

SUBMISSION SUMMARY



Image: Sydney Curtis

Kaikōura pāua

February 2024

Let's be fair



Earthquakes along the Kaikōura coastline in 2016 caused significant uplift, leading to widespread loss of shellfish, crayfish and pāua. Emergency fishing closures were applied.

The pāua fishery has since reopened to commercial and Māori customary harvest year-round.

On 13 December 2023 Fisheries New Zealand advised they were consulting on a proposal to reopen the pāua fishery to recreational harvest from April 2024, for either two or three months.

The largest national organisations representing recreational fishers combined to submit in support of a 3-month open season for pāua harvest. Collaborating with the Kaikōura Boating and Fishing Club on the submission enabled local voices to be heard and supported.

SUBMISSION

In February 2024, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, New Zealand Underwater and New Zealand Angling & Casting Association jointly submitted a response to Fisheries New Zealand.

In addition to supporting the 3-month season, the submitters also urged Shane Jones, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, to reopen the pāua fishery to recreational harvest for nine months of the year, from 2025.

A 9-month season would make it much fairer for everyone given that there are no seasonal constraints on commercial and Māori customary pāua fishing in the wider Kaikōura area.

BAG LIMITS

Until December 2019 the recreational bag limit was 10 per person, per day. Mid-December that dropped to 5 per person, per day. When the pāua fishery reopened to recreational harvest in 2023 the limit was reduced from 5 to 3 per person, per day. The 3-daily bag limit still applies.

WHAT NEXT?

Recreational fishers want the Minister to consider what controls may be required to restore a 9-month recreational fishing season for pāua, with a daily bag limit of 3 per person.

A Ministerial decision on the 2-month or 3-month April 2024 season is expected by March.



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