



8 November 2012

Dear stakeholder

Review of Rock Lobster Regulatory Controls

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), on behalf of the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG), seeks feedback from tangata whenua, fishery stakeholders and other interested parties on proposals to review regulatory controls for selected rock lobster stocks.

The NRLMG is the primary advisor to the Minister for Primary Industries on catch limit, regulatory and other management actions that apply specifically to rock lobster fisheries. The NRLMG is a multi-stakeholder group comprising representatives of customary, recreational and commercial fishing sectors, and MPI.

The following proposals are now released for public consultation:

Review of Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Rock Lobster Amateur Regulations

In 2011/12 the Fiordland Marine Guardians requested the NRLMG and MPI to endorse their recommendations to amend amateur regulations pertaining to the Fiordland Marine Area.

The Fiordland Marine Guardian's proposals are intended to:

- Allow for greater amateur utilisation – by increasing the maximum daily limit for rock lobster and amending the accumulation provisions for the internal waters of Fiordland, except for Milford Sound.
- Rectify a compliance issue – by amending the rock lobster accumulation defence provisions to require Fiordland amateur fishers to maintain a written record of all live rock lobsters stored and removed from holding pots.
- Protect significant species and habitat biodiversity – by prohibiting the use of amateur rock lobster pots in the internal waters of Fiordland adjacent to Seymour Island, in Pendulo Reach, Doubtful Sound.

Review of Rock Lobster Concession Area Regulations

Concession Area Regulations proposed for amendment relate to:

- Closed seasons for commercial fishing in Gisborne and Otago;
- An area closed to commercial fishing in Otago;
- Vessel, landing, exporting, packaging, domestic sale and reporting requirements in Gisborne, Otago and Southland.

The proposed amendments are intended to provide for better utilisation of the rock lobster fisheries while ensuring sustainability and cost-effective compliance and enforcement.

The NRLMG also welcomes views on other management measures, including allowing recreational fishers access to the commercial minimum legal size in Gisborne, Otago and Southern rock lobster fisheries.

Making a Submission

Copies of the NRLMG's consultation documents are available on the MPI website at:

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm>

Please ensure that MPI receives your submission on the proposals no later than 5pm on Thursday 13 December 2012.

Written submissions should be sent to:

Email: FMSubmission@mpi.govt.nz

Post: Rock Lobster Submissions
Fisheries Management – Inshore Fisheries
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 phone 04 819 4372 or email FMSubmission@mpi.govt.nz

For further information on the rock lobster proposals, please contact Alicia McKinnon at 06 831 0279 or alicia.mckinnon@mpi.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Allen Frazer
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