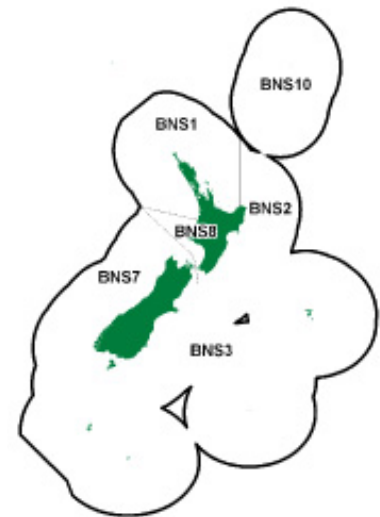


Review of MPI Sustainability Measures 2016 NZSFC Preliminary View - Bluenose all areas

As part of the October 2016 sustainability review, MPI are looking at reviewing TAC's for all bluenose areas. You are welcome to review this document and provide your input to the fisheries team. Contact John Holdsworth or Trish Rea by 4 July. **Submissions are due with MPI by 11 July.**



Bluenose stocks were part of an industry driven experiment called Adaptive Management Procedures that fished stocks harder for a while to collect data on how they would respond.

This was a disaster for the long-lived and little understood bluenose stocks.

An Industry funded stock assessment in 2011 found that commercial catch rates in all areas of NZ had declined and concluded that for stock assessment purposes bluenose can be considered a single stock in the NZ EEZ.

Following a management review the Minister decided on a series of Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) reductions over 3 years (Table 2).

The third stage (2013-14) of the phased reduction in TACCs wasn't enacted due to improvement in catch rates (CPUE) and optimism that the stock was rebuilding faster than anticipated. The current stock assessment no longer supports this hypothesis.

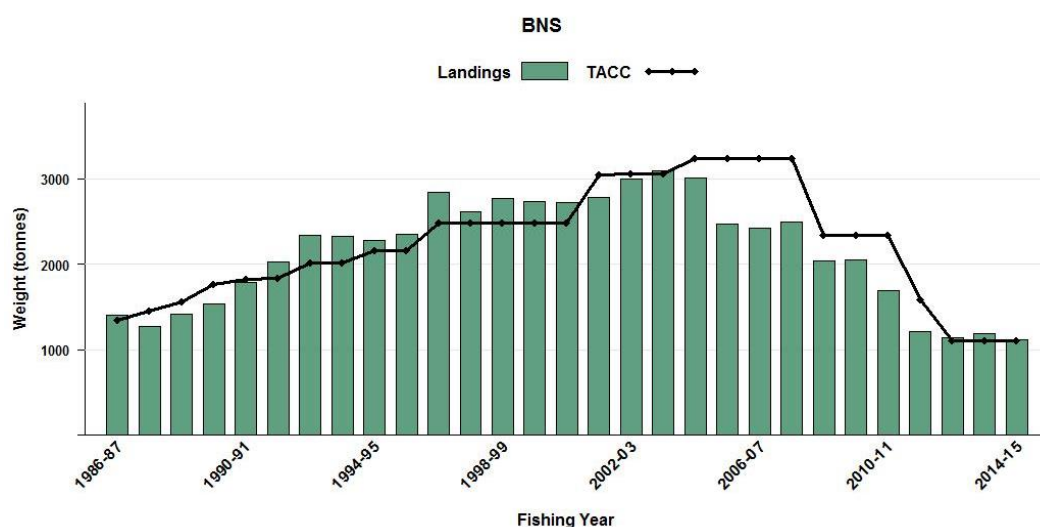


Figure 2. Total reported landings (t) of bluenose and total TACCs (t) from 1986-87 to 2014-15 for BNS 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8.

Table 2: 2011 Rebuild Plan – TACs, TACCs and allowances, by year (all values in tonnes)

Year	Total Combined TAC	Total Combined TACC	Total Combined Customary Māori Allowances	Total Combined Recreational Allowances	Total Combined other sources of fishing-related mortality
2010/11	2477	2325	42	63	47
2011/12	1685	1580	9	63	33
2012/13 (Current Settings)	1195	1100	9	63	23
2013/14 (Not implemented)	704	620	9	63	12

The 2016 assessment confirms the 2011 assessment that the stock is likely as not below the soft limit B20%, but very unlikely to be below the hard limit B10%. Still a long way from the target biomass which is B40%.

The catch reductions made so far have either stopped a further decline in abundance or increased abundance slightly. At current settings there is no confidence of a rebuild. MPI is proposing a reduction now and possibly some decision rules that could guide TACCs in the future.

MPI only review management when some change is considered necessary. They are consulting on the following options.

Table 1: Proposed management settings (combined TACs, TACCs, and allowances) for bluenose for 2016/17 (all values in tonnes)

Option	Total Allowable Catch	Total Allowable Commercial Catch	Allowances		
			Customary Māori	Recreational	Other sources of fishing-related mortality
Option 1 (<i>Status quo</i>)	1195	1100	9	63	23
Option 2	990	900	9	63	18
Option 3	704	620	9	63	12

NZSFC preliminary view

There are some important points NZSFC can make in a submission on bluenose.

- Commercial CPUE in many fisheries, including this one, is high risk if one year's data changes the management approach.
- Long-lived species such as BNS are unsuitable for short-run decision rules.
- Option 3 is the reduction originally intended in 2013 and is the best choice for a rebuild of stocks.
- MPI need to act in a precautionary manner when setting catch limits for long-lived, poorly understood stocks dependent on CPUE analyses.