

# Labour Party Responses to WWF New Zealand's 10 Actions for a Healthy Ocean

- 1. Increase marine protection:** *WWF action: Commit to protecting at least 30% of Aotearoa New Zealand's ocean in high-quality, Tiriti-consistent marine protection.* Labour is committed to protecting at least 30% of our oceans and growing a meaningful network of marine protected areas. Labour supports ambitious, high-quality marine protection that is developed in partnership with tangata whenua and local communities.
- 2. Reform outdated marine protection laws:** *WWF action: Commit to modernising marine protection legislation to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and enables Tiriti-consistent and tikanga-led tools and approaches to improve ocean health.* Labour agrees New Zealand's marine protection framework needs modernising. We support reform that better reflects te Tiriti o Waitangi, enables tikanga-led approaches, and provides clearer, more effective tools for restoring ocean health. Labour is also committed to ensuring the Fisheries Management system follows an ecosystem approach.
- 3. Support marine protection across the Pacific and in the High Seas:** *WWF action: Support high seas MPA proposals under the UN High Seas Treaty, including in the Lord Howe Rise/South Tasman Sea region.* Labour supports international cooperation to protect the High Seas and recognises New Zealand's responsibility as a Pacific nation. Labour was proud to sign the UN High Seas Treaty when we were in Government, and we will prioritise ratifying the Treaty when we return to Government. Labour will continue to back credible, science-based proposals that strengthen ocean protection beyond national boundaries.
- 4. Phase out damaging fishing methods:** *WWF action: Commit to phasing out destructive fishing practices like bottom-trawling in vulnerable marine ecosystems such as seamounts, and in the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana.* Labour supports stronger action to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from destructive practices, including bottom trawling in sensitive areas like seamounts. Labour will make specific commitments on areas where bottom trawling will be stopped, or limited. Labour also supports improvements to industry practices to limit the damage from practices such as bottom trawling.
- 5. Review New Zealand's fisheries management system:** *WWF action: Commit to withdrawing the Fisheries Amendment Bill and reviewing the Quota Management System to prioritise ecosystem health, abundance, and long-term*

*resilience*. Labour believes fisheries management must prioritise long-term abundance, ecosystem health, and resilience. Labour supports a science-based approach to fisheries management.

6. **Increase transparency in commercial fishing:** *WWF action: Commit to extending onboard camera coverage to the entire deepwater fleet.* Labour was proud to introduce cameras on boats, and we are committed to ensuring transparency of fishing practices in Aotearoa.
7. **Support iwi and hapū-led marine management:** *WWF action: Commit to supporting iwi and hapū-led marine management through resourcing for local marine management planning, strengthening customary management tools, and ensuring Mātauranga Māori is well integrated in research and management.* Labour strongly supports iwi and hapū leadership in marine management. Mātauranga Māori, customary tools, and local knowledge must be embedded in decision-making alongside robust science.
8. **Strengthen protections for marine mammals:** *WWF action: Commit to reviewing Aotearoa's network of Marine Mammal Sanctuaries and introducing fishing restrictions in areas where marine wildlife is being harmed.* Labour supports strong protections for marine mammals and targeted restrictions where fishing activity is causing harm. We believe sanctuaries must be effective in practice, not just in name. Labour will continue to invest in the Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan.
9. **Safeguard Aotearoa's threatened seabirds:** *WWF action: Commit to extending mandatory seabird bycatch mitigation measures to all commercial fisheries, aligned with international best practice.* Labour supports extending best-practice seabird bycatch mitigation across commercial fisheries. New Zealand has a responsibility to protect threatened seabirds and to lift standards across the industry.
10. **Prevent extractive industries damaging the ocean:** *WWF action: Commit to opposing seabed mining applications in New Zealand waters and reinstating the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration.* Labour remains committed to a managed transition away from fossil fuels and toward a clean-energy future.