

## Submission summary

### Anchovy 1 (ANC 1), Garfish (GAR 1), Yellow-eyed mullet 1 (YEM 1), and Sprat 1 (SPR 1) review 2025/26

Proposal [online here](#).



### Fisheries New Zealand proposals

In July, Fisheries NZ conducted a review of the catch limits for four forage fish species on the North Island's northeast coast: anchovy, garfish (piper), sprats, and yellow-eyed mullet (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. Proposed management options (in tonnes) for ANC 1, SPR 1, GAR 1 & YEM 1 from 1 October 2025.

Stock	Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
				Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality caused by fishing
ANC 1	Current settings	215	200	5	10	N/A
	Option 1	216 (↑1)	200	5	10	1 (↑1)
	Option 2	116 (↓99)	100 (↓100)	5	10	1 (↑1)
	Option 3	66 (↓149)	50 (↓150)	5	10	1 (↑1)
SPR 1	Current settings	100	70	10	20	N/A
	Option 1	101 (↑1)	70	10	20	1 (↑1)
	Option 2	56 (↓44)	35 (↓35)	10	10 (↓10)	1 (↑1)
	Option 3	31 (↓69)	15 (↓55)	10	5 (↓15)	1 (↑1)
GAR 1	Current settings	55	25	10	20	N/A
	Option 1	56 (↑1)	25	10	20	1 (↑1)
	Option 2	51 (↓4)	20 (↓5)	10	20	1 (↑1)
YEM 1	Current settings	50	20	15	15	N/A
	Option 1	51 (↑1)	20	15	15	1 (↑1)
	Option 2	54 (↑4)	23 (↑3)	15	15	1 (↑1)

### Joint recreational submission

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, and New Zealand Underwater, submitted a joint response to the proposals for these northern stocks.

Our submission stressed the ecological importance of these species as prey for seabirds, marine mammals, and larger predatory fish, and highlighted the lack of reliable data on stock status.

Rising sea temperatures and declines in primary production are already evident on the North Island's east coast so it's critical the Minister reduces both the commercial catch limits and actual harvest for these baitfish species.

The joint submission recommended significant reductions to Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to ensure

sustainability of all four species.

FNZ has failed to provide the Minister with management options that comply with the precautionary requirements of the Fisheries Act 1996 and recent High Court rulings. The submitters recommended alternative catch settings for all four stocks.

We insist that these baitfish species remain managed as bycatch-only fisheries and call for a review of the Pilchard 1 fish stock. The Minister must take a precautionary and ecosystem-based approach in light of uncertain stock data, climate change impacts, and declining marine productivity.

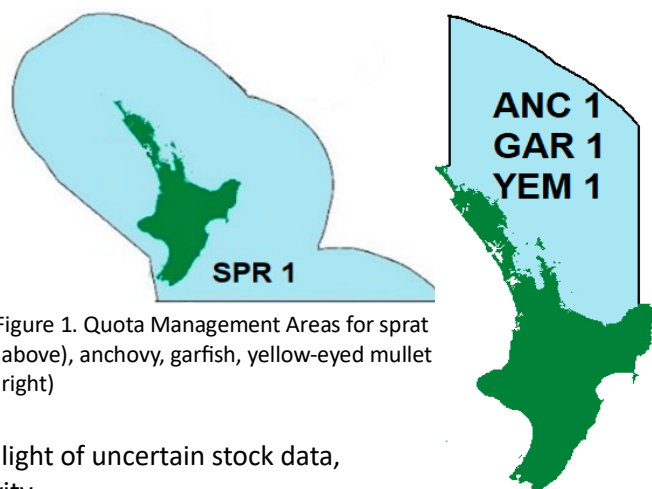


Figure 1. Quota Management Areas for sprat (above), anchovy, garfish, yellow-eyed mullet (right)

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

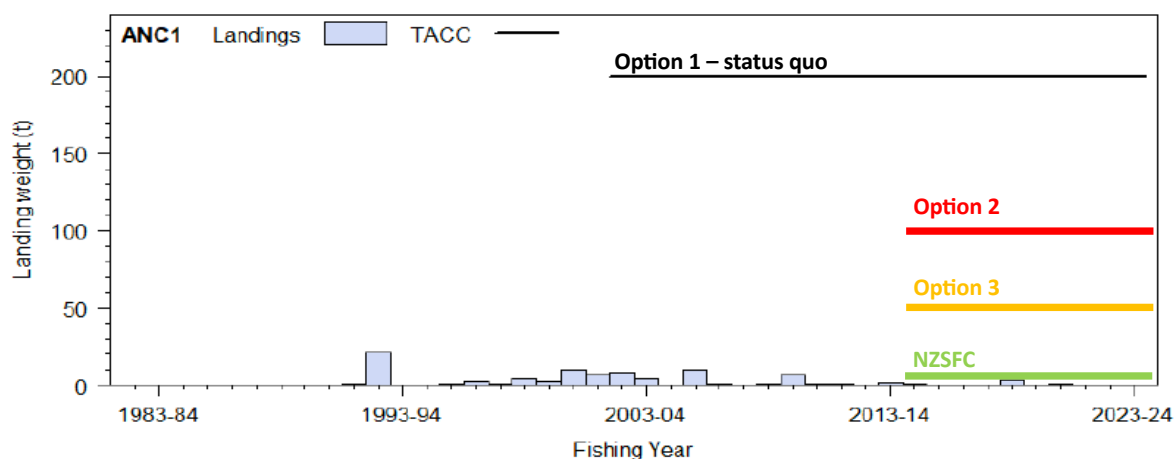


Figure 2. Commercial landings and total allowable commercial catch for Anchovy 1 (ANC 1). Red line indicates where the total allowable commercial catch will be if option 2 (100 tonnes) is approved and the yellow line shows option 3 (50 tonnes). Green line is the joint recreational recommended alternative option (5 tonnes).

