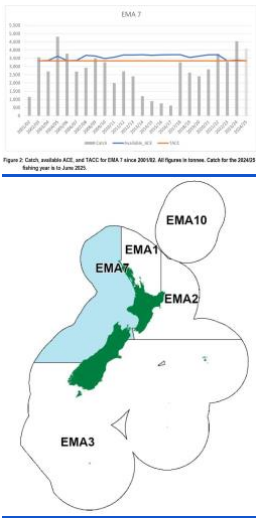


Proposal type:	Blue mackerel 7 (EMA 7) TAC Review Increase the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)
Affected area:	West coast, North and South Island
Date received:	24/06/2025
Response date:	23/07/2025
Project lead:	Sydney Curtis
Stock status:	The last full stock assessment was in 2020 but was rejected by the Working Group. The most recent updates are based on CPUE and observer data and assume the stock is above target (35% Bzero).
Introduction: 	<p>FNZ propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the TACC by 25%, 40% or 50% ● Increase the recreational allowance by 4 tonnes ● Set an allowance for other mortality at 42 tonnes, 47 t or 50 t. 10% of the TACC. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EMA TACC has only been overcaught in the most recent fishing year 2023-24 and aligns with commercial fishers exceeding the JMA 7 TACC in the same fishing year. 2. There has been no review of the EMA 7 TACC since its introduction into the QMS in 2002. 3. FNZ does not know how much biomass is “sustainable” to remove, any increase introduces uncertainty. 4. The midwater trawl fishery are large vessels which are not required to have onboard cameras under the current rollout regime but have high fisheries observer coverage.
Preliminary view:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recent increase in CPUE could reflect a short-term recruitment pulse, not a stable increasing trend. 2. Blue mackerel are primarily a bycatch species of the midwater trawl JMA 7 target fishery. Around 30% of EMA landed are targeted by the purse seine fleet. A large TACC increase is likely to incentivise increased active targeting. 3. Blue mackerel have highly variable recruitment linked to sea surface temperature, plankton and ocean currents. Warming seas can rapidly depress recruitment. A TACC increase will lock in high removals and FNZ does not have a responsive harvest strategy.
Main beneficiary:	Two entities hold 71% of the quota shares. The rest is shared between 44 entities.