



Ecological Sustainability - Social Justice - Peace and Non-violence - Grassroots Democracy

## **NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE 2013 FEDERAL ELECTION SURVEY**

The Australian Greens aim is to maintain sustainable fish populations and fisheries and to minimise the environmental impacts of fishing.

Maintaining sustainable fish populations and fisheries is an increasing challenge as the climate changes, the oceans warm, and the increasing population makes increasing demands of the marine environment, both directly (eg seafood production, oil and gas extraction from under the seabed, port development, ocean-based recreation) and indirectly (eg chemicals and pollutants making their way into marine environments from terrestrial land use). However, maintenance of sustainable fish populations and fisheries must be achieved if Australians are to have fish for the future.

On fisheries management, we agree that governments should act based on science. That's why our science-based position is that Australia's marine reserves are necessary to maintain sustainable fish populations, and that they assist rather than detract from the ongoing security of recreational and commercial fishing because they enhance populations of fish outside the reserve area as well as within it.

On aquaculture, the Australian Greens support a national framework for the assessment and regulation of environmentally benign aquaculture developments based on ecosystems management principles.

On the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, we do not propose to reduce its current funding level or its level of control and management of funds. Nor do we propose to reduce funding for Ocean Watch Australia, SeaNet, or other programs/organisations that improve the sustainability of fishing practices.

The Greens have called for the diesel fuel rate to be abolished for mining companies but not for other recipients such as farmers or fisherman.

We share the Australian seafood industry's frustration with the rise of imported seafood and understand the desire to require country of origin labelling in the food service sector for seafood. However this would require making an exception for one particular food group and would logically lead to other food sectors asking for the same. The result would be the food service sector having to identify the origin of all significant ingredients, a very onerous and difficult impost on them.

The Green's preferred approach is to support the Australian seafood sector in rebuilding domestic market share by:

- Implementing competition policy reform to address predatory pricing practices and market power concentration, which is contributing to unfair competition from imports for all food sectors including seafood

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- Support the use of anti-dumping measures where it can be shown that there is a strong case including for seafood
- Boost Australia's biosecurity with the introduction of an independent statutory National Biosecurity Authority, to ensure our agriculture and aquaculture industries have rigorous and science-based applied to any potential import decisions or incursions that may affect them
- Reforming free trade agreements to ensure that our trading partners have to meet environmental and labour standards commensurate with Australia's domestic producers.

The Australian Greens fisheries policy is contained within our Natural Resources policy, accessible here: <http://greens.org.au/policies/agriculture-natural-resources/natural-resources>

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