

Submission summary

Pāua 2 (PAU 2) review 2025/26

Proposal [online here](#).

Full submission [online here](#).



Fisheries New Zealand proposals

In July, Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) proposed catch limit changes for Pāua 2 (PAU 2), for the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC). There are no proposed changes for the allowances (Table 1).

Table 1. Proposed management options (in tonnes) for PAU 2 from 1 October 2025.

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
Current settings	192.188	121.188	12	48	11
Option 1	180 (↓ 12.188)	109 (↓ 12.188)	12	48	11
Option 2	168 (↓ 24.188)	97 (↓ 24.188)	12	48	11

Joint recreational submission

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, and New Zealand Underwater jointly submitted on the recent review of Pāua 2. The large PAU 2 management area stretches from East Cape, down to Wellington and up the west coast to Tirua Point, south Waikato (Figure 1).

The submitters support Fisheries NZ's Option 2, to reduce the commercial catch limit while retaining the non-commercial allowances.

Key concerns include:

1. **Stock decline:** Commercial Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) has dropped significantly since 2021, raising fears about abundance and future yields.
2. **Localised depletion:** Pāua are highly vulnerable to overharvest and environmental stress, including cyclones, sedimentation, and marine heatwaves.
3. **Oversized management area:** The PAU 2 Quota Management Area is too large to effectively monitor, leaving gaps in data and enforcement.
4. **Inadequate consultation period**, which may breach legal standards for genuine consultation.
5. **Historical over-allocation** of pāua to commercial interests.

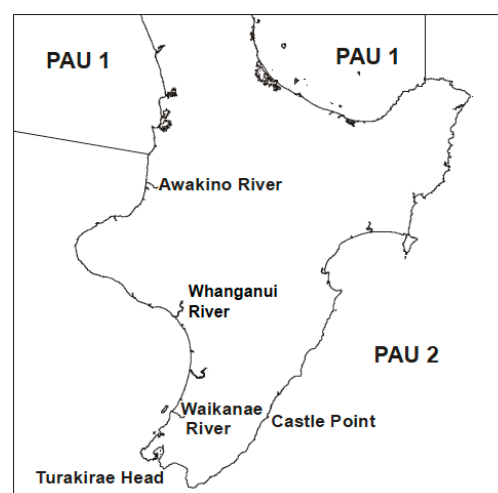


Figure 1. Pāua 2 Quota Management Area (PAU 2)

What's required

The submitters recommend splitting PAU 2 into at least three smaller management areas and

adopting Ahu Moana (community-led) approaches to ensure localised, collaborative management. There is a need for integrated solutions to prevent fishing effort displaced from one area simply shifting to another area.

The Minister’s legal duty under the Fisheries Act is to make a precautionary decision given the uncertain and inadequate information about pāua abundance and sustainability. Pāua abundance must be safeguarded for future generations.

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

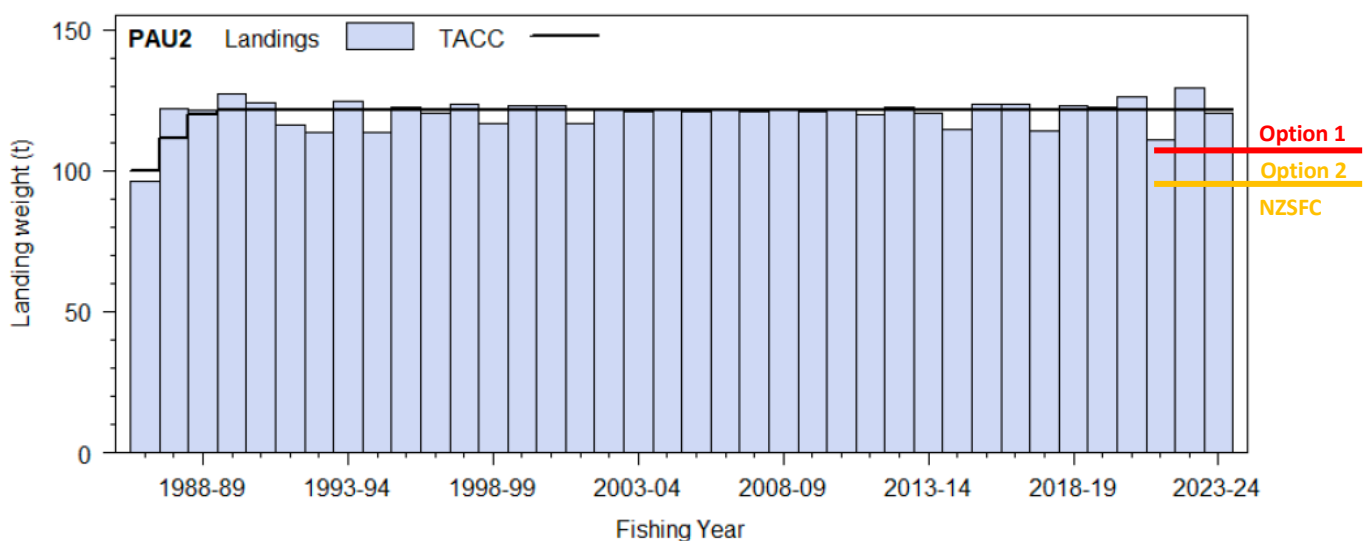


Figure 2. Commercial landings and total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for Pāua 2 (PAU 2). Black line is the status quo (121.188 t) and not an option proposed by FNZ. Red line is option 1 (109 t), orange line is option 2 (97 t) where the TACC would be if either option is selected. The joint recreational submitters recommended option 2 (97 tonnes).