

# Welcome!

## To the National Blue Cod Strategy drop-in session

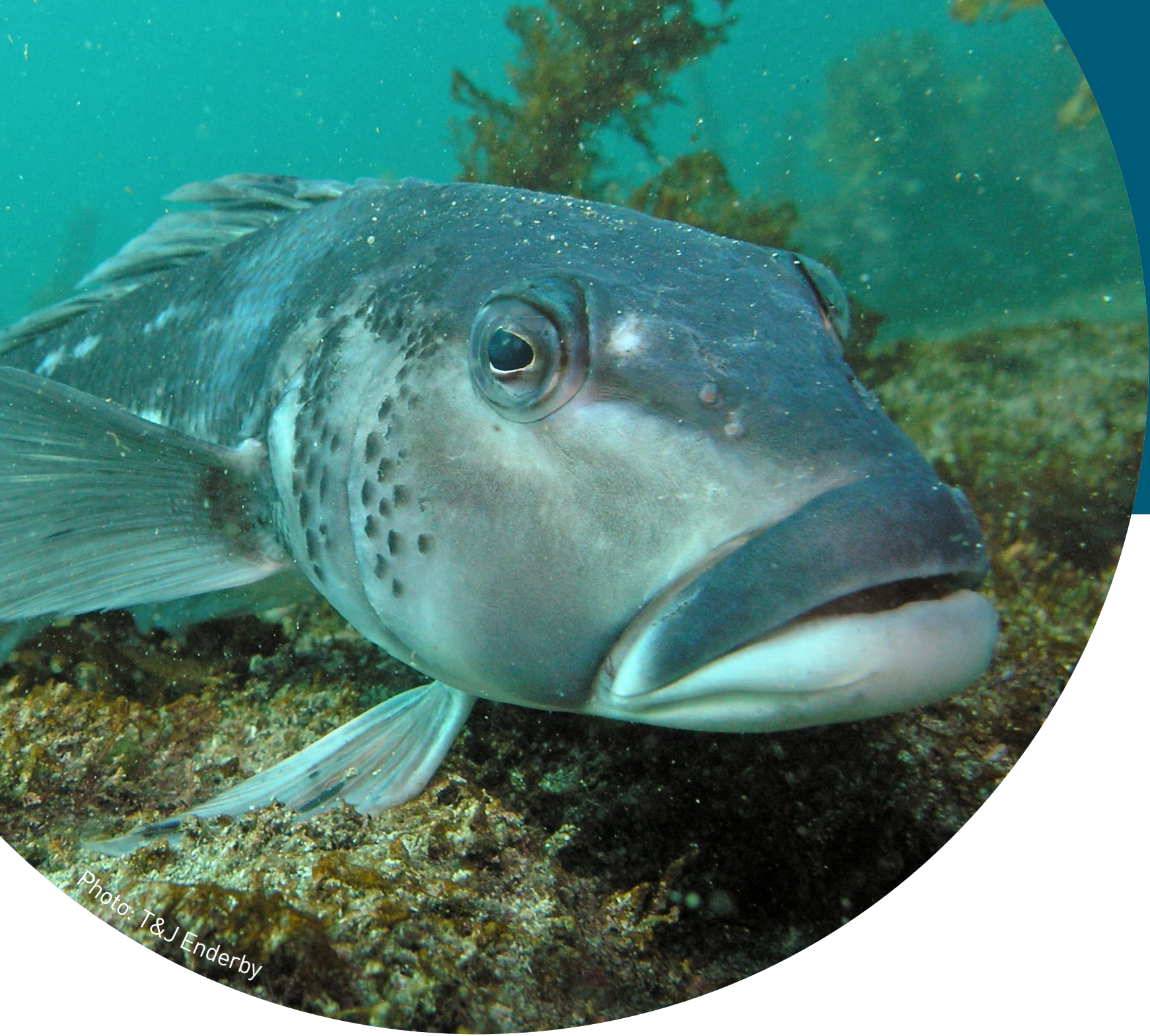
Today we want:

- To let you know how and why we are developing the National Blue Cod Strategy.
- To hear your thoughts and ideas on the issues in your local blue cod fishery.
- To hear your thoughts about what the experts have developed so far.



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## Key facts

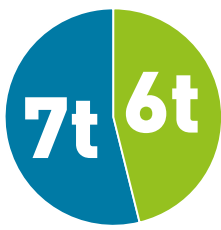
- Blue cod has been a kiwi icon for generations, and we all want it to stay that way. Whether it's caught as part of our high-value commercial fishery or on a line from our mate's boat, it ends up on many of our plates at dinner time.
- Blue cod is important to us culturally. On a national basis, it's the third most harvested fish by recreational fishers, behind only kahawai and snapper. It's the top recreational target fish in the South Island.
- Blue cod is a taonga for Māori.
- Around 2000 tonnes of high value blue cod is commercially harvested each year. Only 7% of this harvest is exported each year, meaning it's mainly caught by kiwis for kiwis.
- Almost all (~99%) commercially harvested blue cod comes from the South Island and Chatham Island blue cod fisheries.



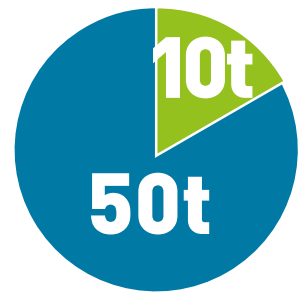


# Our blue cod fishery

**BCO1 (13 tonnes)**  
TAC = 46 t  
DAILY LIMIT = 20  
MINIMUM SIZE = 30 cm



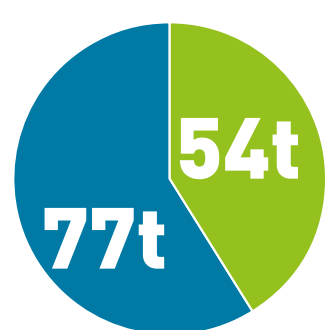
**BCO8 (60 tonnes)**  
TAC = 226 t  
DAILY LIMIT = 10  
MINIMUM SIZE = 33 cm



