Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan

October 2022

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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1. Foreword

Fishing plays an important role in New Zealand's cultural, social and economic fabric. Since the introduction of the Quota Management System (QMS) over 30 years ago, there have been significant developments in technology, consumer expectations, and scientific understanding of our wild fisheries and the wider aquatic environment. New Zealanders today, expect greater transparency and performance from our management systems, and desire greater involvement in how local resources and marine environments are being managed.

The National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan (this Plan) sets out how we intend to manage New Zealand's inshore finfish fisheries for the next five years. This Plan provides an overarching strategic framework and identifies focus areas that will guide our management approach. It will support greater transparency and opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the management of inshore fisheries; and enhance input and participation with tangata whenua.

Fisheries New Zealand continues to develop ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) approaches for the New Zealand context. EBFM requires appropriate management of fish taken in mixed fisheries, giving attention to habitats critical to our fish stocks, and working closely with communities to support arrangements which lead to better outcomes at a local level. This is done by building on the strong focus of managing key fish stocks and addressing potential impacts of fishing.

2. Overview of the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan

2.1 Vision for oceans

The Government's vision for the oceans is ensuring the long-term health and resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems, including the role of fisheries.

In delivering to this vision, it is Fisheries New Zealand's goal that New Zealand is seen as the most sustainable provider of high value seafood products. We will promote innovation in fisheries and world-leading environmental performance. Ensuring ocean ecosystems are healthy and abundant will contribute to thriving communities and the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of all New Zealanders. Fisheries New Zealand will work dynamically as a steward to achieve these outcomes, led by productive partnerships with tangata whenua, effective local engagement, robust science and innovative use of data.

2.2 Purpose

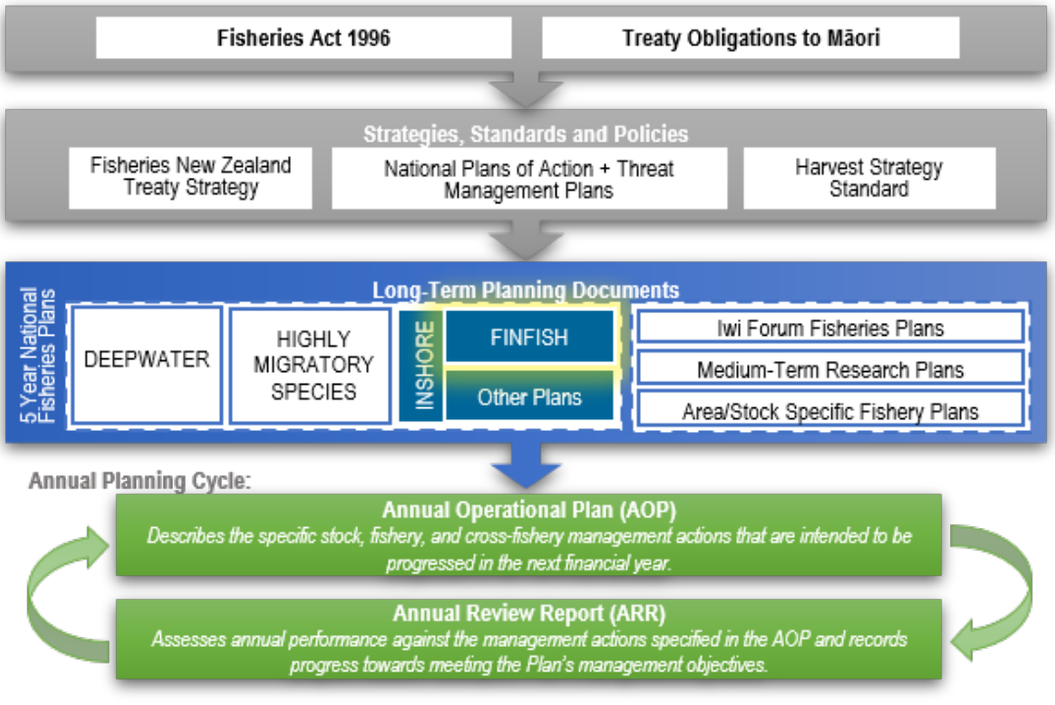
The National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan (this Plan) provides the strategic direction and overarching framework for the management of inshore finfish fisheries over the next five years. This Plan is consistent with the legislative framework provided by the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

Key principles and priority focus areas that will guide fisheries management activities for inshore finfish fisheries are identified in this Plan. Management objectives then provide clarity and certainty as to how each of the focus areas will be achieved.

Fisheries New Zealand recognises the full extent of Māori rights to fishing (commercial and customary) and fisheries, and will work in partnership with iwi and Māori using established processes that provide for their input and participation. In addition, this Plan establishes engagement pathways to ensure environmental, commercial, and recreational interests are integrated into fisheries management.

Implementation of this Plan will be delivered through Annual Operational Plans (AOPs) and Annual Review Reports (ARRs). The development of AOPs and ARRs will be undertaken through the input and participation and engagement channels established as part of an annual planning cycle. This Plan sets the framework for identifying annual (or multi-year) actions that will be undertaken for inshore finfish fisheries, and these will be identified and delivered upon through the annual planning cycle as outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Situating the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan within the fisheries planning framework



2.3 Scope

This Plan covers the management of all inshore finfish species managed within New Zealand's Quota Management System (QMS) and those outside of this system that are managed under the Act.

'Inshore finfish species' means all finfish found within the inshore area of New Zealand's fisheries waters. Although not formally defined, the inshore area is generally taken to mean the area within a landward boundary of mean high-water springs and a seaward boundary of either the 12 nautical mile outer limit of the territorial sea.

The effective management of inshore finfish requires the consideration of a wide range of matters to maintain the structure, productivity, function, and diversity of the ecosystem that inshore finfish fisheries depend upon. These relationships are factored into the scope of this Plan.

Management of inshore shellfish and freshwater stocks is out of scope of this Plan. The intention is to trial the operation of this plan in the first instance, and then consider expanding the scope to include all inshore fisheries, or develop interrelated plans alongside this in the future. Future changes to this Plan will be made following input and participation with tangata whenua and a formal public consultation process.

2.4 Structure

This Plan consists of two parts, Part A: Strategic Context and Framework, and Part B: Focus Areas & Objectives.

Part A: Strategic Context and Framework

Part A details the overall strategic direction for the management of New Zealand's inshore finfish fisheries. Specifically, it describes:

- the strategic context and operating environment;
- the overarching vision and principles for the management of inshore finfish fisheries;
- five focus areas that will guide the Plan and a framework for management objectives and actions;
- how the Plan will be implemented, including the annual planning cycle and governance processes; and
- the legislative context that underpins the Plan to maintain consistency with the intent of the Act.

Part B: Focus Areas & Objectives

Part B describes:

- the five focus areas in greater detail;
- why each focus area is important to inshore finfish fisheries management;
- what the principal aims are for each focus area (management objectives);
- and the ways in which those aims may be achieved (management actions).

The management objectives and actions described in Part B of the Plan will directly inform the annual planning cycle.

2.5 Legal status of the Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan

The National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan has been approved by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries (the Minister) under section 11A of the Act.

Section 11A provides the legal basis for the development of fisheries plans and general guidance on what a fisheries plan may contain.

- Section 11A(2) states that a plan may relate to one or more stocks, fishing years, or areas, or any combination thereof.
- Section 11A(3) states that a plan may include fisheries management objectives to support the purpose and the principles of the Act.

Section 11(2A) of the Act says that before setting or varying any sustainability measure under Part 3 of the Act or making decisions or recommendations to regulate or control fishing, the Minister must take any relevant approved fisheries plan into account. The Minister may make a decision that is different to what is set out in this Plan, provided that in making the decision, its content is considered.

An approved Plan does not diminish the legal requirements to ensure the purpose and principles of the Act are met. If there are conflicts between any part of this Plan and legislative obligations as set out in the Act, then the legislative requirements take priority. Likewise, nothing contained in the Plan changes the Crown's obligations to Māori.

2.6 Relationship to other fisheries or fisheries-related plans

This Plan recognises that there may be other fisheries or fisheries-related plans in operation or developed over time that will be relevant to inshore finfish fisheries. The intention of this Plan is to complement and encourage the development of such plans while providing overarching guidance on Fisheries New Zealand's direction for inshore finfish fisheries management.

Where Iwi Fisheries Plans, and/or other approved fisheries plans (regional, fishery specific or otherwise) have been developed, these will be incorporated into the fisheries planning framework (Figure 1). All plans will inform the delivery of management actions under the AOP and are explicitly considered when making management decisions.

PART A:
Strategic Context and Framework

3. Strategic Context

3.1 A time to strengthen and modernise New Zealand's fisheries management system

When the QMS was introduced it was seen as a bold and innovative system that set a new international standard for effective and efficient fisheries management. Aimed at conserving New Zealand's fisheries resources and improving the economic efficiency of the industry; the QMS continues to underpin how fisheries in New Zealand are managed and provides a strong foundation for the future.

It is important that we continue to build on these foundations by ensuring fisheries management is agile and can adapt to changing environments. Developments in technology, consumer expectations, and our scientific understanding of wild fisheries and the wider aquatic environment are driving a need for continuous improvement.

We want to ensure our fisheries continue to be sustainable, deliver increased value to all New Zealanders, and do not compromise the health of the marine environment. Equally, New Zealanders are demanding greater transparency and improved performance from our management systems, and at the same time, stakeholders and local communities want greater involvement in how local resources and the marine environment is managed. This is in addition to the partnership approach Fisheries New Zealand has with iwi and Māori.

The need to modernise the way we manage inshore fisheries is evidenced by a number of changes currently underway as a part of the Fisheries Change Programme. The Fisheries Change Programme includes several regulatory changes and has introduced new technologies, such as electronic catch and geospatial position reporting and on-board cameras that modernise the way we will manage inshore fisheries. Additional legislative and policy changes are also being progressed to ensure that fisheries management policy settings are right for the future.

Supporting new and innovative catch methods and technologies has also been identified for further development. Facilitating advancement in these areas has the potential to improve selectivity and the quality of harvested fish, while reducing adverse impacts on incidentally caught fish, protected species and the wider marine environment.

Fisheries New Zealand is committed to continuing to adapt and improve our services to deliver better outcomes. This will keep us abreast of advances being made internationally, and deliver enhanced outcomes from social, cultural, economic and environmental perspectives.

