

Crayfish 3 Policy

**Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council**



JULY 2014

Goal

To increase the size and abundance of rock lobster in Crayfish 3 (CRA 3) and ensure the needs of customary and amateur fishes are met.

Policy -

- No increase to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) in Crayfish 3 until:
 - The concession enabling commercial fishers to take undersized rock lobster is revoked.
 - There is adequate allowance made for illegal and unseen mortality.
 - The stock is sufficiently abundant to provide for public use in a reasonable manner and timeframe.
 - The stock is capable of meeting the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
 - Those needs have been adequately identified and allowed for.
- Commercial Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) does not adequately reflect the abundance and availability of crayfish to customary and amateur fishes in Area 3.
- The voluntary commercial closure applying in statistical area 909 and 910 from 1 September to 15 January be retained.
- Selected areas within the 30 m depth contour are closed to commercial fishing year-round, to ensure adequate access for customary and amateur fishers.
- Management responsibility of New Zealand's crayfish stocks must be returned to the Crown. Advice from the National Rock Lobster Management Group is considered unbalanced and crafted to benefit commercial users of the crayfish fishery, while barely noting the effect of ongoing low abundance on the ecosystem, associated and dependent species, and non-commercial customary and recreational fishing interests.
- Information on the proportion of concession size fish landed to overall landings, in numbers and weight, must be collected and made available for public review.
- The Minister must implement measures to collect valuable data to inform on the status of the crayfish stock, this includes:
 - Annual recruitment and abundance of pre-recruits; and
 - The full description of the catch and harvest by sex and size.

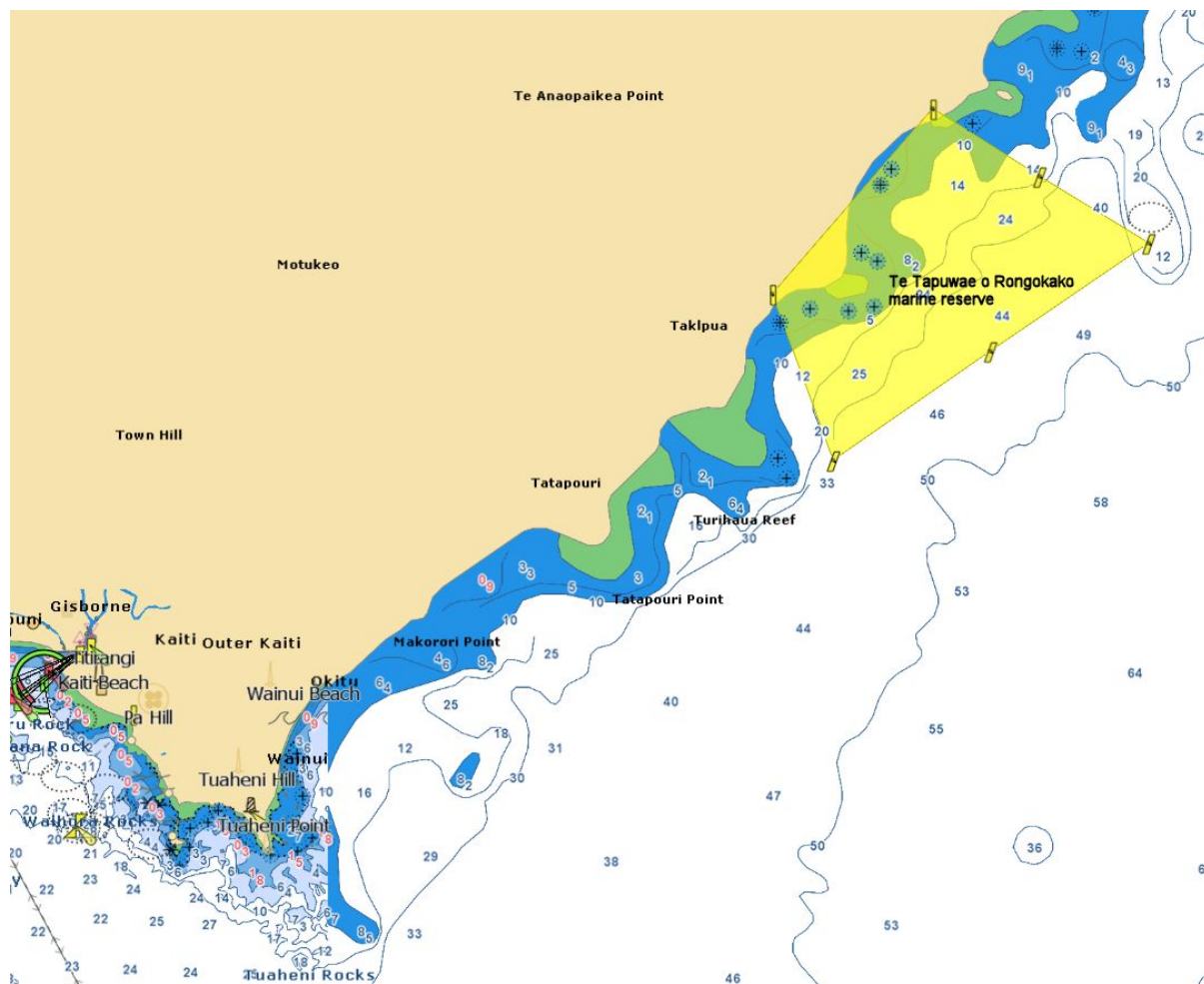


Strategy

1. While recent recruitment has supported improvements in the commercial fishery the availability of rock lobster to non-commercial fishers remains inconsistent, especially in accessible areas north of Gisborne. Increases in the TACC leads to increased commercial effort in areas used by non-commercial fishers, especially closer to town. Any new management strategy must ensure better access to crayfish for customary and amateur fishers.

2. Reduce commercial effort that has collapsed the local fishery near Gisborne. Substantial commercial effort was displaced when Te Tapuwae o Rongokako marine reserve was established in 1999. This marine reserve spans 2450 hectares of coastline and is around 16 kilometres north of Gisborne. Near shore areas (within the 30 m depth contour) either side of the reserve should be closed to commercial rock lobster potting
3. Initiate research and consultation on what additional voluntary measures could be embraced to reduce fishing related mortality, to better look after the environment and to accelerate the rebuild.

Example of the location of the 30 m depth contour north of Gisborne.



This policy was developed by the Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club and in conjunction with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. This policy was ratified and adopted by the NZSFC at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 27th September 2014.

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