

Labour Party

1. Public Access to Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands

1. Will your party ensure public access to rivers and lakes is preserved and enhanced when land is subdivided, sold to an overseas owner, and conservation land is reclassified?

Labour recognises that access to rivers and lakes matters deeply to anglers, hunters and all New Zealanders.

2. How will your party support the work of the Outdoor Access Commission, including getting new and restored public access for fishing and hunting?

We support the work of the Outdoor Access Commission and the importance of New Zealanders being able to get to and along our waterways. We're happy to work with the Commission and stakeholders like Fish & Game on this.

2. Fishing and Game Bird Hunting Traditions

3. Does your party value our fishing and game bird hunting traditions and the benefits they bring to Kiwis - and what policies do you have to support people to go fishing and hunting?

Yes. Fishing and game bird hunting are part of what a lot of New Zealanders value.

4. Will your party ensure freshwater frameworks continue to recognise and protect valued introduced species like trout and salmon, as well as game birds?

Labour recognises the value New Zealanders place on trout, salmon and game birds, and we believe freshwater frameworks should continue to take account of the habitats that support them.

5. Does your party think valued introduced species like trout and salmon should be provided for in legislation defining ecosystem health?

Labour acknowledges the value of introduced species like trout and salmon. Labour believes the management of these should be linked to biodiversity values.

6. What is your party's position on recognising the importance of trout and salmon habitats when setting environmental thresholds?

Labour believes the management of trout and salmon habitats should be linked to biodiversity values.

3. Wetland Protection and Restoration

7. What is your party going to do to support the protection, restoration and creation of wetlands?

Labour supports the protection and restoration of wetlands.

8. What is your party's position on permitted activities for wetland maintenance, restoration, and creation?

Labour recognises the rules need to protect wetlands while still allowing genuine restoration and creation work to happen. We would want to get that balance right in consultation with those involved.

9. What funding and/or support would your party provide for wetland restoration and creation programmes, including those delivered through Fish & Game and hunter-landowner partnerships?

Labour supports restoration efforts and the partnerships that deliver them, including those involving Fish & Game and landowners. Specific funding decisions would be made in government.

4. Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

10. What is your party's position on having regard to Sports Fish and Game Management Plans in plan-making and consenting decisions under resource management legislation?

Labour sees value in these statutory plans being recognised in the planning system and would want to see how that could be best achieved as the resource management system develops.

11. What is your party's position on consulting Fish & Game in the preparation of policy, standards and frameworks that may affect the habitat of trout, salmon and game birds?

Labour believes it is important to consult Fish & Game where policy or standards may affect the habitats of trout, salmon and game birds.

12. What is your party's position on Fish & Game New Zealand's status as an affected party in resource management plan-making and resource consent processes?

Labour recognises Fish & Game's role in these processes and the value of its input.

5. Water Conservation Orders

13. Will your party retain Water Conservation Orders and, if so, how will you ensure they are complied with?

Labour values Water Conservation Orders as an important protection for our most outstanding water bodies, and we support retaining them.

14. What is your party's position on the process for establishing new Water Conservation Orders?

Labour supports Water Conservation Orders as an important protection tool.

6. Fish & Game's Statutory Role

16. What is your party's position on Fish & Game's statutory mandate to manage sports fish and game birds in the interests of anglers and game bird hunters?

Labour recognises Fish & Game's statutory role managing sports fish and game birds on behalf of its licence holders.

17. What is your party's position on Fish & Game's freshwater advocacy role?

Labour recognises the value the contribution Fish & Game makes to freshwater, including its advocacy, science and monitoring work.