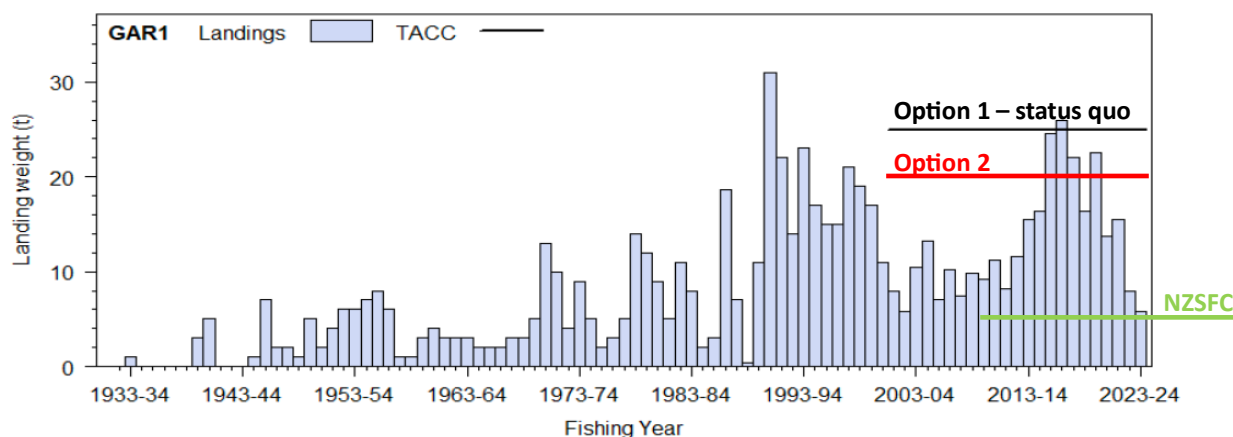


Figure 3. Commercial landings for Garfish 1 (GAR 1). The black line is the current total allowable commercial catch setting and option 1 (25 tonnes). Red line indicates where the total allowable commercial catch will be if option 2 (20 tonnes) is approved. Green line is the joint recreational recommended alternative option (5 tonnes).

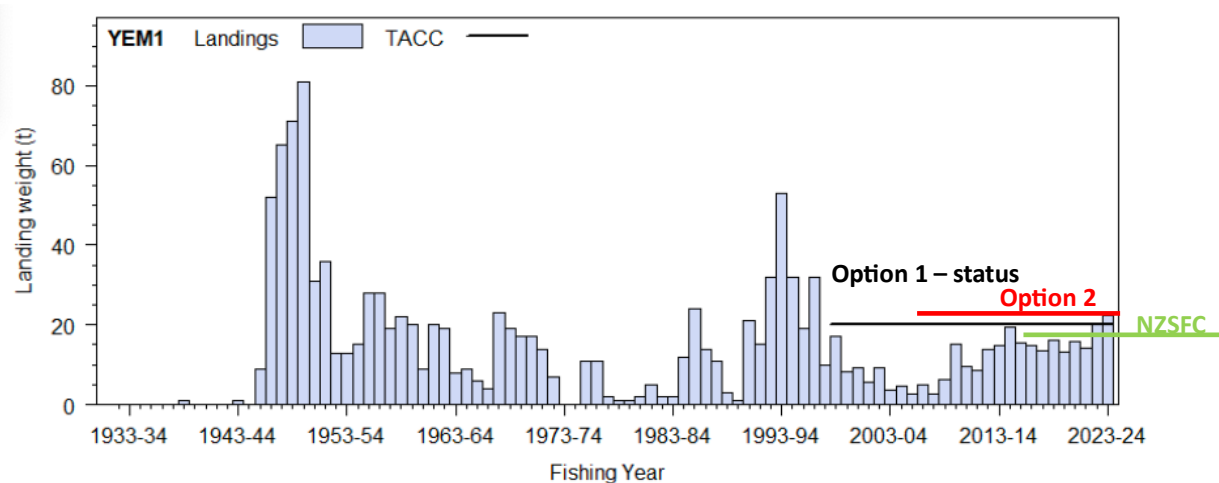


Figure 4. Commercial landings for Yellow-eyed mullet 1 (YEM 1). The black line is the current total allowable commercial catch the option 1 (20 tonnes). Red line indicates where the total allowable commercial catch will be if option 2 (23 tonnes) is approved. Green line is the joint recreational recommended alternative option (18 tonnes).