



14 June 2022

Tēnā koe

## **Review of fisheries sustainability measures for October 2022**

Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback from tangata whenua, stakeholders, and the public on proposed changes to sustainability measures for the 2022 October fishing year. Fisheries sustainability measures are reviewed twice-yearly covering stocks with a 1 October and 1 April fishing years and provide for the sustainable use of our fisheries resources.

Fisheries New Zealand is currently reviewing catch limits, allowances and deemed values for 20 different fish stocks. An additional five stocks are also being reviewed for a change in deemed values only.

The proposals for each fish stock have been assessed in the context of the relevant statutory requirements and using the best available scientific information. MPI's Fishery Assessment Plenary Report is considered the best available information on stock status and is given significant weighting in these proposals.

Appendix One of this letter outlines which stocks have been chosen for review, along with a brief supporting rationale for their proposed changes.

Detailed information on these proposals can be found in consultation papers on the Fisheries New Zealand website at: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-2022-october-round>. Alternatively, hard copies of these documents may be requested at the email or postal addresses provided below.

### **Making a submission**

All submissions should be received by **5pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**.

Submissions should be emailed to: [FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)

Alternatively, submissions can be sent by mail to the following postal address:

2022 Sustainability Review  
Fisheries Management  
Fisheries New Zealand  
PO BOX 2526  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

**Fisheries New Zealand**  
**Fisheries Management**  
Charles Fergusson Building  
34-38 Bowen Street  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
[mpi.govt.nz](http://mpi.govt.nz)

## Consultation on East Coast tarakihi

Fisheries New Zealand is running a separate consultation on changes to East Coast tarakihi stocks (TAR 2, TAR 3 and the east portions of TAR 1 and TAR 7). The consultation for East Coast tarakihi was commenced earlier to provide more time for the review of final advice for the fishery and decision making ahead of the 1 October 2022 fishing year. That consultation closes at **5pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.

Details of the tarakihi consultation, including instructions for how to submit, can be found on our website at: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-east-coast-tarakihi-sustainability-measures-for-1-october-2022/>.

### Submissions are public information

Note that your submission is public information. Submissions may be the subject of requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA specifies that information is to be made available to requesters unless there is sufficient grounds for withholding it, as set out in the OIA. Submitters may wish to indicate grounds for withholding specific information contained in their submission, such as the information being commercially sensitive or if they wish personal information to be withheld. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

Nāku iti noa nā



Emma Taylor  
Director Fisheries Management  
Fisheries New Zealand

## Appendix One: Proposed sustainability measures for the October 2022 sustainability round

**Table 1:** Stocks proposed to have their catch limits, allowances and deemed values reviewed as part of the 1 October 2022 sustainability round.

Species	Stock (area)	Proposal	Rationale for review
<b>Deepwater species</b>			
Hoki	HOK 1 - All of New Zealand (excludes Kermadec)	↓	The 2022 HOK 1 stock assessment estimated the western stock to be below the management target range (35-50% B <sub>0</sub> ). Fisheries New Zealand is proposing an option to decrease the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and western stock catch limit of HOK 1 to move the western stock back within the target management range in a shorter timeframe.
Scampi	SCI 1 - East Coast of Auckland and Northland, Bay of Plenty	↑	An updated Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) analysis indicates that scampi abundance in SCI 1 has increased since 2019, and in its last accepted assessment, the stock was estimated as very likely to be above management target. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to increase the TAC and TACC for SCI 1 to provide for greater utilisation.
Gemfish	SKI 3 & 7 - Entire South Island, Chatham Rise, West Coast off Taranaki and Wellington	↑	CPUE analyses have suggested an increase in biomass of SKI 3 and SKI 7 in recent years. The TACs and TACCs of both stocks were increased in 2019 and in 2021. Since those increases were implemented, landings have continued to increase, and the best available information indicates that biomass is likely to continue to increase. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to increase the TACs and TACCs of SKI 3 and SKI 7 to enable greater utilisation of the stocks.
<b>Inshore species</b>			
Rough and smooth skates	RSK 8 & SSK 8 West Coast North Island	↑	Catches of RSK 8 have been consistently above the TACC since the stock's introduction to the QMS in 2003. Catches for SSK 8 have exceeded the TACC since 2007/08 and have been particularly high in the past five years. These trends in catches could suggest that there is an opportunity to provide for increased utilisation and that the current TACCs may no longer be appropriate. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to increase the TACs, TACCs and deemed values for both RSK 8 and SSK 8 to align with recent trends in the fisheries and provide for greater utilisation.
Blue warehou	WAR 2 & WAR 8 Taranaki, Wellington, East Cape, Hawke's Bay	↓	Commercial landings WAR 2 and WAR 8 have been trending downwards over the past decade and in the last fishing year, WAR 2 and WAR 8 landings were <10% and 30% of the TACC, respectively. While current catch levels are unlikely to pose sustainability risks, there is uncertainty as to whether catches would be sustainable if the TACCs were fully utilised. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to set the TACs and allowances for WAR 2 and WAR 8 and decrease the TACC to ensure catches remain sustainable in the future.
West Coast South Island multi-species (snapper, red gurnard and rig)	SNA 7, GUR 7 & SPO 7 West Coast and Top of South Island	- / ↑	Recent stock assessments and other information suggests that there is an opportunity to provide for greater utilisation of SNA 7 and GUR 7. Rig is caught as associated bycatch in these fisheries, so an adjustment to management settings of SPO 7 may also be appropriate in line with changes to utilisation of those stocks. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to increase the TACs and TACCs of SNA 7 and GUR 7, and an option to adjust the TAC, allowances and TACC for SPO 7 in line with best available information on the fishery.