3.2 Advancing ecosystem-based fisheries management

The changes described above, combined with new approaches for managing inshore finfish fisheries outlined in this Plan, are aimed at continuing the progress of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) in the New Zealand context.

EBFM seeks to optimise benefits among a diverse set of societal goals while maintaining the productivity, resilience and sustainability of ecosystems. Importantly, it recognises the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among fisheries and associated components of the ecosystem, including people.

Advancing EBFM will have a wide range of benefits for the ecosystem, as well as Māori, stakeholders, communities and decision-makers. Management decisions will be made with a better understanding of the interconnectedness of fisheries, the ecosystems that support them, and the communities that benefit from them. EBFM also facilitates more transparent distribution of benefits between iwi and Māori, stakeholders, and communities by balancing cultural, social, economic and ecological values.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and New Zealand have made several commitments in relation to EBFM, both domestically and internationally, including:

- New Zealand's commitment to EBFM as signalled in its Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 including a commitment to make progress on EBFM; and
- New Zealand is a signatory to, and has obligations under, a variety of international agreements and guidelines that specify ecosystem approaches to promote management and targets consistent with EBFM[1].

1 Including: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, International Plans of Action for Seabirds and Sharks (IPOA-seabird, IPOA-sharks), and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP).

EBFM is not an endpoint but rather a continuum, or a pathway, with each step taking management to a broader, more integrated level. The Act already provides for many aspects of EBFM, including management of direct and indirect impacts of fishing on the aquatic environment (such as protected species, associated and dependent species and habitats), while providing for New Zealander's social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

The development of EBFM policy and guidelines is ongoing, and the aim is to take a planned and engaged approach to further refine this pathway. In many cases, this will involve developing, trialling and refining new and existing tools, including pilot programmes. Implementing a full ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management is a journey that is likely to evolve over time, and progress will occur over the life of this Plan, and beyond. Equally, it is important that New Zealand adopts an EBFM approach within the context of, and consistent with, our Treaty obligations, and the rights and interests of iwi and Māori, and in a way that considers mātauranga Māori.

4. Strategic Framework

4.1 Framework Structure

Built on an overarching vision and principles, this Plan identifies five key focus areas with associated management objectives and actions that will underpin the management of inshore finfish fisheries (Figure 2). An annual planning cycle will drive the delivery of this Plan and allow for monitoring and evaluation of performance.

Figure 2: The Strategic framework of the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan.

4.2 Overarching Vision and Principles

The overarching vision statement for oceans provides long-term goals for New Zealand's inshore finfish fisheries which will guide our overall approach. The vision statement reflects the purpose of the Act and describes what it will mean to optimise the benefits from the sustainable use of inshore finfish fisheries resources. It will also ensure that there is a healthy aquatic environment for future generations.

Supporting the vision statement are three sets of principles (Information, Sustainable Use and Governance), which outline the behaviour and approaches that will be used to deliver on this Plan.

Information Principles

- Management is informed by appropriate, accurate and robust information, including information gathered from tangata whenua and incorporating mātauranga Māori.
- Where information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate, a cautious approach will be taken.
- Monitoring, biological sampling and stock assessments are planned and delivered to provide relevant data to inform management.

Sustainable Use Principles

- Current use does not compromise the opportunities for future generations.
- Inshore finfish stocks exist as a part of the broader aquatic environment, which has intrinsic value to tangata whenua, Māori and all New Zealanders.
- Measures to increase benefits from fishing must always be considered in the context to ensure the long-term viability of target and bycatch stocks and associated and dependent species.
- Use should not compromise the existence of the full range of genetic diversity within and between species.
- Approaches and decisions contribute to advancing management towards EBFM.

Governance Principles

- Fisheries are managed in a way that is consistent with the Fisheries Act.
- Fisheries are managed in a way that meets Crown's obligations to iwi and Māori and provides for their rights and interests.
- Engagement with iwi and Māori is proactive and in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, with the aim to not only meet our obligations, but enhance kaitiakitanga.
- Opportunities to inform management are provided to

persons having an interest in fishing or the effects of fishing on the aquatic environment, including Māori, and environmental, commercial, and recreational interests.
- Governance arrangements that provide for opportunities to engage are specified and transparent.
- Approaches that support constructive and collaborative engagement between interested parties are used to maintain enduring relationships and support sustainable fisheries management.
- Focus on producing outcomes that are solution focused.

4.3 Focus Areas and Management Objectives

Five focus areas have been identified as being critical to achieving the vision for this Plan and will drive Fisheries New Zealand's focus over the next five years for inshore finfish. These focus areas describe the specific results we desire for inshore finfish fisheries.

Within these focus areas are specific management objectives that describe what success looks like (Figure 3), while also providing signals as to the kind of management approach that will be undertaken under each of the focus areas. The focus areas and associated management objectives provide certainty, transparency and accountability for the direction of inshore finfish fisheries over the next five years.

These elements are strengthened in Part B, which describes *why* each focus area is important, *what* our aims are for that focus area (management objectives) and introduces a suite of management actions that describe *how* we will deliver on achieving those aims. Management actions identified in Part B demonstrate the kinds of actions that can and will be taken through into the AOP depending on the performance gaps and needs that have been identified through the ARR (Figure 1).

Figure 3: Focus areas and management objectives of the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan.

Focus Area	Management Objectives	
Achieving individual stock	1. Stocks are manged appropriate to the level of benefits provided and sustainability risk to provide for the foreseeable needs of future generations. 2. Effective management of inshore finfish stocks is achieved through the availability of appropriate and robust information.	Management Actions
Enhancing benefits for Tangata Whenua and stakeholders	3. Enhancing benefits for Tangata Whenua by ensuring the management of inshore fisheries enhances kaitiakitanga and meets the Crown's obligations to Iwi and Māori by providing for their rights and interests. 4. Enhancing benefits for the commercial sector obtained from key commercial stocks. 5. Enhancing benefits for the recreational sector. 6. Optimising benefits from high-value shared stocks.	
Enabling integrated multi-stock management	7. Ensuring the integrated management of fish stocks caught within a fishery stock complex.	
Improved local fisheries	8. Enable community stewardship of local area finfish fisheries resources.	
Improving environmental performance	9. Identify and, where appropriate, protect habitats of particular significance for fisheries management. 10. Manage inshore finfish fisheries to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on benthic habitats. 11. Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of fisheries on the long-term viability of endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP species) 12. Improve the quality of information available on environmental effects of inshore finfish fisheries. 13. Manage inshore fisheries to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on incidentally caught fish species. 14. Apply an ecosystem-based approach to management of inshore finfish fisheries to transition towards EBFM.	

5. Implementing the Plan

5.1 Annual Planning Cycle

Parts A and B of the Plan are implemented through an annual planning cycle which provides a strategic and transparent approach to how Fisheries New Zealand intends to deliver on the vision and key focus areas of the Plan on an annual basis.

Through the annual planning cycle (figure 4), two key documents are generated: The Annual Operational Plan (AOP) and the Annual Review Report (ARR). Both of these documents have the effect of operationalising the Plan, and are underpinned by governance processes that provide opportunities for tangata whenua input and participation and stakeholder engagement.

Figure 4: Annual Planning Cycle

5.2 Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

The AOP sets out the specific stock, fishery, and cross-fishery management actions that are intended to be progressed in the next financial year, and where required in years two and three. It is directly informed by information flowing out of previous ARRs. The actions specified will contribute to achieving the management objectives across all five focus areas and any other relevant planning documents.

The development of an AOP starts with identifying a draft list of proposed management actions aimed at meeting the objectives set out in this Plan and addressing gaps identified through the ARR. The draft list of actions is then shared with iwi and Māori, and stakeholders to provide for their input via the governance processes established as part of the annual planning cycle. This allows for adjustments to be made in response to feedback received. There will be situations where not all actions proposed will be able to be met in the following year. This may be due to resourcing and sequencing with other related activities. A prioritisation of the proposed actions across Fisheries New Zealand's work programme occurs before the AOP is finalised, informed by engagement that has been undertaken as part of the annual planning cycle.

5.3 Annual Review Report

The ARR assesses the annual performance of inshore finfish fisheries against the actions specified in the previous AOP. The ARR records progress towards meeting this Plan's management objectives and any associated stock-specific performance measures (for example, target stock sizes, biomass limits and/or thresholds for fishing mortality).

The ARR also allows for identification of gaps in performance that require further analysis and potential options for management actions. This enables new management actions, or adjustments to existing ones, to be identified for inclusion in the next AOP.

6. Governance Processes to Support Annual Planning

Enhancing engagement and providing opportunities for input is a key theme across the focus areas of this Plan, and a cornerstone for enabling EBFM. Several management objectives also provide increased opportunities for tangata whenua and Māori, and stakeholders to participate in the management of inshore finfish fisheries.

To deliver on this Plan, the annual planning cycle needs to be well informed and collaborative. This requires a structured and inclusive governance process, where all those with an interest in inshore finfish fisheries can demonstrate stewardship – that is, support and contribute to management and being accountable for their actions.

The passion for New Zealand's fisheries and desire to see them thrive is evident across all interest groups. Notwithstanding this, there are often different, and sometimes competing, interests that make it difficult to achieve consensus. Enabling multi-sector engagement provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views, and to hear the views of others. This has proven pivotal in getting positive input into management processes, and outcomes are generally better understood and/or accepted, by all parties. The governance processes set out for this Plan aims to build on this approach.

This section outlines the governance processes that will be used to support annual planning. Meaningful input and participation from tangata whenua, and engagement with stakeholders, will deliver the best outcomes when planning our fisheries management activities.

6.1 Structured Engagement

Engagement into the annual planning cycle will be provided through national and regional engagement channels and will centre around two key discussion points that will directly inform the development of the AOP and ARR.

6.2 Input and Participation of Tangata whenua

Fisheries New Zealand acknowledges the important role Māori have in the management and conservation of New Zealand's fisheries. In addition, Fisheries New Zealand has specific obligations to provide for tangata whenua input and participation. One of the primary ways this is achieved is through direct engagement with tangata whenua, through Iwi Fisheries Forums, on management proposals promoted in the Inshore Fisheries Plan.

Iwi Fisheries Forums provide for regular engagement throughout the year and opportunities for input into the annual planning cycle, as well as actions delivered through the AOP.

Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans, are in addition to higher-level Iwi Fisheries Plans. Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans are, developed by the Forums, and identify the aspirations and management objectives for fisheries of importance to them and their specific geographical area. They are crucial for ensuring tangata whenua are engaged at the appropriate levels of fisheries planning, management and decision making.

Information provided by the Forums on the management of fisheries resources, as set out in Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans, describe the objectives of tangata whenua and are an expression of kaitiakitanga. In turn we give particular regard to the plans and kaitiakitanga when making fisheries management decisions.

Outside of the operation of the Iwi Fisheries Forums, Fisheries New Zealand will also provide opportunities for representatives of Māori, and or organisations that hold or exercise Māori rights and interests in fisheries resources, to engage in the annual planning cycle. This level of engagement is also relevant to tangata whenua who are not part of an Iwi Fisheries Forum and with whom Fisheries New Zealand has an agreed protocol (arising out of individual Treaty settlements).

In addition to this dedicated engagement, tangata whenua and Māori can participate in stakeholder engagement at the national and regional levels explained in the sections below.

6.3 A National level Inshore Finfish Plan Group

At a national level, multi-sector engagement into the annual planning cycle will be achieved through the establishment of an Inshore Finfish Plan Group (IFPG). This will be a forum where AOPs, ARRs, and implementation of the Plan will be discussed.

The IFPG will have representation from commercial, recreational, and customary sectors, and will include Māori organisations and environmental non-government organisations.

The IFPG will meet at least once a year with the purpose of sharing information and providing input through key discussion points.

The IFPG is not a decision-making body, but a forum to facilitate the exchange of information, concerns, ideas and perspectives to inform Fisheries New Zealand's forward planning. Fisheries New Zealand retains overall responsibility for determining its forward work programme and in doing so, the development of the AOP and ARR.

6.4 Regional Engagement Opportunities

Local area perspectives will be considered during the annual planning cycle. Regional engagement will be driven by the community where direct contact with Fisheries New Zealand is requested. Existing engagement channels will be utilised and may include meetings online, or in person where practical. Feedback received through regional engagement channels will flow onto the IFPG and into the AOP and ARR.

Fisheries New Zealand will also provide an avenue for online sharing of information and feedback via email, similar to current feedback channels made available by Fisheries New Zealand.

Regional engagement will focus on regional priorities to fill gaps in performance for each region. Regional engagement is for all interested parties including local government authorities.

7. Legislative Context

The key pieces of legislation relating to inshore fisheries are the Fisheries Act 1996, the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 (the Settlement Act) and the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 (Māori Fisheries Act). Further information about the legislation guiding management of our fisheries can be found here.

This Plan is underpinned by and operates in a way that is consistent with the intent of the Act. However, annual planning and service delivery processes may result in management actions that lead to changes in legislation to better allow this Plan's objectives and the overarching goals to be met.

7.1 The Fisheries Act

The Act establishes a broad framework for managing fisheries in New Zealand. The purpose of the Act is to provide for the utilisation[2] of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability[3]. It is a statement of the overarching goal for fisheries management against which all decisions under the Act are measured.

Matters given effect to within the Act include:

- the application and administration of the QMS;
- measures that contribute to the sustainability of fisheries resources and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment;
- recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 and the creation of tools to provide for customary use and fishery management practices;
- allocation of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) among Māori customary, recreational, and commercial fishers.

In giving effect to the Act, decision makers are required to take into account environmental and information principles, and to act consistently with the Settlement Act and international obligations relating to fishing.

7.2 Treaty of Waitangi Settlement obligations

The Crown's obligations to iwi and Māori concerning fisheries and aquaculture arise through rights guaranteed by Article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi. Those rights are confirmed in the Deeds of Settlement between the Crown and Māori. These rights are further reinforced through the obligations specified in legislation, including the Settlement Act, the Māori Fisheries Act, individual iwi treaty settlement legislation and protocols arising from those settlements, and the Fisheries Act 1996. Nothing contained in a fisheries plan changes the Crown's obligations to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Settlement Act sets out how the effects of the settlement of Māori claims to fisheries relate to Māori fishing rights. It makes provision for non-commercial traditional and customary fishing rights and requires the Minister to consult tangata whenua, and to develop policies to help recognise the use and management practices of Māori in the exercise of Māori non-commercial fishing rights. In addition, any person making decisions under the Fisheries Act 1996 must act in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Settlement Act.

The obligations under the Fisheries Act require systems and processes to provide for input and participation of tangata whenua into sustainability proposals and consultation on such matters with Māori representatives. Decision makers must also have particular regard to kaitiakitanga when making decisions on sustainability measures for fisheries. Therefore this Plan uses input and participation from Iwi Fisheries Forums, as well as Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans, and engagement with representatives of Māori and organisations that hold or exercise Māori rights and interests in fisheries resources. These approaches are aimed at providing tangata whenua with opportunities to engage in fisheries management processes and to give regard to kaitiakitanga and protocols.

2 Utilisation means conserving, using, enhancing, and developing fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being.

3 "Sustainability means maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, and avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment".

The Māori Fisheries Act implements the agreements made in the Deed of Settlement. The Māori Fisheries Act also provides for the development of the collective and individual interests of iwi in fisheries, fishing and fisheries related activities. It does so in a manner that is ultimately for the benefit of all Māori, and to establish a framework for the allocation and management of settlement assets.

7.3 Other Domestic Legislation

Other domestic legislation which contributes to the management of the wider fisheries ecosystem includes the:

- **Resource Management Act 1991** which is New Zealand's primary legislation for managing the environment, including air, soil, fresh water and coastal marine areas;
- **Wildlife Act 1953** which outlines the protection and control of wild animals and birds and the management of game.[4];
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act 1978** which makes provision for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals within New Zealand waters; and
- **Marine Reserves Act 1971** which provides for the establishment of marine reserves that offer high levels of protection. Marine reserves generally prohibit the removal of all marine habitats and life from specified areas.

7.4 International Obligations

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (1982) and its associated agreements, New Zealand has international obligations regarding the management of fish stocks, taking into account the effects on associated or dependant species. The most relevant sections to inshore fisheries are Articles 61-62 which apply to the management of marine resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

New Zealand's right to utilise marine resources comes with a range of international obligations through effective implementation of relevant provisions. These include the obligation to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. This Plan seeks to deliver on New Zealand's international obligations with regard to inshore finfish fisheries.

7.5 Strategies, Standards and Policies

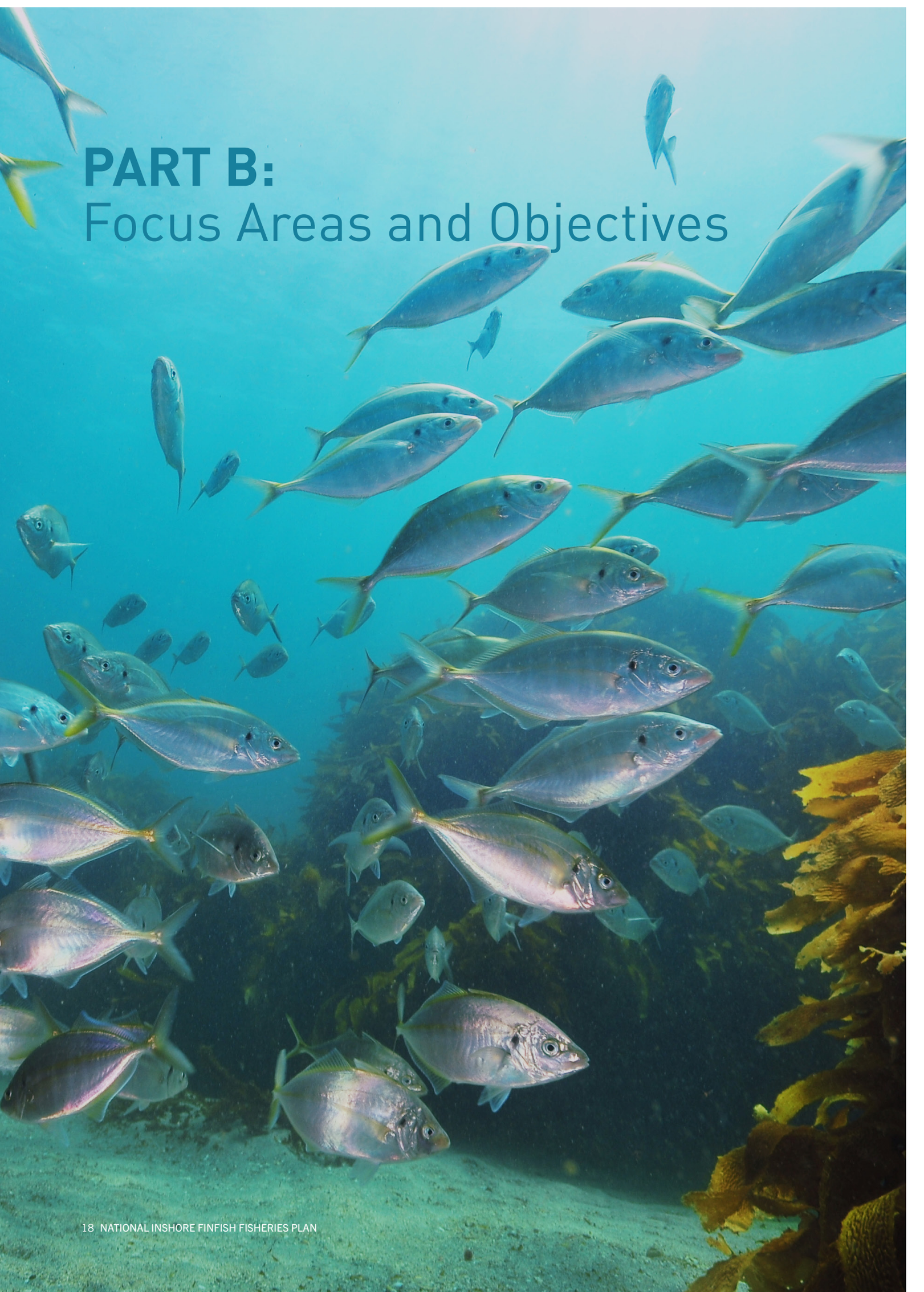
There are a range of strategies, standards, and policies that provide further direction on how obligations under relevant legislation will be met. The ones of particular relevance to this Plan are outlined in Table 1.

