

## New Zealand Intervention: Ocean Action Panel 5

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### **Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers**

Thank you to Croatia and Viet Nam, the co-chairs of this dialogue.

New Zealand recognises that sustainable fisheries management is crucial to the long-term health of the marine ecosystem and on-going economic and food security, including for small scale fishers in the Pacific.

Accordingly, New Zealand has an effective and sustainable domestic fisheries management system. In New Zealand waters, 87.7 percent of our fish stocks are regularly assessed and are in a healthy state – they are not overfished. If fish stocks are considered to be overfished, action is taken to enable stocks to rebuild to target levels.

New Zealand is actively engaged on international fisheries management, including as members of four regional organisations managing fisheries: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna; the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation; and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Our priorities include improving global and regional governance, promoting stock and ecosystem sustainability, reducing bycatch of vulnerable species, and maximising market access.

New Zealand is a longstanding advocate for the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies. Following our ratification of the World Trade Organisation Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, New Zealand is now actively engaged in the ongoing negotiations to enhance it. New Zealand also welcomes the recently adopted OECD Recommendation on eliminating government support to IUU fishing, which complements the World Trade Organisation Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

In the knowledge that coastal fisheries in the region are important to livelihoods and food security, New Zealand provides USD\$8 million to the Pacific Community for the Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project. Through this, Pacific Community is supporting Pacific Island countries and territories to build local and national capacity and promote a coordinated regional approach to the sustainable management and development of coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

Our Pacific fisheries capacity development programme - Te Pātuitanga Ahumoana a Kiwa – also builds skills and expertise in fisheries management as well as monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement capacity.

With more seabird species breeding in New Zealand than anywhere else, reducing the bycatch of seabirds in our domestic and international waters is a priority for New Zealand. New Zealand's domestic regulations provide for robust seabird bycatch mitigation based on global best-practice. We are leading efforts at the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation-level to improve seabird bycatch mitigation measures and we are developing the Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit, to help fishing vessels implement seabird mitigations.

New Zealand looks forward to continuing to work closely with partners to ensure coordination and alignment in sustainable fisheries management. Thank you.