



**Review of Rock Lobster
Sustainability Measures for
1 April 2017**

Appendix 3: Summary of Submissions

Contents

Page

Andrew Fulford	1
Neil Bramley	3
CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association Inc (CRAMAC 4)	4
Robert Davidson	7
David C Yule	8
Dugald Cameron	9
Gary L Homan	10
Gary Horan	11
Hoani Tukino Aupouri	12
Iwi Collective Partnership (ICP)	13
Alain Jorion	15
Kahungunu Asset Holding Company (KAHC)	16
Lewis Peart	17
Linda Coulston	18
Mark Parry	20
Nick Terry	21
Ngawi Sports Fishing Club (NSFC)	22
New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZ RLIC)	23
Joint Tairāwhiti Iwi organisations (Ngāti Porou Seafoods Ltd; Rongowhakaata Iwi Asset Holding Company; Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa; Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust)	30
New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council Inc (NZRFC)	33
Te Ohu Kaimoana Trustee Ltd (Te Ohu)	37
Tairāwhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association Inc (CRAMAC 3)	40
Tāmanuhiri Tūtū Poroporo Trust (TTPT)	43
New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC)	46
Michael Ellison	62

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2017 3:55 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Submission in support of increased sustainability measures for Rock Lobster in the CRA4 area.

I have been an recreational Cray Fisherman for 45 years frequenting the area immediately south of Cape Kidnappers to the approximately Red Island, using set pots, snorkelling and Scuba.

This area incorporates a non-commercial reserve allocated for amateur/recreational fishermen.

In my own experience and in evidence of other persons catch rates this area was well regarded in years gone by as a bountiful location to attain consistent and meaningful catches of Crayfish. It was possible to catch maximum boat limits from 3 or 4 set pots with some pots holding more than 50 crayfish in total when run.

Unfortunately in the last decade the area has suffered from extreme overfishing to the point where catching a legal Crayfish (or any sized Crayfish for that matter) is, on most occasions, impossible.

It is apparent that Crayfish can be caught in this area from October up until approximately Christmas but after that the fishing becomes highly patchy, sparse and mostly non-productive.

It is obvious that the fishing pressure is effectively "fishing out" large areas of the this coastline even in the recreational reserve around Bare Island/Waimarama. This pressure has increased markedly over the last decade by the sheer increased number of recreational fishers setting a correspondingly phenomenal number of Cray pots in this area. During the summer season from Christmas onward there can be up to 300 crayfish pots set on a continual basis in the recreational reserve and additional numbers outside the reserve. In places the pots set are set only 20m apart covering many square hundreds of metres. It does not take much arithmetic to conclude that even if every pot caught only 1 Crayfish per day that the numbers of Crayfish extracted over weeks/month/s is clearly unsustainable, and hence the area is completely fished out in short order.

There is also an almost constant presence of poaching occurring where post are clearly "robbed" by semi-professional crayfishers posing as amateurs. One of the most concerning issues with this is that there is evidence to suggest that these "poachers" are taking all sized (undersized) Crayfish.

It is highly disappointing and depressing to be pulling up empty pot after pot after each set. The economics in terms of Crayfishing are not light and the lack of a viable fishery negates the enjoyment and benefit to expend the effort, money, time and energy to actually go Crayfishing.

It is imperative that this situation is addressed as soon as practicably possible to rebuild Crayfish stocks in this area and to safeguard the fishery for future years.

A reduction in the Commercial quota (as proposed) will assist with the overfishing, however I believe further limitations are required to rebuild the Crayfish stocks in this area are needed. These include:

- Reducing the Commercial Quote by another 30% over what has been proposed.
- Reducing the recreational daily bag limit per person from the current 6 per person to 3.
- Closing the fishery for a period of each year from 01 October to 01 December.
- Limiting the number of Craypots permitted per (recreational) craft to 4.

- Increasing enforcement activity at key locations so that enforcement checking is done the majority of the (fishable) time.

Kind regards,

Andrew.

Andrew Fulford

s 9(2)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

9/2/2017

Troy & Neil & Leanne Bramley
Bramasole Trust - CRA4 Quota share owners.
Seamade NZ Ltd - CRA4 Fishing Company.
Sustainable Seafood Ltd CRA4 Fishing Company.

s 9(2)(a)

Our submission is specific to CRA4.

We would like to SUPPORT option 1 - RULE 24 and believe it will be more than sufficient in rebuilding and maintaining sustainability over the next 5 years.

Our reasoning is as follows :

- 1) We have been involved in the CRA4 Fishery every single season since 1983 and have always operated in an area of CRA4 fishing grounds which accounts for a substantial amount of the CRA4 ACE caught. We also make it our interest to know what is happening throughout the fishery.

Our catching has improved considerably this current season , giving us continued confidence. We noticed very good numbers during the Autumn and Winter and growth rates through Spring resulted in a very good Summer; up to a 40% improvement on last Summer. This is the same message from fishers on the whole of the East Coast. We are also noticing very good juvenile recruitment and feel some of this positive result will be due to the past two years of cuts; which already equates to a 21% reduction. In fact the way things are looking, we feel that with another 23% reduction, we will continue on an upward trend.

- 2) Other user groups should also be included in this rebuild of our fishery. Illegal fishing across all user groups should be targeted as should the daily take, including customary. We are ALL responsible for the kaitiakinga of our precious fishery resource and need to unite to achieve this ; sharing the good times and the hard times.

- 3) Another point is that we consider our DECISION RULE type management procedure to be directly associated to our 10% aggregation limits.

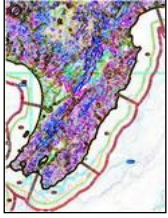
Reasons being that if you give big entities more control over ACE through the erosion of aggregation limits , their use of a different type of effort eg. bigger boats with bigger pots skews the CPUE which our decision rule is based on.

They also move effort into current hotspots, thereby causing spot pressure which is extremely detrimental to sustainable areas and again to the fishery in general. This can also implicate their lease dependent fishermen. There is strong evidence of this irresponsible behaviour constantly happening in Cra 4.

Fishermen who have an investment by way of Quota shares have a different commitment to the resource. Fishing is their longterm occupation. They have a real incentive to look after their fishery and their area and to act responsibly in both.

We want the existing 10% AGGREGATION LIMIT to be maintained but to become more robust by way of NO EXEMPTIONS as this does have a direct link to the management of our resource. Changing aggregation limits or giving exemptions IS ALTERING the MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE. In our view if you change aggregation limits or give exemptions it means the current management procedure needs revisiting.

Yours Sincerely Neil Bramley & Family



CRA 4 ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.

