

Hon Rachel Brooking

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister for the Environment

Associate Minister of Immigration



13 August 2023

B23-0539

Tēnā koe,

Changes to sustainability measures for the Central and Lower North Island pāua fishery (PAU 2)

I write to inform you of the decisions I have made on sustainability measures for the Central and Lower North Island pāua fishery (**PAU 2**).

PAU 2 is a shared fishery, highly valued by customary Māori, recreational, and commercial fishers. Pāua are also considered a taonga (treasured) species by tangata whenua.

Tangata whenua and recreational fishers in the Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, and Taranaki regions have observed high levels of recreational harvest in recent years and localised depletion as a result, particularly along easily accessible parts of the coast.

In response to concerns raised by tangata whenua at the Mai Paritu tae atu ki Turakirae Iwi Fisheries Forum, the previous Minister for Oceans and Fisheries initiated a sustainability review for PAU 2. The aim of the review was to set a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and allowances for PAU 2 for the first time, as the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) had been set previously and is considered to be sustainable. In addition, the review assessed the sustainability of the recreational daily bag limit.

My decisions take into consideration the uncertainty in the status of the stock in parts of PAU 2 outside of commercially fished regions, evidence from local communities and tangata whenua, as well as feedback and submissions received from tangata whenua and stakeholders during consultation.

My decisions intend to provide for the sustainability of this high value fishery and address increased recreational pressure in recent years due to population growth and increasing accessibility of coastal regions.

The Decision Document that informed my decisions is available on the Fisheries New Zealand website (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-for-paua-2023-april-round/>).

TAC, TACC, and allowances:

I have decided to set the TAC and allowances for PAU 2 as follows:

	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
Previous Settings	N/A	121.188	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Settings	192.188	121.188	12	48	11

I used current estimates of customary Māori, recreational, and commercial harvest to inform setting the TAC.

My decision on the allowances are based on the best available information regarding harvest, input from tangata whenua, and feedback received during consultation. The customary Māori allowance is consistent with the most recent harvest estimates to provide for current utilisation opportunities. I have used estimates of illegal harvest rates and incidental mortality to inform my decision on the allowance for all other sources of mortality caused by fishing. Regarding recreational allowance, I have set the allowance approximately 42% lower than the current estimates of recreational harvest to acknowledge concerns of localised depletion and pressure from recreational fishing.

The best available information suggests that the biomass of pāua in the commercially fished region of PAU 2 (along the Wairarapa coast) is above the management target under current catch levels. Therefore, I have decided to retain the current TACC setting.

My decisions on the TAC and allowances will be gazetted in September 2023 and will take effect from the beginning of the fishing year on 1 October 2023.

Recreational Daily Bag Limit

I have decided to reduce the recreational daily bag limit for pāua in PAU 2 from 10 yellowfoot pāua and 10 blackfoot pāua per fisher per day to 5 of each species per fisher, per day. The new recreational daily bag limit will come into effect on 4 September 2023.

Reducing the recreational daily bag limit will help to maintain recreational harvest within the new recreational allowance. The bag limit reduction also aims to alleviate localised depletion and provide for the long term sustainability of pāua across PAU 2.

Nāku noa, na,



Hon Rachel Brooking
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries