

Executive Summary – Implementation of UNGA Resolution 66/68 – Sustainable Fisheries

New Zealand works to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of our fisheries, including the maintenance of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. We do this by researching fisheries, managing the process for access and allocation of fisheries, and ensuring that everyone who uses New Zealand's fisheries complies with the rules and regulations that govern and protect them.

Since our last comprehensive report to the United Nations Secretary General in 2008¹, New Zealand has implemented two high level strategies to guide our work on fisheries management – *Fisheries 2030* and New Zealand's International Fisheries Strategy. Central to both strategies is the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries and compliance with our international commitments.

At the international level, New Zealand is a party to UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and cooperates within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to which it is a Party, to ensure that stocks are maintained or restored to MSY levels. New Zealand supports initiatives to further develop the international fisheries governance structures, such as flag State performance standards under the FAO. We are also focused on implementing international initiatives and instruments, for example, New Zealand ratified the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean in June 2011; we are in the process of ratifying the FAO Port State Measures Agreement; and will be reviewing our NPOA on Sharks in 2012.

Furthermore, and as per OP 81 of the resolution, New Zealand can confirm that it is an offence under the Driftnet Prohibition Act (1991) to engage in driftnet fishing in New Zealand waters. It is also an offence for New Zealand nationals and vessels to engage in driftnet fishing in the high seas area covered by the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific 1989.

As a Pacific country, New Zealand understands the unique dependence countries in our region have on the Pacific Ocean. New Zealand has provided considerable financial and technical support to the Pacific, to assist, improve and enhance support to and aid the capacity development of developing Pacific Island States and Territories. A key recent achievement was the signing of the Te Vaka Toa Arrangement.

New Zealand strongly supports the call in Resolution 66/68 to emphasise sustainable development of fisheries in the context of Rio +20. New Zealand has placed fisheries and wider "blue economy" issues at the heart of our submission for Rio+20.

¹ 'New Zealand Response Questionnaire' (New Zealand's 2008 report) available at www.fish.govt.nz