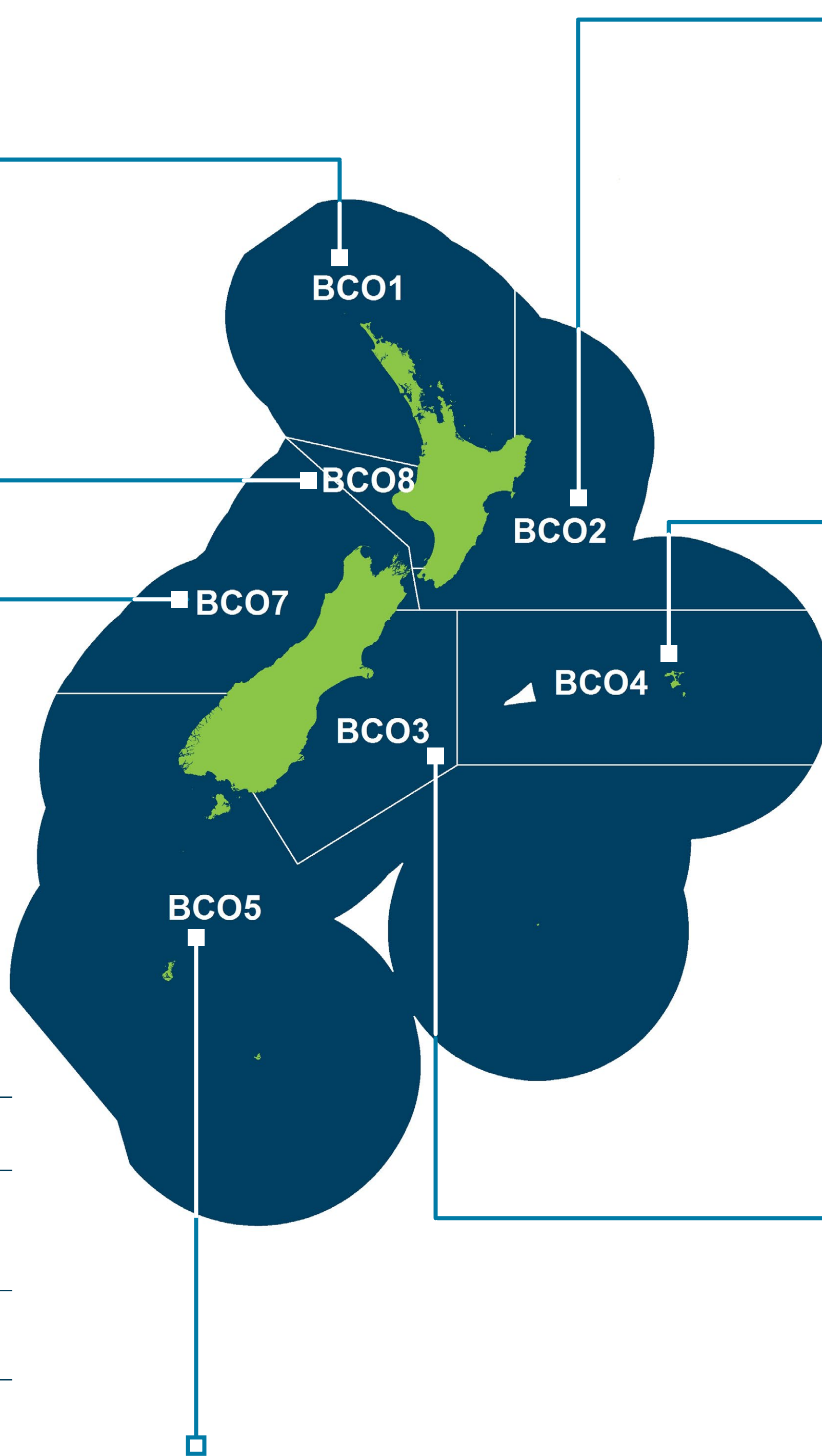
**BCO7 (131 tonnes)**  
TAC = 343 t

	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE
Challenger East incl. Marlborough Sounds	2	33 cm
Challenger West, South	20	33 cm

NB: Customary harvest = 20 (unit unknown)



Fishstock	TAC	TACC	Rec. Allowance	Cust. Allowance	Other mortality
BCO1	46	46	2	2	-
BCO2	10	10	-	-	-
BCO3	163	163	-	-	-
BCO4	759	759	-	-	-
BCO5	1452	1239	191	2	20
BCO7	343	70	177	27	69
BCO8	226	34	188	2	2
BCO10	10	10	-	-	-

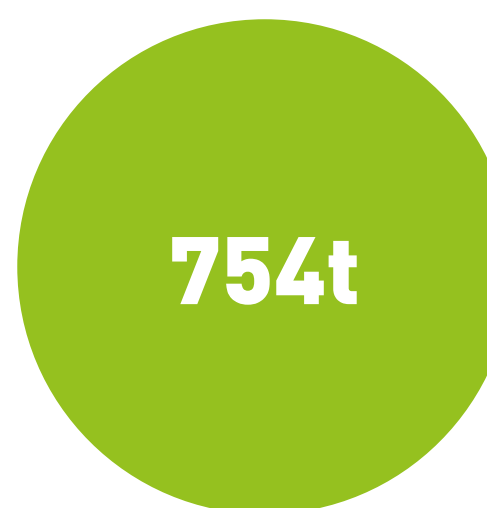


**BCO2 (36 tonnes)**  
TAC = 10 t  
DAILY LIMIT = 20  
MINIMUM SIZE = 33 cm



**BCO4 (754 tonnes)**  
TAC = 759 t  
DAILY LIMIT = 30  
MINIMUM SIZE = 30 cm

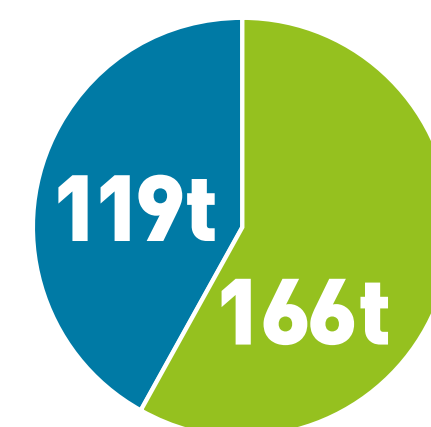
NB: No recreational harvest amount recorded for BCO4 (likely to be minor). Customary harvest = 337 (unit unknown)