PRIVATE BAG 24-901 WELLINGTON 6142

SUBMISSION TO THE NRLMG

CRA 4 SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 01 APRIL 2017.

February 10th 2017

The CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 4) represents the interests of CRA 4 quota share and ACE owners. The Association renews a mandate annually and the constituency extends across the catching, processing and export personnel reliant on the sustainable utilisation of the CRA 4 fishery.

CRAMAC 4 has reviewed April 2017 Sustainability Measures consultation document as it relates to proposals for the CRA 4 fishery and also in relation to other matters covered by that document.

In relation to the proposed CRA 4 Options:

1. CRAMAC 4 endorses *CRA4_01 – use the new Rule 24 CRA 4 Management Procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 23%*. However, it should be noted - and some action taken in response - that CRAMAC 4 has serious reservations about the burden of stock rebuild again falling on the commercial sector particularly in circumstances where no reduction is proposed for '*other mortality*' – a well-used euphemism for illegal unreported removals.
2. Option CRA4_01 forces only the CRA 4 industry to actively subsidise illegal removals – no effort is made by MPI or by the NRLMG to spread the burden of the illegal activity across all legitimate extractive user groups.
3. CRAMAC 4 therefore submits that whilst there is general acceptance of the need for a TAC decrease there is not unanimous agreement across industry that only the TACC be reduced. Our view is that if the Minister accepts and implements CRA4_01 as written then he must as a matter of urgency instruct MPI to take immediate steps to constrain illegal fishing activity within CRA 4 and re-evaluate the current estimates of illegal unreported removals.
4. The CRA 4 rock lobster industry has a strong commitment to the use of Management Procedures to guide TAC setting. In 2015 CRAMAC 4 notified the NRLMG and Minister that

industry was developing a formal proposal for a larger TACC reduction than required by the then current Management Procedure.

5. The CRAMAC 4 option was included in the statutory consultation for the 2016/17 fishing year and was endorsed for implementation by the Minister. There was some suggestion at the time that the Minister must be guided by the operation of the management procedure and use only the TAC/TACC generated. CRAMAC 4 agrees that to be appropriate only in the situation where a Management Procedure is intended to set a TAC which moves a stock size towards or maintains it at a statutory reference level.
6. However, CRAMAC 4 contends that within the constraints of any TAC generated from the operation of an agreed Management Procedure, industry has the prerogative to implement further reductions in order to consolidate or improve stability and economic performance derived from higher levels of stock abundance.
7. The concern expressed at a CRAMAC 4 Special General Meeting in November 2016 was that CRA 4 stock abundance has previously been seen to decline rapidly unless corrective action is promptly taken. The CRA 4 industry response to a previously observed decline was to 'shelve' 40% of the available ACE for one season and then repeat the ACE shelving but by 60% in a second season. A TACC reduction was implemented in the third season but stock abundance (as measured by CPUE) was already improving by that time – and continued to do so until 2012.
8. Given the current stock decline (also as evidenced by CPUE but further reinforced by a large amount of anecdotal evidence) the CRA 4 industry participants at the recent SGM confirmed that industry participants are determined to avoid if they can a situation where abundance improves then falls to levels which require such drastic catch reductions.
9. Because stocks fluctuate naturally, independently of fishing, a constant TAC/TACC would have to be set low to protect the stock when it decreases naturally. This wastes the potential catch that could be taken when the stock is at average or higher levels.
10. CRAMAC 4 therefore has a preference for what we describe as more dynamic and responsive Management Procedures.
11. There is little apparent difference between the 2 rules, other than CRA4_02 constraining commercial catch at a lower level - with a plateau height of 340 tonnes. That situation, where no effective constraints to other allowances made within the TAC are anticipated by the Management Procedure or by attendant NRLMG recommendations, the TACC constraint does not provide to industry any improved commercial fishing opportunity although stock abundance should be increasing over time. CRA4_02 will serve to enhance the already available opportunity for illegal fishing.

12. The application of CRA4_02 would result in many younger fishermen being displaced as older more financially stable and better resourced fishermen compete heavily in a market of reduced ACE. The CRA 4 industry has actively encouraged younger participants into the fishery over the past decade or so.
13. Participation demands a significant commitment from them due mainly to high entry costs and CRA 4 Quota Share and ACE owners have recently successfully assisted some younger owner operators in. Whilst CRA4_01 will obviously impact on the viability of these new entrants, it is believed that the higher plateau would help to protect their futures. The application of CRA4_02 would see most gone within the 'life' of the more conservative management procedure.
14. CRAMAC 4 is committed to more than reliance on the operation of CRA 4_01. ACE/effort spreading initiatives have already commenced. Work is also underway to further improve gear selectivity to minimise handling and predation mortalities; the CRA 4 Logbook coverage has been extended; new growth data are available from industry funded tag and release projects; some effort may also be made to actively confront and deter fish thieving.

Yours sincerely

The CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association

PP: 

Graham Olsen

Chairman

Robert Davidson

s 9(2)(a)

Hi,

I want to submit information regarding CR4 (Wellington region) for the commercial fisherman to have their quota cut to 27% AND to have their inshore licenses removed.

This xmas the recreational fisherman in Palliser bay have not being able to catch many - if any crayfish due to the commercial fisherman coming right inshore (within 100-200meters) and setting pots everywhere for miles and have stripped the crayfish stock and while they are catching well up at Whatarangi all of us recreational fisherman are not catching anything due to the area inshore being overfished.

The commercial boats are large so they should be given rights to catch crayfish miles out at sea, and leave the inshore for us recreational fisherman as our boats are small and we are not able to go long distances out to sea.

For the past 20 years the commercial fisherman and the recreational fisherman have had a gentlemen's agreement that the commercial fisherman would not set pots along Whatarangi to Te Humunga Point from October onwards until April approx. That way the recreational fisherman can catch a feed as xmas is when we get good catches and winter we really struggle due to large sea's and also the females are carrying eggs then.

This xmas the commercial boats disregarded that unwritten rule, and set pots for miles along the front of Whatarangi - two rows of pots actually like a minefield and they are bragging that this has been the best season every yet us recreational fisherman have caught stuff all if any. That tells you that the commercial guys have overfished their own area hence why they have come into our area AND now they have stripped our area of crayfish.

Please let me know if you need anymore information to assist with my submission, the main change I want done to the commercial fisherman is to have their inshore licenses removed so that they can catch crayfish further out to sea and leave us recreational guys an area which we have looked after well and not overfished for the past 20 years and we will continue to do so.