This Plan's focus areas, objectives, actions and annual cycle processes are designed to be consistent with the direction provided by these documents. Where there are specific actions that need to be undertaken to deliver on these strategies, standards or policies, they will be reflected in the AOP.

4 The Act also provides protection to a small number of terrestrial invertebrates and marine species. These species are listed on Schedules 7 or 7A of the Wildlife Act.

Table 1: Key strategies, standards and policies in operation.

Strategy, Standard or Policy	Description
Fisheries New Zealand Treaty Strategy	Developed and agreed to with iwi and Māori. It provides for input and participation, and consultation processes to meet Treaty obligations and legislative requirements. Key elements of the Strategy include support for Iwi Fisheries Forums and the development of Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans.
Harvest Strategy Standard	The Harvest Strategy Standard (HSS) is a policy statement of best practice for setting targets, limits and and/or thresholds for fishing mortality for fish stocks in the QMS. It is intended to provide guidance on the application of fisheries law by establishing a consistent and transparent framework for decision-making to achieve the objective of providing for utilisation of New Zealand's QMS species while ensuring sustainability.
Quota Management System Introduction Process Standard	Sets out a process for Fisheries New Zealand to identify stocks or species to be considered for QMS introduction.
National Plan of Action for Seabirds	Known as the NPOA Seabirds 2020, it sets out the New Zealand Government's commitment to reducing fishing-related captures and associated mortality of seabirds. It explains the rationale for the plan and then sets out what the plan intends to achieve, how the plan will be implemented and how its achievements will be measured and reviewed.
National Plan of Action for Sharks	Sets out five-year goals and objectives for maintaining the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations.
Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan	The Government is committed to protecting and ensuring the long-term survival of Hector's and Māui dolphins. The Threat Management Plan (TMP) sets out the vision and goals to reflect Government and societal views of how we manage human-induced threats to these species and their long-term viability. It also ensures that we are on track towards these goals with appropriate protection measures in place. In addition, research and monitoring information will be reviewed to assess the effectiveness of the measures over time.
Research and Science Information Standard for New Zealand	The Research and Science Information Standard ensures that high quality information continues to be used as the basis for New Zealand's fisheries management decisions.
Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020	Te Mana o te Taiao sets out a strategic framework for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly indigenous biodiversity, in Aotearoa New Zealand, from 2020 to 2050.



PART B:
Focus Areas and Objectives

8. Navigating the Focus Areas

Fisheries in New Zealand are culturally, socially and economically important to tangata whenua, commercial and recreational fishers, and the wider community. To effectively manage inshore finfish fisheries, it is essential to understand not only the fishery, but also the natural environment and people who operate within it.

The five focus areas of this plan reflect the cultural, social, economic, and ecological values of inshore finfish fisheries. The focus areas should not be considered as isolated parts of the framework, rather they provide a multi-scope approach to how inshore finfish fisheries can be managed. This approach considers the current societal needs and desires, without jeopardising the benefit from inshore fisheries for future generations, or the marine ecosystem itself.

The five focus areas are:

- **Achieving Individual Stock Sustainability**
  - Sets out standardised approaches to managing stocks.
  - Stocks that share similar characteristics are grouped together.
- **Enhancing Benefits for Tangata Whenua and Stakeholders**
  - Engaging sectors to customise the management of specific stocks to enhance the benefits the sectors obtain.
- **Enabling Integrated Multi-Stock Management**
  - In fisheries where several different fish stocks are caught together, we will manage those stocks in an integrated way.
- **Improving Local Fisheries**
  - Ensure tangata whenua and communities benefit from their local fisheries resources by engaging them in local area management.
- **Improving Environmental Performance**
  - Reduce the impacts from fishing and support initiatives responding to land-based effects to improve the health of the environment.

9. Focus Area One:
Achieving Individual Stock Sustainability

9.1 Focus Area One Overview

The focus area "Achieving individual stock sustainability" provides the default monitoring, assessment and management regime for all inshore finfish stocks, which varies based on which group stocks are assigned to.

Under this focus area, the management approaches taken at an individual stock level go beyond the simple 'single stock' model. Rather than focusing exclusively on the management of individual species, consideration is given to environmental factors and impacts. The approaches under this focus area aim to achieve a sustainable stock while managing any adverse environmental impacts (e.g. on protected species and habitat) caused by fishing activity and supporting EBFM in the New Zealand context.

There are around 200 inshore finfish stocks within the QMS. To ensure greater consistency and certainty of the management approach that will be taken, individual stocks are organised into three separate management groups (Figure 5). This allows for a standardised management approach to be taken for individual stocks within each group, which is appropriate to the level of benefits[5] and sustainability risk of the stock that is informed by the appropriate information.

Fish stock management groups explained

For stocks that provide higher benefits and have high levels of utilisation, increased data collection is required for greater certainty of the stock status. For stocks that provide lower overall benefits and have limited utilisation, the level of information required for management is not as high. Therefore, the stock groupings are arranged so that as the benefit obtained from a stock increases, the monitoring and management approach provides for greater levels of assurance. This aims to optimise benefits while ensuring sustainability, while also prioritising research budgets and management resources.

How an individual stock is managed is not exclusive to this focus area of the Plan. Stocks may also be subject to complementary management actions associated with other Focus Areas and stock-specific plans. Taking these other factors into consideration when making decisions ensures that this focus area support EBFM in the New Zealand context.

Figure 5: Fish stock management groups

GROUP 1 stocks provide higher levels of benefit and are highly desirable to all sectors.

Management optimises the level of use while mitigating the increased risk to sustainability due to fishing pressure.

Stock status is determined using fully quantitative stock assessments to provide high levels of information, certainty of stock status and assurance of the stock's sustainability.

GROUP 2 stocks provide moderate levels of benefit, which vary between sectors and regions.

Management provides for moderate levels of use, with moderate levels of information to monitor their status.

Stocks are monitored with partial quantitative stock assessments, which are mostly based on trends in relative abundance. Future population (biomass) projections are not provided for.

GROUP 3 stocks provide lower overall levels of benefit and use, which differ between sectors and regions.

Management provides for lower levels of use, with lower levels of information to monitor their status.

This group includes QMS stocks that typically have annual commercial catches under 10 tonnes.

Stocks are monitored against trends in catch over time, and any other relevant information.

5 In this context, benefits refer to social, economic and cultural wellbeing obtained from fishing.

The management approaches we take at an individual stock level consider:

- the level of utilisation and the resulting benefits to fishers, a stock's biological productivity and vulnerability to fishing;
- the need to maintain the viability of associated or dependent species and the biodiversity of aquatic environments;
- the monitoring and assessment tools available; and
- information available and to inform management of the stock.

The setting of management targets, limits and/or thresholds for fishing mortality for specific stocks will be delivered via management actions under this Plan. This will be informed by the Harvest Strategy Standard (HSS) which provides guidance for setting management targets, limits and and/or thresholds for fishing mortality relative to a stock's biological productivity and vulnerability to fishing.

9.2 Fish Stock Management Groups

The inclusion of a stock in a management group does not prevent its movement to a different group. A stock may be moved into a different management group if the benefits associated with a stock change resulting in an increased or decreased risk from fishing. The management grouping of stocks will be reviewed as part of the ARR.

The management of an individual stock will follow the approaches outlined for the fish stock management group which it is a part of. However, nothing prevents a stock from being managed following approaches associated with a higher benefit stock management group given the information required is available, and the cost of doing so does not outweigh the benefits. For example, a stock in Group 2, could be assessed and managed using fully quantitative stock assessment as per Group 1.

Each Fish Stock Management Group has a set of objectives and actions that will apply to stocks within that group, and reflect the different level of benefits obtained from stocks within each group. Providing for objectives and actions at a Group level ensures that our monitoring and management approach is appropriate and responsive to the benefits obtained and the risk of overfishing, and can be consistently applied. It also provides greater certainty to tangata whenua and stakeholders about how stocks will be managed.

Table 2: Fish Stock Management Groups[6]

GROUP 1		
Blue cod (BCO 5)	Kahawai (KAH 1)	Tarakihi (TAR 1, 2, 3, 7)[7]
Bluenose (BNS 1, 2, 3, 7, 8)	Snapper (SNA 1, 7, 8)	Trevally (TRE 1, 2, 7)
GROUP 2		
Barracouta (BAR 1)	Hapuka/Bass (HPB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)	Rig (SPO 1, 2, 3, 7, 8)
Blue cod (BCO 3, 4, 7)	Jack mackerel (JMA 1)	Rough skate (RSK 3, 7)
Blue (English) mackerel (EMA 1)	John dory (JDO 1, 2, 7)	School shark (SCH 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)
Blue moki (MOK 1, 3)	Kahawai (KAH 3)	Smooth skate (SSK 3, 7)
Elephant fish (ELE 3, 5, 7)	Kingfish (KIN 1, 2, 7, 8)	Snapper (SNA 2)
Flatfish (FLA 1, 2, 3, 7)	Leatherjacket (LEA 3)	Spiny dogfish (SPD 3, 7)
Gemfish (SKI 1, 2)	Ling (LIN 1)	Stargazer (STA 3, 5, 7)
Grey mullet (GMU 1)	Red cod (RCO 2, 3, 7)	
Tarakihi (TAR1, 4, 5, 7,8)[8]	Red gurnard (GUR 1, 2, 3, 7, 8)	
GROUP 3		
Anchovy (ANC 1)	Kahawai (KAH 2, 8)	Ribaldo (RIB 1, 2)
Blue cod (BCO 1, 2, 8)	Kingfish (KIN 3)	Rough skate (RSK 1, 8)
Blue (English) mackerel (EMA 2)	Leatherjacket (LEA 1, 2)	Sea Perch (SPE 1, 2)
Blue warehou (WAR 1, 2, 3, 7, 8)	Ling (LIN 2)	Smooth skate (SSK 1, 8)
Butterfish (BUT 2, 3, 5, 7)	Pilchard (PIL 1, 7, 8)	Spiny dogfish (SPD 1, 8)
Elephant fish (ELE 2)	Parore (PAR 1, 9)	Stargazer (STA 1, 2, 4)
Frostfish (FRO 1, 2)	Porae (POR 1, 2)	Trumpeter (TRU 2, 3, 4, 5)
Garfish (GAR 1)	Red cod (RCO 1)	Yellow eyed mullet (YEM 1, 3, 7, 9)
Ghost shark, dark (GSH 1, 2, 3, 7, 8)	Red snapper (RSN 1, 2)	
Stocks with annual catches generally less than 10 tonnes		
Anchovy (ANC 2, 3, 4, 7, 8)	Kahawai (KAH 4)	Snapper (SNA 3)
Blue moki (MOK 4, 5)	Kingfish (KIN 4)	Sprats (SPR 1, 3, 4, 7)
Butterfish (BUT 1, 4, 6)	Leatherjacket (LEA 4)	Stargazer (STA 8)
Elephant fish (ELE 1)	Parore (PAR 2)	Trevally (TRE 3)
Garfish (GAR 2, 3, 4, 7, 8)	Pilchard (PIL 2, 3, 4)	Trumpeter (TRU 1, 6, 7, 8, 9)
Grey mullet (GMU 2, 3, 7)	Porae (POR 3)	Yellow eyed mullet (YEM 2, 4, 5, 6, 8)
Ghost shark, dark (GSH 9)	Ribaldo (RIB 9)	
John dory (JDO 3)	Sea perch (SPE 8, 9)	

6 The stock management groups are up to date as of June 2022 but are subject to change. For the most up to date list please contact Fisheries New Zealand.

