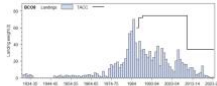
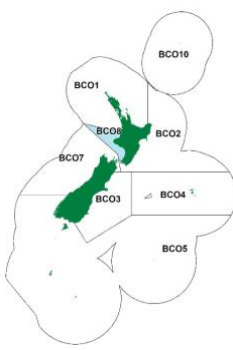


Proposal type:	Blue cod 8 (BCO 8) TAC review Decrease the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), and allowances for recreational fishing and other mortality. Reduce the recreational daily bag limit.
Affected area:	Southwest coast, lower North Island
Date received:	24/06/2025
Response date:	23/07/2025
Project lead:	Trish Rea
Stock status:	No stock assessment. Low productivity species in northern waters. No estimates of the quantity of blue cod used as bait in the CRA fisheries. Unknown if current catches are sustainable.
Introduction:  	<p>FNZ proposal for southwest lower North Island waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the TAC by 74%, 92% or 96%. • 3 options to reduce the TACC by 0, 6% or 15%. • Reduce the recreational allowance by 3%, 4% or 11%. • Reduce the recreational daily bag limit from 10 to 1 or 2. • Halve the other mortality allowance, from 2 tonnes to 1 tonne. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All catches are declining. 2. Excessive TACC, it has never been caught or constrained commercial fishing. No longer a target species, merely a bycatch in trawl fisheries. 3. Estimated recreational harvest has declined from 51 tonnes in 2012, to 8 tonnes in 2022. 4. Across all of BCO 8, 78% of fishing trips took 5 or fewer blue cod. Catches vary between Tirua Point, south Waikato and Titahi Bay, Wellington. 5. Proposed reduction to the recreational daily bag limit, from 10 to 1, may reduce overall harvest by 39%.
Preliminary view:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mismanaged fish stock. Ongoing, excessive TACC. 2. Must reduce actual catches. Only Option 3 reduces catches. 3. 53% of recreational fishing trips took 2 or fewer blue cod. 4. Recreational fishers paying the price for a grossly mismanaged fish stock. 5. Locals south of Cape Egmont suggest the Māui dolphin related set net ban has resulted in a rebuild of local fish species except blue cod. Blue cod is now a rare catch in most areas. 6. Is inshore trawling destroying blue cod habitat?
Main beneficiary:	No-one wins from such gross mismanagement.