
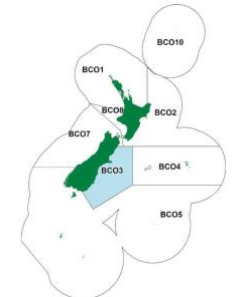


Proposal type:	Blue cod 3 (BCO 3) TAC review Decrease the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), recreational and other mortality allowances. Decrease recreational daily bag limit from 15 to 10 in south Otago waters, from Taiaroa Head to Slope Point.
Affected area:	East coast, South Island
Date received:	24/06/2025
Response date:	23/07/2025
Project lead:	Trish Rea
Stock status:	Unknown, overfishing is occurring. Low productivity species. Skewed male dominated sex ratios is an indicator of overfishing. Otago potting survey catches are declining. Concern about sustainability.
Introduction:  	FNZ propose to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reduce the TACC by 20% or 30%; ● reduce the recreational allowance by 28% ● Reduce the other mortality allowance by 20% or 30%. ● Reduce the daily bag limit from 15 to 10 in the southern area. ● Increase the deemed value rate. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the last 20 years the TACC has been exceeded in 19 years. 2. 60% of commercial catch is target, cod potting. 20% as bycatch of trawl fisheries. 3. Commercial effort has shifted from north to south Otago and onto deeper reefs and it is likely that serial depletion is occurring. 4. Commercial fishers' recreational catch under s111 is estimated to be 5 tonnes per annum. At 56g mean weight that is around 8,900 blue cod from 67 vessels.
Preliminary view:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TACC reduction from 163 to 130 tonnes in 2021 was too little, too late. A 30% reduction and spatial management plan needed. 2. Reducing the daily bag limit in the Otago area, from 15 to 10, will reduce overall recreational harvest by 23%. 3. Recreational fishers paying the price for mismanaged fishery - excessive commercial catches over two decades. 4. If the daily bag limit is reduced an increase in the minimum hook size to 6/0 will be required to avoid increased release mortality.
Main beneficiary:	42 quota owners.