

Marty Sullivan  
President  
Kaikōura Boating and Fishing Club  
PO Box 98  
Kaikōura 7340  
E: [info@Kaikouraboatingclub.org.nz](mailto:info@Kaikouraboatingclub.org.nz)



Inshore Fisheries Management  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
E: [FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz)

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## Kaikōura pāua fishery reopening submission

### The submitters

1. The Kaikōura Boating and Recreational Fishing Club (**KBRFC**) appreciates the opportunity to submit feedback on the Fisheries New Zealand (**FNZ**) proposal to reopen the Kaikōura coastline to pāua, and other shellfish and seaweed fishing for the 2022-23 fishing year. FNZ Discussion Paper 2022/18.
2. The KBRFC is a recognised local Kaikōura based sports organisation with approximately 448 members (<https://Kaikouraboatingclub.org.nz/>). It is the largest recreational fishing club in the South Island, and the objectives of the Club are:
  - To provide members with facilities for boating
  - To lobby for the preservation and enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities for members
  - To do all such other things as shall be considered necessary or desirable to attain the objects of the Club.
3. The KBRFC is a member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, a recognised national sports organisation of 53 affiliated clubs with over 38,000 members nationwide. The Council has initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support to restored abundance.
4. The KBRFC is committed to ensuring that sustainability measures and environmental management controls are designed and implemented to achieve the Purpose and Principles of the Fisheries Amendment Act 2022. This includes maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, the Minister using best available information to make precautionary decisions, and the Minister setting aside a reasonable allowance for recreational fishers before setting the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (**TACC**).
5. The KBRFC Committee are democratically elected by club members and 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 our President Marty Sullivan.

## Submission

6. **The KBRFC make these comments** in relation to the proposed reopening of the pāua fishery along the Kaikoura coastline. We recognise there may be different issues affecting other pāua fisheries around the country.

## Season

7. **The KBRFC supports a 3-month open season** for recreational pāua gathering, opening on 1 May 2023 and closing on 31 July 2023.
8. We believe it is better for the Kaikōura pāua fishery to shift the season away from the busy Christmas period when there has traditionally been a lot of pāua taken by day visitors.

## Daily bag limit

9. **The KBRFC supports** the existing accumulation limit of 2 daily bag limits for recreational pāua fishers.
10. **The KBRFC supports** a recreational daily bag limit of 5 pāua per person, per day.
11. **The KBRFC supports** including blackfoot pāua and yellowfoot pāua in the combined recreational daily bag limit of 5 per person.
12. **The KBRFC supports** greater visibility of MPI compliance staff during the open season. There have been problems in the past with our members trying to encourage others to stick to the bag limits, but this is difficult when people don't think they will be caught by a MPI Fisheries Officer.

## Minimum legal size

13. **The KBRFC supports** the existing minimum legal size limit of 80mm for yellowfoot pāua taken by recreational fishers.
14. **The KBRFC supports** Fisheries New Zealand's Option 1, to retain the existing minimum recreational legal size for blackfoot pāua at 125mm.
15. **The KBRFC is concerned** that increasing the size limit will put recreational fishers at risk because they will stay longer in the water during winter trying to find bigger pāua to take home, creating a health and safety issue.
16. **The KBRFC is also concerned** that more pāua may die as a result of increasing the recreational minimum legal size for pāua. Recreational fishers tend to handle more pāua than commercial fishers because they are less experienced. Higher release mortality is not good for our fishery which is recovering from the impacts of the 2016 earthquakes.

## Maximum vehicle limit

17. **The KBRFC supports** Fisheries New Zealand's Option 1, to set a maximum vehicle and vessel daily limit of up to 10 pāua, which is 2 daily bag limits of 5 each.
18. **The KBRFC believes** a maximum limit of 10 pāua will help manage total catch from the fishery. Last season we had a noticeable problem with large groups of people in the water and everyone taking their daily bag limit. That was a lot of catch taken in one day. It didn't take long

for the wadable depths at some easily accessed areas to be fished out, leaving no legal sized pāua for other people to enjoy.

19. **The KBRFC supports** a maximum vehicle and vessel limit of up to 4 daily bag limits if the recreational limit is reduced to less than 5 pāua per person, per day.

### **In-season survey**

20. **The KBRFC supports** an in-season survey of recreational catch.

### **Commercial fishing**

21. **The KBRFC supports** retaining the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (**TACC**) at 23 tonnes until the Minister reviews the Total Allowable Catch (**TAC**), adjusts the non-commercial allowances and the allowance for fishing related mortality, and then resets the TACC.