



To: Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
CC: Jenny Marcroft, Under-Secretary to the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
From: Dan Bolger, Deputy Director-General Fisheries New Zealand

Launch of Proposed Amendments to Fisheries Act Consultation

Date	7 February 2025	Reference	B25-0089
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Date decision required by
11 February 2025

Purpose

- This briefing seeks your approval to release the Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Act Consultation document and briefs you on the arrangements for the launch scheduled for Wednesday 12 February.

Consultation document and associated materials

- The final consultation document is attached for your approval as **Appendix One**.¹ There have been minor technical changes and editorial amendments to improve clarity and readability since the last version we provided to you but no substantive changes.
- A draft of a supplementary information paper that will be released with the consultation document is attached for your information as **Appendix Two**. This paper provides additional information on proposed adjustments to the catch allowances for 32 fish stocks if some current landing exceptions are removed when monitored returns are introduced. Most increases are very minor. The largest increase is 56.8 tonnes for the SNA1 commercial catch limit, which may be contentious.
- Three of the stocks (including SNA1) also have preferential allocation rights (28N rights). The supplementary information paper seeks views on whether 28N rights should be engaged given the nature of the adjustments. This will inform our advice to you as part of decision-making on how to implement any new catch settings.
- Other supporting material for the consultation, including a draft set of Q&As and the presentation slides that will be used during the consultation process, are also attached for information as **Appendix Three**.

¹ Cabinet has authorised you to make minor design and technical changes to the consultation document as needed prior to its release (ECO-24-MIN-0291 refers).

Launch on Wednesday 12 February

5. You are scheduled to launch the consultation document at a media standup on Wellington's waterfront from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. You will be supported at the standup by Ray Smith, Director-General Ministry for Primary Industries, Dan Bolger, Deputy-Director General Fisheries New Zealand, Emma Taylor, Director Fisheries Management, Alastair Cameron, Director Primary Sector Policy, and Eugene Rees, Manager Fisheries Policy.
6. A draft run sheet is attached as **Appendix Four**. A draft press release has been provided to your office, and draft talking points for the stand-up are attached as **Appendix Five**.
7. Your office will be inviting a small group of sector representatives to attend including:
 - a) Seafood New Zealand Chair, Greg Gent;
 - b) Seafood New Zealand Chief Executive, Lisa Futschek;
 - c) Seafood New Zealand staff who were part of the Seafood Industry Forum sub-working group;
 - d) Graeme Hastilow; Te Ohu Kaimoana Chief Executive;
 - e) Laws Lawson, Principal Adviser Te Ohu Kaimoana; and
 - f) the Chief Executives of Moana, Sanford, Sealord and Talley's.
8. A confirmed attendee list will be provided to you on Tuesday 11 February.

Consultation process

9. The consultation process will be open from 12 February to 28 March. An indicative consultation schedule is attached as **Appendix Six**. The public will be able to make submissions through an online survey or in writing and there will be three online public consultation sessions open to all. We will also be engaging with all the iwi fisheries forums and writing to all fisheries mandated organisations and post-settlement governance entities. In addition, we intend to offer key fisheries stakeholders, including recreational and environmental groups, the opportunity to meet with us separately.

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1. **Agree** to approve the release of the attached Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Act Consultation document (**Appendix One**);

YES / NO

- 2. **Note** the attached supplementary information paper (**Appendix Two**) with details on the proposed adjustments to catch allowances if some current landing exceptions are removed when monitored returns are introduced;

NOTED

- 3. **Note** the other supporting material for the consultation process (**Appendix Three**); and

NOTED

- 4. **Note** you are scheduled to launch the consultation on Wednesday 12 February, 9:00 am at a media stand-up on the Wellington waterfront.

NOTED

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Dan Boiger
Deputy Director-General Fisheries New Zealand

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

/ / 2025

Appendix One: Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Act Consultation Document

This document has been published at the following link:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/67662-Proposed-amendments-to-the-Fisheries-Act-Consultation-Document>

Proactively Released

Appendix Two: Monitored returns - Supplementary information paper on proposed adjustments to settings within the Total Allowable Catch for stocks where a current landing exception is removed

This document has been published at the following link: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/67665-Proposed-adjustments-to-Total-Allowable-Catch-settings-for-stocks-where-a-current-landing-exception-is-removed>

Proactively Released

Slide pack to be used in consultation meetings

This document has been published at the following link: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/67956-Proposed-Amendments-to-the-Fisheries-Act-Consultation-Presentation-2025>

Proactively Released

Appendix Four: Draft run sheet for launch

Time	Activity
9:00 am	Arrive wharf, Nga Kina sculpture
9:05 am	Address by Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries and questions
9:20 am	Speech from an industry representative TBC
9:25 am	Photos as requested by media
9:30 am	Minister departs

