

Questions for MPs about fisheries



A selection of questions that can be asked of MPs at public meetings, via email or face to face. If no adequate answer can be provided at the time you give your MP your contact details and ask them to find the answer and provide that to you at a later date.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

1. What have you done to ensure your constituents' fishing interest are being allowed for?
2. Do you believe MPI is not biased towards commercial interests?
3. Do you have any problems with the way MPI manages our fisheries?
4. What do you believe is the most urgent matter for our fisheries?
5. Public confidence in MPI is at a very low level, what changes will you make to improve public perceptions of the Ministry?
6. Do you believe the Quota management System is world's best practice? .
7. What would you change in the Quota Management System and how would you deal with its failures?
8. What will your government do to ensure MPI acts as the regulator in fisheries and not a partner to industrial fishing firms?
9. What will your party do about MPI's lack of willingness to enforce the laws and to prosecute fishing boat skippers caught dumping fish?
10. Do you believe that an industry should monitor and report on its own compliance matters?
11. What will your party do about MPI awarding the contract for video monitoring of fishing vessels to a company owned by commercial fishers?
12. Do you believe that MPI gives Ministerial advice that is in the national Interest?
13. Do you believe that all fisheries data should be in the public domain?
14. Do agree that NZ fisheries resources are owned by New Zealand?
15. Do you agree that people catching fish for sale should pay for the fish?
16. Do you agree that fisheries research needs to be independent of fishers?
17. Do you agree that fisheries research ought to be funded by a resource rental on commercial fishers?

Inshore fisheries

1. Do you believe MPI when it says that near shore, or inshore, fisheries are in an abundant state?
2. What do you say to your constituents when they complain about the decline in inshore fisheries?



3. Will your party introduce a coastal zone that excludes industrial fishing such as trawling, seining, and dredging from inshore waters around New Zealand?
4. Will your party provide the necessary tools to enable these coastal zones to be used for high value use such as low-impact, small scale commercial fishing, recreational and customary fishing?
5. Will your party support local iwi and recreational fishers to make rules appropriate for their marine environment and use of inshore waters?
6. How will you work with local councils and residents to better protect our fisheries and waterways from industrial fishing damage?
7. What will your party do to reduce the amount of run-off from the land entering our waterways?
8. How will your party ensure the fast growing tourism sector interest in recreational fishing is not destroyed by industrial fishers ruining our fisheries?

Commercial trawlers

1. How will your party address problems with commercial trawlers working so close to shore?
2. What are you going to do about the impacts that inshore trawling is having on habitats important for juvenile fish?
3. What new laws will you introduce to move commercial fishing out of the inshore areas?
4. How will you make sure those vessels and crews caught dumping fish are prosecuted and handed appropriate penalties?
5. What will you do to ensure commercial and industrial fishing doesn't destroy our fisheries?
6. The destructive practice of bottom trawling is condemned by everyone except the people who commercially benefit from it - what plans do you have to phase this out?

Illegal behaviour

1. What are you going to do about commercial operators dumping fish and destroying our fisheries?
2. What will your party do to stop commercial fishers discarding their stock (high grading) for better fish?
3. What will you do to ensure those caught dumping fish and lying about it are brought to justice?
4. What will you do to better monitor and prosecute the illegal activities of the industrial fishing sector?



Allocation of fisheries

1. Will you introduce an allocation principle to the Fisheries Act based on the 1989 government promise to give priority to non-commercial fishing?
2. Do you accept that giving priority to non-commercial fishing interests will help decision makers to be more precautionary when managing inshore fisheries?
3. Will you ensure New Zealanders continue to have the right to go fishing without needing a permit or an allocation as has been suggested?

Quota Management System

1. Will your party commit to initiating a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the QMS?
2. Will you introduce a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the fishing industry's activities in New Zealand?
3. Do you commit to properly investigating the close relationship between the major shareholders of quota and Ministry officials?
4. How do you plan to stop the wastage of a valuable New Zealand natural resource?
5. Do you agree with the Director of Fisheries Management's statement that discards is the single biggest issue in wild fisheries?
6. What will you do about addressing the discards issue?
7. Do you intend to bring recreational and customary fishers into the QMS?
8. Will you commit to ensuring the QMS is completely overhauled to ensure our fisheries remain viable into the future?