7 For the purposes of stock assessment, stocks that make up East Coast tarakihi are assessed as a single biological stock and managed in Group 1. This includes TAR 2, TAR 3 and the east coast portions of TAR 1 and TAR 7.

8 As per above, tarakihi stocks managed under Group 2 are those that are not part of the East Coast tarakihi biological stock.

9.3 Focus Area One Management Objectives and Actions

Management Objective 1	4.2.1 Stocks are managed appropriate to the level of benefits provided and sustainability risk to provide for the foreseeable needs of future generations.

Description

Management optimises the social, economic and cultural benefits from stocks providing:

- higher levels of benefits for Group 1 stocks;
- moderate levels of benefits for Group 2 stocks; or
- lower levels of benefits and Group 3 stocks.

Management Actions

For Group 1 stocks:

1.1 Manage stocks using fully quantitative stock assessments that provide estimates of abundance and stock status in relation to MSY-compatible proxies and associated target (which may be above MSY) and limit reference points, and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, as well as forward projections of stock status based on current and alternative harvest levels.

1.2 Develop management and monitoring plans for all Group 1 stocks detailing:
- Reference points (or agreed proxies) against which the stock will be monitored, including biomass limits, management targets and/or thresholds for fishing mortality.
- Any harvest control rule or management procedure developed that specifies what management action will be taken based on specific monitoring outcomes.
- A rebuild strategy for the fishery that will be applied if the stock falls below a specified limit.
- A description of actions needed to manage the stock.

1.3 When setting stock targets, limits, and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, sustainability measures and allocations consider:
- The stock's biological characteristics (productivity).
- Effects on associated or dependent species, including within a Fishery Stock Complex.
- Environmental impacts.
- The overall and relative sector benefits.
- The stock's monitoring and management regime.

1.4 In the absence of stock specific targets, limits and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, the HSS will guide management.

1.5 In the absence of a management procedure, stocks will be considered for a review of catch limits when a stock assessment indicates that it is likely the stock will remain above or below the target reference point, or when a fishing mortality threshold is being exceeded.

1.6 Advance our understanding of climate change impacts on stocks, including productivity, distribution and resilience.

1.7 Consider and identify changes required to ensure the management of fish stocks takes account of environmentally driven changes.

For Group 2 stocks:

1.8 Manage stocks using a partial quantitative stock assessment, based on a relative index of abundance or estimate of fishing mortality, to provide an indication of stock status in relation to MSY-compatible proxies and associated target (which may be above MSY) and limit reference points and/or thresholds for fishing mortality.

1.9 When setting stock targets, limits, and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, sustainability measures and allocations consider:

- The stock's biological characteristics (productivity).
- Effects on associated or dependent species, including within a Fishery Stock Complex.
- Environmental impacts.
- The overall and relative sector benefits.
- The stock's monitoring and management regime.

1.10 In the absence of stock specific targets, limits and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, the HSS will guide management.

1.11 In the absence of a management procedure, stocks will be considered for a review of catch limits when a stock assessment indicates it is likely that the stock will remain above or below the target reference point, or when a fishing mortality threshold is being exceeded.

1.12 For stocks that are below target and are being rebuilt, develop management and monitoring plans including a rebuild strategy and a description of actions needed to manage the stock

For Group 3 stocks:

1.13 When setting stock targets, limits, and/or thresholds for fishing mortality, sustainability measures and allocations consider:

- The stock's biological vulnerability.
- Effects on associated or dependent species, including within a Fishery Stock Complex.
- Environmental impacts.
- The overall and relative sector benefits.
- The stock's monitoring and management regime.

1.14 Develop and implement tools to evaluate the status of stocks including for stocks where there is low information, including using information from electronic catch and position reporting, observer coverage and onboard cameras (where deployed).

1.15 If trigger analysis shows upwards or downwards trends in catch initiate a review of the stock and consider catch limits, additional research and/or other management controls.

1.16 In the absence of a trigger analysis, if catch exceeds the TAC/TACC or declines over three consecutive observations, consider a review of catch limits, or whether additional research and/or management controls are needed.

Management Objective 2	**4.2.2 Effective management of inshore finfish stocks is achieved through the availability of appropriate and robust information.**

Description

Effective fisheries management decisions require information and data that is both robust and fit for purpose. Information and data come from a variety of sources including independent Fisheries New Zealand Observer data, industry reporting, contracted fisheries independent research surveys, and contracted stock characterisation and stock assessment projects.

The type, amount and detail of the information required is dependent on the level of benefits obtained from the stock and the risk of overfishing.

Management Actions

2.1 Maintain a medium-term research plan (5 years) to provide transparency of planned research.

2.2 Ensure monitoring coverage and sampling is planned and delivered to provide relevant and appropriate data to support management.

2.3 Digital monitoring and associated data are used to increase the capability of fisheries management information systems (e.g. provide more frequent, comprehensive and timely information to guide decision makers) and enable more responsive management action.

2.4 Utilise advancement in digital monitoring, including onboard cameras, to verify information gathering and provide independent, accurate information about commercial fishing activity.

10. Focus Area Two: Enhancing Benefits for Tangata Whenua and Stakeholders

10.1 Focus Area Two Overview

In this Plan, 'benefits' refers to the social, cultural and economic value that flows from utilisation of fisheries resources. Enhancing benefits represents obtaining the best value from fisheries resources within the parameters of sustainability. This directly links to the purpose of the Act and the definition of utilisation, meaning; "conserving, using, enhancing, and developing fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being."

The purpose of this focus area is to support the development of fisheries resources to enable tangata whenua and stakeholders to provide for their well-being, while ensuring sustainability. We can enhance the benefits obtained from specific fish stocks by customising the management settings to address the specific needs of customary, recreational and commercial fishers.

In enhancing the benefits received from fisheries resources, it is important that we meet the Crown's Treaty obligations, providing for the rights and interests of iwi and Māori. This starts with engaging with tangata whenua, in accordance with the principles of the Treaty, to understand and identify the fisheries of greatest value to them, their goals and objectives, and provide for active and meaningful participation in the management of those fisheries.

When tailoring management measures to enhance benefits obtained from a specific fishery, consideration needs to be given to the nature of the fishery and the relative value each sector places on it. It also requires active and meaningful engagement, and robust information on each sector's objectives and use. New approaches to the way we manage fisheries will help to facilitate this, such as the development of monitoring and management plans for high value stocks through collaborative processes.

For recreational and commercial sectors, we will engage with fishers to identify priority stocks to them and provide increased opportunities for these sectors to engage in the management of fisheries they value. For fish stocks that are predominantly valued and caught by one sector, the management settings can be tailored to increase the benefits to that sector, with little or no impact on other sectors.

As an example, there are a number of stocks currently managed in a way that recognises discrete sector needs:

- Kahawai (KAH 1) has a stock management target of 52 percent of the unfished biomass to provide high levels of abundance and catchability for customary and recreational fishers.
- A number of freshwater eel quota management areas have management settings that provide greater benefits for customary use.
- The Total Allowable Catch for kingfish (KIN 1) is predominantly allocated to customary and recreational fishers (80 percent of TAC), reflecting its value to those sectors.

For stocks that are valued by multiple sectors, the management settings need to be optimised to distribute benefits between the sectors. This requires a more collaborative approach to optimise the management settings and share responsibility. Recent examples using a range of collaborative approaches include:

- The National Blue Cod Strategy. (2018)
- The Chatham Islands Pāua (PAU 4) Fisheries Plan. (2019)
- The Snapper (SNA 1) Management Plan. (2016)
- Southern scallop strategy: Marlborough Sounds (2020)

Given the diversity of biological, economic, social and cultural values that stakeholders place on inshore finfish fisheries, no single approach will produce the optimal results. Sector needs, characteristics of values and the nature of the fishery will inform how management measures can be tailored to ensure the fishery operates effectively, and optimises benefits for the given context. While this may result in discussions at a fish stock level, it is also important that over time, these discussions increasingly consider broader relationships under an EBFM approach, including local area and fine scale management.

10.2 Focus Area Two Management Objectives and Actions

Management Objective 3	5.2.1 Enhancing benefits for Tangata Whenua by ensuring the management of inshore fisheries enhances kaitiakitanga and meets the Crown's obligations to iwi and Māori by providing for their rights and interests.

Description

To enhance benefits for tangata whenua, management of inshore finfish fisheries benefit from approaches that incorporate mātauranga Māori. This includes taking an approach to engagement that acknowledges tangata whenua are treaty partners, and enhances kaitiakitanga.

Fisheries New Zealand has a Treaty Strategy in place to enable iwi and Māori to express their kaitiakitanga aspirations and objectives relating to fisheries management. The Treaty Strategy was launched in 2009 after input from and engagement with tangata whenua and iwi Māori. It is currently being refreshed.

The Treaty Strategy provides for input, participation and consultation with iwi and Māori through Iwi Fisheries Forums and Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans. Enhancing benefits will be realised by Fisheries New Zealand prioritising and delivering on the objectives identified by iwi and Māori to provide for their rights and interests.

