



## OCEANS

## Introduction

United**Future** recognises that the ocean is of vital importance – not just to New Zealanders, but also for the wellbeing and sustainability of all life on the planet.

The Oceans policy concerns the impact of commercial activities on the marine environment such as mineral extraction and commercial fishing. It compliments our separate Marine Reserve and Recreational Fishing policies.

We believe that the wide range of commercial opportunities presented by New Zealand's large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) bring with them a duty to act cautiously and responsibly. United**Future** wants to see the economic potential of New Zealand's EEZ developed – but not at the expense of causing lasting environmental harm or seriously curtailing recreational opportunities. The relative inaccessibility of many parts of the EEZ to the general public should not give rise to an 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude.

United**Future**'s position is to:

- Develop, in consultation with all stakeholders, sensible, balanced and far reaching marine management plans;
- Promote, and provide the necessary funding for, education at all levels of society as the single most important ingredient for ensuring the future wellbeing of the marine environment;
- Participate in and help to develop truly international agreements to address truly global problems facing the world's oceans such as pollution, over-fishing, agricultural runoff and the over exploitation of resources;
- Ensure that the Department of Conservation is no longer involved in the implementation of rules and regulations concerning New Zealand's oceans and replace it with an agency that is obliged to treat all relevant stakeholders in an even-handed manner.