**BCO3 (285 tonnes)**  
TAC = 163 t

	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE
Kaikōura	6	33 cm
North Canterbury	10	30 cm
South East area	30	30 cm

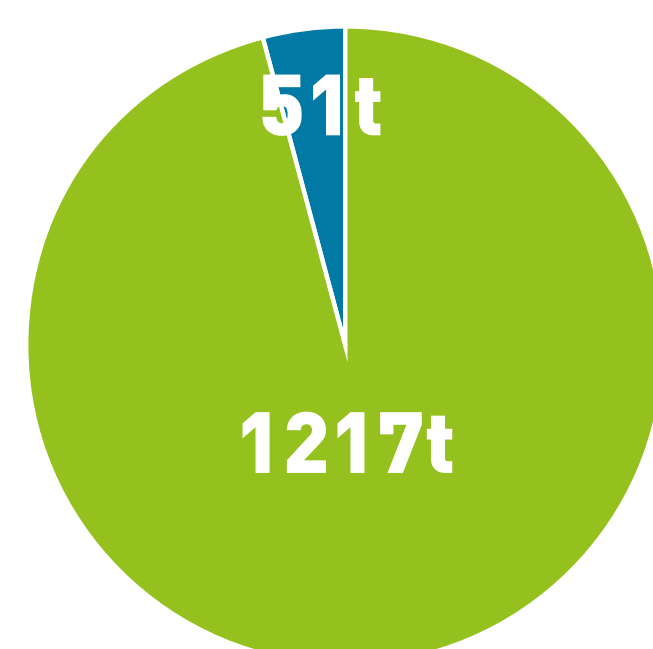
NB: Customary harvest = 10 fish



**BCO5 (1268 tonnes)**  
TAC = 1452 t

	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE
Southland	20	33 cm
Fiordland (excluding Doubtful Sound, Thompson Sound and Bradshaw Sound)	3	33 cm
Doubtful Sound, Thompson Sound and Bradshaw Sound	1	33 cm