Kind regards,
Rob Davidson

s 9(2)(a)

From: Dave Yule s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2017 4:25 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Hello.

Please find my submission on the Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017 as listed below.

I support the following options.

CRA3-Option 1

CRA4-Option 2

CRA7-Option 2

Thank you,

David C Yule

s 9(2)(a)

This is my own submission.

I am a member of the Ngawi Sports Fishing Club Inc.

s 9(2)(a)

From: Dugald Cameron s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2017 5:01 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: CRA4 TACC

To whom it may concern,

Please accept my submission that I am in favour of the 27% cut to the quota as my preferred option of the two.

Yours faithfully

Dugald Cameron
Director & Manager
Pahaoa Fishing

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2017 6:15 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: SUBMISSION - REVIEW OF ROCK LOBSTER SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 1 APRIL 2017

THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN SENT FOR AND ON BEHALF OF GARY L HOMAN

SUBMISSION – REVIEW OF ROCK LOBSTER SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 1 APRIL 2017

I have been involved in the Otago rock lobster industry for almost 60 years and I find it difficult to comprehend how any responsible government department with the scientific evidence available to them would not consider immediate significant quota increases in the Otago area.

All industry participants had to accept massive quota reductions in the past and all have now witnessed the continued steady increase in stock abundance. We have observed massive dumping of legal sized fish and the abandonment of very large tracts of very productive lobster habitate resulting in tremendous wastage of this public resource.

When quotas were reduced in the late eighties, the Crown guaranteed to increase quota when stocks increased. Stocks are now at an all time high and still the Crown refuses to honour their agreement with those involved.

Gary L Homan

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: gary horan s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2017 6:05 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Your quotas and catch rates are set way to high. I dive in this region and rock lobsters (whose real name is crayfish for those of you who don't know) over the last 20 years it gone from 4-5 good sized cray for dinner to 1-2 just legal crays for dinner. You really need to get out of you chair now and then and talk to non commercial fishers to hear the truth.You wont get told the truth from commercial fishers.wake up

Gary Horan s 9(2)(a)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Hoani Tukino Aupouri s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 9 February 2017 8:39 a.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Crayfish

I keep it short and simple, I've been diving around the Gisborne area since forever, I have always seen the crayz in abundance....heaps, the winter season that has just past I had notice that the commercial cray boats were setting pots close to shore.....we have this natural assumptions that the big buck crays come into the shallows to breed.... This year was a shocker to discover the reality that the big bucks had no chance what so ever to do there thing due to the rows of cray pots, ultimately resulting in diving areas with nothing legal to catch.... Forcing a recreactinal diver to take whatever there.... Sad but true, I can't blame the commercial boats for multitudes of crayz disappearing when there forced to extract qouters caused by a lucrative business that can only sustain one person need for money, business and money has no consideration for our oceans, so the problem with our depleted Kai is the demand for a delicacy 2nd to none, the Kai in tangaroas cupboards is ours it belongs to us here in aotearoa designed to provide for everyone but with a catch, if u want it u gotta get out there n get it yourself....it ain't about the beautiful taste of the Kai it's about the journey the hunt the experience one has that makes this type of Kai a one if a kind, chur!!!! Hoanz east coast Kai gatherer

10 February 2017



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

By email only: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

REVIEW OF ROCK LOBSTER SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 1 APRIL 2017

1. Introduction

The Rock Lobster Sustainability Review for 1 April 2017: Consultation Document prepared by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) proposes options to change the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the CRA3 (Gisborne), CRA4 (Wellington/Hawkes Bay) and CRA7 rock lobster fisheries, and seeks feedback on the proposed changes. Submissions close 10 February.

Our feedback is contained within this submission. Its scope is confined to the CRA3 and CRA4 fisheries.

2. Summary

In summary, our organisation supports option **CRA3_01** which is a 9% reduction to the CRA3 TAC, and proposed option **CRA4_02** which is a 27% reduction to the CRA4 TAC, to take effect on 1 April 2017.

The changes will cost our collective *circa* \$160,000.00 in lost annual revenue. However, we consider that the proposed reductions will ensure healthy and sustainable rock lobster fisheries for the long-term as directed by the current CRA3 management procedure and the proposed management procedure for CRA4.

3. Background

The Ministry's review proposes, in summary:

- CRA3 and CRA4 fisheries are under review as part of the Ministry's 5 year review cycle for lobster.
- The proposed TAC reductions for both fisheries are proposed to be met by reductions in the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) with Customary and Recreational allowances unchanged.

(i) CRA3 - Status Quo or TAC cut of 9% - The 9% cut (**CRA3_01**) is specified by the current CRA3 management procedure. CRA3 in summary:

- CPUE increased from 2008 to 2012 but has since declined.
- Current TACC is 389.95 mt. A 9% cut would reduce the TACC to 237.86 mt from 1 April 2017.
- CPUE suggests the biomass in 2016 is lower than 2014 but is still considered to be above B_{MSY} .
- Application of the CRA3 management procedure is expected to maintain the stock above B_{MSY} with greater than 50% probability and above B_{MIN} with greater than 90% probability.
- The status quo option is not supported by MPI, nor by National Rock Lobster Management Group.

(ii) CRA4 - TAC cut of 23% or TAC cut of 27% - The two proposed management procedures, Rule 24 (**CRA4_01**) and Rule 6 (**CRA4_02**), produce the 23% and 27% options. CRA4 in summary:

- The proposed cuts to CRA4 follow on the back of the 15% reduction in April 2016.
- Current TACC is 397 mt. 23% cut would reduce to 307 mt and 27% cut to 289 mt.
- The current management procedure has expired and two alternatives are now proposed to guide TAC settings through to 2021. Development of the new management procedure was guided by feedback from a public meeting in July 2016. Feedback from the meeting identified common themes of: sustainability, good levels of abundance, stability, safety and fish being available for the next generation.
- Application of either procedure is expected to rebuild biomass toward the management target, B_{REF} , in the next 5 years. Under Rule 24 there is a 86.3% probability that the stock will be above the management target, B_{REF} in 2021. Under Rule 6 there is a 91.7% probability.

4. Concluding Comments

Option **CRA3_01** 9% reduction to the CRA3 TAC is the better of the two options available. The Status Quo option cannot be supported against a reducing CPUE. Action must be taken. In terms of the CRA4 fishery, proposed option **CRA4_02** - 27% reduction to the TAC provides a greater probability than a 23% reduction, that the stock will be above the management target, B_{REF} , in 2021.