Management Actions

3.1 Proactively engage with tangata whenua and Māori to identify key stocks, and traditional fishing grounds to manage for enhanced benefit to tangata whenua and Māori.
3.2 Engage with iwi through tangata whenua Fisheries Forums and any additional mechanisms, as required, to ensure meaningful input and participation, and consultation.
3.3 Engage with Te Ohu Kaimoana to enable them to fulfil their role under the Māori Fisheries Act mandate on behalf of iwi.
3.4 Support tangata whenua to identify their fisheries management goals and objectives through the development of Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans.
3.5 Ensure the fisheries aspirations of Iwi and Māori, including the objectives and measures outlined in Iwi Forum Fisheries Plans, are given particular regard in annual planning and decision-making processes, i.e. AOP, ARR.
3.6 Support tangata whenua and Māori to make effective and efficient use of existing customary fisheries management tools, and establish and implement new initiatives.
3.7 Improve information gathering processes that incorporate mātauranga Māori and ensure best returns for Māori benefits.
3.8 Recognise and utilise mātauranga Māori in inshore fisheries management decision-making processes.
3.9 Enable and support innovative solutions to enhance benefits to tangata whenua/Māori and support sustainable growth.

Management Objective 4	5.2.2 Enhancing benefits for the Commercial Sector obtained from key commercial stocks.

Description

Enhancing benefits for the commercial sector requires an active management approach that is responsive to changes in available yield from a stock, while ensuring sustainability. This type of management is typically applied to stocks that have high recruitment and population variability, resulting in increased yield above a management target. Enabling increased yields will require sound planning, and may include rapid monitoring and assessment, with pre-agreed harvest control rules supported by frequent and responsive changes to TACs and Total Allowable Commercial Catches TACCs.

In addition, the New Zealand seafood sector is increasingly looking to produce high value products for sale on domestic and international markets in order to increase profitability. To support value-adding initiatives, management approaches need to encourage and enable innovative approaches.

Management Actions

4.1 Proactively engage with the commercial sector to identify key stocks from which increased benefits can be realised.
4.2 Develop monitoring and management plans for key stocks, in collaboration with the commercial sector. Plans should outline:
- Reference points (or agreed proxies) against which the performance of the fishery will be monitored, including biological limits, management targets and/or thresholds for fishing mortality.
- A harvest control rule (management procedure) that specifies what management action will be taken based on specific monitoring outcomes.
- Management controls, including spatial and temporal measures, to provide for localised abundance.
- A description of actions needed to manage the fishery.

4.3 Develop management processes and tools to frequently monitor stock status and enable timely adjustments to management settings where required.
4.4 Enable and support innovative solutions to enhance benefits, such as bycatch mitigation and improving size selectivity of fishing gear.
4.5 Providing regulatory settings that enable initiatives that are innovative, sustainable, and add value to catch.

Management Objective 5 **5.2.3 Enhancing benefits for the recreational sector.**

Description

Enhancing benefits for the recreational sector will require input into the management settings for key recreational fish stocks. This will require participation from recreational fishers, including individuals and representative organisations.

Fisheries New Zealand uses a range of approaches to work with recreational fishers in the management of important recreational fisheries. This includes expert fishery working groups, online videos, survey tools, social media, and face to face community drop-in sessions. This Plan will improve our fisheries management engagement with the recreational fishing sector to enhance recreational fisheries.

Management Actions

5.1 Proactively engage with the recreational sector to identify key stocks from which increased benefits can be realised.
5.2 Develop monitoring and management plans for key stocks, in collaboration with the recreational sector. Plans should outline:
- Reference points (or agreed proxies) taking into account natural variability, against which the performance of the fishery will be monitored, including biological limits, management targets and/or thresholds for fishing mortality.
- Management controls, including spatial and temporal measures, to provide for localised abundance.
- A description of actions needed to manage the fishery.

5.3 Use a range of engagement processes to ensure widespread participation from the recreational fishing community when developing plans for key recreational fisheries.
5.4 Develop management processes and tools that enable timely adjustments to recreational controls where required.
5.5 Improve the reliability of non-commercial catch estimates in key recreational fisheries to be used for stock assessment and fisheries management purposes.

Suggested recreational stocks to be managed for enhanced recreational benefit

Primary	Secondary
Blue cod 7, Kahawai 8, Kingfish 1 & 8.	Snapper 2, Gurnard 2, Kahawai 2.

Management Objective 6	5.2.3 Optimising benefits from high-value shared stocks.

Description

For high-value shared stocks, our experience highlights the advantages of using collaborative management approaches to optimise management settings, share responsibility and distribute benefits between sectors.

Effective management of shared fish stocks requires an integrated approach between the management of all sectors, with processes in place that enable dialogue, collective problem solving, and voluntary trade-offs. To optimise the management of high-value shared stocks, clear principles, complete information on harvest by all sectors, and inclusive, transparent processes related to stock management and rebuilding plans are required.

Management Actions

6.1 Proactively engage with iwi and Māori, and fisheries stakeholders using collaborative approaches to manage high-value shared fisheries.

6.2 Develop monitoring and management plans for key high-value shared fisheries, in collaboration with iwi and Māori, and fisheries stakeholders. Plans should outline:

- Reference points (or agreed proxies) against which the performance of the fishery will be monitored, including limits, management targets and/or thresholds for fishing mortality.
- Harvest strategies and allocation for overall and relative sector benefits.

6.3 Develop management processes and tools to frequently monitor stock status and enable timely adjustments to management settings where required.

6.4 Enable and support innovative solutions to enhance gear selectivity and manage issues such as protected species interactions and bycatch of other species.

6.5 Support regulatory controls that enable stakeholders to investigate initiatives that increase value from fishing that is also sustainable.

Suggested shared stocks to be managed with collaborative approaches

Primary	Secondary
Snapper 1 & 8	Flatfish 1, Hapuka Bass (north), Snapper 7, Tarakihi 1

11. Focus Area Three: Enabling Integrated Multi-Stock Management

11.1 Focus Area Three Overview

In most inshore finfish fisheries, multiple fish stocks are caught in combination. Therefore, it is usually difficult to determine the target species, and the composition of the catch often reflects the abundance or availability of the component species at the particular time, rather than fisher preferences. In these multi-stock fisheries, managing catches of one species when it is caught together with others is challenging if done in isolation. Catch limits for one or more species can be exhausted while there are still fishing opportunities for other stocks caught in the same fishery.

To account for interrelationships between multiple fish stocks caught in combination and the fishing activity itself, the stocks will be grouped within a Fishery Stock Complex to be managed in a coordinated and integrated manner. The complex approach shifts the focus from managing stocks independently, and instead takes account of multiple fish stocks and recognises that management actions for one stock will also have implications for the associated stocks.

The integrated management objective of the Fishery Stock Complex approach is central to our continued progress along the ecosystem-based fisheries management pathway. The approach incorporates a wide suite of factors that characterise the fishery, including bycatch, species interactions and environmental impacts. Over time, the scope of the Fishery Stock Complex approach will be broadened to include other system components, including external influences such as climate change and competitive dynamics of the ecosystem (e.g. trophic interactions and predator-prey relationships).

The Fishery Stock Complex approach will entail:

- Coordination of stock monitoring and assessment services.
- Undertaking multi-stock fishery characterisations to understand the interrelationships between the different fish stocks caught and the fishing activity.
- Improved analysis and advice to inform fisheries management.
- Integrated decision-making for stock management settings, taking into account the interrelationships between the different fish stocks caught and the fishing activity.
- Improved planning and efficiencies in the delivery of management services.

Within the complex, the management of individual stocks will be guided by the management objectives and actions from other focus areas of the Plan. This will include:

- The default monitoring, assessment, and management regime of Fish Stock Management Groups 1, 2 and 3 that apply to individual stocks (Focus Area 1).
- Stock-specific strategies or management plans that have been developed to increase benefits to fishers (Focus Area 2).
- Local Area Management Plans or strategies to improve local fisheries (Focus Area 4).
- Management actions that have been developed to improve environmental performance of the fishery (Focus Area 5).

Although management of individual stocks will be guided by the default monitoring, assessment and management regime of Fish Stock Management Groups, the Fishery Stock Complex approach is not an “indicator approach” where management settings for an indicator stock are directly applied to other similar stocks within the fishery.

Our approach to implementing and managing Fishery Stock Complexes will evolve over-time through learning by doing, and the development of new integrated management tools to support analysis and decision making. Implementing this approach to other multi-species fisheries which are currently not managed under the complex approach will also require time to transition as we realign and coordinate our science and research services, including monitoring and stock assessment, and management services for stocks within a Fishery Complex.

Multi-species management has been applied in several fisheries internationally, and an approach has already been developed and trialled in the West Coast South Island Multi-Species Trawl Fishery in New Zealand. The magnitude of the diversity and variability differs greatly from one fishery to another, and management approaches will need to be flexible and tailored to reflect that difference.

11.2 Defining a Fishery Stock Complex

New Zealand's inshore multi-stock fisheries vary from region to region, with different fish stock mixes around the country. Within and between regions, different fish stocks also have unique biological stock boundaries that rarely align with those of other stocks. Different fishing methods, their selectivity and use in different habitats, are also likely to catch different fish stocks, or similar stocks but in different proportions and volumes.

As a consequence of these characteristics, defining a Fishery Stock Complex will require a flexible and tailored approach across inshore finfish fisheries. To guide implementation, the following considerations will assist in determining the fish stocks, fishing methods and the geographic scale of a complex.

The biological range of stocks caught

The geographical scale of a complex will be influenced by the spatial distribution of individual biological stocks caught within the fishery. Biological stock distributions are used rather than QMAs, as the two boundaries do not align for a number of stocks. The geographic scale of a complex could be discrete to a single fisheries management area, or be widely spread across several regions or nationally, comprising one or more QMAs. Management at the sub-QMA level may also be desirable in some cases, as some contain more than one biological stock.

The fishing method used

Different fishing methods may be used to target specific stocks in particular habitats. As a consequence, a complex may be method specific. Alternatively, if different methods catch the same stocks within an area, a single complex covering multiple methods may be appropriate.

The total catch (by weight) of an individual biological stock

Stocks that make up the majority of catch by method within an area will be given priority to consider for inclusion within a complex. Stocks which have annual total landings greater than 100 tonnes will be considered as "primary stocks" to include. Stocks which have annual total landings between 50 and 100 tonnes will be considered as "secondary stocks" to include.

