



## Recreational daily bag limits and size restrictions for finfish

This document provides an overview of updated recreational daily bag limits for finfish taken in the Auckland/Kermadec, Central, Challenger, South-East or Southland/Sub-Antarctic recreational fishing areas. It is designed to support decisions made as part of the review of recreational daily bag limits for finfish.

The specific regulations for recreational daily bag limits are contained within the [Fisheries \(Amateur Fishing\) Regulations 2013](#).



[Auckland/Kermadec area](#)



[Central area](#)



[Challenger area](#)



[South-East area](#)



[Southland/Sub-Antarctic area](#)

## Auckland/Kermadec fishing area daily bag limits and size restrictions

There is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 20** for finfish. Individual species limit must also not be exceeded.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Blue cod	30 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	20
Blue moki	40	20
Bluenose	-	5
Butterfish	35	20
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	20
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	Daily bag limit of 5 with no more than 3 kingfish
Kingfish	75	
Red cod	25	20
Red gurnard	25	20
Red moki	40	20
Sand flounder	23	20
Snapper (Auckland/Kermadec)	27	15
Snapper (West Coast)	27	10
Snapper (SNA 1)	30	7
Southern bluefin tuna	-	1
Tarakihi	25	20
Trevally	25	20
All other finfish	-	20

In addition, you may also take a maximum of 50 baitfish (daily limit for baitfish)

Baitfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	-	50 of any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	-	
Koheru/Scad	-	
Pilchard	-	
Piper/Garfish	-	
Slender/Stout sprat	-	
Yellow-eyed mullet	-	

and

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Eel	-	6

## Central fishing area daily bag limits and size restrictions

There is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 20** for finfish. Individual species limit must also not be exceeded.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Blue cod – Egmont area <i>Taranaki to Titahi Bay</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10
Blue cod – Central East area <i>Titahi Bay to Cape Runaway</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	20
Blue moki	40	20
Bluenose	-	5
Butterfish	35	20
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	20
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	Daily bag limit of 5 with no more than 3 kingfish
Kingfish	75	
Quinnat Salmon	-	4
Red cod	25	20
Red gurnard	25	20
Red moki	40	20
Sand flounder	23	20
Snapper	27	10
Southern bluefin tuna	-	1
Tarakihi	25	20
Trevally	25	20
All other finfish	-	20

In addition, you may also take a maximum of 50 baitfish (daily limit for baitfish)

Baitfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	-	50 for any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	-	
Koheru/Scad	-	
Pilchard	-	
Piper/Garfish	-	
Slender/Stout sprat	-	
Yellow-eyed mullet	-	

and

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Eel	-	6

## Challenger fishing area daily bag limits and size restrictions

There is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 20** for finfish. Individual species limit must also not be exceeded.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Blue cod –Tasman area <i>Farewell Spit to Clarence River including Marlborough Sounds</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	2*
Blue cod –Kahurangi area <i>Heaphy River to Farewell Spit Light House</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10**
Blue cod – Westland area <i>Haast River to Heaphy River</i>	33 <i>landed whole, gutted or headed <sup>1</sup> and gutted</i>	15
Blue cod –South West area <i>Sand Hill Point to South Bank of Haast River</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10
Blue moki	40	20
Bluenose	-	5
Butterfish	35	20
Flatfish	25	20
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	Daily bag limit of 5 with no more than 3 kingfish
Kingfish	75	
Quinnat salmon	-	4
Red cod	25	20
Red gurnard	25	20
Red moki	40	20
Snapper (Challenger)	25	10
Snapper (Marlborough Sounds Area)	25	3
Southern bluefin tuna	-	1
Tarakihi	25	20
Trevally	25	20
All other finfish	-	20

\* You can possess up to 4 blue cod in the Tasman Area (includes the Marlborough Sounds Area) if you can prove that no more than 2 of those blue cod were taken on any one day from the Tasman Area. This restriction applies if you caught the fish from outside of the Tasman Area and want to transit into the Tasman Area.

\*\* You can possess up to 20 blue cod in the Challenger Kahurangi if you can prove that no more than 10 blue cod were taken on any one day.

<sup>1</sup> Where permitted, headed state minimum length is 24cm and is measured from the base of the side pectoral fin to the middle ray of the tail fin.