In accordance with tikanga, we acknowledge the status of those Iwi Members within our Collective who hold mana in the CRA3 fishery. This is reflected in their ownership of Settlement Quota allocated in recognition of their local rights and interests under the Fisheries Treaty Settlement. We also acknowledge the mana of Iwi within the CRA4 fishery.

Ngā mihi,

Maru Samuels

General Manager

Mob: +64 21 723 588

DDI: +64 9 259 5867

Em: maru@iwicollective.co.nz

From: Rachel Jorion s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 18 January 2017 11:26 a.m.

Subject: Fw: Review of rock lobster (crayfish) sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Hello Alicia and Marty, as well as Anne Tolley for her information, I have had problems with my small computer. Overworked like me! After trying to speak to Marty I spoke to Alicia where she asked if I could send my personal submission direct to her.

For some reason when I tried to send this to MPI as mentioned in the email from MPI, it wouldn't send it.

So hope it gets to you this time.

I would again stress the concession is what we want removed as this is what ALL recreational advocacy groups want, the 4,300 member Gisborne Tatapouri SF Club and my mandate which covers plenty of groups and clubs and individuals from Gisborne. Its a no brainer.

Alicia said the 52mm concession size for the public is still on the table. LegaSea/SFC were dead against this as its considered a step in the wrong direction. Plus it takes about an extra 100 lobsters to make up a tonne than 54s.

We also would want, according to NRLMG Keith Ingram, 52s for the public year round, not winter when we don't fish and tourism is not here. Keith believes commercial will not fish over Christmas if concession was gone. Plenty of people are now saying MPI haven't got the balls to put things right because commercial will take MPI to court. So MPI have to do what is only right and have same size as the rest of the north island and most of the south island. I have refrained going to the papers as Alicia wanted but can promise you, with Gisborne people if the concession doesn't go soon, we will look at stirring the whole thing up again in the media. After all, we have the people on our side, and we do have the science from Debbie Freeman science advisor for DoC saying the concession does not perform now as it was intended to in 1993.

I would also mention that the Kahawai Legal Challenge by all recreational groups established that Customary Maori and the Recreational Fishing public come first in priority.

The contribution to the Gross Domestic product by he public is 1.7 billion dollars. Comercial, much the same at 2 billion dollars.

Then the allowances are made for illegal take, waste and so on, which here is set at 89 tonnes.

Then what is left over is what the Total Allowable Commercial take is set.

So please consider the public this time. We have had no successes in this issue particular to Gisborne. It is time MPI make an effort because all the work we do is not rewarded, in any small way. Commercial fishers don't seem to come to the large club any more, all caused by this issue.

I will include the NZ Recreational Fishing Council, of which I am still a board member, as well as Anne Tolley our MP who has always been kept fully informed and speaks to Minister Nathan Guy.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Jorion

7 February 2017

Ministry for Primary Industries

Submission on CRA Sustainability Measures

FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz



Kahungunu
Asset Holding Company

Tena koe tena koutou

The purpose of this submission is to respond to the National Rock Lobster Management Groups review of rock lobster fisheries in the CRA 3 and CRA 4 quota management areas. The Kahungunu Asset Holding Company supports the recommended decrease in the CRA3 TACC from the current 260.95 tonne to 237.86 tonne and supports the decrease in CRA4 TACC, from 397 tonne to 307 tonne.

Heoi ano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Dick', written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Jonathan Dick

General Manager

Kahungunu Asset Holding Company

From: Lewis Peart s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2017 3:53 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Crayfish

I sternly believe that there should be a strict enforcement of crayfish stocks by reducing the catch limit significantly, and also making it illegal to catch them on Tanks, (as is the case with Paua etc). The current limit of six cray's is borderline ridiculous, as one cray can easily feed two people, and who in their right mind will need a supply of six per day? I believe the limit should be halved to 3 per day, and in the Hauraki Gulf, where they're though to be almost extinct due to extensive over fishing, there should be a total ban on collection for a good five or so years, to hopefully encourage numbers to rekindle.

From: Linda s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2017 3:31 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: CRA3

To whom it may concern,

Re CRA3.

As a recreational Fisher of crayfish in this area I have experienced mostly catching 52mm or under during this 2016/2017 summer season with 3 recreational pots, when fishing alongside commercial in summer. While the Ministry has advised they are not reviewing regulations during this process, the ongoing use of commercial concessions in CRA3 is unacceptable, causing ongoing conflict, and is detrimental to public interests.

I request that the CRA3 concession be removed immediately. When winter comes and commercial can take undersized (concession) males my chances of catching legal fish will only diminish

The Minister in my opinion is not receiving transparent advise and I have requested under the OIA the following documents

- “Developing and applying a methodology to estimate illegal take from NZ fisheries-final report 2012” and
- “Development of methodology to estimate illegal take from NZ fisheries stage 1 report-Volume 2

These have not been forthcoming as yet and MPI extended their provision until after this submission is due. I am querying whether the minister knows of these reports. If he does not know then why not?

I would also like to bring to the attention to the Minister a letter of final decision made by Minister Carter in 2012 that clearly shows that correct information is not been received to the top end of the murky chain in MPI. Minister Carter says in this http://www.nzrocklobster.co.nz/assets/stakeholderdecisionletter_may2012.pdf that “Concession areas provide the commercial sector with significant economic benefits and their removal would have a negative impact on their business.”

Minister Nathan Guy I request that you go right back to the beginning and clearly grasp why the CRA3 concession was allowed to be put in place as a voluntary goodwill measure by recreational 23 years ago due to the CPUE being so low, and in order for the stock to recover. It was not put in place to prosper commercial fisherman which in turn has a very negative impact on customary and recreational. The stock has recovered with the TACC being raised many times yet the ability to take undersized 52mm males has remained. That is ultra vires to the purpose of this input control management measure.

The minister does not have all available information because there is no obligation for fishers or LFRs to record the weight of 52mm landings. This means that the ‘science’ has bias.

I am led to believe that the Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club no longer pay any subscription to New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council. This council is not functioning with any clear set mandate and/or governance.

The members of the MPI recreational Forum for this area held a unanimous Vote of no Confidence in the Ministry of Primary Industries two years ago, this I believe still stands.

I request that;

1. the CRA3 concession be removed immediately as was moved by the of the GTSFC AGM 2015.
2. all 52mm CRA taken by commercial be documented on CLR’s
3. recreational representation on the NZRLMG is via representatives appointed by NZ sport fishing council because the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council is not functioning within its mandate

4. the minister tender out for an immediate independent survey of CRA3 fishery.

Linda Coulston
Recreational Fisher CRA3

s 9(2)(a)

From: Jeremy Dundas s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2017 6:08 p.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: CRA7

Hi there

My name is Mark Parry. I'd like to submit that I think the commercial size limit should be increased if there are to be any changes. If that isn't an option then the status quo is the better of the two options.