The proportion of a biological stock caught by method within an area

The proportion of a biological stock caught within a complex will vary depending on whether it is a target stock, caught incidentally, or is geographically distributed over a smaller or larger area. Stocks which have greater than 30 percent of their overall catch by a specific fishing method within an area should be considered "primary stocks" to include within a complex. Stocks with between 20-30 percent of their overall catch by fishing method within an area, should be considered as "secondary stocks" which may be included within a complex depending on their importance to fishers or as information becomes available over-time. For a biological stock which spans multiple Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs), the proportion of catch from an individual area should be calculated from the combined total overall landings across all areas.

Stocks not managed in a fishery stock complex

Not all stocks will be managed within a Fishery Stock Complex. Stocks that are predominantly caught in clean target fisheries, where the catch is largely dominated by a single stock, such as the blue cod potting fishery, will continue to be managed using a single stock approach.

Other stocks not included within a fishery stock complex will be those stocks that are caught in smaller quantities, and make up a minor proportion of the overall catch within a multi-stock fishery. It will be necessary to regularly review which stocks are included within a complex because of changes in fishing patterns and environmentally driven changes in fish stock distributions and abundance.

11.3 Fishery Stock Complexes

Table 3: Fishery Stock Complexes[9]

Fishery Complex	Stocks	
	Primary Stocks	Secondary Stocks
FMA 1 (Auckland East) Mixed Trawl Fishery and Bottom Longline combined	GUR 1, JDO 1, LIN 1, SCH 1, SKI 1, SNA 1, TAR 1, TRE 1	KIN 1, LEA 1
FMA 1 (Auckland East) Set Net Fishery	FLA 1, GMU 1	SPO 1
FMA 1 (Auckland East) Purse Seine Fishery	KAH 1, TRE 1, JMA 1, EMA 1, PIL 1	
FMA 2 (Central East) Mixed Trawl Fishery	BAR 1, GUR 2, JMA 1, MOK 1, SCH 2, SKI 2, SNA 2, TAR 2, TRE 2, WAR 2	HPB 2, JDO 2, RCO 2, RSK 1, SPD 1, SPO 2
FMA 2 (Central East) Purse Seine Fishery	JMA 2, KAH 2, EMA 2	
FMA 3 (South Island East Coast) Set Net Fishery	HPB 3 SPO 3, SCH 3, MOK 3	
FMA 3 (South Island East Coast) Mixed Trawl Fishery	BAR 1, ELE 3, FLA 3, GSH 3, GUR 3, LEA 3, RCO 3, RSK 3, SPD 3, SSK 3, STA 3, TAR 3, WAR 3	SPO 3, SCH 3, MOK 3, HPB 3
FMA 5 (Southland) Mixed Trawl Fishery	ELE 5, GUR 3, RCO 3, SPO 3, STA 5, TAR 5	HPB 5, RSK 3
FMA 5 (Southland) Set Net Fishery	SCH 5, SPO 3	
FMA 7 (South Island West Coast) Mixed Trawl Fishery	FLA 7, GSH 7, GUR 7, JDO 7, RCO 7, SCH 7, SNA 7, SPD 7, SPO 7, STA 7, TAR 7, WAR 7	SPE 7, SSK 7, ELE 7
FMA 8 (Central West) Set Net Fishery	SCH 8, SPO 8; WAR 8	
FMA 8 (Central West) Mixed Trawl Fishery	GUR 8, JDO 2, SNA 8, SPD 8, TAR 8, TRE 7, WAR 8	SCH 8, SPO 8
FMA 9 (Auckland West) Mixed Trawl Fishery	GUR 1, KAH 8, SCH 1, SNA 8, SPO 1, TAR 1, TRE 7	JDO 1, LIN 1
National FMA1-9 Bottom Longline Fishery Bluenose / Hapuka Bass	BNS 1, 2, 3, 7, 8; HPB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8; LIN 1, 2; SCH 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, TRU 2, 3, 4, 5	

Further information on FMAs, including interactive maps, please visit: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/legal/legislation-standards-and-reviews/fisheries-legislation/maps-of-nz-fisheries/

9 Fishery Stock Complexes are up to date as of February 2022 but are subject to change. For the most up to date list please contact Fisheries New Zealand.

11.4 Focus Area Three Management Objectives and Deliverables

Management Objective 7	6.2.6 Ensure the integrated management of fish stocks caught within a Fishery Stock Complex.

In fisheries where multiple fish stocks are caught in combination, the stocks will be grouped within a Fishery Stock Complex to be managed in a coordinated and integrated manner. By doing so, the complex approach shifts the focus from managing single stocks independently, towards managing multiple individual stocks simultaneously, and accounts for the interrelationships between the fish stocks caught and the fishing activity.

Management Actions

7.1 Align and coordinate the monitoring and assessment services for stocks within each complex.
7.2 Update the Medium-Term Research Plan to implement Fisheries Stock Complex management.
7.3 Develop Fishery Complex characterisations to support the development of management advice and decision-making.
7.4 Explore and assess different options and approaches to manage multi-species fisheries used elsewhere. This includes gathering information on current approaches used globally, including:
- Technical measures (e.g. gear selectivity).
- Spatial and temporal controls (e.g. time, seasons and area restrictions).
- Input (effort) and output (catch) controls.

7.5 Enable and support the development of innovative fishing gear that can selectively harvest target species, and reduce bycatch of lower value and overfished species.
7.6 Investigate the utility of developing management procedures for the complex where this enhances benefits for utilisation and sustainability.

12. Focus Area Four: Improving Local Fisheries

12.1 Focus Area Four Overview

Our approach to managing fish stocks at the population level has generally proved effective for ensuring the overall sustainability of fish stocks. However, New Zealand's increasing population, competition for resources between sectors, new technology used by fishers, the growth of tourism and increasing land-based effects on coastal environments are placing increasing pressure on inshore fisheries resources. These factors have also led to localised depletion of some stocks.

While fisheries management occurs within wider QMAs, there is an increasing desire from local communities to have input into how local fisheries are managed as well as for access to information on how fisheries are performing at a local scale. All fisheries, especially coastal fisheries, occur within the context of communities, and reflect their cultural, social and economic goals and values. In addition, the sustainability of localised fisheries resources, and the wider ecosystem, can affect the short and long term prosperity of the communities reliant on them.

Management at more localised spatial scales is challenging, but an important component for advancing EBFM. It allows management decisions to be made with a better understanding of interconnectedness of fisheries, the ecosystems that support them, and the communities that use them. Desired management outcomes must be clear and based on the characteristics of the local area, the challenges it faces, tools that can be deployed, resourcing and costs. However, local area management can bring significant benefits to the local resource, and the community, and increase the likelihood of positive management outcomes at a smaller scale than a QMA.

Recognising the benefits of local area fisheries management, we want to explore opportunities for management at finer spatial scales, allowing iwi and Māori, industry and local communities to work together to have an active role in determining how local fisheries are managed. A collaborative multi-stakeholder approach will be essential to the success of this work, particularly when addressing the competing interests that users often have in fisheries resources.

Adopting a local area-based approach to fisheries management is not a substitute for present management, instead it aids and complements existing management structures. Forms of local area fisheries management are already occurring in some areas (Hauraki Gulf, Fiordland, Kaikōura) where Fisheries New Zealand has worked with Iwi and Māori, and local stakeholders to respond to local level initiatives and develop fisheries management solutions.

Local Area Management is not a one-size-fits-all approach. The Management approach used for one local area cannot simply be copied and applied somewhere else. Improving local area fisheries will be a step-change from how Fisheries New Zealand, iwi and Māori, and stakeholders have operated previously. There will need to be a balanced approach considering the level of investment and time needed before this is fully operationalised.

Initially, focus will be given to the development of clear and transparent systems to assess, prioritise and support local area initiatives, and support targeted initiatives where communities have a concern for localised fisheries resources, and are prepared to participate and contribute to finding a solution to a problem.

12.2 Focus Area Four Management Objectives and Deliverables

Management Objective 8	7.2.1 Enable community stewardship of local area finfish fisheries resources.

Enabling communities to input into local area fisheries management solutions that ensure the sustainable use of localised fisheries resources will enhance community stewardship of the resource which they value – that is, support and contribute to management and being accountable for their actions.

In order to transition inshore finfish fisheries towards EBFM, there is a need for the development and testing of approaches to improve the system of management, rather than focusing solely on particular strategies.

There is room for appropriate involvement from all those with invested interest in the area, and allows for management actions at finer spatial scales. In addition, tangata whenua iwi and Māori, industry and local communities can work together to provide innovative solutions and management approaches for the area and resources they value.

Management Actions

8.1 Support community-led, multi-stakeholder groups to identify objectives and solutions for local area fisheries management. Pre-existing groups of this type include:
- Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (Kaikōura).
- Fiordland Marine Guardians.
- Hawke's Bay Management Advisory Committee.

8.2 Implement the Government's response to the outcomes from Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

8.3 Implement pilot programmes to trial local area fisheries management approaches, including:
- Developing a management framework and tools to support local area fisheries management.
- Incorporating mātauranga Māori.
- Engaging local and central government agencies on integrated planning approaches for managing non-fishing impacts on the marine environment.
- Identify, develop and trial management tools, processes and systems to progress further development and implementation of EBFM.

13. Focus Area Five: Improving Environmental Performance

13.1 Focus Area Five Overview

Marine ecosystems are complex with many interactive components, each one playing a role in maintaining the balance within the system. Aquatic biodiversity has intrinsic value to all New Zealanders, and biodiversity loss diminishes the resilience of ecosystems to environmental pressures. Maintaining ecosystem productivity for present and future generations is a fundamental part of EBFM.

The ecosystems that support inshore finfish fisheries are under pressure from human activities, both land-based and ocean-based, affecting their ability to provide goods and services. Land-based activities are resulting in increased erosion and sedimentation, and excess nutrients entering the coastal environment. Ocean-based activities includes the impacts of fishing, both through the removal of fish and interactions between fishing gear, benthic habitats and biodiversity. Additionally, we are observing warming sea temperatures and ocean acidification due to climate change.

To ensure sustainability of inshore finfish fisheries, the integrity of the ecosystem, which they are a part of, needs to be preserved and the benefits of continued fishing should not outweigh the environmental consequences. Inshore finfish fisheries management already works to minimise the environmental impacts of fishing. Strengthening our approaches and improving the environmental performance of inshore finfish fisheries will further support a transition towards EBFM.

