeholders focussed specifically on finfish. We are interested in people's views on whether finfish and shellfish could be accommodated within a common plan.

Are you holding public meetings?

Yes, we will be holding public drop-in sessions in key regional centres for people to discuss the plan with Fisheries New Zealand staff. These will be held during December/January and publicised through our Fisheries New Zealand social media pages and stakeholder networks.

Will the Plan change the current quota system?

No, the Plan guides the operational management of fisheries, it does not include any changes to the Fisheries Act, 1996 or the QMS.

The Plan talks about managing individual stocks but also using a multi-stock management – what does this mean – aren't they two opposing management methods?

No they are actually complementary. Each fish stock has its own monitoring and management requirements. For those stocks that are caught together, we will coordinate the monitoring and management services so that advice and decisions can be provided and made in an integrated way.

How can the Plan benefit all users, especially at a local level?

For shared fisheries and Local communities, the plan highlights the importance of tangata whenua and stakeholders working collaboratively to gain a shared understanding of issues and develop solutions that benefit all users.

What does this mean for customary, recreational and commercial fishers?

The Plan provides for increased transparency and participation of tangata whenua, recreational and commercial stakeholders in fisheries management and planning at national, regional, and local levels. By doing so, the management of fisheries resources will be more responsive to the views and needs of fishers to enhance the benefits they receive.