NB: Customary harvest = 1010 kg and 1305 fish



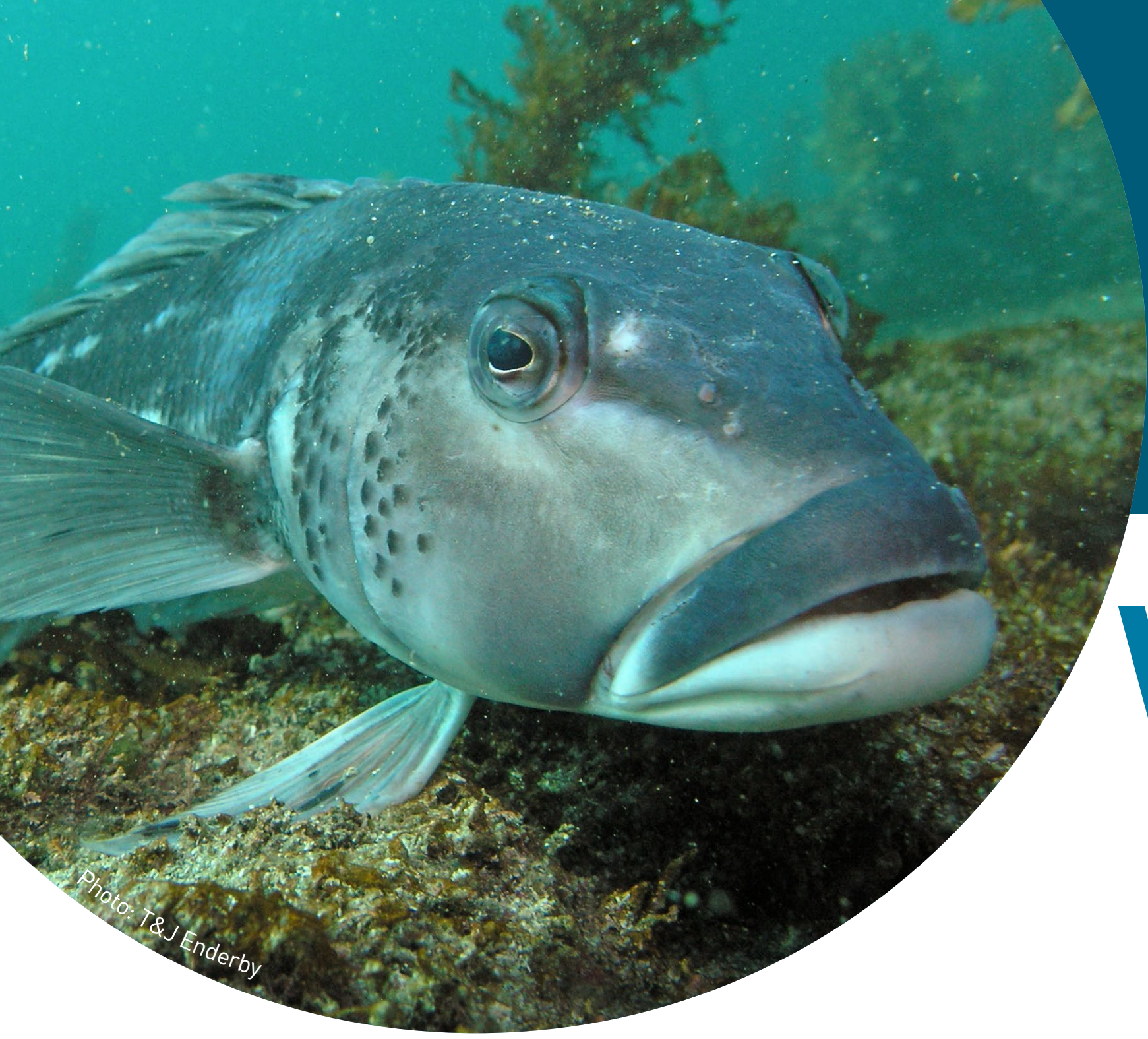
TAC = Total Allowable Catch

**Key**

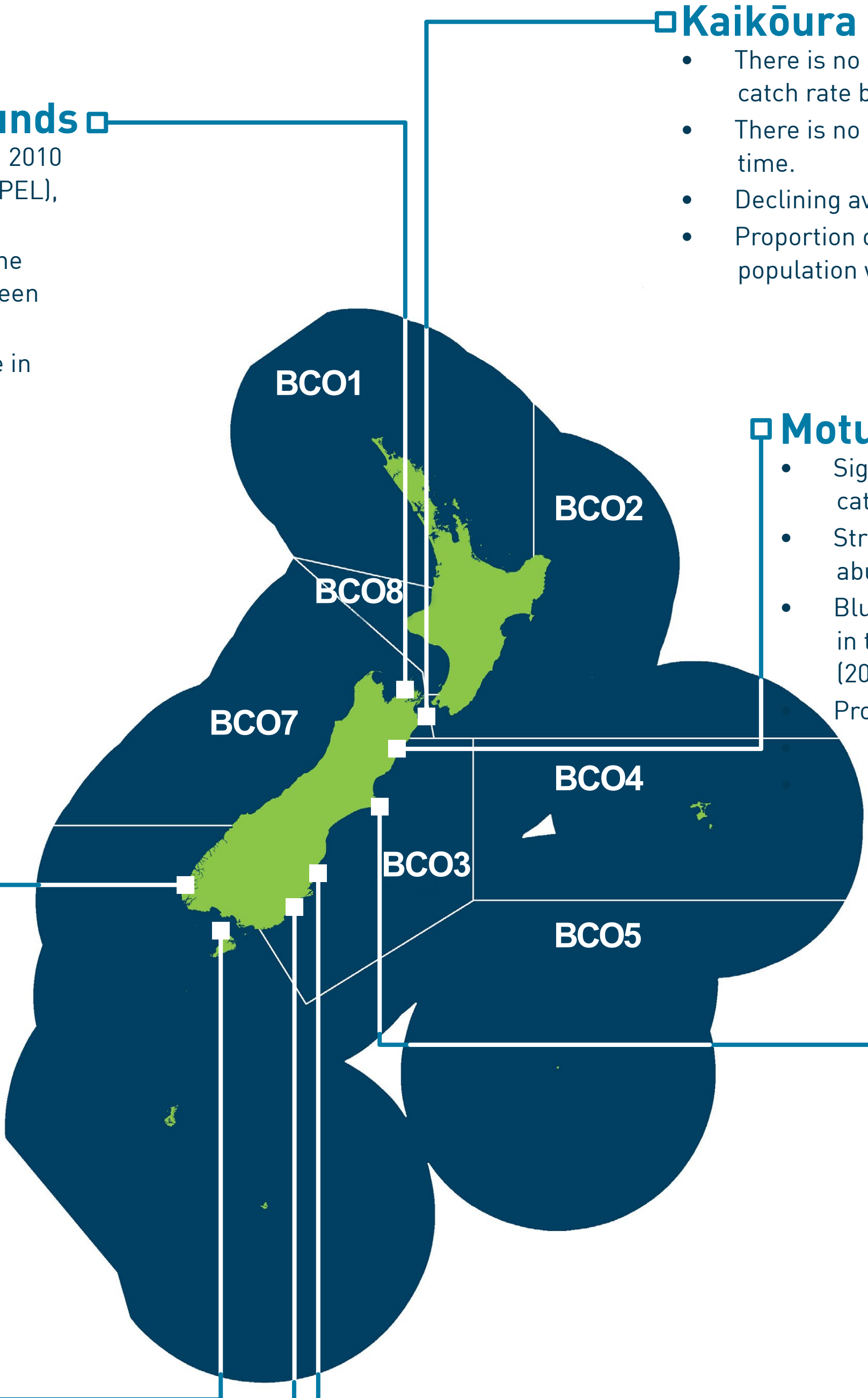
- Commercial harvest 2011/12 fishing year
- Recreational harvest 2011/12 fishing year

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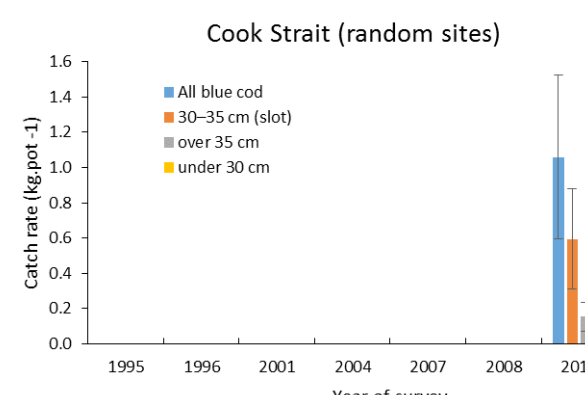


