

By way of background, the Australian Greens [Natural Resources: Forests, Mining and Fisheries](#) policy sets out the following aims for fisheries:

1. The management of recreational and commercial fisheries under a national framework to maintain sustainable fish populations and fisheries, and to minimise negative environmental impacts of fishing.
2. An evidence-based strategy to establish and maintain adequate, representative and comprehensive 'no-take' areas in all marine bioregions for the conservation of marine biodiversity, fish nursery habitat and fish stocks.
3. The continuation by Australia of its proactive stance on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including assisting in the development of alternative employment opportunities for impoverished communities that rely on the illegal trade.
4. A national framework for the assessment and regulation of environmentally-benign aquaculture developments based on ecosystems management principles.
5. A moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling in Australian waters and reduction in by-catch in all trawl fisheries.
6. A ban on all large factory-freezer vessels in the small pelagic fisheries.
7. Sustainable employment transition programs to assist commercial fishers and people employed in associated industries affected by changes in marine management practices.
8. Recognition of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as traditional custodians and protectors of marine resources, their sea country rights and their rights to cultural fishing and an increase in their involvement in marine areas planning, management and decision making.

The Greens support the development of a dedicated seafood industry policy. This policy should sit alongside a revamped Commonwealth fisheries management framework based on the recommendations of the Borthwick review, and should be designed to ensure the sustainability and integrity of Australian fisheries.

Fisheries and seafood policy should acknowledge that climate change is happening right now. Sea temperatures are rising and fisheries are changing before our eyes. This is introducing a whole new level of complexity and uncertainty into fisheries management.

Fisheries and seafood policy should provide resource access rights that are set using an independent, evidence based and publicly accountable approach. This should include an assessment of ecosystem impacts, as per the Borthwick review.

Any expansion of wild-catch and aquaculture must be guided by this revamped fisheries management framework. The Greens have been concerned, for example, that the expansion of the Tasmania salmonid industry is occurring without sufficient federal or state regulatory oversight. Aggressive expansion risks a 'tragedy of the commons', where short-term gain leads to long-term pain whereby the whole industry's sustainability and reputation is damaged.

The Greens do not support any arbitrary reduction in regulatory complexity and costs. Regulations should be made and priced in proportion to the task that regulators need to achieve and the broader public good.

The Greens have a strong track record supporting reform of seafood labelling. The Greens want a mandatory national country of origin labelling for all cooked and uncooked seafood using Australian Fish Names Standards. The Greens helped drive a senate inquiry on this issue and co-sponsored a private members bill in the last parliament that would have addressed this issue.

The Greens support the retention of the diesel fuel rebate for non-mining related activities.

In the broad, The Greens support the funding of Commonwealth departments and programs that provide for independent and publicly available data collection, and that assist with natural resource management, including for fisheries and seafood.

The Greens support the fisheries industry being subject to the same industrial relations standards as other industries. This includes opposing the introduction of the backpacker tax which would discourage foreign tourists from helping ease seasonal labour shortages.

The Greens do not support Australia signing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), if for no other reason than the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) chapter would allow foreign corporations to sue the Australian government for regulations that impact upon their future profits. For example, this could see a foreign owned fishery company sue the Commonwealth for changes in the quota structure that they perceive would reduce their forecast catch. ISDS is governed by an unaccountable tribunal system that does not use a precedence based system. The Greens also believe governments have routinely overhyped the benefits of free-trade agreements, and that all Australian industries should be aware of both the costs and benefits that they bring.