

# Kaikoura Earthquake Affected Fisheries



## Discussion document and recommendation

**For:** The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council

**By:** The FMMP Sub-Committee

*July 2017*

## Introduction

In response to the November 2016 earthquake, which saw large portions of the Kaikoura/Cape Campbell coastline raised up to 6 metres, the Minister for Primary Industries evoked the emergency closure powers under section 16 of the Fisheries Act 1996 to close the fishery. Restricting the harvest of inshore shellfish (excluding scampi) and seaweed.

This emergency closure was set to continue for 3 months until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Consultation then opened to decide if the emergency closure would be extended to the full one year term available under section 16 of the Act. [NZSFC submitted supporting the closure.](#) The Ministers decision was to continue this closure until 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

A proposal has now been released to close the fishery under section 11 of the Act. This closure would be put in place until research is carried out to determine when the fishery can reopen and what sustainability measure and management controls would be needed to facilitate this closure.

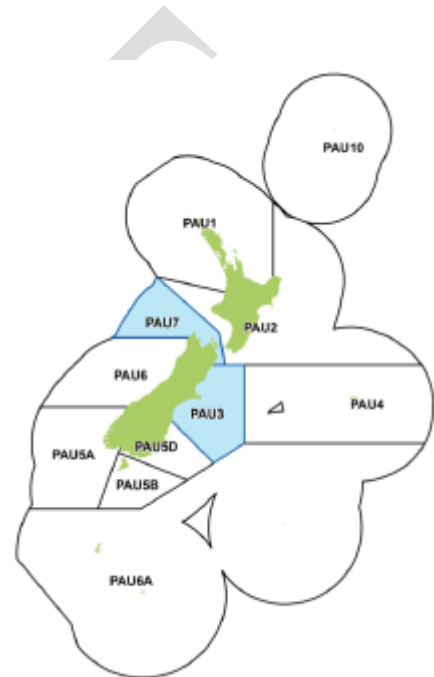
**In a separate consultation**, the Minister is seeking feedback on reductions to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to both PAU3 and PAU7 to reflect uncaught catch due to compensate for the closed areas.

Both processes close on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## Recommendations:

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council submit –

1. In support of Option 2 – replacing the emergency closure with a s11 closure under the Fisheries Act 1996.
2. In support of a XX% reduction in the PAU3 TACC. (between 50-70%, yet to decide based on available info)
3. In support of Option 2 – a 10% reduction in the PAU7 TACC.



## Summary

For the first part, the Minister is proposing two options below:

**Table 1: Proposed options for the earthquake-affected fisheries in Kaikōura and Cape Campbell**

Management action	
Option 1	Take no action. The current emergency closure will expire at 5pm 20 November 2017 and the affected shellfish and seaweed fisheries will be reopened.
Option 2	Replace the emergency closure with a closure under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

It seems clear that an extension of the closure is needed in order for research to be completed to enable the Minister to determine the optimum management settings to protect the future of the fishery.

It is noted that a closure under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996 does not apply to customary fishing permits. Of the two local iwi, one has agreed to not issue any customary permits while the fishery is closed and the other has said it will issue permits for tangi only.



Figure 1 - Proposed Kaikōura closure

To accompany the closure the Ministry is proposing the options below for a reduction in TAC and TACCs –

**Table 1: Proposed management settings in tonnes (t) for PAU 3 and PAU 7 from 1 October 2017**

Stock	Option	Total Allowable Catch (t)	Total Allowable Commercial Catch (t)	TACC tonnage decrease and % change	Allowances		
					Customary Māori (t)	Recreational (t)	All other mortality caused by fishing (t)
PAU 3	Current settings	-	91.615	-	-	-	-
	Option 1	79.3	45.8 ↓	45.8 t ↓ (50%)	15	8.5	10
	Option 2	57.6	27.5 ↓	64.1 t ↓ (70%)	15	5.1	10
PAU 7	Option 1 (Status quo)	133.6	93.6	-	15	15	10
	Option 2	121.8 ↓	84.2 ↓	9.4 t ↓ (10%)	15	12.6 ↓	10
	Option 3	116.5 ↓	79.6 ↓	14 t ↓ (15%)	15	11.9 ↓	10

1. These options have been proposed to try and compensate for the closure, and to reduce additional fishing pressure shifting to the surrounding areas. They are based on the minimum and maximum annual harvest in the closed areas over the previous 15 years.
2. MPI welcome submissions suggesting an intermediate point between these two options.
3. The last assessment of PAU7 estimated that the stock was at 18% B<sub>0</sub> and the TACC was cut by 50% in October 2016.
4. MPI believe the most recent recreational harvest estimates (2011-12 Panel Survey) to be lower than the actual harvest, as gathering from shore was “not well captured”.
5. In 2001 it a system to spread the commercial effort across a wider portion of PAU3 was put in place.
6. Based on data from the last 10 years 50% of PAU3 and <10% of PAU7 commercial harvest was taken from the closed areas.
7. There will be some displacement of recreational fishing, currently it is assumed that this will be minimal.
8. NZSFC have discussed proposals with the Paua Industry Council. They have indicated they intend to:
  - a. Support the closure of the fishery
  - b. Support Option1 for PAU3 (50% decrease) – They believe this is the most representative of the actual harvest in the closed area
  - c. Support Option 1 for PAU7 (Status Quo) – They will instead agree to shelf 10% of their ACE until science shows the fishery can handle the additional pressure.

## Recommendations

1. NZSFC submit supporting the continued closure of the Kaikoura/Cape Campbell fishery.
2. NZSFC support Option 1 for PAU3 - a XX% reduction (at least 50 up to 70%) in TACC with close monitoring of commercial catch per unit of effort.
3. NZSFC support Option 2 for PAU7 - a 10% decrease with an increase dependent on the outcome of new research shows that the fishery is able to sustain the original levels of harvest. Currently, this stock is depleted (in areas proposed to remain open) and some adjustment in TAC for the closure is needed. NZSFC does not support shelving as a first choice management option as the TAC represents all available catch. If catch is not available, the TAC needs to be reduced.