

HEATLEY ANNOUNCES 20-YEAR FISH PLAN

September 15, 2009

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley today released Fisheries 2030, aimed at improving the management of the country's fisheries.

"This is the plan by which the Government aims to enable the sector to make a significantly greater but sustainable contribution to the New Zealand economy," Mr Heatley said.

The plan has 15 objectives, ranging from ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, through managing impacts of fishing and aquaculture and delivering on obligations to Maori.

It brought together work programmes, providing overall direction and enabling the Government and the fisheries sector to improve productivity and achieve better management, Mr Heatley said.

He cited the aquaculture sector as an example of the industry's potential, as it had set a goal of becoming a \$1 billion industry by 2025.

Mr Heatley claimed international research placed New Zealand in the top two marine areas in the world "in terms of the way our fisheries are managed".

But he emphasised in a cabinet paper that Fisheries 2030 was a 20-year strategy and not all aspects could be implemented at the same time.

There was no need for urgent law change, and officials would report to him on progress by June next year.