



# Seafood New Zealand

Submission to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MFAT Strategic Assessment

15 July 2022

1. Seafood New Zealand Limited welcomes the opportunity to submit on MFAT's Strategic Assessment.
2. Seafood New Zealand is a professional organisation delivering industry-good services for the wider benefit of the seafood industry, an industry which had export earnings of \$1.87 billion in 2021. Seafood New Zealand plays a role in developing and presenting the seafood industry's response on proposals affecting the industry.

## **Specific comments**

### **Goal 1: Strengthen, protect and use international rules and institutions to pursue Aotearoa New Zealand's values and interests**

Seafood New Zealand considers that MFAT has acted in a manner that pursues Aotearoa New Zealand's interest internationally, especially in the environmental and trade arena, and we support that continuing. We further consider that it is vitally important for New Zealand to continue participating in international rules-based trading systems (i.e WTO, FTAs) as we are a trade-dependent small economy.

### **Goal 2: Grow sustainable economic returns and resilience from trade, investment and other international connections**

Seafood New Zealand supports the work of the Ministry to continue to secure access to markets with favourable trade conditions. The seafood industry has benefitted from the FTAs that New Zealand has signed as we are a global trading industry. Due to our significant international trade, we support any agreement that removes subsidies and tariffs.

We further support the supply chain provisions as supply chain issues has been plaguing the industry for the past few years and would mostly likely continue to have an impact.

New Zealand has a well-earned reputation for producing safe and healthy seafood, and we support work by the Ministry that continues to promote that reputation through international connections and international standard setting processes.

**Goal 3: Embed Aotearoa New Zealand as an active and integral partner in shaping an Indo-Pacific order that delivers regional stability and economic integration**

We support any initiatives that will ensure regional stability and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific due to the interconnectedness of our economies and supply chains.

**Goal 4: Promote a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Pacific in which Aotearoa New Zealand's interests and influence are safeguarded**

We support working with Pacific government as we are also a Pacific nation.

We further support environmental sustainability and biological diversity as the marine ecosystems are all interconnected.

**Goal 5: Promote sustainable international solutions to global environment and natural resource challenges that impact on Aotearoa New Zealand**

We note that New Zealand has a world-leading reputation in the fisheries sector due to the use of the Quota Management System and we support the sustainable use of the environment, where both the economic use and environmental protection are safeguarded.

We further support New Zealand's policy leadership and interest in the Antarctic due to the interconnectedness of the marine environment.

Outcome 1: International stewardship of oceans, especially Pacific and Southern Oceans, has improved.

- Seafood New Zealand supports any efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated fishing.

Outcome 2: developing and pursuing Aotearoa New Zealand's objectives for the United Nations treaty on marine biological diversity and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

- We have had opportunities to submit and engage on these topics and we look forward to continuing our engagement.

**Goal 6: Lead Aotearoa New Zealand's international action to advance and protect New Zealanders' safety and Aotearoa New Zealand's security**

Seafood New Zealand recognizes that stability and security is interrelated with economic prosperity, as such, we agree with this goal.

**Goal 7: Build and leverage targeted international relationships to achieve our goals**

We support this as the seafood industry has benefitted from deeper international relationships as we are a global trading industry.

**Foster mutually beneficial relationships with NZ Inc partners, Māori, domestic stakeholders and New Zealanders**

We agree with this organisational capability goal, and we are pleased with the proactive engagement that has been happening.

Contact:

Amelia Tan

Policy Analyst