# What we know



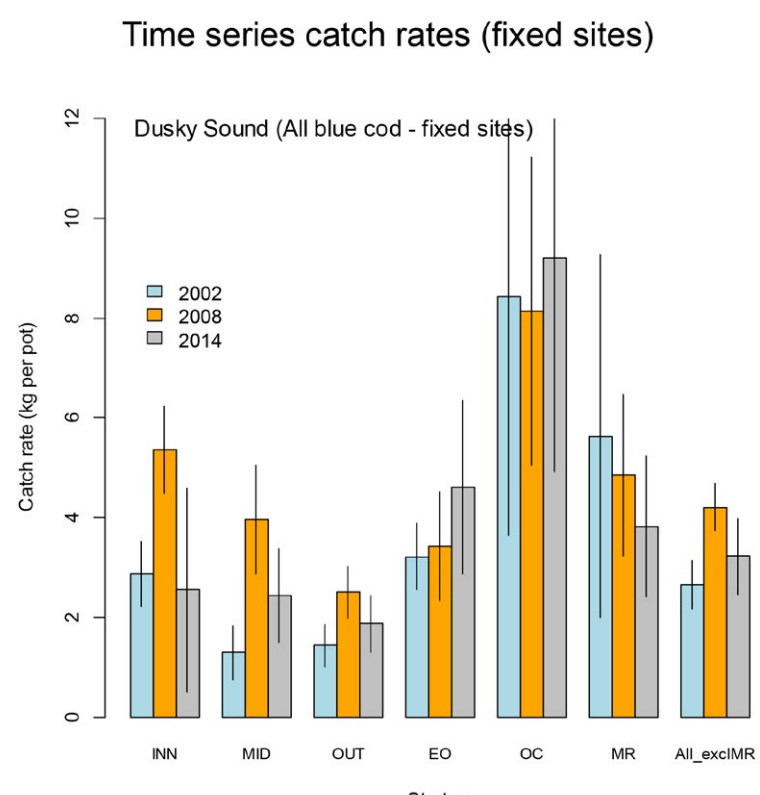
## Marlborough Sounds

- Catch rates increased in 2010 in closed areas (QCH & PEL), then decreased in 2013.
- Proportion of males in the population ranged between 62% and 83% in 2013.
- Next survey taking place in 2017.



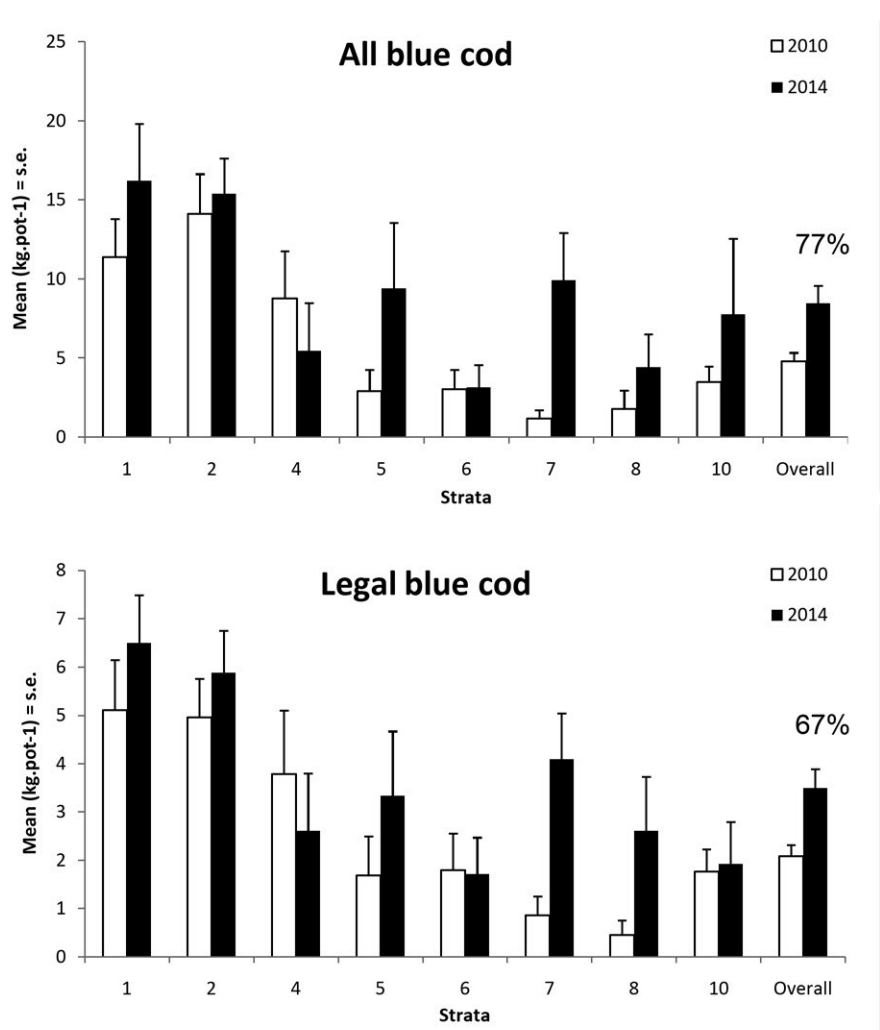
## Dusky Sound

- Overall catch rates increased in 2008 then declined in 2014.
- Population length and age class similar between years.
- Proportion of males in population was ~40% in 2014.



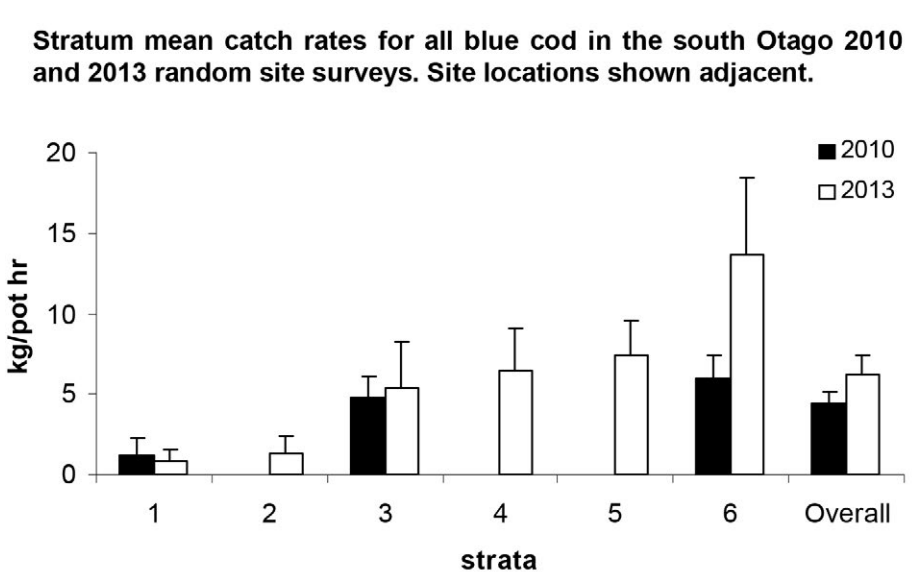
## Foveaux Strait

- Catch rate increased between 2010 and 2014.
- Proportion of males in the population was 77%.
- TACC reduced by 20% in 2012.