Proactively Released

Appendix Five: Draft talking points for launch

- I'm very pleased to be launching a consultation today on proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996.
- The Government is committed to lifting New Zealand's productivity and economic growth to increase opportunities and prosperity for all New Zealanders, and to remove regulations that impede the productivity and potential of the seafood sector while ensuring sustainability.
- Our commercial fishing industry is an important contributor to our economy. Wild-capture fisheries generate around \$1.6 billion in exports annually and the industry employs around 9,000 people.
- New Zealand has one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones in the world covering approximately 4.1 million square kilometres.
- Sustainability continues to be at the forefront of fisheries management, leveraging the quota management system (QMS) that serves New Zealand well and supports the overall sustainability of our fish stocks.
- Since the introduction of the QMS nearly four decades ago, there have been substantial improvements in the verified information about commercial fishing activity through electronic catch and position reporting and the introduction of on-board cameras.
- We have an opportunity to harness this improved data to make our fisheries system more effective and efficient, while continuing to ensure healthy, sustainable fisheries that provide for all New Zealanders now and in the future.
- In February 2024, I established the Seafood Industry Forum to identify barriers and opportunities for the sector to grow. Operational and regulatory cost pressures were reported as holding industry back and making it difficult to invest in growth and innovation.
- Our overall wild caught fish export volume is forecast to remain much the same, meaning that lifting export revenue will rely on improving productivity and efficiency, rather than volume.
- We have developed a package of proposed changes, along with operational improvements, intended to make it easier for fishers to harvest in a sustainable way.
- Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback on the proposed changes, which are categorised in three parts:

- **Part 1:** Proposals to improve responsiveness, efficiency and certainty of decision making;
 - **Part 2:** Greater protection for on-board camera footage and ensuring the on-board camera programme is workable; and
 - **Part 3:** Implementing new rules for commercial fishers that set out when QMS fish must be landed and when they can return to sea.
- Details of the proposals can be found in the consultation document on the Ministry for Primary Industries' website. I encourage anyone with an interest to read the consultation document and provide feedback. Submissions close on 28 March 2025.

Proactively Released

Appendix Six: Consultation schedule

Proactively Released

Fisheries Reform: Indicative schedule for public consultation and engagement with stakeholders

February	Item	March	Item
	<i>Weekend</i>		<i>Weekend</i>
3		WEEK FOUR	Public online session IFF Mai I Ngā Kuri o Whareki Tihirau – Whakatane
4		3	4
5		5	IFF Ngati Porou – Gisborne expected to be held in Ruatoria Northern Committee Meeting - online (commercial fishers)
6		6	MPI and eNGO quarterly meeting (date confirmed) – Reform on agenda but will require a standalone meeting
7		7	Ngā Pouwhiro Taimatua presentation (interest and date tbc)
	<i>Weekend</i>		<i>Weekend</i>
WEEK ONE		WEEK FIVE	
10		10	
11		11	IFF Ngaa Hapuu o Te Uru o Tainui – Waikato expected to be held in Hamilton
12	CONSULTATION PROCESS OPENS Release Public Discussion document followed by promotion in media: Press release, website QAs; social media posts <i>One week to allow for reading the document before public engagement sessions</i>	12	IFF Te Hikau o Te Ika – Northland – Awanui
13		13	Public online session Iwi Fisheries Forum (IFF) West Forum – Northland - Hokianga
14		14	IFF East- Northland – Whangarei
	<i>Weekend</i>		<i>Weekend</i>
WEEK TWO	IFF Te Tau Ihu – Nelson/ Marlborough held in Blenheim/Wairau	WEEK SIX	Commercial Fishers online session tbc
17		17	Science provider - regular NIWA catch up (tbc date)
18		18	
19		19	
20	Commercial Fishers online session tbc	20	
21		21	
	<i>Weekend</i>		<i>Weekend</i>
WEEK THREE	Public online session	WEEK SEVEN	Week for wrap up and any outstanding meetings
24		24	
25	Highly Migratory Species Committee Meeting – online (commercial fishers) Seafood	25	
26	eNGO stand-alone meeting tbc	26	
27		27	
28	Proposed Recreational Fishers key groups online session tbc	28	CONSULTATION PROCESS CLOSES

Public meeting	Blue
Sector/ stakeholder meeting	Green
Iwi Fisheries Forum	Red

The following Iwi Fisheries Forums are on hold or not scheduled to meet during the consultation period: Hauraki-Tāmaki - Auckland/Coromandel, Mai Paritū tae atu ki Turakirae – Napier/Dannevirke, Te Tai Hauāuru – Whanganui/Manawatu/Taranaki, Te Waka a Māui – South Island. We will provide these forums with information and offer to meet with them.