



20 January 2015

Tēnā koe

Review of Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2015

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is seeking feedback from tangata whenua and stakeholders on proposals to review sustainability measures for selected stocks.

MPI is proposing that Total Allowable Catches (TACs), sector allowances and Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) are amended for four rock lobster stocks and one southern blue whiting stock for 1 April 2015. It is also proposed that a new management procedure is used to guide catch limit setting in the Gisborne (CRA 3) rock lobster fishery with no change to catch limit for 2015 and deemed value rates for all giant spider crab stocks are reviewed.

The review of sustainability measures for fishstocks is an annual process that is informed by the latest scientific information on the status of stocks, and tangata whenua and stakeholder input.

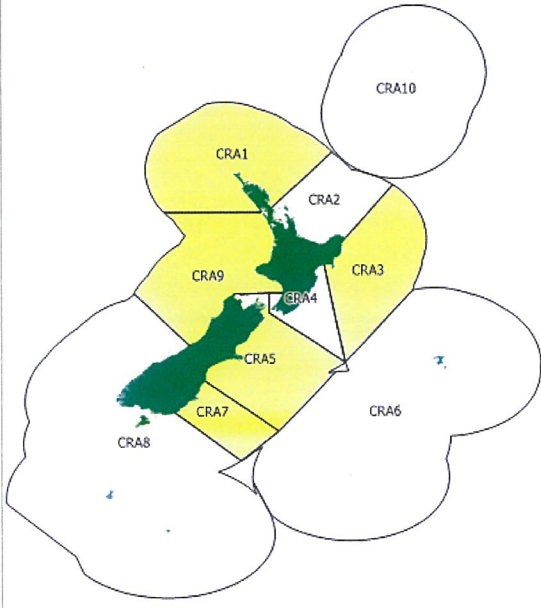
The following proposals are now released for public consultation. The proposals are outlined in detail in the consultation documents that are available on the MPI website at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/?cat=8>.

Rock lobster

The proposals for rock lobster have been developed by the multi-stakeholder National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) and are based on recent stock assessment information and/or the operation of management procedures (or decision rules).

Management procedures are a tool that is used in many rock lobster fisheries to guide catch limit setting. This management approach is consistent with the statutory requirement to ensure the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources. Management procedures also establish a management regime that can respond to changes in stock abundance in the fishery on an annual basis and provide greater certainty of achieving management goals.

The options proposed by the NRLMG for change are outlined in the following table. There are no proposals to vary non-commercial allowances or recreational bag limits for any rock lobster stock, except for the CRA 1 rock lobster fishery where non-commercial allowances are proposed for the first time.

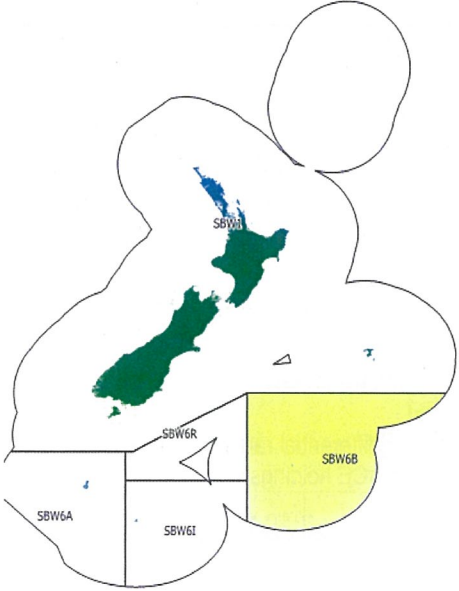
Map	Stock	NRLMG proposal
	CRA 1 Northland	Options CRA1_01 to 04: Set a CRA 1 TAC and non-commercial allowances for the first time and increase the TACC by 6.6 tonnes or retain it at its current level, based on the use of a new management procedure
	CRA 3 Gisborne	Options CRA3_01 and 02: Retain the current CRA 3 TAC and TACC at their current levels based on the use of a new management procedure
	CRA 5 Canterbury/ Marlborough	Option CRA5_01: Decrease the CRA 5 TAC and TACC by 14.2 tonnes
	CRA 7 Otago	Option CRA7_01: Increase the CRA 7 TAC and TACC by 31.7 tonnes
	CRA 9 Westland/ Taranaki	Option CRA9_01: Decrease the CRA 9 TAC and TACC by 14.8 tonnes

Southern blue whiting

MPI is proposing a decrease to the TAC for SBW 6B in response to a decrease in stock biomass. Results from the 2014 acoustic survey indicate the SBW 6B stock biomass has decreased from last year and is now thought to be below the management target of 40% B_0 . It is necessary to reduce the TAC to ensure harvest levels remain sustainable given the lower stock biomass. This reduction will return the TAC to a level set before the large biomass increase in 2007.

