

# 'Kiwi fishing rights need recognition'

**"One of the most important and fundamental foundations of our society is the right of people to catch food from the wild," NZ First leader Winston Peters said to a well-attended public meeting at Waihi in early July.**

After acknowledging that many Coromandel and Waihi residents were keen on recreational fishing, Peters said there was a need to balance recreational and customary needs. The recreational public should be paramount.

The people of New Zealand and the needs of future generations should come first when setting allowances based on reliable surveys, said Winston Peters.

"No one wants to deny the commercial fishing industry the right to earn an honest

living, but the fishery belongs to the nation as a whole."

Under NZ First policy, the extent of the inshore fishery would be determined by the region through consultation with its interest groups, but it was envisaged that in most regions it would typically be to the 12-mile (16-kilometre) territorial limit. In some regions a depth limit, such as the 100-metre line, may be more appropriate than a distance limit.

"This inshore fishery must be the primary preserve of recreational fishing. To be fair, commercial fishing will be compensated for any loss of access to the inshore fishery," added Winston Peters.

No trawling would be permitted in the inshore fishery and, with few exceptions, no

commercial catch from the inshore fishery would be allowed to be exported.

Where commercial fishing inshore was required to supply local trade (for example, coastal set-netting for flat fish) it would only be in designated areas using approved methods.

Winston Peters said New Zealand was founded on an egalitarian society.

"New Zealand First stands for a society based on merit and equal opportunity for all New Zealanders."

This gave the party a unique advantage to look at facts and work for the best interests of ordinary Kiwis and New Zealand as a whole, and not be beholden, constrained or limited to serving particular interest groups.

-TONY ORMAN