In addition, you may also take a maximum of 50 baitfish (daily limit for baitfish)

Baitfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	-	50 of any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	-	
Koheru/Scad	-	
Pilchard	-	
Piper/Garfish	-	
Slender/Stout sprat	-	
Yellow-eyed mullet	-	

and

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Eel	-	6

## South-East fishing area daily bag limits and size restrictions

There is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 30** for finfish. Individual species limit must also not be exceeded.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Blue cod – Kaikōura area <i>Clarence River to Hurunui River</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10
Blue cod - The Whata Kai o Rakihouia i Te Tai o Marokura / Kaikōura Marine Area	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	6
Blue Cod – Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Maui Taiāpure and Oaro-Haumuri Taiāpure	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	2
Blue cod – Canterbury area <i>Hurunui River to Rakaia River</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	2 <i>Including in the Akaroa Taiāpure</i>
Blue cod – North Otago <i>Rakaia River to Taiaroa Head</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10
Blue cod – East Otago Taiāpure	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	2
Blue cod – Chatham Islands	33 <i>landed whole, gutted or headed <sup>1</sup> and gutted</i>	15
Blue cod – Southern Area <i>Sand Hill Point to Taiaroa Head</i>	33 <i>landed whole, gutted or headed <sup>1</sup> and gutted</i>	15
Blue moki	40	15* †
Blue shark	-	1††
Bluenose	-	5†
Bronze shark	-	1
Butterfish	35	15* †
Elephant fish	-	5
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	30
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	Daily bag limit of 5† with no more than 3 kingfish
Kingfish	75	
Hammerhead shark	-	1††
Kahawai	-	15†
Ling	-	30†
Mako shark	-	1††
Marlin	-	1

Porbeagle shark	-	1††
Quinnat salmon	-	2
Red cod	25	10*
Red gurnard	25	30
Red moki	40	15**
Rig	-	5†
Sand Flounder	23	30
School Shark	-	5†
Seven gilled shark	-	1††
Skate/Ray	-	5
Snapper	25	10
Southern bluefin tuna	-	1
Spiny dogfish	-	15
Tarakihi	25	15†
Thresher shark	-	1††
Trevally	25	30
Trumpeter	35	15*
Warehou	-	15
All other finfish	-	30

\*Limit of 3 in the Akaroa Harbour Taiapure.

\*\* No take in the Te Whata Kai o Rakihouia i Te Tai o Marokura - the Kaikoura Marine Area.

†Separate daily limits apply within Te Whata Kai o Rakihouia i Te Tai o Marokura - the Kaikoura Marine Area.

†† A maximum of 1 1 game shark per fisher is permitted within Te Whata Kai o Rakihouia i Te Tai o Marokura - the Kaikoura Marine Area

† Where permitted, headed state minimum length is 24cm and is measured from the base of the side pectoral fin to the middle ray of the tail fin.

In addition, you may also take a maximum of 50 baitfish (daily limit for baitfish)

Baitfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	-	50 of any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	-	
Koheru/Scad	-	
Pilchard	-	
Piper/Garfish	-	
Slender/Stout sprat	-	
Yellow-eyed mullet	-	

and

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Eel	-	6



## Southland/Sub-Antarctic fishing area daily bag limits and size restrictions

There is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 30** for finfish. Individual species limit must also not be exceeded.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Blue cod – Southern Area <i>Sand Hill Point to Slope Point</i>	33 <i>landed whole, gutted or headed <sup>1</sup> and gutted</i>	15
Blue cod –South West area <i>Awarua point to Sand Hill Point</i>	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	10
Blue cod – Te Whaka ā Te Wera/Paterson Inlet Mātaitai Reserve	33 <i>landed whole, gutted or headed <sup>1</sup> and gutted</i>	10
Blue cod – Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area inlet waters (excluding Doubtful, Thompson, and Bradshaw Sounds)	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	3
Blue cod - Doubtful (Patea), Thompson, and Bradshaw Sounds	33 <i>landed whole or gutted only</i>	1
Blue moki	40	15
Blue shark	-	1
Bluenose	-	5
Bronze shark	-	1
Butterfish	35	15
Elephant fish	-	5
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	30*
Hammerhead shark	-	1
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	Daily bag limit of 5** with no more than 3 kingfish
Kingfish	75	
Kahawai	-	15
Mako shark	-	1
Marlin	-	1
Porbeagle shark	-	1
Quinnat salmon	-	2
Red cod	25	10
Red gurnard	25	30
Red moki	40	15
Rig	-	5
Sand flounder	23	30
School Shark	-	5
Sea perch/Jock Stewart - (Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area)	-	10
Seven gilled shark	-	1

Skate/Ray	-	5
Southern bluefin tuna	-	1
Spiny dogfish	-	15
Tarakihi	25	15
Thresher shark	-	1
Trevally	25	30
Trumpeter	35	15
Warehou	-	15
All other finfish	-	30

\*A limit of 10 for flatfish within the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area inlet waters.

\*\*A limit of 3 for Groper/Hapuku/Bass within the Te Whaka ā Te Wera/Paterson Inlet Mātaitai Reserve.

<sup>1</sup>Where permitted, headed state minimum length is 24cm and is measured from the base of the side pectoral fin to the middle ray of the tail fin.

In addition, you may also take a maximum of 50 baitfish (daily limit for baitfish)

Baitfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	-	50 of any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	-	
Koheru/Scad	-	
Pilchard	-	
Piper/Garfish	-	
Slender/Stout sprat	-	
Yellow-eyed mullet	-	

and

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Maximum daily limit per active fisher
Eel	-	6