MPI proposes to maintain the allocation for other sources of fishing related mortality at 2% of the total TACC. MPI is not proposing any changes to SBW 6B deemed value rates.

MPI is proposing three options for decreasing the SBW 6B TAC which are outlined in the following table. Given the reduction in stock biomass, the status quo is not considered to be a plausible option for this stock.

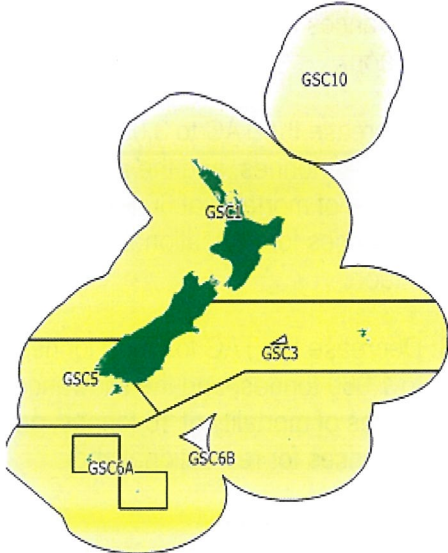
Map	Stock	MPI proposal
	SBW 6B Bounty Platform	Option 1: Decrease the TAC to 4,000 tonnes, the TACC to 3,920 tonnes, the allowance for other sources of mortality to 80 tonnes, and retain nil allowances for recreational and customary Māori.
		Option 2: Decrease the TAC to 3,000 tonnes, the TACC to 2,940 tonnes, and the allowance for other sources of mortality at 60 tonnes, and retain nil allowances for recreational and customary Māori.
		Option 3: Decrease the TAC to 2,000 tonnes, the TACC to 1,960 tonnes, and the allowance for other sources of mortality at 40 tonnes, and retain nil allowances for recreational and customary Māori.

Giant spider crab

MPI is proposing changes to the deemed value rates for all giant spider crab (GSC) stocks. These changes are in response to a >90% decrease in port price reported in the 2014/15 port price survey and in accordance with the Deemed Value Guidelines.

Deemed values are an economic tool, the primary aim of which is to provide an incentive for commercial fishers to not catch fish in excess of annual catch entitlement (ACE) holdings. The decrease in the market value for GSC suggests that deemed value rates should be decreased commensurately. The inherent risk of maintaining deemed value rates significantly higher than market value is that it may discourage accurate reporting.

MPI's proposal for changing the deemed value rates for all GSC stocks is outlined in the following table.

Map	Stock	MPI proposal																		
	All GSC stocks	<p>Decrease the interim deemed value rate for all GSC stocks from \$1.62 to \$0.09, which is 90% of the lowest annual rate</p> <p>Decrease the annual deemed value rates for GSC stocks to reflect the decrease in port price. The lowest annual deemed value rate is proposed to decrease from \$1.80 to \$0.10.</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Proposed rates</th></tr><tr><td>Interim</td><td>\$0.09</td></tr><tr><td>Annual (Including differential rates based on % in excess of ACE holdings)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>0-20%</td><td>\$0.10</td></tr><tr><td>20-40%</td><td>\$0.12</td></tr><tr><td>40-60%</td><td>\$0.14</td></tr><tr><td>60-80%</td><td>\$0.16</td></tr><tr><td>80-100%</td><td>\$0.18</td></tr><tr><td>>100%</td><td>\$0.20</td></tr></table>		Proposed rates	Interim	\$0.09	Annual (Including differential rates based on % in excess of ACE holdings)		0-20%	\$0.10	20-40%	\$0.12	40-60%	\$0.14	60-80%	\$0.16	80-100%	\$0.18	>100%	\$0.20
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Making a Submission

Please ensure that MPI receives your submission on the proposals no later than **5pm on Tuesday 17 February 2015.**

Written submissions should be sent to:

Email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Post: Fisheries Management
Ministry for Primary Industries
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6140

If you have difficulties accessing the documents or would like a hard copy of the papers, please email FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Turner', with a long, sweeping diagonal stroke extending upwards and to the right.

Dave Turner
Director of Fisheries Management
Regulation and Assurance

