

Analysis of Hansards Political Party Stance - Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill (No 2)
18/8/08

DC: David Carter
ER: Eric Roy

JA: Jim Anderton
PH: Phil Heatley

MT: Metiria Turei
PP: Pita Paraoe
TT: Tariana Turia

Issue	Labour/Progressives	National	Greens	NZ First	Maori Party
Support for amendment	JA: ruling of the High Court has made an amendment to the Act inevitable. Hansard 24/7/08 JA: the amendment bill will enable the TAC to continue to be set under section 13 using existing management approaches. Hansard 24/7/08	PH: The National Party will be voting for this legislation. Hansard 24/7/08 PH: the bill essentially amends section 13 of the Fisheries Act 1996 to allow the continuation of what has always been done in practice - that is the use of a range of methods and management strategies in the setting of the TAC. Hansard 24/7/08	MT: The Green Party will also support this bill's referral to the Primary Production Committee. We consider it a necessary fix to many of the flaws in the Fisheries Act 1996. : Hansard 29/7/08 MT: At heart, this issue is about food security. It is about making sure our people—Māori, who have been able to do so for 1,000 years; and Pākehā, who have been doing so for 200 years—can go down to the ocean and be able to feed themselves and their families from the bounty available to us. : Hansard 29/7/08	PP: Although this is a small bill, it is a very important one. As earlier speakers have rightly said, it amends section 13 of the Fisheries Act and gives it clarity. : Hansard 29/7/08 PP: Has some disquiet but... "but I should say that New Zealand First will support the bill going to the select committee. : Hansard 29/7/08	TT: It is a specific and technical response to the amendments that arose out of the High Court judgment of Justice Miller in Antons....: Hansard 29/7/08
	JA: The amendment will not change the general approach of the Fisheries Act 1996. : Hansard 24/7/08	PH: ..the National Party, through me, made a commitment to supporting this legislation going to the Primary Production Committee. : Hansard 29/7/08	MT: The Green Party supports the Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill (No 2) with some reluctance. : Hansard 29/7/08		
	JA: It will not alter the balance between the objectives of sustainability and utilisation, and it will not alter the balance of interest between stakeholder groups. : Hansard 24/7/08	PH: ..the National Party is convinced- along with the fishing industry, a large number of fishing interests, Crown Law, the Labour-Progressive government Minister Jim Anderton, and the Ministry of Fisheries - that we need to clarify the law by providing a clearer distinction to the minr of what information is required to make healthy fish stock decisions. : Hansard 29/7/08			
	JA: the TAC could not be set for many fish stocks in NZ and at the same time, the rulings set by the court could not be met: : Hansard 24/7/08	PH: National would be the last party to undermine the quota management system by stalling this legislation. : Hansard 29/7/08 ER: This bill allows the Minister to make those decisions based on the best information available. I think that that is a very sensible approach. It is one that the industry and the ministry have come to an agreement on because they realise that fishing is a very important industry for New Zealand and that it has to be sustainable. : : Hansard 29/7/08			
	JA: It is important that the Fisheries Act be amended so that I can make decisions on new catch limits before 1 October. : Hansard 24/7/08				
	JA: Although the committee will have a shortened consideration period, it is important to note that the bill does not seek to alter the approach taken to setting catch limits in NZ: it merely seeks to make the current practice, which was passed by this Parliament, lawful. I commend this bill to the House. : Hansard 24/7/08				
Need for amendment before 1 Oct			MT: It is unacceptable for the Minister not to be able to set or change the total allowable catches for these fish stocks. : : Hansard 29/7/08		

