

Submission by



on the

Fisheries Amendment Bill 2022

16 June 2022

CONTACT:

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**NZTECH SUBMISSION ON THE
*Fisheries Amendment Bill 2022***

SUMMARY

1. NZTech wishes to thank the Primary Production Committee for the opportunity to submit on the Fisheries Amendment Bill 2022.
2. NZTech supports the Bill's intent to make changes across several aspects of the fisheries management system, "to support a holistic, integrated approach to managing oceans and fisheries" and "to ensure commercial fishing is sustainable, productive and inclusive." The proposed changes include:
 - tightening commercial fishing rules for landings, discards at sea, and disposal on land;
 - creating new rules and regulations for offences and penalties, including new infringement offences and a system of demerit points;
 - creating a new defence of releasing catch to save marine mammals and other protected species;
 - introducing a more streamlined and responsive mechanism for commercial and recreational management decision making; and
 - amending the Fisheries Act 1996 to enable the use of on-board cameras to observe fishing activities that occur once the fish are brought onboard, including sorting, processing, and discarding of fish.
3. However, NZTech believes that the Bill needs to ensure that it does not contain barriers to the implementation of technology to achieve the bills intention, in particular noting technology's pace of change.

BACKGROUND

4. NZTech is a member funded, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation that represents 20 tech associations with over 1600 members who collectively employ more than 100,000 New Zealanders: over 10 percent of the New Zealand workforce.
5. Our purpose is to help create a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous New Zealand underpinned by technology. We do this by helping our members work together to connect the tech ecosystem, promote the importance of technology for New Zealand and New Zealand technology for the world, and help advance the growth of the tech ecosystem and the New Zealand economy.
6. Our members include New Zealand tech exporters, local and multinational IT firms, startups, universities, government agencies, financial service providers and large corporate users of technology.

COMMENT

7. NZTech supports the Bill's intent to strengthen New Zealand's fisheries management system by encouraging better fishing practices.

8. However, NZTech believes that the Bill needs to ensure that any wording in any clauses anticipates technology changes that may be useful to achieving the outcomes sought by the Bill and isn't worded in a way that might restrict the implementation of such new technology.

CONCLUSION

9. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Fisheries Amendment Bill 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Muller".

Graeme Muller

Chief Executive

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