Species	Stock (area)	Proposal	Rationale for review
<b>Inshore species</b>			
<b>Blue cod</b>	<b>BCO 7</b> - West Coast and Top of South Island	↓	BCO 7 is an important domestic shared fishery. While recent surveys suggest the overall abundance of blue cod has remained fairly stable since 2017, the fishery is below the target biomass and all indicators point to fishing pressure reducing the size and abundance of blue cod in the main fishing area of the Marlborough Sounds. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to set the TAC and allowances of BCO 7, and to decrease the TACC to reduce fishing pressure. Fisheries New Zealand is also seeking feedback on whether other measures, such as extending the closed season or voluntary approaches, would help recovery of the stock towards its management target.
<b>Red gurnard</b>	<b>GUR 3</b> East Coast South Island, Chatham Rise, Southland, Sub-Antarctic, Rakiura and Fiordland	↑	Recent assessments for East Coast South Island trawl species indicate that the GUR 3 stock has continued to increase in abundance since the stock was last reviewed in October 2020 and there is an opportunity to provide for greater utilisation. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to increase the TAC, TACC, and allowances for GUR 3 to enable greater utilisation of the stock.
<b>Rig</b>	<b>SPO 3</b> East Coast South Island, Chatham Rise, Southland, Sub-Antarctic, Rakiura and Fiordland	↑	Recent assessments and biomass estimates for rig in SPO 3 are variable and uncertain, however, they indicate biomass in SPO 3 could be increasing. Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback on whether there is an opportunity for a modest increase in the TAC and TACC of SPO 3.
<b>Attached bladder kelp</b>	<b>KBB 3G &amp; 4G</b> - East coast and Chatham Islands	↓	Bladder kelp has an important role in coastal and marine ecosystems and provides critical habitat for other important marine species. Information since these stocks were included in the QMS suggests the spatial extent of the kelp beds in KBB 3G and 4G has declined. Fisheries New Zealand is proposing options to lower the TACs and TACCs for KBB 3G and 4G to ensure that commercial harvests remain sustainable in the future.

**Table 2:** Summary of stocks proposed for standalone deemed value reviews as part of the 1 October 2022 sustainability round.

Species	Stock (area)	Proposal	Rationale for review
<b>Snapper</b>	<b>SNA 2</b> – East Cape, Hawke's Bay, Wellington	↓	SNA 2 deemed value rates are higher than rates for the adjacent SNA 8 stock and there are no sustainability concerns with this stock. A reduction in deemed value is being proposed to account for these factors.
<b>Trevally</b>	<b>TRE 1</b> - East Coast of Northland, Auckland and Bay of Plenty	↑	Landed price for TRE 1 has more than doubled in the last five years while deemed value rates have remained unchanged. An adjustment to TRE 1 deemed value rates is being proposed to account for these factors.
<b>Kingfish</b>	<b>KIN 3</b> – East Coast South Island, Southland and Sub-Antarctic	↓	Ongoing range expansion of kingfish means that the current deemed value rates for KIN 3 may not create appropriate incentives for fishers to land catch. As a result, an adjustment to the KIN 3 deemed value rate is proposed.
	<b>KIN 7 &amp; KIN 8</b> - All of West Coast	↓	Deemed value rates for KIN 7 and 8 are well above landed price and may not create appropriate incentives for fishers to land catch. An adjustment is being proposed to account for these factors.