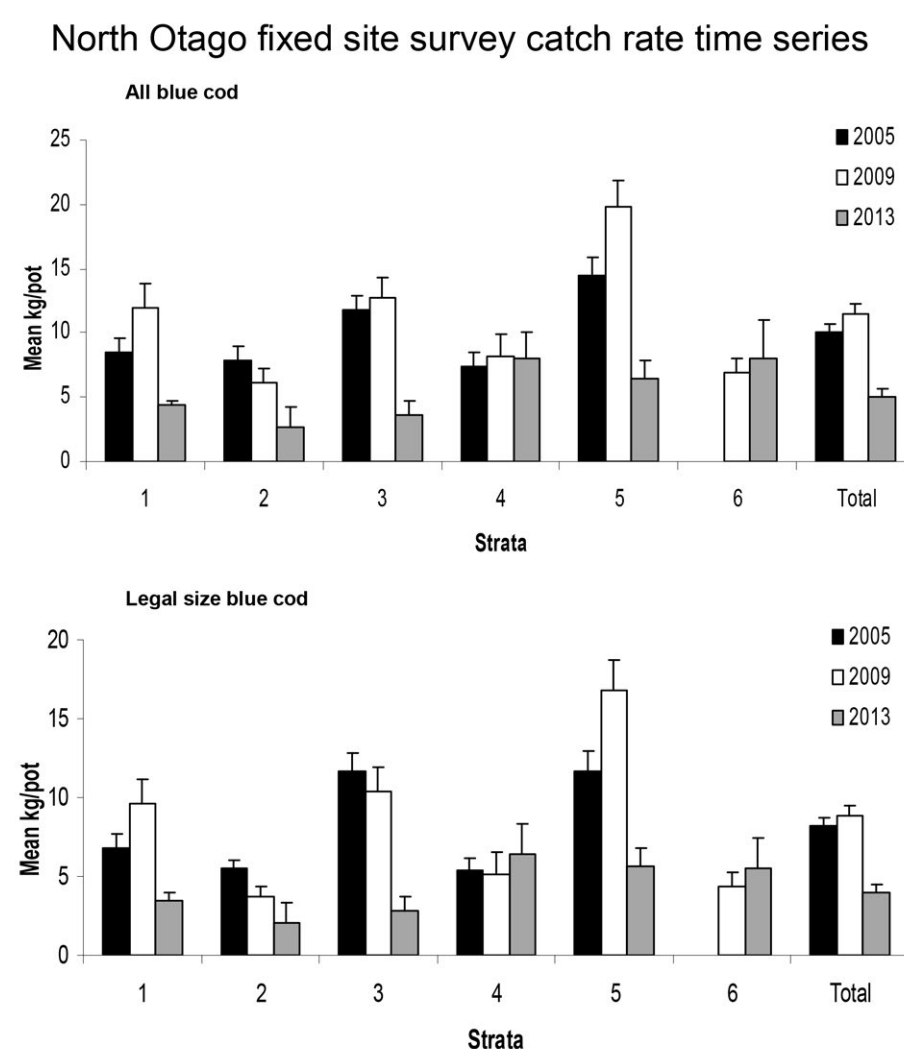
## South Otago (Heyward Point to Clutha Mouth)

- Catch rates stable between 2010 and 2013.
- Proportion of males in population was ~55% in 2013.



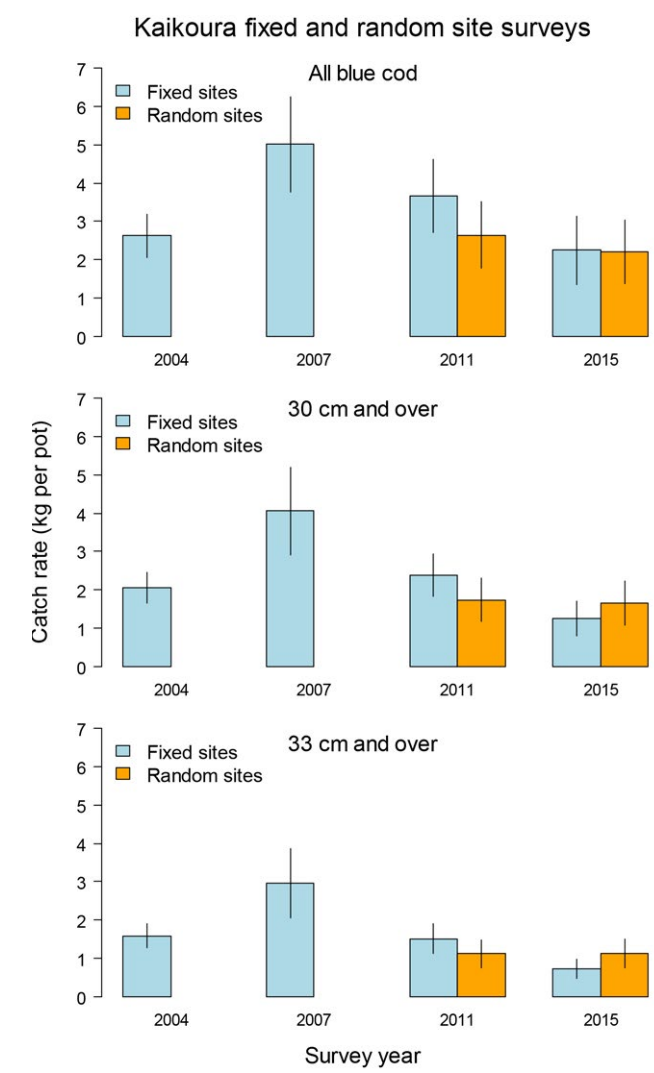
## North Otago (Oamaru to Comish Head)

- Significant difference in overall catch rate between 2005 and 2013.
- Significant decline in abundance between 2009 and 2013.
- Proportion of males in the population was ~70% in 2013.