CHeers

Mark Parry

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: Nick Terry s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2017 10:35 a.m.
To: FMSubmissions
Subject: Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Hi

This is my opinion for the Otago region!

Catch size for commercial and recreational should be the same it's not fair on us guys that want to go out in the weekend and catch a couple of Crays when the commercial guys can take a smaller fish! But differently don't increase the bag limits!

I realise this may mean a smaller catch for the commercial guys for a couple or years but in the long run this has to be worth it as females can breed more producing more fish for the area

Cray numbers have been good in the area for the first time in a long time! I'd like to see them hang around not march off and not come again in another 3 years!

Thanks for your time

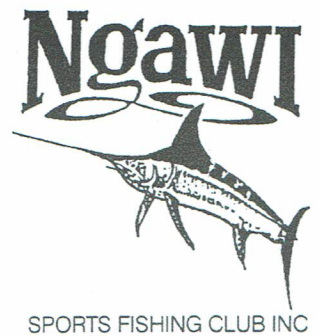
Regards

Nick Terry

s 9(2)(a)

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8 February 2017

Ministry of Primary Industries
P O Box 2526
Wellington

Attention: Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017

Re: CRA 4 Submission

Dear Sir/Madam


The Ngawi Sports Fishing Club would like to submit the following submission:

Due to the lack of available recreational crayfish in recent years, it is the Ngawi Sports Fishing Club's view that a conservative approach be taken towards the rebuild that is needed.

Therefore, we support Option 2 to use the new CRA 4 management procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 27%.

We trust common sense will prevail.

Kind regards


Julie Weber
Secretary



NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Ka whakapai te kai o te moana

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REVIEW OF ROCK LOBSTER SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR 01 APRIL 2017

A submission on behalf of the New Zealand rock lobster industry.

February 10th 2017

1. The NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZ RLIC) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the CRA statutory consultation process for April 2017 TAC/TACC decisions.
2. The NZ RLIC is an umbrella organisation for nine regional organisations known as CRAMACs, which operate in each of the rock lobster (CRA) management areas of New Zealand. CRAMAC membership comprises CRA quota owners, processors, exporters, and fishermen (quota share owner-operators and Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) owners) in each region.

CRA 3:

3. The NZ RLIC endorses the CRA 3 Tairawhiti Association submission and supports **Option CRA3_01**:
 - a) Use the current management procedure;
 - b) Retain the current customary allowance at 20 tonnes;
 - c) Retain the current recreational allowance at 20 tonnes;
 - d) Retain the current allowance for "*other sources of mortality*" at 89 tonnes; and
 - e) Reduce the current TACC by 23.09 tonnes to 237.86 tonnes from April 2017
4. NZ RLIC supports the Association intention to use option CRA3_01 which exceeds the statutory requirements to manage the fishery at or above *B_{msy}*. It is estimated that the stock is currently above *B_{MSY}* and this conservative step should ensure sustainability and

seek to maintain or rebuild current stock size –so long as aggregate landings do not exceed the agreed TAC.

5. The NZ RLIC supports consistency in the use of the current CRA 3 Management Procedure. It should provide benefits in certainty by continuing to signal in advance how the most recent stock assessment information will be interpreted and applied.
6. Although the impending TACC reduction will impact on commercial landings and reduce economic returns through the loss of product flow and revenue, the CRA 3 industry supports the measure. However, the intended management outcomes can only be achieved if aggregate landings are constrained to the allowances proposed in the 2017/18 TAC.
7. There is currently a high degree of uncertainty about recreational landings, but if the method of indexing those to commercial CPUE is applied then recreational landings in 2017/18 will be at or near the allowance of 20 tonnes. The intended CRA 3 management outcomes require that all removals be monitored and consideration given to whether measures are necessary to constrain recreational landings to support maintenance of stock size and the integrity of management arrangements.
8. The ongoing assumption and lack of supporting evidence for it, that there are ongoing moderate to high levels of illegal fishing in CRA3 are of serious concern to industry and should be to all legitimate extractive users. We are either losing fishing opportunity by having the TAC subsidise fish thieves or we are over-estimating the productivity of the CRA 3 fishery. Either or both are unsatisfactory.
9. No change is currently proposed to the current 89 tonne allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality (i.e. for illegal catch). The Rock Lobster Fishery Assessment Working Group has used a constant illegal catch at this level since 1989. The NZ RLIC and the Tairāwhiti Association support MPI taking steps to address and reduce this illegal take.
10. It is not credible in our view for the TAC being regularly adjusted with no evident action being taken to either verify the reliability of the illegal catch estimate or to make significant inroads on bringing fish thieves to account.
11. It is essential to the intended outcomes of the proposed management intervention that the benefits accrued to the standing stock because of the proposed TACC reduction do not become a re-allocation across to non-commercial extractive users and fish thieves.
12. There is an inherent obligation on the NRLMG and MPI to ensure that all TACs have integrity so that statutory obligations can be met and industry will be looking for that responsibility and accountability to be strongly emphasized in final advice to the Minister.

CRA 4

13. The CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 4) and the NZ RLIC make joint submissions on the Review of the CRA 4 (Wellington/Hawkes Bay) Rock Lobster Fishery.
14. CRAMAC 4 endorses *CRA4_01 – use the new CRA 4 Rule 24 Management Procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 23%*. However, it should be noted - and some action taken in response - that CRAMAC 4 has serious reservations about the burden of stock rebuild again falling on the commercial sector particularly in circumstances where no reduction is proposed for 'other mortality' – a well-used euphemism for illegal unreported removals.
15. Option *CRA4_01* obliges only the CRA 4 industry to actively subsidise illegal removals – no effort is made by MPI or by the NRLMG to spread the burden of the illegal activity across all legitimate extractive user groups when recommending allowances to be made within the TAC.
16. The NZ RLIC and CRAMAC 4 therefore submit that whilst there is general industry acceptance of the need for a TAC decrease there is not unanimous agreement across industry that only the TACC be reduced. Our view is that if the Minister accepts and implements *CRA4_01* as written then he must as a matter of urgency instruct MPI to take immediate steps to constrain illegal fishing activity in CRA 4 and re-evaluate the current estimates of illegal unreported removals.
17. The NZ RLIC again notes that integrity of the TAC and reservations about the allowances being made to illegal unreported removals are consistently of concern to rock lobster industry participants generally. CRAMAC 4 supports the Tairāwhiti Association contention that concurrent and supporting management interventions must be strongly emphasised in final advice to the Minister.
18. CRAMAC 4 highlights the recent history of the CRA 4 fishery since 2004 and the various voluntary interventions either made directly or promoted by the industry to bring about a greater measure of stability and certainty to the fishery and to the business of fishing. Industry believed some of the major interventions, including ACE shelving to drastically reduce the commercial catch limits over three seasons, to be sufficient to halt stock decline and bring about a rebuild. That has turned out not to be the case. It seems that for reasons yet unknown that the underlying productivity of the CRA 4 fishery has diminished over time.
19. Two issues arise if that is the case. First, and most importantly, sector expectations of catches and fishing success must be re-set. For many in the non-commercial sector these are benchmarked against historical periods of high abundance, which is no longer evident, nor anticipated in the short term.

