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17 July 2023

## **Submission: Review of management measures for kina (SUR 1A & SUR 1B) for 2023/24**

### **Recommendations**

1. **We recommend the Minister supports FNZ's Option 3 for SUR 1A** – a 55% increase to 267 t to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), increase the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) to 100 t, increase the Māori customary catch to 100 t, retain the recreational allowance of 65 t, and retain the 2 t allowance for all other sources of mortality.
2. **We recommend the Minister supports FNZ's Option 3 for SUR 1B** – a 57% increase to 509 t to the TAC, increase the TACC to 280 t, increase the Māori customary catch to 135 t, retain the recreational allowance of 90 t, and retain the 4 t allowance for all other sources of mortality.
3. **The Minister acknowledges** that any increase to the catch limit is not a management measure to be used in isolation to address kina barrens, and that a suite of management methods will be required for long-term ecosystem restoration.
4. **The Minister supports** the development of a monitoring plan which implements data from Geospatial Position Reporting (GPR) to map the change in the area and extent of the commercial harvest of kina in SUR 1A and SUR 1B.

## The Submitters

5. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (**NZSFC**) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the review of sustainability measures for kina, SUR 1A (East Northland) and SUR 1B (Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty) for 2023-24. Fisheries New Zealand's (FNZ) Discussion paper No: 2023/05 was received on 7 June 2023, with submissions due by 17 July 2023.
6. The NZ Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation of 50 affiliated clubs with over 36,700 members 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. [legasea.co.nz](http://legasea.co.nz).
7. The New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (**NZACA**) is the representative body for its 24 member clubs throughout the country. The Association promotes recreational fishing and the camaraderie of enjoying the activity with fellow fishers. The NZACA is committed to protecting fish stocks and representing its members' right to fish.
8. Collectively we are '*the submitters*'. The joint 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].
9. 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](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).

## Background

10. The Total Allowable Catch (**TAC**) settings for SUR 1A (East Northland) and SUR 1B (Hauraki Gulf/Bay of Plenty) have remained the same since 2003 when they were introduced into the Quota Management System (**QMS**).
11. SUR 1A and SUR 1B are recognised as target fisheries where commercial harvesting is conducted through hand gathering whilst freediving. The selective nature of this method ensures that there is negligible bycatch or incidental mortality of kina and non-target species.
12. There is currently no stock status estimate for SUR 1A and SUR 1B. However, Fisheries New Zealand (**FNZ**) has advised that the commercial catch limits for kina within these stocks have been fully or over-caught under the current catch settings.



13. Additionally, information from fishers, scientists and other stakeholders including localised areas surveys suggests kina abundance is high in many areas, to an extent where kina are having an impact on the wider marine ecosystem in the form of kina barrens.
14. In the absence of a status of the stock estimate, FNZ have advised that catch per unit effort (CPUE) monitoring is the most effective approach for monitoring kina fisheries in New Zealand and a precautionary approach must be applied when setting the TAC.

## Proposed changes

15. FNZ has released a [Discussion Document](#) proposing changes to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), and allowances for kina in Quota Management Areas (QMA) SUR 1A and SUR 1B.
16. FNZ are proposing three options for SUR 1A and SUR 1B stocks, as outlined in Table 1. Options 2 and 3 provide for a modest increase to the TAC and are considered to be a cautious approach when considering the likely overall biomass of kinas within the QMAs.

Table 1: Proposed management options (in tonnes) for SUR 1A and SUR 1B from 1 October 2023.

Stock	Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
				Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
SUR 1A	Option 1 (Status quo)	172	40	65	65	2
	Option 2	247 (↑ 75 t)	80 (↑ 40 t)	100 (↑ 35 t)	65	2
	Option 3	267 (↑ 95 t)	100 (↑ 60 t)	100 (↑ 35 t)	65	2
SUR 1B	Option 1 (Status quo)	324	140	90	90	4
	Option 2	439 (↑ 115 t)	210 (↑ 70 t)	135 (↑ 45 t)	90	4
	Option 3	509 (↑ 185 t)	280 (↑ 140 t)	135 (↑ 45 t)	90	4

## Discussion

17. FNZ state that the “proposed increases to catch limits are not intended as a measure to use in isolation to address kina barrens”. [At 10]
18. Harvesting of kina may lead to an increase in the abundance of macroalgal and invertebrate species which will therefore lead to an increase in associated biodiversity.
19. We note that although kina removal alone will not improve the state of kina barrens over the long-term, FNZ advises that grooming or rotational fishing may assist in mitigating future expansion of kina barrens in commercially fished areas.
20. The occurrence of kina barrens as a result of the removal of large predators through fishing is known to degrade productive kelp forests. The loss of habitat and biodiversity is significant in the area affected, but the full extent of impacts on the wider ecosystem is unknown.

21. In March 2023, NZSFC representatives attended the National Workshop on kina barrens and kina management. This FNZ workshop was held to discuss scientific research and future research priorities for the management of kina barrens. This should include funding for studies in New Zealand, learning from overseas research and supporting local community initiatives.
22. Workshop attendees agreed that while kina removal can support kelp regrowth of macroalgae, it does not address the underlying cause of elevated kina populations and is not a long-term solution for ecosystem recovery.
23. The submitters support FNZ in their application of a kina barren management plan to be applied alongside an increase in TAC, including increased removal and/or translocation of kina in locations of barrens and increased abundance of known predator populations.
24. There is currently no established reference points to use for estimating maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or recognised approach for assessing the status of kina around New Zealand.
25. The use of CPUE to monitor changes in stock biomass may be of interest in specific locations, however, CPUE is affected by fishing location and selectivity so must be supported with other monitoring approaches.
26. **We recommend the Minister requires mapping of geospatial positions** from the Electronic Reporting System to track changes in the extent of the commercial harvest footprint as a result of an increased TACC.
27. **We submit in support of Option 3 for both SUR 1A and SUR 1B.** The Minister increases the TAC with an increase to the TACC and the allowance set aside for Māori customary catch.
28. While we note FNZ's advice that the commercial catch limits for kina within SUR 1A & 1B have been fully or over-caught under the current catch settings, we support the proposed increases in the TAC because they represent a selective, low impact fishery where we consider there will be no increase in bycatch and incidental mortality of non-target species.