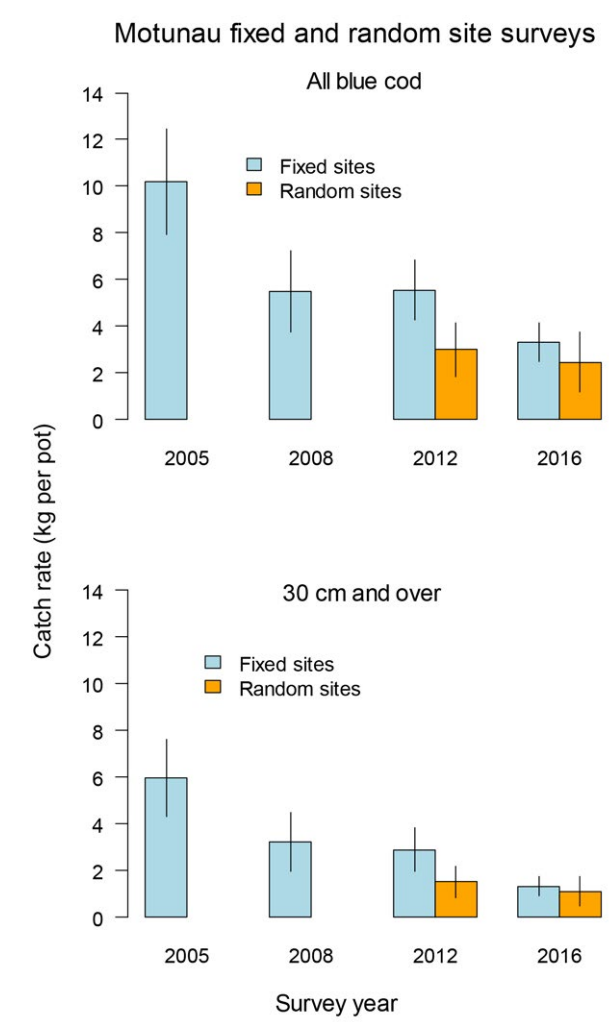
## Kaikōura

- There is no significant difference in catch rate between years.
- There is no catch rate trend over time.
- Declining average size over time.
- Proportion of males in the population was ~50% in 2016.



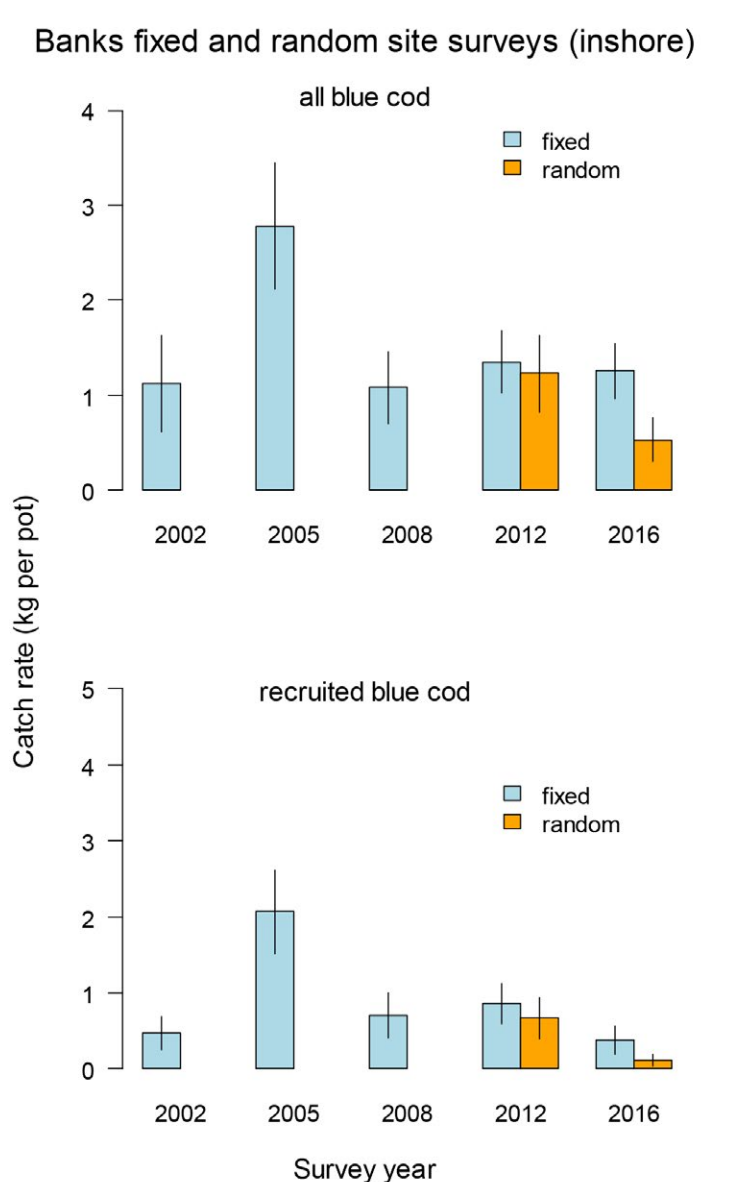
## Motunau

- Significant difference in catch rate between years.
  - Strong trend of declining abundance over time.
  - Blue cod size is smaller in the latest survey (2016).
- Proportion of males in the population was ~75% in 2016.



## Banks Peninsula (Inshore and Offshore)

- Inshore catch rates particularly low.
- There is no catch rate trend inshore over time.
- Overall catch rates halved between 2012 and 2016.
- Offshore catch rates significantly higher in 2016 compared to 2002.
- No significant difference in catch rate between 2012 and 2016.
- Blue cod size were smaller on average in 2016.
- Proportion of males in the inshore population was ~70% in 2016.







## What's the problem?

- Some blue cod fisheries are performing well, however, science shows some blue cod fisheries, particularly in the South Island, are under pressure.
- Blue cod live as long as 33 years, are not adventurous (typically range less than 1 km), change sex, and are easily caught.
- These characteristics combined with their popularity, make them vulnerable to overfishing.
- In some areas protections have been put in place for blue cod. In some cases this has simply shifted the problem down the road.
- As a result, some fishers are telling us numbers are low in their backyard fisheries.
- Solving local issues on a case-by-case basis has resulted in different rules and regulations within and between quota management areas (QMAs).
- Some of the rules and regulations have not been reviewed since they were introduced in 1986.