	<p>JA: I will therefore be requesting that the Primary Production Committee report the bill back to the House by 25 August so that it can be enacted by mid-September. I would appreciate the cooperation of the Select Committee in this regard.</p> <p>Hansard 24/7/08</p>	
Timing of Process	<p>DC: What we now need to do is make sure that we progress this legislation through the select committee as quickly as possible, with an intention to return it to Parliament before it rises for the election, so that there will not be ongoing challenges to the establishment of total allowable catch for the next fishing season, which commences on 1 October 2008. : Hansard 29/7/08</p>	
Consultation	<p>PH: We know that the Minister in charge of the bill, Jim Anderton, kept fishing interests closely informed, and I believe that the Ministry of Fisheries worked very closely with fishing interests in putting together this legislation on section 13. We applaud that and we certainly thank the Ministry of Fisheries for keeping National Party members informed of its progress. We did not want any argument when it came to the drafting of this legislation; that would signal to us, quite clearly, that there had been a change in the intent of the original legislation, which of course, we would not support. We were always behind securing the original intent, not changing the intent: Hansard 29/7/08</p> <p>JA: Needless to say, the relevant stakeholders have been consulted. Hansard 24/7/08</p> <p>PH: National members will be interested, at the Select Committee, to hear what invited submitters say about the bill as drafted. Should they raise any significant concerns-should there be any angst about the legislation as drafted- National MPs will be very concerned indeed, because we understood that it was a team approach from the Ministry of Fisheries and fishing interests that brought this bill to the House in this form : Hansard 29/7/08</p>	<p>PP: New Zealand First will support the bill going to the select committee. We think it is important that the public of New Zealand, not least those involved in the industry, are able to express their point of view, whether it be one of disquiet or of support.: Hansard 29/7/08</p> <p>TT: Te Ohu Kaimoana and seafood industry representatives, through the Seafood Industry Council, have been involved in discussions with the Ministry of Fisheries, and are satisfied that the proposed amendment restores the status quo. : Hansard 29/7/08</p> <p>TT: we have it on very good authority that the seafood industry has struck a bargain that not only will it sign off on the wording of the amendment and the process, but also it will do so if the Māori Party and Labour Māori MPs support this amendment. : Hansard 29/7/08</p>

PH: We will support the inviting of submitters to partake in an efficient Select Committee process, given that the Minister of Fisheries has to make decisions on hundreds of fish stocks by 1 October. National would be the last party to undermine the quota management system by stalling this legislation. Hansard 29/7/08

PH: I acknowledge the work that was done by the Ministry officials, but more particularly the work that was done by outside fishing interests, who spend more time on the sea and have more knowledge of how fish stocks are working on a day-to-day basis, we certainly value their input. Hansard 29/7/08

ER: This is a very, very polarised industry but, for the first time in a long, long time we had the representatives of the sea harvesters, the Seafood Industry Council, come to us with the Ministry of Fisheries and say "we recognise we have a problem and we need to work together to make a patch". Hansard 29/7/08

ER: We would have loved to have more time in the select committee to deal with this matter on a wider basis, but we have targeted those groups that are interested—or we will be targeting them—and invited them for submissions. They have had a bit of a heads-up, they have been thinking about this, and the Seafood Industry Council, I would imagine, has been canvassing its members as to their views on this. So we are certainly supporting this to go to select committee. If something really unusual pops up we will have to consider our position, but at this point we support this bill going to select committee. : Hansard 29/7/08

DC: I take this opportunity to congratulate the industry on its pragmatic and cooperative response to this issue. I understand that it has worked very closely with the officials of the ministry to make sure that a bill has now been presented into Parliament and has widespread support at this stage from most major industry players. : Hansard 29/7/08

TT: The capacity of the industry to have such a profound influence on the passage of the bill is a great credit to the strength of that collective voice. : Hansard 29/7/08

TT: We in the Maori Party congratulate Te Ohu Kaimoana, the seafood industry, and the Seafood Industry Council on the very impressive part they have played, both in pushing section 10 off the agenda, and in negotiating for amendments that neither add to, nor subtract from, current decision-making obligations. : Hansard 29/7/08

MT: The quota management system is failing our fish stocks: failing our industry, which relies on those fish stocks; and failing the people of this country, who rely on that fishery for sustenance and income. : Hansard 29/7/08

MT: When total allowable catches are based on treating the biomass maximum sustainable yield as targets to be reached, fishers regularly overfish the stocks. The biomass maximum sustainable yield should be treated as an absolute maximum in setting the total allowable catches, and not as a target. : Hansard 29/7/08