



# Office of Hon Phil Heatley

MP for Whangarei

Minister of Fisheries

Minister of Housing

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PH0482

Trish Rea  
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Dear Trish

Thank you for meeting with me on 3 August to present to me the Non-commercial Fishing and Environmental Interests Alliance 'alternative collective vision and strategy', and to discuss your views on the development of Fisheries 2030.

I consider that there is a good deal of overlap between the final Fisheries 2030 strategy endorsed by Cabinet and your proposed alternative strategy, and that many actions identified in the alternative strategy are now provided for in Fisheries 2030.

At our meeting the group indicated a preference for greater emphasis on environmental performance and would generally prefer fisheries to be managed to provide greater abundance. The group also raised concerns that economic benefits might be obtained to the detriment of social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of environmental and amateur groups. While I don't believe that this is the case, I acknowledge this point. You will note that the Fisheries 2030 long term goal for the sector remains "*New Zealanders maximising benefits from the use of fisheries within environmental limits*". I strongly believe that improved economic benefit can be obtained from smarter use of our fisheries, while at the same time protecting the health of the fishery and the marine environment.

## **Alignment with Fisheries 2030**

Fisheries 2030 seeks to enable the creation of value across the fisheries sector. This covers the creation of value for customary Maori, amateur and commercial fishers and those with particular environmental or marine farming interests.

As a result of engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders, more detail has been provided in the 2030 strategy about the specific results (outcomes) sought from the use of fisheries resources and the environmental performance that will be necessary if the long term goal and the creation of value across the sector is to be achieved. The more specific strategic actions have been reviewed and better aligned to ensure that these outcomes are achieved. Governance conditions that are well specified, transparent, and which support cost-effective and accountable decision-making are identified to enable the outcomes to be met. A set of values and principles have been added to outline the approach to undertaking actions and making decisions.

The need for high-quality amateur fisheries that contribute to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of all New Zealanders is explicitly recognised. Also recognised is the view that we want thriving customary fisheries, managed in accordance with kaitiakitanga, supporting the cultural well-being of iwi and hapu.

The Fisheries 2030 environment outcomes identify the need for habitats of significance to fisheries to be protected, biodiversity and the function of ecological systems, including trophic linkages, to be conserved; and that adverse effects on protected species are reduced or avoided. These seek to ensure that use can be sustained at levels that provide for current and future use. In addition to this Fisheries 2030 also acknowledges that the impacts of the use of fisheries need to be addressed, including the cumulative impacts of activities on land, air or water on aquatic ecosystems.

All of these results are closely linked to, or build on, the ideas that environmental groups, amateur fishers, customary Maori (and commercial fishers) promoted during the discussions around 2030.

### **Five year plan of action**

I believe that sector differences often concern the sequence of reform, the priority given to different actions, and perhaps the language used, rather than a fundamental opposition to the goal or outcomes. It is important to note that Fisheries 2030 is a 20-year strategy, and not all aspects of it can be implemented simultaneously.

I also sought Cabinets' endorsement of a five year plan of action to begin implementing Fisheries 2030. I was particularly keen to see some of the actions from 2030 brought into the 5 year plan of action to ensure that environmental, customary and amateur fishing concerns were addressed. These include:

- a. Developing alternative stock management targets within environmental limits;
- b. Supporting environmental certification and implement product traceability certification for NZ fisheries;
- c. Setting and implement harvests strategy standards;
- d. Setting environmental standards, including for threatened and protected species and seabed impacts;
- e. Enhancing the framework for fisheries management planning, including the use of decision rules to adjust harvest levels over time;
- f. Determining best options for information collection on catch from amateur fisheries, including the implementation of charter boat reporting;
- g. Seeking consensus on how to fully implement the fisheries Deed of Settlement and historical Treaty settlements.

Fisheries 2030 is significant and exciting development. It provides the means to address the many challenges identified by tangata whenua and stakeholders, and provides a comprehensive platform for progress. I look forward to working with you towards achieving these goals and a number of other actions this Government is looking to address across the fisheries sector.

Yours sincerely



Hon Phil Heatley  
**Minister of Fisheries**