



A Message from the Minister of Fisheries

My Ministry has the responsibility to manage and conserve our fisheries and fishery resources for the benefit of all New Zealanders. Ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy and benefit from these resources is a complex and demanding task. I want to assure you it is a task which we are both committed to and capable of achieving.

The Quota Management System is now in place for controlling the commercial component of the sustainable catch. This system ensures fish stocks are conserved for present and future generations.

The Recreational Fisheries Policy I am now releasing can be seen as the first step in a programme which will address the needs of the recreational fishery. It is not a set of rules and regulations governing recreational fishing; it is a set of principles which will provide a framework for specific management measures to be introduced in the regions, to meet regional needs and local conditions.

The cornerstone of the policy is presented in the first national objective: to ensure recreational users have access to a reasonable share of fishery resources. **Government's position is clear, where a species of fish is not sufficiently abundant to support both commercial and non-commercial fishing, preference will be given to non-commercial fishing** This position reflects Government's resolve to ensure all New Zealanders can enjoy and benefit from our fisheries.

New Zealand is now recognised as a world leader in commercial fisheries management. This policy ensures we are at the forefront of recreational fisheries policy as well.

Colin Moyle
Minister of Fisheries
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