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Sustainability Review 2019
Fisheries Management
Fisheries New Zealand
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1 July 2020

Submission: Subdivision of PAU 3 paua quota management area

Recommendations

1. That the Minister agrees to subdivide PAU 3 into two new quota management areas as proposed.
2. That the Minister agrees to changing the Fisheries Act 1996 at the earliest opportunity to ease restrictions on subdividing quota management areas (QMAs) so additional benefits of using smaller management units can be secured.

The submitters

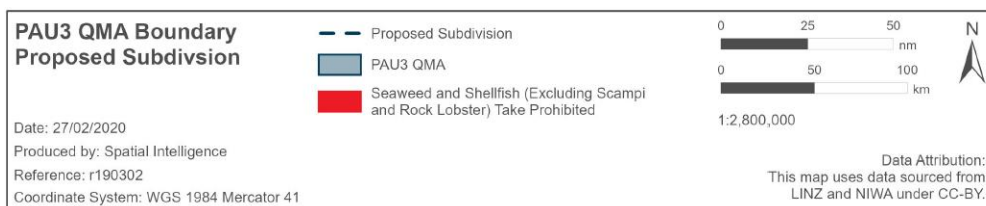
3. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the proposals to subdivide the PAU 3 paua quota management area, with submissions due 1 July 2020.
4. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation with over 36,200 affiliated members from 55 clubs nationwide. The Council has initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support for the need to restore abundance in our inshore marine environment. Also, to broaden NZSFC involvement in marine management advocacy, research, education and alignment on behalf of our members and LegaSea supporters. www.legasea.co.nz. Together we are 'the submitters'.
5. The submitters are committed to ensuring that sustainability measures and environmental management controls are designed and implemented to achieve the Purpose and Principles of the Fisheries Act 1996, including "maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations..." [s8(2)(a) Fisheries Act 1996].
6. The submitters note the consultation time frame of 26 working days for this process. This time frame has allowed some consultation with local recreational interests, our affected clubs and

other representatives organisations including the New Zealand Underwater Association. This year the sustainability round includes 12 inshore species in 15 QMAs which has stretched our resources.

7. Our representatives are available to discuss this submission in more detail if required. We look forward to positive outcomes from this review and would like to be kept informed of future developments. Our contact is Helen Pastor, secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz.

The Proposal

8. PAU3 Industry Association Incorporated (PauaMAC3) have proposed that the PAU3 fishery be subdivided into 2 new QMAs. The proposed subdivision would divide the current area by a line starting from a point on land at the Conway River and proceeding in a straight line in a south-easterly direction to a point on the outer limit of the QMA.
9. The request to subdivide the QMA is made under sections 25 and 25A of the Act, and according to the terms set out in the 'Agreement of Quota Owners Concerning Alteration of PAU3 Quota Management Area' (Agreement) signed by over 90% of PAU3 quota owners. Submissions are due by 2 July 2020.



The submission

10. The submitters note that the recovery of paua in the earthquake affected area of the NE coast of the South Island has been slow and restrictions on commercial fishing remain. There was also a reduction in recreational bag limits in PAU 3 from 10 to 5 in 2019.
11. Paua is an important natural resource highly valued by customary, amateur and commercial fishes as well as international markets. In this instance the subdivision of the QMA will mainly affect quota owners and commercial fishers in PAU 3.
12. The submitters support the subdivision of PAU 3 into two new quota management areas (QMAs) as proposed. The subdivision of catch entitlements will have to be negotiated between quota owners.
13. There are many instances of QMAs established in 1986 that are too large and bear no relation to fish stock boundaries or appropriate management areas. It is a significant failing of the quota management system that sustainability measures cannot be applied to fisheries or stocks unless there is some informal agreement as is the case with tarakihi in TAR 1.
14. The submitters recommend that changes to the Fisheries Act 1996 are made at the earliest opportunity to ease restrictions on subdividing QMAs so additional benefits of using smaller management units can be secured.