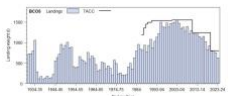
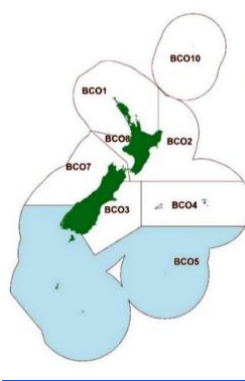


Proposal type:	Blue cod 5 (BCO 5) Recreational bag limit review Decrease the recreational daily bag limit to fit within the overall allowance reduced in 2024.
Affected area:	Southland, Fiordland
Date received:	24/06/2025
Response date:	23/07/2025
Project lead:	Trish Rea
Stock status:	Last accepted assessment in 2019. Foveaux Strait has been overfished since 2010. Productivity is reduced by overfishing.
Introduction:  	FNZ proposal for Southland waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Retain current recreational daily bag limit of 15 or ● Reduce the daily bag limit to 10. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and recreational allowance were proportionally reduced in 2024, each by 27%. Recreational allowance reduced from 85 tonnes to 62 tonnes. 2. High historic catch rates are gone, poor data on recreational catches. Now the Minister is reducing the recreational bag limit to fit within the 62 tonne allowance. 3. Commercial catch rates have been maintained by shifting effort from depleted areas. 4. No reliable stock assessment as the change in commercial fishing effort and its impact cannot be measured. 5. Estimated recreational harvest is 53 tonnes, plus 20 t from charter vessels and 21.5 t by commercial fishers claiming recreational take under s111 of the Fisheries Act. At 55g mean weight that is 39,000 blue cod per annum. 6. In the past 20 years the TACC has never constrained commercial harvest.
Preliminary view:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is proportional allocation in practice - protect the TACC from further reductions by firstly reducing the overall allowance and then reducing recreational harvest by cutting the daily bag limit. 2. One-way valve. Recreational fishers paying the price for mismanaged fishery - unconstrained commercial catches over decades. 3. The Minister must address abuse of the s111 provisions. 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:	Quota owners.