



Life Members:
Trevor Cox, Debra Morris, Lex Coutts,
Brent Gracey, Bruce Rule

Patron:
Graeme Sinclair

Proposed technical amendments to fisheries regulations

About us

The Ferrymead Fishing Club has been around for more than 20 years and proudly promotes itself as a safety-conscious family fishing club. The Club was formed around 1995 by a mix of fresh and saltwater anglers keen to share in a club organisation. In 1997 we became an incorporated society, and our club is a member of the International Game Fishing Association.

The club offers opportunities for boat-based and land-based anglers, targeting either freshwater or saltwater fish. Many of our anglers also enjoy diving.

Families are a very important aspect of our club. There are trophies for the junior anglers to aim for and we endeavour to plan activities and trips throughout the year to include the whole family where possible. We really enjoy seeing the kids getting out there and having a go. For Christmas we hold a Club BBQ and Kid's Prizegiving which is very popular! To encourage the whole family to fish together we also offer a family membership with reduced subscriptions.

As a club we are proudly represented in most local fresh and saltwater fishing events and we also host a number of our own inter-club competitions.

Regular trips are organised during the year covering both salt and freshwater fishing. Throughout the year we organise trips out of the immediate Canterbury area to places like Kaikoura (March), French Pass (June), Lake Benmore (Queen's Birthday) and Moeraki (October). Every couple of years or so will often see an organised trip to fishing grounds further afield - some past trips included Fiordland, Whakatane, D'Urville Island and Chathams.

We hold a club night once a month on the 2nd Monday of each month. These meetings keep our members up to date with what's happening for our club (they're also a perfect chance to catch up with each other). Whenever possible we also have a guest speaker at the meeting or workshops on fishing tackle, techniques, boating safety, etc.

We have approximately 100 members.

Submission

This submission is made by Peter Rivers, Ferrymead Fishing Club Secretary, on behalf of the club. The views presented represent those of club members in respect of the proposed amendments that affect them and has been authorised by the club committee.

The club appreciates the opportunity to submit on these technical amendments and would like to be consulted with and kept informed as they proceed. Particularly on those below where we have submitted, but also on the other changes.

Proposals 1 to 7

The club supports efforts to see a more compliant commercial fishing industry. These amendments appear to progress that so are supported by the club.

Proposals 8 & 9

The club supports these proposals provided that they apply equally to commercial and recreational fishers. The size limits adopted should be suitably large to leave no doubt that the cray meets the definition of legal.

Proposal 10

The club strongly opposes any amendment to allow commercial fishers to take scallops using SCUBA.

The scallop fishery in New Zealand is in a dire state with many areas closed to any take. Recognising that there are multiple factors contributing to this but in terms of take a large contributor is commercial dredging.

Quota holders have a right to take scallops using their traditional means (dredging) but where environmental damage has precluded the future use of this method, the club considers that does not confer a right to take scallops by a new means. Further, it is imperative that the fishery is allowed to recover strongly before areas are opened and because of the speed with which they can harvest large areas, commercial dredging should only be allowed once abundance is proven and then carefully monitored.

It is important to recognise that recreational fishers do not have the time, funds, or vessels to travel to distant fisheries. Commercial realities being what they are, commercial fishers will put their effort where costs are lower before travelling further. This means that the areas close to port get fished harder and it becomes increasingly difficult for a recreational fisher to catch a feed from the shore or within the range of their vessel. The areas within 10 – 20 miles of a port/boat ramp should be rigorously reserved for recreational and customary take.

Proposal 11

The club strongly opposes the commercial use of spearfishing to take fish.

Our experience largely relates to Banks Peninsular, but we believe that similar issues exist elsewhere. Once the marine mammals' protections were put in place preventing of commercial netting, the butterfly and blue moki fishery around Banks Peninsular began to significantly improve. It is now realistic for recreation spear fishers to collect a feed along most of the coast of Banks Peninsular including from the shore and using small craft such as dinghies, paddleboards, and kayaks. Access to a feed is now much easier from bays such as Boulder Bay, Te Oka Bay, Tumbledown Bay, and most other bays around the Peninsular.

The fishery is protected from recreational pressure by the intersection of limitations of available free time, the very limited weather windows, and the fisher's physical condition. We believe that opening this fishery to commercial take would see it rapidly deteriorate as a result of higher commercial skill and techniques and much larger window of fishing availability. We believe that it would rapidly deteriorate to the point where it ceased to be possible for a recreational spearo to get a feed.

Similarly, we consider that the quota was allocated based on historical methods and should not automatically open to other methods when the quota method ceases to be acceptable.

Proposal 12

The club does not have a position on data transmission cables beyond a comment that all care should be taken by the industry and the Regulator to ensure that seabirds are protected and their losses minimised.

Proposal 15

The club supports the banning of J hooks for commercial long lines to minimise turtle bycatch.

Proposal 17

The club supports the ability of fisheries officers to issue infringement notices for breaches of mātaītai reserve bylaws (both take and possession).

Proposal 24

The club supports extending the crayfish bag and tag requirements to all amateur fishers in CRA5, not just those operating from vessels.

Proposal 29

The club strongly supports the amendment to clarify that cutting blue cod's throat (bleeding) meets the requirement to land whole or gutted.

Furthermore, the club is of the view that it is absurd to prevent recreational and customary from taking the steps allowed to commercial fishers to protect and enhance their catch whilst minimising fish waste onshore. The club believes that recreational fishers should be permitted to bleed, fillet, and ice down their catch at sea, including blue cod. The club considers that the requirement to land blue cod whole or gutted was forced upon us and is unfair.

Proposal 30

The club strongly supports the amendment to provide a defence on possession of blue cod. Again this red light area was forced upon us (we understood that it would be orange) and has severely restricted our ability to catch a feed. This defence amendment needs to be expedited.

The club does not support a review of the offshore daily limit of 30 blue cod. This suggests that although few rec fishers took 30 blue cod, it would be an arbitrary reduction that only affected recreational fishers. If the fishery is in trouble, then any reduction in take should be shared by the commercial sector – preferably by spatial limits and significant reduction in TACC.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on these changes.

Peter Rivers
Secretary
Ferrymead Fishing Club