
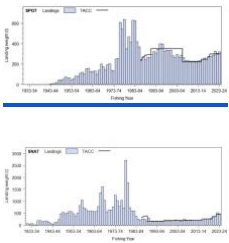


Proposal type:	Snapper 7 (SNA 7) and Rig 7 (SPO 7) Increase the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), and other mortality allowances for SNA 7 & SPO 7.
Affected area:	Top and west coast of the South Island
Date received:	24/06/2025
Response date:	23/07/2025
Project lead:	Trish Rea
Stock status: 	Rig 7 - assessed in 2022, around target level. Decline in west coast trawl survey since 2015, but there is a significant CPUE increase. Low productivity species. SNA 7 - very likely, >90%, to be at or below the target. Next assessment in 2026. TACC increased in 2021, 2023 & 2024. Medium productivity species but increasing annual recruitment in the last 8 years.
Introduction: 	FNZ propose for Rig 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo or increase the TAC, TACC and other mortality allowance; FNZ propose for SNA 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status quo or increase the TAC by 9% or 18%. • Increase the TACC by 13% or 25%. • Increase the other mortality allowance by 13% or 26%. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPO 7 & SNA 7 reviewed together as part of mixed inshore trawl fishery. 2. Next stock assessment for SPO 7 due in 2026. 3. Commercial fishers say they are still avoiding snapper and their catch rates under-estimate abundance.
Preliminary view:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed SPO 7 increase is to justify the proposed SNA 7 TACC increase. Status quo is more precautionary. 2. FNZ proposes step changes in SPO 7 then SNA 7, on the basis that they are constraining the catch of other species. This is an inevitable consequence of using trawl nets in a mixed finfish fishery. 3. After 3 consecutive TACC increases in SNA 7, the Minister must act cautiously given the uncertain stock status and implausible projections of stock size increase. 4. A cautious approach requires no TACC increase until the 2026 SNA 7 stock assessment is completed. 5. If the SNA 7 is abundant as projected, the Minister must consider an increase in the Marlborough Sounds recreational daily bag limit, from 3 to 6.
Main beneficiary:	SNA 7 - 37 quota owners. SPO 7 - 44 quota owners.