

Submission summary

Jack mackerel 1 (JMA 1) review 2025/26

Proposal [online here](#).

Full submission [online here](#).



Fisheries New Zealand proposals

In July a Fisheries NZ review called for submissions on the future management of Jack mackerel on the North Island's east coast, the JMA 1 fish stock (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. Proposed management options (in tonnes) for JMA 1 from 1 October 2025.

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
Current settings	-	10,000	-	-	-
Option 1	10,142	10,000 ²	10	32	100
Option 2	8,122	8,000 (↓ 2,000)	10	32	80
Option 3	7,112	7,000 (↓ 3,000)	10	32	70

Joint recreational submission

Jack mackerel are primarily targeted by purse seiners in the Bay of Plenty. They are usually targeted as a baitfish for recreational fishers. Environmentally, they are an important prey species contributing to the crucial link between primary production and higher trophic level species such as marine mammals, seabirds and large predatory fish.

Declines in abundance of forage fish species, including Jack mackerel, can have severe implications for dependent species.

The joint submission from the NZ Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, NZ Angling & Casting Association, and NZ Underwater, raised concerns about the lack of reliable biomass data and the risks posed by climate change and concentrated purse seine fishing in the Bay of Plenty.

The FNZ proposals fail to meet the precautionary obligations of the Fisheries Act 1996 and High Court rulings. Public feedback from a 2024 survey developed by NZSFC's outreach LegaSea, confirmed widespread perceptions of declining bait fish abundance, and shrinking or fewer 'work-ups' of baitfish schools.

What's required

Alternative, more conservative catch settings were recommended. Fisheries NZ must complete a full fishery

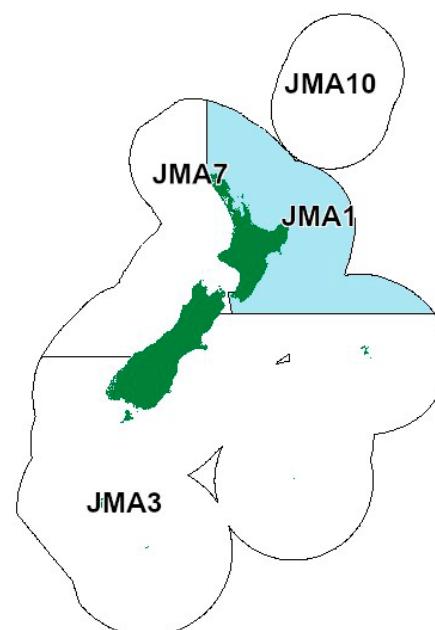


Figure 1. Fisheries Management Areas for jack mackerel.

assessment and invest in forage fish research so the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries can fulfil his statutory duty to address the ecosystem effects of concentrated harvests.

Fisheries NZ will review all submissions and make recommendations to the Minister on catch settings to apply from 1 October 2025.

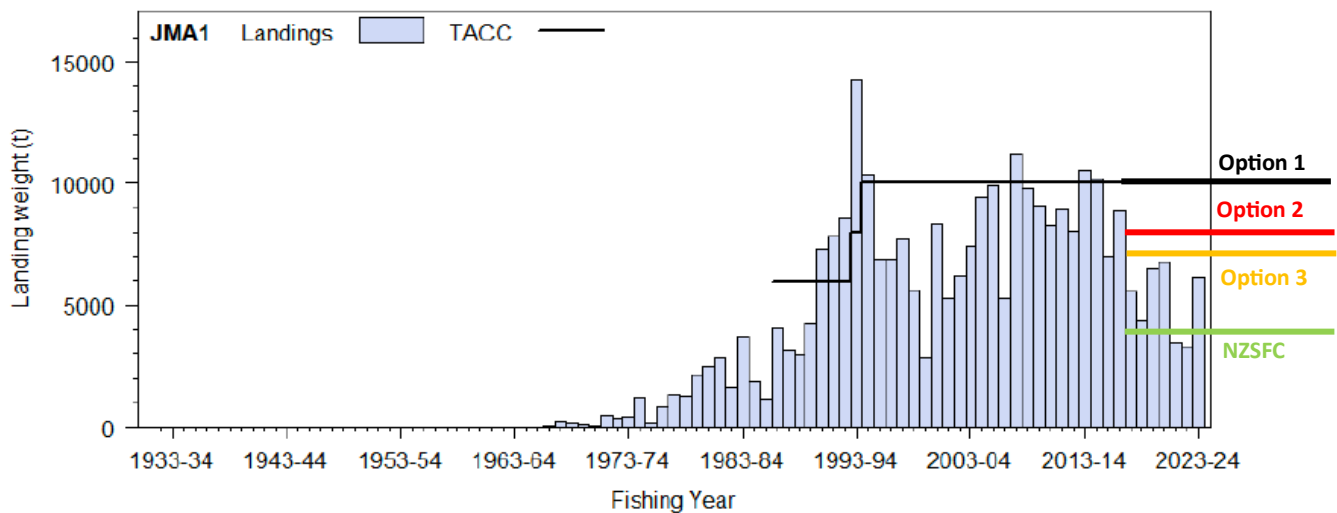


Figure 2. Commercial landings and total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for Jack mackerel 1 (JMA 1). Black line is the status quo and where the TACC would be if option one is selected (10,000 tonnes). Red line is option 2 (8,000 tonnes), orange line is option 3 (7,000 tonnes). The green line is the joint recreational recommended TACC of 4,000 tonnes.