

New Zealand Underwater Association
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Ministry of Primary Industries

Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand

Subject 1: New Zealand Underwater Association support for Joint Recreational Submission submitted by NZSFC-LegaSea, specifically where it applies to CRA2 - Te Arai Point to East Cape

New Zealand Underwater takes this opportunity to support the NZSFC-LegaSea Joint Recreational Submission, submitted on Friday the 9th of February, 2018, as it applies to the rock lobster management area CRA2.

The specific excerpt from the NZSFC-LegaSea Joint Recreational Submission referred to in this letter of support is:

"B. Options supported

8. CRA 2 – Closure is an option available to the Minister and must be considered given the low state of the stock. The hard limit has been breached in relation to the reference biomass (Bref) and recent recruitment is at an all-time low adding considerable uncertainty around the rebuild rates. There was significant public support for closure in our online survey. The only other option available to the Minister is to select option 4, with a 191.5t TAC, which is potentially a significant catch against a Vulnerable Biomass estimated at 203 t in 2017. The submitters have their doubts about the effectiveness of this option but recognise that the Minister must weigh the economic, social, and cultural costs of his decision.

The choice is left to the Minister.

On the basis that there will be a significant reduction in the TAC to allow CRA 2 stock to be rebuilt as soon as possible, the submitters support a 50t allowance for recreational fishers. This coincides with the upper bound of the most defensible recreational harvest survey estimate."

Reference: Joint recreational submission on the review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2018, Page 2 - 3

Subject 2: Submissions in the case of rock lobster management areas CRA 4 (Wellington/Hawkes Bay), CRA 7 (Otago) and CRA 8 (Southern).

As of today, the New Zealand Underwater Association does not believe it is in a position to make a formal submission or to support another organisation's submission on these rock lobster management areas.

The NZUA (a nation-wide body established in 1953, directly representing recreational divers) is not aware of any formal invitation to public consultation for these management areas. The NZUA believes the information distributed on 12th of January, 2018 (only 4-weeks ago during a holiday period) requires more detail and a longer period of consultation with its membership in the affected areas before any informed and democratic submission on behalf of recreational divers can be made.

The New Zealand Underwater Association takes this opportunity to formally request an extension of 90-days to the MPI submission date of 9 January, 2018, to allow it to consult properly with its members and the public in order to supply such an informed and democratic submission.



On behalf of the New Zealand Underwater Association

Tristan Reynard,

President,

New Zealand Underwater Association

About New Zealand Underwater:

New Zealand Underwater is the country's recognised leading not-for-profit organisation promoting and advocating safe and enjoyable underwater activities in a protected marine environment.

The Association, established in 1953, is comprised of three distinct user groups including Spearfishing NZ, affiliated scuba clubs throughout the country and Underwater Hockey NZ.

NZU's large and diverse audience is bound by a common thread of passion for underwater sports and the environment these activities are conducted in. The Association boasts a social media audience of 43,784 followers and conducts regular marketing campaigns focused on safety and environmental issues.

A snapshot of safety-focused media activity for 2018 to date includes:

- 197,470 safety campaign Video Views on YouTube and Social Media
- 3,465,000 safety campaign impressions across a range of advertising networks