20. The NRLMG and MPI are apparently ignoring that when recommending to the Minister that he makes a significant TACC reduction but also recommending all other allowances remain unchanged.
21. Final advice to the Minister must signal clearly that a reversal of the current stock decline depends on the TACC cut being a catch saving as intended – and is totally compromised if it can become a re-allocation of available catch across to other extractive users.
22. Second, some investigation is warranted as to possible contributing factors – in the situation where egg production should be of no concern given stock abundance and the size at onset of maturity; and seasonal patterns of juvenile settlements have been consistent over many years, there must be some causative factors relating to strengths of settlement and subsequent recruitment. It would be useful to know if any might be managed for.

CRA 7

23. The Otago Rock Lobster Industry Association and the NZ RLIC support *CRA7_01 – use the current CRA 7 Management Procedure and increase the TAC by increasing the TACC by 15%*. The 132.52 tonnes TAC and the recommended allowances including the TACC are endorsed.
24. The CRA7 fishery is unique among New Zealand lobster fisheries in having a significantly smaller MLS. This regional difference being in recognition of the predominantly settlement habitat of the Otago Coast, and the regular southern migration of 4 to 6-year-old lobsters.
25. The ORLIA supports the application of Management Procedures which respond quickly to both increase and decrease in abundance. We believe this represents a pragmatic and conservative approach to the management of the CRA7 fishery.
26. The wider rock lobster industry standard of growing and ‘banking’ abundance to increase catch rates and maintain seasonal catches at sustainable levels has never worked in CRA7. The migratory nature of the Otago fishery will always have to be at the forefront when considering management options. Fisheries data confirm a significant increase in abundance which can be responsibly harvested.

OTHER MATTERS:

CRA 2

27. The CRA 2 fishery in the past eight months has variously been described as '*overfished*' '*poorly managed*' and lobsters in the Hauraki Gulf were even characterised as being '*ecologically extinct*'. There have been a number of articles in the recreational fishing media, in the regional newspapers and on television all lamenting the state of the CRA 2 fishery to various degrees.
28. Media pressure and lobbying of politicians by other sectors, in particular by the recreational and eco groups have been persistent, and were very intensive in and around the release of the Hauraki Gulf SeaChange report and recommendations.
29. The current Minister and his very senior managers are extremely sensitive to public opinion; and pressure from them has been coming down through the various MPI business units and from there into the NRLMG.
30. MPI representatives came to an NRLMG meeting implying that there could be a TACC reduction in line for the coming season, even in the absence of a stock assessment. In response, both the NZ RLIC and the CRA 2 Rock Lobster Management Company were quick to remind MPI that there is already a peer-reviewed CRA 2 Management Procedure underpinned by a pro-active and conservative commercial harvest plan and any interference with the CRA 2 TAC/TACC would be detrimental at this stage of an intended stock rebuild.
31. The NZ RLIC was also quick to point out that the Minister would find it difficult to adjust the 2017-18 TACC in the absence of a new CRA 2 stock assessment and prior to the expiration of the current CRA 2 Management Procedure – which is 'tuned' to maintaining CRA 2 abundance above the baseline statutory reference level. Whilst current CRA 2 abundance is less than preferred by legitimate and responsible extractive users there is no evidence at all of there being a 'sustainability issue' with the fishery.
32. The NZRLIC and CRAMAC 2 also believe that for the CRA 2 industry to continue with successfully managing their future they must collectively retain control of the commercial catch limit within the constraints of any TACC generated by the operation of the current Management Procedure. For that reason, in February 2017 the directors of the CRA 2 Rock Lobster Management Company will make strong recommendations to their shareholders that the current CRA 2 ACE-shelving initiative be rolled over again from April 2017. The commercial catch limit for the 2017/18 season will be 150 tonnes if shareholders accept that recommendation.

33. The extension of the ACE shelving initiative is not only for the future health of the CRA 2 fishery, but the only chance that industry sees of retaining and managing their current share of the CRA 2 fishery when abundance increases.
34. Re-confirming the currently agreed CRA 2 Commercial Harvest Plan for at least one more season should ensure that the CRA 2 industry participants are seen by the NRLMG, by the Minister, by MPI and by non-commercial stakeholders to remain serious about the progressive rebuild of a shared fishery.
35. The CRA 2 Rock Lobster Management Company directors have witnessed in other CRA areas where CRAMACS have initiated their own commercial harvest plans that there are no short-term solutions to rebuild and maintenance of stock abundance; so, industry members and other stakeholders need to maintain support for the industry initiatives and patience and for intended outcomes.
36. MPI must emphasise to the Minister that stock rebuild is contingent upon aggregate catch limits not being exceeded and that any stock assessment is unreliable in the absence of credible non-commercial landing data.

CRA 9

37. The only industry concern in relation to the current CRA 9 TAC is not knowing what the total aggregate removals are in any season; and therefore having no reliable information upon which to build proposals for future catch sharing and accountability.
38. CRAMAC 9 has a relatively small levy base and therefore limitations on what can be invested in supplementary data collection and project developments in any one season. However it has implemented a voluntary and supervised Logbook programme and regular commercial stakeholder engagements in every fishing year in addition to timely communications to those stakeholders and to relevant interested parties.
39. The CRAMAC is concerned that MPI appears not to be willing to regularly invest even commensurate amounts to reliably establish the status of non-commercial removals from the CRA 9 fishery.
40. The only contemporary and verifiable CRA 9 fisheries data is that which is recorded and reported by commercial rock lobster fishermen. There are two types of industry-generated data – mandatory catch and effort reports (CELRs) and Vessel Logbooks.

