

IN THE MATTER OF:

**PROPOSAL TO REVIEW THE RECREATIONAL
RULES FOR THE CRA 2 ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY**



SUBMISSION OF SPEARFISHING NEW ZEALAND

About the Submitter

Spearfishing New Zealand (SNZ) is an Incorporated Society. The committee is authorised by our constitution to represent the interests of freedive spearfishers in New Zealand. We support initiatives that we consider are beneficial to our members and will contribute to rebuilding fisheries to a healthy level that will support better utilisation of the resource.

SNZ reports directly to approximately 5,755 divers nationwide. The wider freedive spearfishing community is approximated by the 13,491 members of the most active (NZ) social media pages in our sport.

All our members rely on abundant fisheries as a food source and for the recreation value of harvesting.

Freedive spearfishers are active in the CRA2 fishery.

CRA 2 Consultation

We have read the Proposal to Review the Recreational Rules for the CRA 2 Rock Lobster Fishery.

We **support a reduction in recreational take to three** rock lobster per person. We consider this is the most efficient way to maintain recreational harvest at the target level as stocks rebuild.

We have discussed **telson clipping**. Our thoughts are summarised below:

1. Supplementary information supplied by FNZ indicates there is anecdotal evidence in support of this enforcement tool arising from Kaikoura.
2. We are wary of additional compliance measures being imposed on recreational fishers to address a compliance problem in the commercial sector's supply chain.
3. We see this measure as having potential to confuse fishers with variable requirements either side of an arbitrary line between CRA2 and CRA1 which is in the outer Hauraki Gulf and often crossed by boats on a single outing.
4. Fishers may genuinely simply forget to clip the telsons.
5. We would like to see a broader evaluation of alternative measures. It is our suspicion that commercial supply chain traceability (for example, tags from individual suppliers) might be a better solution for the industry and avoid the recreational sector bearing the burden of enforcement measures.

For these reasons, **we have been unable to agree to support telson clipping** in CRA2 at this time.

We thank MPI for the opportunity to submit on these important issues, and look forward to assisting MPI in future decision making that affects our members.

Kind Regards,

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Secretary
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