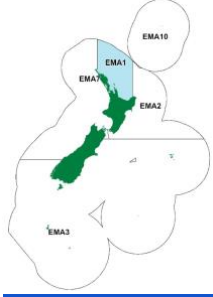
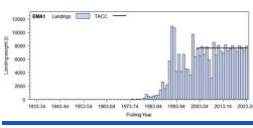


<b>Proposal type:</b>	<b>Blue mackerel 1 (EMA 1) TAC Review</b>  Increase the Total Allowable Commercial Catch ( <b>TACC</b> ), reduce recreational allowance, set the allowance for other mortality.
<b>Affected area:</b>	East coast North Island
<b>Date received:</b>	02/07/2025
<b>Response date:</b>	28/07/2025
<b>Project lead:</b>	Sydney Curtis
<b>Stock status:</b>	The biomass is unknown.
<b>Introduction:</b>  	FNZ propose to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase the TACC by 5% or 10%</li> <li>● Reduce the recreational allowance by 62%</li> <li>● Set the allowance for other mortality</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The TACC has been exceeded 9 times over the last 15 years.</li> <li>2. The allowance for other mortality will be set at 1% of the TACC.</li> <li>3. FNZ states that the current level of harvest and TACC are assumed to be sustainable but do not know whether the options proposed will be sustainable in the long-term.</li> <li>4. 99% of commercial harvest is taken by purse seine.</li> <li>5. Blue mackerel are only commercially harvested from a small area of EMA 1 - mainly western Bay of Plenty and outer Hauraki Gulf.</li> <li>6. The 15 t recreational allowance proposed is the average estimated recreational harvest over the last three National Panel Surveys.</li> </ol>
<b>Preliminary view:</b>  	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blue mackerel are an important prey species and precautionary management is required when information is uncertain.</li> <li>2. Blue mackerel have highly variable recruitment linked to sea surface temperature, plankton and ocean currents. Warming seas can rapidly depress recruitment. The east coast of the North Island has been experiencing more frequent heat waves.</li> <li>3. A TACC increase, as proposed, will lock in high removals. This is risky as FNZ does not have a responsive harvest strategy if there is a drop in abundance.</li> <li>4. Increasing the TACC may result in overfishing.</li> </ol>
<b>Main beneficiary:</b>	57 quota owners. One operator targeting blue mackerel.