# What's the plan?

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) wants a National Blue Cod Strategy to:

- provide a consistent management framework
- improve fisheries under pressure
- maintain and enhance well-performing fisheries.

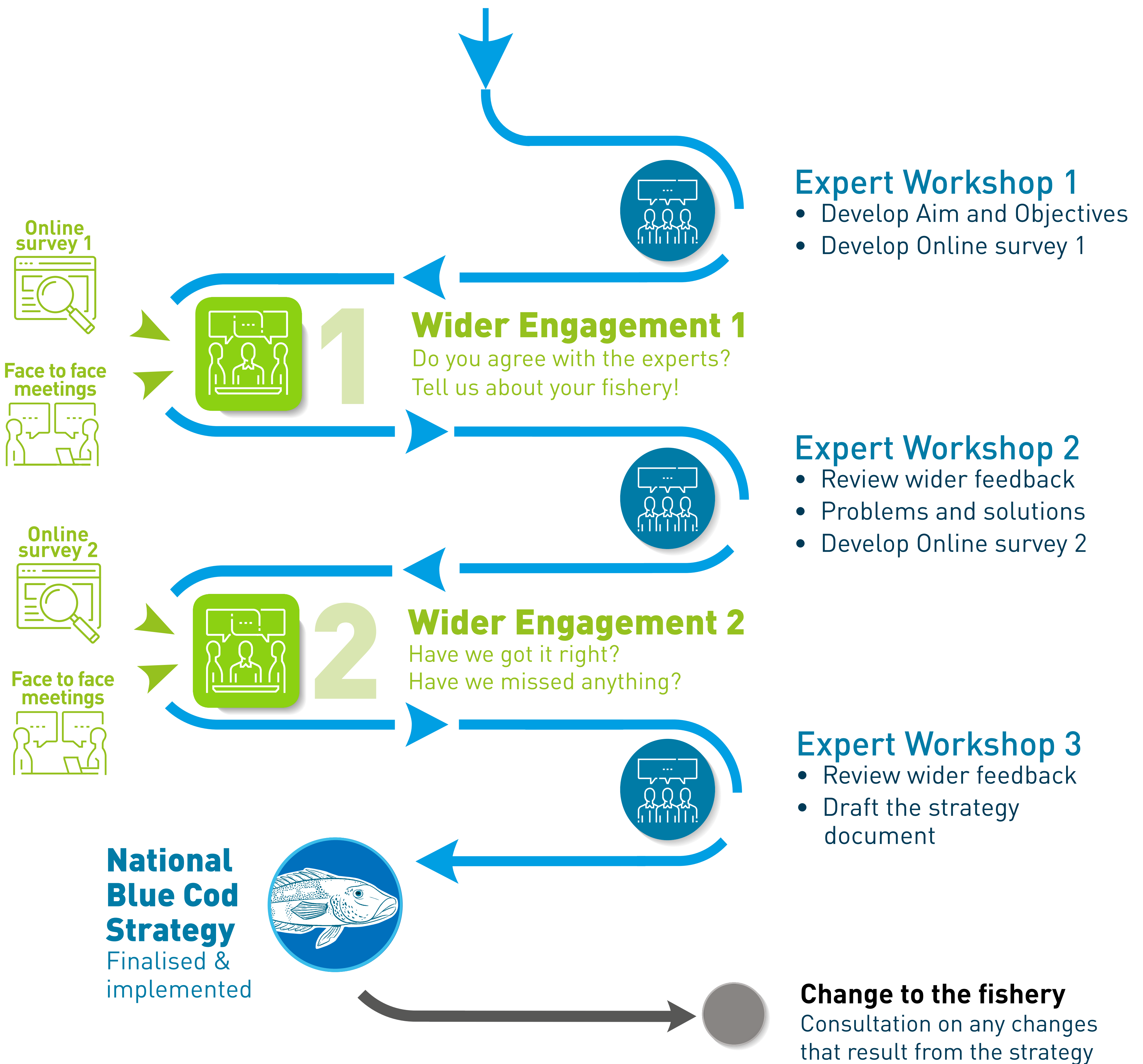
Over time the strategy will review all aspects of the blue cod fishery across the whole of New Zealand, but we'll start with the South Island so we can address priority management concerns.

We need your help to make sure we capture all the issues and potential solutions so that we get this strategy right.





# How do I get involved?







# What do our experts think?

MPI and recreational and commercial fishing experts, tangata whenua and scientists met at a workshop in early July to begin developing the strategy. At this first meeting, the following was developed:

## What's the problem?

Blue cod fisheries in some areas are under pressure and in some places, fishers are telling us numbers are low. There are different rules in different places and no combined approach, so it can be hard to respond quickly enough to these pressures.

## What we want – our aim

We want to work together to create a strategy which delivers abundant and sustainable blue cod fisheries for all New Zealanders.

## How do we get there? – our objectives

### Get the right information

Information is the bedrock of any fisheries management system. We need the right information and science, and we need to figure out the best way to get it.

### Set the right targets

Setting targets for fish stocks is about making sure we're keeping stocks at sustainable levels that are right for the fishery and the people using it.

### Set the right rules

We need to look at the current rules and make changes where appropriate to make sure they're effective, understood and consistent.

### Make the right decisions

We need a framework to drive good, consistent decision-making and to make sure decisions are made on time.

### Get buy-in

If this is going to work, we need everyone to come along and understand their responsibility to our blue cod fisheries.





# We need your thoughts and ideas

## Feel free to:

- Talk to one of us
- Fill out our online survey at [www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod)
- Email us at **[FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)**

## Stay informed:

- You can keep up to date and find out about our progress with the strategy at **[www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod)**

## Or follow one of our recreational fisheries Facebook pages:

- MPI Fisheries Northland
- MPI Fisheries Nelson/Marlborough/Kaikōura
- MPI Fisheries Canterbury/Westland
- MPI Fisheries Otago/Southland

Or sign up to our rec mailing list by emailing **[recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz)** to receive the latest information about fishing in your area.