41. Problems with CRA 9 CELR data caused the NRLMG to lose confidence in the ongoing operation of a CRA 9 Management Procedure to guide TAC setting and this was set aside in 2015. Considerable effort has since gone into advising and instructing industry participants as to the correct way to record and report commercial effort and landings. CRAMAC 9 considers that the quality of CELR data has greatly improved consequently but believes that there currently remains insufficient data to have confidence in a reliable management procedure.
42. The small commercial fleet spread over such a geographically extensive management area is somewhat unique to CRA 9. The relatively low TACC since 1990 led to a rapid re-structure of the fleet in vessel numbers and coverage. The modest TACC increase several seasons ago was quickly and easily absorbed by the smaller fleet and CRAMAC 9 has since struggled to find development opportunities which might 'prove up' the TAC/TACC.
43. CRA 9 Vessel Logbook coverage in CRA 9 has been inconsistent until the recent 2015/16 season and privacy considerations have precluded reporting of the CRA 9 Logbook data summaries. There are now five (5) regular Logbook participants and the data summaries which can now be reported are generally positive in terms of trends in catch rates; and size frequency distributions of lobsters in pots.
44. It is highly unlikely that the NRLMG can provide any updated advice on the status of the CRA 9 stock unless MPI actively engages a comprehensive CRA 9 non-commercial catch and effort survey.

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

On behalf of

CRAMAC 2 – CRAMAC 3 – CRAMAC 4 – CRAMAC 7 – CRAMAC 9



Daryl Sykes

Chief Executive Officer

SUBMISSION - Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017

Introduction

This submission is presented on behalf of Ngati Porou Seafoods Limited (NPSL), the commercial asset holding company established under the Maori Fisheries Act settlement process to receive and manage the quota assets allocated to Ngati Porou; Rongowhakaata Iwi Asset Holding Company (RIAHC), the commercial asset holding company established under the Maori Fisheries Act settlement process to receive and manage the quota assets allocated to Rongowhakaata; Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa, the owner of 1,436,086 Cra3 shares; and Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust, the mandated iwi organization to receive Te Aitanga a Mahaki iwi share of assets and benefits from the settlement process .

It is in response to the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017 discussion paper. MPI are seeking feedback to the proposed total allowable catch adjustments in the CRA3, CRA4 and CRA7 rock lobster fisheries for the 2017-18 fishing year.

This Submission focuses on CRA3 and CRA4 as collectively we have varying levels of Customary, Commercial and Recreational involvement in these fisheries.

The Proposals

The options proposed below are results from the operation of the management procedure in CRA 3 and information from the 2016 stock assessment and decision rules for CRA4. They are as follows;

CRA 3

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary	Recreational	Other mortality
CRA3_01 - Use the current CRA 3 management procedure and decrease the TAC by decreasing the TACC by 9%	366.86	237.86	20	20	89
CRA3_02 (status quo) Retain the CRA 3 TAC, allowances and TACC	389.95	260.95	20	20	89

The CRA3 fishery has seen catch per unit effort (CPUE) increase from 2008-2012, however recent monitoring of the fishery has shown that CPUE is decreasing. The Management Procedure therefore recommends a decrease in the TACC from the current 260.95 tonne to 237.86 tonne, a 9% decrease.

There are no stock sustainability concerns for the fishery as indicated in the most recent stock assessment. Application of the CRA3 management procedure is expected to maintain the stock above B_{MSY} with greater than 50% probability and above B_{MIN} with greater than 90% probability.

There are no proposed changes to customary, recreational and other mortality catch allowances.

CRA4

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary	Recreational	Other mortality
CRA4_01 - Use the new Rule 24 CRA 4 management procedure and reduce the TAC by 23%.	502	307	35	35	75
CRA4_02 – Use the new Rule 6 CRA 4 management procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 27%.	484	289	35	85	75

The results from the 2016 stock assessment suggest stock biomass was 1.3 times B_{MIN} , but below management target, B_{REF} by 25%, with stock biomass projected to decline in the next four years. Two new management procedure options are proposed to guide TAC settings both of which result in TACC reductions. Both options are expected to rebuild the fishery within the next 5 years.

There are no proposed changes to customary, recreational and other mortality catch allowances.

Our Position

We continue to support the use of management procedures to guide TAC setting. Our priority is to maintain a high level of stock abundance ensuring a long-term sustainable fishery for all sectors.

The reduced TACCs will result in a negative economic impact of lost annual revenue. However, we consider that the recommended options are the best to ensure healthy and sustainable rock lobster fisheries, and will ultimately result in long-term benefits.

We therefore support the following options:

- **CRA3_01: Use the current CRA 3 management procedure and decrease the TAC by decreasing the TACC by 9%**
- **CRA4_02: Use the new Rule 6 CRA 4 management procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 27%.**

In supporting these options it is appropriate to continue to raise concerns we have in regards to illegal catch and recreational reporting. The 89 and 75 tonnes of “other mortality” allowances are alarmingly high. It would be encouraging and beneficial to the fishery to see the ministry set plans in motion to address this issue.

Another area of concern continues to be recreational reporting. Good information is the key to good management and better informed decisions, which is why we support efforts to better monitor recreational catch. It seems counter-productive for one sector of the industry to not be recording information. Again, it would be encouraging to see the ministry set plans in motion to accurately address this information gap.

Noho ora mai koe



Kenneth Houkamau
Ngati Porou Seafoods Ltd
Quota and Resources Manager

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Submission from New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council – 10 February 2016

To the: Ministry for Primary Industries

Email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz

Thank you for this opportunity to respond with this submission on behalf of the recreational fishing community in the stated areas. Unfortunately due to poor timing and the fact many people were away until the end of January including myself we have had problems on getting feedback from some areas.

Here is our submission.

Re: Cra3

Contrary to some thinking and comments Recreational fishers do suffer from localised depletion of takeable lobsters in the near-shore waters to Gisborne. Recreational fishers blame the concession enabling the commercial sector to harvest male crayfish at 52mm MLS during the Autumn/Winter season when prices are high. Meanwhile the public's minimum legal size remains at 54mm.

As a result of known slow growth these sub 52mm males do not grow into the fishery during the spring moult and remain sub 54mm waiting for the next season when commercial may take them. Because of this blatant inequity, the predominant male rock lobster fishery in the near shore waters to Gisborne has been managed as a preference for a few commercial fishermen.

The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council is concerned to hear of so much miss-information coming from within the sport fishing circles of the local club when they challenge the current management procedure and the use of commercial CPUE data to manage the fishery.

CPUE per every commercial pot lift gives us valuable information, providing a good picture of the fisheries' health as the recreational sector's opportunity to catch rock lobster improves with high abundance. When the CPUE goes up, so do our catches. Likewise, when it drops, so do our catches.