Fisheries New Zealand has a broad programme of work underway to improve the management of the environmental effects of fishing. The programme of work includes:

- Introducing electronic catch & position reporting and on-board cameras to improve our understanding of the impact of fishing on the aquatic environment, particularly protected species.
- Supporting industry to innovate and transition to environmentally friendly fishing practices through changes to regulations and increasing access to innovation funding through the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund.
- Reviewing the Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Māui Dolphins.
- Updating the National Plans of Action for Seabirds and Sharks.
- Updating the Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Annual Review that provides the best available scientific information, commissioned by Fisheries New Zealand and others, on interactions between fishing and the aquatic environment.
- Developing new science-based tools to assess the effects of fishing.

The following management objectives and actions to improve environmental performance build on the work that is currently underway.

13.2 Focus Area Five Management Objectives and Deliverables

Management Objective 9	8.2.1 Identify and, where appropriate, protect habitats of particular significance for fisheries management.

Habitats of significance are not defined in the Act, but are likely to include areas where spawning, pupping, or egg-laying occur, or where nursery grounds exist. Scientific information on habitat use by species and the spatial distribution of habitats in New Zealand waters is limited, and further research is likely to be needed.

Habitats of significance directly underpin stock productivity and fisheries production. Any changes to habitats of particular significance for fisheries management may have a lasting impact on the distribution and health of inshore finfish species and on utilisation.

Identifying and protecting habitats of particular significance to inshore finfish fisheries is one of the fundamental building blocks for transitioning towards EBFM.

Management Actions

9.1 Develop operational guidance on implementing s 9(c), including identifying habitats of significance and the attributes that make them so, identifying threats to them, and determining if protection is required.
9.2 Improve knowledge about where and when inshore finfish species spawn and grow to maturity.
9.3 Monitor availability of information in this field including research undertaken by other agencies.
9.4 Develop policy and a management framework to protect habitats of particular significance for fisheries management.
9.5 Incorporate mātauranga Māori into the identification and management of habitats of particular significance to inshore finfish fisheries management.
9.6 Engage with local and central government agencies to identify and reduce the impacts of land-based effects, marine pests and diseases, and non-fishing marine activities on significant habitats for fisheries.
9.7 Explore the role of protecting marine biodiversity as a strategy to build the resilience of marine ecosystems and fish stocks to buffer the effects of climate change.

Management Objective 10	8.2.2 Manage inshore finfish fisheries to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on benthic habitats.

Fishing activity can impact benthic habitats by affecting benthic fauna and modifying the habitat. Understanding fishing impacts on benthic habitats can enable the assessment of any adverse effect.

Where an adverse effect is identified, the management priority will be to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects.

Management Actions

10.1 Support innovation of fishing technology to avoid, remedy or mitigate impacts of fishing on the benthic environment.
10.2 Engage with stakeholders to develop, document, and implement a clear framework, including objectives, for evaluating and addressing the nature of the impacts of fishing on benthic habitats.

Management Objective 11	8.2.3 Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of fisheries on the long-term viability of endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP species).

Endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP species) such as marine mammals, seabirds, some shark, fish and coral species are particularly significant to New Zealanders, due to both their intrinsic value and their threat status. Fishing activity in New Zealand's inshore finfish fisheries should not have adverse effects on the long-term viability of these species. Where they have been developed, National Plans of Action or Threat Management Plans drive and assist with prioritisation of management actions to minimise any adverse effects of fishing.

Management Actions

11.1 Continue the development and expand the implementation of risk assessment frameworks to prioritise and direct management actions in relation to impacts on ETP species.
11.2 Complete reviews of the National Plans of Actions and Threat Management Plans, or other strategies aimed at protecting ETP species.
11.3 Implement actions and measure performance against updated National Plans of Actions and Threat Management Plans.
11.4 Adopt other management measures (regulatory and voluntary) to manage the impacts of commercial and recreational fishing on ETP species where required.
11.5 Support innovation in fishing gear technology and the use of best-practice technology and practices on vessels to reduce the impacts of fishing on ETP species.
11.6 Support and encourage development of innovative prevention strategies to prevent/minimise the abandonment and accidental loss of fishing gear.

Management Objective 12	8.2.4 Improve the quality of information available on environmental effects of inshore finfish fisheries.

Relatively low levels of observer coverage in inshore fisheries limit our understanding of fishing-related impacts on the long-term viability of protected species.

Fisheries Observers record the level of interactions with protected species where possible. Observers also collect biological data (for example, size, length, and age data; and stomach contents analysis), as well as information about gear configuration and use of mitigation measures.

In addition to observer reporting, fishers also report incidental captures of protected species on protected fish and non-fish bycatch forms.

Management Actions

12.1 Monitor incidental catches of protected species (including comparison of observer and fisher reports).
12.2 Plan observer coverage to provide representative coverage in inshore finfish fisheries in high priority areas.
12.3 Support Observer Services in providing observer coverage to meet target levels.
12.4 Incorporate digital monitoring to provide additional information and management responses on ETP species interactions.
12.5 Produce an annual summary of information, provided by Observers, in the ARR. This includes information about mitigation measures used, age frequency testing and conversion factor information, and non-fish bycatch.

Management Objective 13	8.2.5 Manage inshore fisheries to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on incidentally caught fish species.

Inshore finfish fisheries can have effects on incidentally caught fish species (species that have limited commercial value and that are typically returned to the sea). As these species are often information deficient, it can be difficult to assess when impacts from fishing may be having an adverse effect.

Regularly assessing bycatch levels and relevant research survey data will ensure that trends in harvest levels and biological characteristics are monitored, and allow management actions to be undertaken when required.

Management Actions

13.1 Improve information available, including from electronic catch and position reporting, on-board cameras and observer services, to better understand the impacts of fishing on incidentally caught fish.
13.2 Where sustainability of a non-QMS species is not ensured, management actions will be taken to avoid or minimise the impacts of fishing, or the introduction of the species into the QMS will be considered.
13.3 Support innovation in fishing gear technology to reduce the impacts of fishing on incidentally caught fish.
13.4 Assess options for spatial management to avoid or minimise the impacts of fishing on incidentally caught fish.

Management Objective 14	8.2.6 Apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of inshore finfish fisheries to transition towards EBFM.

The goal of EBFM is to improve decision-making by providing a means for managers to consider all components of a fishery: ecological, social, and economic across all fisheries.

While EBFM policy development is ongoing, there are opportunities to further advance EBFM from an inshore finfish fisheries perspective.

Management Actions

14.1 Explore the utility and application of ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management, incorporating work done through the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge.
14.2 Track relevant technological innovations for ecosystem-based fisheries management and consider how science and technology can better enable the monitoring and maintenance of biological diversity.
14.3 Work with stakeholders and the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge to identify key results that are relevant to the practical implementation of EBFM.

14. Glossary of Terms

Associated or dependent species	Any non-harvested species taken or otherwise affected by the taking of any harvested species.
Aquatic Environment	The natural and biological resources comprising any aquatic ecosystem including aquatic life. These environments can include: oceans, seas, coastal areas, inter-tidal areas, estuaries, rivers, lakes and other places
Benefit	Social, economic and cultural wellbeing obtained from fishing, as per the purpose of the Fisheries Act 1996.
Benthic	Relating to the seafloor.
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms, including diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
Biomass	The size of a stock in units of weight.
Biomass limit reference point(s) or Biomass limit(s)	A biomass or fishing mortality reference point that should be avoided with high probability.
BMSY	The average stock biomass (or size) that results from taking an average catch of maximum sustainable yield under various types of harvest strategies.
Bycatch	Refers to fish species, or size classes of those species, caught in association with key target species.
Fishery health	The degree to which a fishery is functioning sustainably.
Fisheries Management Area (FMA)	New Zealand's fisheries waters (the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone, Territorial and Internal waters) are divided into ten Fishery Management Areas. These FMAs also inform the boundaries of most Quota Management Areas (QMAs).
Fisheries resources	Any one or more stocks or species of fish, aquatic life or seaweed.
Fishstock or Stock	Any fish, aquatic life or seaweed of one or more species that are treated as a unit for the purpose of fisheries management.
Fish stock complex	Individual fish stocks that are managed together as a group.
Habitat	Includes all aspects of the aquatic environment which fisheries resources depend on directly or indirectly in order to carry on their life processes.
Harvest strategy	Identifies target, soft and hard biomass limit and and/or thresholds for fishing mortality and management actions associated with achieving the target and avoiding the limits.
Harvest Strategy Standard (HSS)	The HSS is a policy statement of best practice in relation to the setting of fishery and stock targets and limits for fish stocks in New Zealand's Quota Management System.
Māori	In the context of this Plan, Māori are those that Fisheries New Zealand have specific responsibilities to under deeds of settlement and the Fisheries Act 1996 to consult with.

Kaitiakitanga	Means the exercise of guardianship; and, in relation to any fisheries resources, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resources, as exercised by the appropriate tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga Māori
Management Action(s)	The key activities that can be targeted for completion during the time period of the Annual Operational Plan that will contribute to the delivery of management objectives in the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan.
Management Objective(s)	The high-level objectives set for achieving a focus are under the National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan.
Management Procedure	Tool used to guide the setting of catch limits. Specifies what data will be used, and how it will be used, to determine a catch limit.
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	In relation to any stock, means the greatest yield that can be achieved over time while maintaining the stock's productive capacity, having regard to the population dynamics of the stock and any environmental factors that influence the stock.
Protected species	As defined in the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.
Quota	Individual transferable quota is a property right used to proportionally allocate the TACC.
Quota Management System (QMS)	System of fisheries management for the main harvest species in New Zealand which includes the requirement to set a TAC, make allowances for customary Māori interests, recreational interests and fishing-related mortality and set a TACC.
Stock Status	A determination made about the current condition of the stock on the basis of stock assessment results.
Sustainability	The ability of a system to be maintained, specifically here regarding to the ecological balance of natural resources.
Sustainability Measures	Means any measure or action taken for the purpose of ensuring sustainability
Tangata Whenua	In relation to a particular area, means the hapū, or iwi, that is Māori which holds and exercises mana whenua (customary authority) over that area.
Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The total quantity of fishing-related mortality allowed for a QMS stock in a given fishing year.
Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)	The total quantity of commercial catch allowed for a QMS stock in a given fishing year.
Utilisation	Conserving, using, enhancing and developing fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
Value	The social, cultural, or economic worth or importance placed on fish, habitats, or ecosystems by an individual or group.
Yield	Catch expressed in terms of weight.

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