

# Submission summary

## Pāua 5A (PAU 5A) review 2025/26

Proposal [online here](#).



### Fisheries New Zealand proposals

In July, Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) proposed catch limit changes for Pāua 5A (PAU 5A). The proposals included setting a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the first time including a reduction to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and setting aside allowances for Customary Māori, Recreational and All Other Mortality caused by fishing (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed management options (in tonnes) for PAU 5A from 1 October 2025.

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
Current settings	-	148.98	-	-	-
Option 1 - 30% TACC ↓	117	104 (↓ 44.98)	5	5	3
Option 2 - 40% TACC ↓	102	89 (↓ 59.98)	5	5	3

### Joint recreational submission

The Fiordland pāua fishery, PAU 5A, is at risk of overfishing and depletion (Figure 1). Fisheries NZ acknowledges that current catch levels are unsustainable and most likely causing overfishing.

The joint submission from the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, and New Zealand Underwater raised concerns about the urgent need to address the sustainability crisis facing pāua in PAU 5A.

The Minister also needs to acknowledge that previous measures implemented by commercial fishers, such as volunteer shelving of catch entitlements and the PAU 5 Fisheries Plan, have failed to prevent depletion. Declining catches indicate a stressed pāua stock.

Environmental stressors, including climate-driven kelp die-offs, further compromise pāua habitat, productivity and stock resilience.

Conservative commercial catch limits must be set. We recommended the Minister reduce the annual commercial catch limit by 46%. There is minimal recreational harvest of pāua in PAU 5A due to bag limit reductions in 2024, the relatively inaccessible exposed outer coastline, and the prohibition on having pāua while underwater breathing apparatus is onboard a vessel.

Without decisive action, PAU 5A cannot recover, and the Minister's statutory obligation to provide for future generations' needs will be breached.

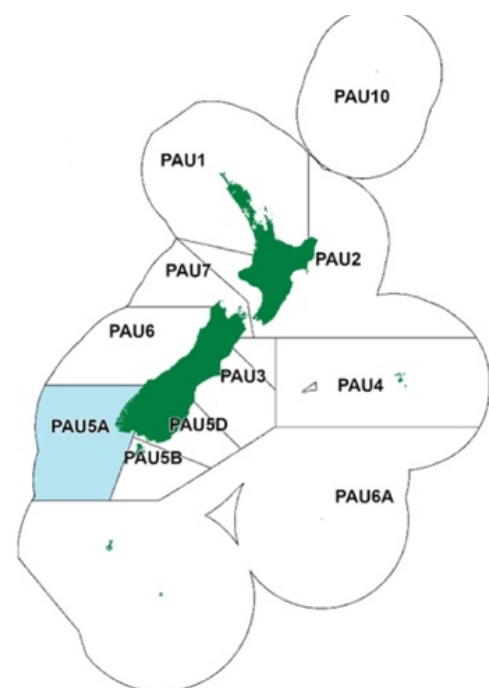


Figure 1. PAU 5A Management Area

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

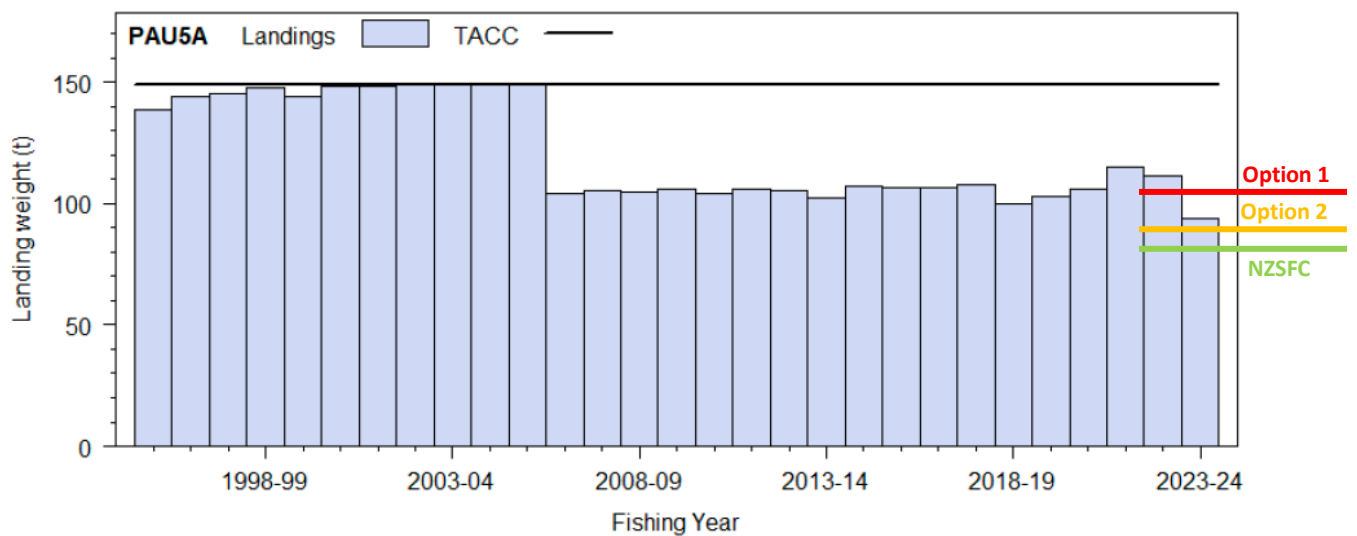


Figure 2. Commercial landings and total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for Pāua 5A (PAU 5A). Black line is the status quo (148.98 tonnes) and not an option proposed by FNZ. Red line is option 1 (104 t), orange line is option 2 (89 t) where the TACC would be if either option is selected. The joint recreational submitters recommended an alternative option (green line) (80.29 tonnes).