



Dear Inshore Fisheries Stakeholder

Fisheries New Zealand has started the annual sustainability review process for stocks with a fishing year beginning on 1 October. This letter briefly outlines the process and the stocks we have chosen to review along with the supporting rationale. We also provide the rationale for stocks that we have not prioritised for review this year.

In general, we prioritise stocks for review based on the best available information, input from tangata whenua, consultation with stakeholders, and whether or not a utilisation opportunity or a sustainability risk is indicated. In some cases, a stock that is of strong interest to all sectors will be reviewed over a longer time period so that all interested parties can become familiar with the information and provide their input to support the review. The resourcing available to us also limits the number of stocks we are able to review in each process.

Timeline for the October 2018 sustainability review process

The expected timeline for the October 2018 sustainability round is outlined below, although specific dates have yet to be determined.

Step	Date
Public consultation commences	Late June 2018
Public consultation ends (minimum <i>4-6 weeks</i>)	Late July 2018
Decisions expected	September 2018
Decisions effective	1 October 2018

Stocks considered for review

The list of stocks considered for review and the rationale for prioritising, or not, is provided in Appendix 1.

Stakeholders are encouraged to consider the proposals for each stock that will soon be released for consultation, and to provide their detailed submissions in writing or via the template on the Fisheries New Zealand website.

Yours faithfully

Steve Halley
Inshore Fisheries Manager

Appendix One:

Proposed stocks for review – October 2018 sustainability round

Stock	Proposal	Rationale
Tarakihi TAR 1, 2, 3, 7	↓ Decrease catch limits and/or allowances.	New stock assessment information presented in 2018 for TAR 1, 2, 3, 7 indicates a sustainability concern, with stock biomass assessed as below the soft limit of 20% of the unfished level.
Shortfin eel SFE 20-23 [North Island]	- <u>Shortfin eel:</u> No changes proposed.	New stock assessment information, the North Island eel review, and engagement with tangata whenua.
Longfin eel LFE 20-23 [North Island]	↓ <u>Longfin eel:</u> Two options proposed, either <i>status quo</i> or decreases.	
John dory JDO 1	↓ Decrease catch limits and/or allowances.	New stock assessment information presented in 2018 indicates a sustainability concern. The assessment shows that all sub-stocks in JDO1 are below target levels, and catches have been well below the TACC and generally declining since the mid-2000s.
John dory JDO 7	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Current trawl survey information indicates a modest utilisation opportunity.
Flatfish FLA 1	↓ Decrease catch limits and/or allowances.	New stock assessment information presented in 2018 indicates a sustainability concern. The assessment shows that catches have been well below the TACC since the mid-2000s, and CPUE generally declining since the mid-1990s.
Rig SPO 7	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Current information indicates a utilisation opportunity.
Paua PAU 5B (Stewart Island)	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	New stock assessment information presented in 2018 indicates a modest utilisation opportunity.
Green-lipped mussel GLM 9 [90 Mile Beach Northland]	Spat ratio and catch limit options to be confirmed through pre-consultation	Overcatch of the TACC has occurred for the last three fishing years. New information relating to the spat ratio is available.
Scallops in Kaipara Harbour	✘ Closure of fishery	Latest survey information shows low abundance and restricted spatial extent of scallops in the harbour to an extent warranting considering closing this fishery to provide the best chance for the scallops to recover.

Stock	Proposal	Rationale
Kingfish KIN 3	↑ Modest increase in catch limits and/or allowances.	Catch and other data suggests increased abundance and the need to review the current nominal catch limits.
Red gurnard GUR 3	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Current information indicates a modest utilisation opportunity. Updated trawl survey information due in late May.
Elephant fish ELE 3	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Current information indicates a modest utilisation opportunity. Updated trawl survey information due in late May.
Deemed values	Stocks for deemed value review to be confirmed after current rates are reviewed against guidelines.	Reviewing a stock's TAC provides an opportunity to also review its deemed value rate under s75 of the Act.
<i>For the stocks below an extended review timetable is our usual practice for stocks in which all sectors have a direct interest, to ensure all sectors have adequate time to participate in developing management options.</i>		
Snapper SNA 7	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances, and review wider management measures.	The latest assessment suggests that the stock is likely to be at the target and updated recreational catch estimates will be available later this year to allow consideration of the need for review in 2019.
Snapper SNA 8	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Industry has requested a review based on increasing CPUE trends, but we note that this is an important fishery for all sectors and was last assessed to have been below the hard limit of 10% of the unfished level in the mid-2000s. We have proposed a trawl survey to provide a fishery-independent index of abundance as input to a new assessment planned for 2019/20. Catch at age information from 2018/19 and an updated recreational catch estimate will be available in 2019, and will be followed by a review in 2020 if necessary.
Kingfish KIN 7	↑ Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Additional engagement required.
Flatfish FLA 7	↓ Decrease catch limits and/or allowances.	Additional engagement required.

Stocks not prioritised for review because more information or engagement is required before commencing a review:

Stock	Proposal	Rationale
Porae POR 1 & 2	Increase catch limits and/or allowances or amalgamation of POR 1 & 2.	Industry request. Additional rationale is required to support a review based only on catch as this species is relatively long-lived and potentially vulnerable to local depletion.
Red snapper RSN 1 & 2	Increase catch limits and/or allowances or amalgamation of RSN 1 & 2.	Industry request. Additional rationale required to support a review, as for POR above.
Trevally TRE 2	Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Industry request. The stock is considered to be linked to TRE1 and a combined assessment is planned for 2019 to inform a future review.
School shark SCH 5	Decrease catch limits and/or allowances.	Additional information and engagement required.
Snapper SNA 2	Increase catch limits and/or allowances.	Industry request. Recent CPUE trend has been relatively flat and does not support a review at this time.