The grass roots membership and wider public do have some understanding of these principles.

This aside the commercial TACC (Total Allowable Commercial Catch) represents in CRA3 some 260 tonnes. Whereas Recreational and Customary allowance stands at 20 tonnes each. We know that MPI currently estimate the recreational catch to be less than nine tonnes and sadly they do not have robust information on the Customary take but believe it to be less than 20 tonnes. We should remember that most customary permits are actioned using commercial vessels and many permits stipulate a MLS as low as 50mm to ensure that the permit can be filled.

Apart from the nearshore waters in dispute the remaining CRA3 fishery is in reasonable condition when compared to the neighbouring fisheries either side. But we believe this is as a direct result of the large number of concession size fish (sub 54mm) being taken out locally area 910, with some estimates suggesting it could be as high as 60 percent of the TACC. Basically, the commercial fishery in CRA3 is only surviving because they can hammer the peoples fish in the accessible nearshore waters from the marine reserve to the town basin. Is it any wonder local amateur fishers struggle to catch a feed.

Likewise, it is vitally important that we work with MPI and Commercial to manage this fishery using agreed management procedures and decision rules. This not only offers certainty to commercial but it also gives the public a voice and as the fishery rebuilds, so should their fishing opportunity. Sadly, the very existence of the concession operates against what should be seen as fairness and is the crux of the current inequity and as a result should be removed.

Yes, we hear the commercial threat remove the concession and we will fish year around. It is a vocal threat from a few protagonists, when in all reality the commercial harvest peaks around the high prices. These being Autumn/Winter and the Chinese New Year in late January. The price of lobsters will dictate commercial fishing behaviour. Likewise, if commercial were to set pots within the high recreational user areas over summer it is likely pot losses will increase, not something no respectable commercial fisher can endure.

Which is why, to restore equity in this fishery the concession must go -Period... Or the Minister must introduce spatial separation and close the nearshore waters within three nautical miles of mean low water springs in the disputed area to eliminate spatial conflict.

In regards to immediate action we support:

Option CRA3_01 – Decrease the CRA 3 TACC by 23.09 tonnes

CRA4

Despite best efforts over the past decade with voluntary shelving by both commercial and recreational fishers and other efforts this fishery remains in an unstable state. Even given the weather reducing recreational fishing opportunity the amateur sector still struggle to catch a bag limit on a regular basis. The local recreational fishers have voiced concerns in regard to the regular use of Section 111 landing by commercial fishers, and these landing could be drifting into the black market. Therefore we would like to see all Section 111 landed rock lobster nationally be telson clipped to prevent these fish from entering the black market either directly or indirectly.

The NZRFC supports the submission from both the Ngawi fishing club and Te Ohu in Cra4

In regards to immediate action we support:

CRA4_02: Use the new *Rule 6* CRA 4 management procedure and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 27%.

CRA7

This fishery has frequently given rise to its management concerns to recreational fishers. We remain concerned to the differential MLS and do not subscribe to the notion that these small rock lobster need to be taken commercially before they move on and migrate out of the area. We would like to see a trial for five years that the MLS be stabilised as the same for both commercial and recreational take.

Given these thoughts we support Option 2

Option CRA7_02 – Retain the current CRA 7 TAC

Under Option CRA7_02 the CRA 7 TAC would stay at its current level for the 2017/18 fishing year.

Finally, irrespective of what some recreational sport fishing voices of discontent might say, the NZ Recreational Fishing Council remains active and committed to supporting the National Rock Lobster Management Group that offers advice on rock lobster fisheries to the Minister. Our representatives are very experienced advocates on behalf of the recreational sector and do when required punch above their weight. Yes, there are disappointments and frustrations, but we would like to assure the

public and recreational fishers that we will continue to work in their best interests. Unfortunately, it's not cheap and the Council only receives funding from its members.

This support also requires the support of all amateur fishers and local clubs, unfortunately the current volunteer model often comes up short. Thus we have no option but to turn to the Minister to ensure we can meet the costs associated with representation and advocacy at the highest level.

Thank you.

Keith Ingram JP
Past President NZRFC and NRLMG representative.
On behalf of the NZRFC and its membership.

10 February 2017

National Rock Lobster Management Group
C/o Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140.
FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Tena koutou e nga rangatira,

Introduction

This submission is from Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Ltd (Te Ohu Kaimoana) in its role as corporate trustee of Te Ohu Kai Moana Trust. Te Ohu Kai Moana was established under s.31 of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004. The purpose of the trust is to advance the interests of iwi individually and collectively, primarily in the development of fisheries, fishing, and fisheries-related activities.

This submission responds to the National Rock Lobster Management Groups (NRLMG) review of rock lobster fisheries in each of the quota management areas that operate Management Procedures. Te Ohu Kaimoana sits as one of the representatives on the NRLMG providing input and commentary to protect the full range of iwi/Maori interests in the fisheries. In developing this submission, we have made our draft submission available to Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) and Asset Holding Companies (AHCs) for input, and we have taken on board the feedback we have received.

We do not intend for this submission to derogate from or override any submissions iwi may decide to make.

National Rock Lobster Management Group Proposals

The NRLMG proposes to adjust the total allowable catches in the CRA3, CRA4, and CRA7 rock lobster fisheries for the 2017-18 fishing year (see Table 1 below). Application of current Management Procedures in most other QMAs (though CRA6 has no Management Procedure) indicate no additional management responses are required for this coming fishing year.

For CRA3, there are two proposals; decrease the TACC, or maintain it at the current level. Ongoing monitoring of this fishery has shown that Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) has decreased. When this is used in the current CRA3 Management Procedure it recommends a decrease in the TACC from the current 260.95 tonne to 237.86 tonne. The status quo would see the TACC

remain at its current level of 260.95 tonne. Neither of the proposals recommend adjustments to the customary or recreational allowances.

For CRA4 there are two proposals; both decrease the TACC but to different levels. The current Management Procedure will expire in March 2017, so from 1 April 2017 there must be a new Management Procedure rule in place. There are two Management Procedures being considered with each resulting in different TACs and TACCs. The first Management Procedure proposed would result in a 90 tonne reduction to the TACC, from 397 tonnes to 307 tonne; the second Management Procedure proposal would result in a reduction of the TACC by 108 tonnes to 289 tonne. Neither of the new Management Procedures proposed recommend adjustments to the customary or recreational allowances. Both new rules have been guided by the aspirations identified by iwi and stake-holders at a meeting in July 2016. These aspirations relate to sustainability, good levels of abundance, stability, safety, and stocks being available for future generations. Both proposed rules have a high probability of rebuilding the fishery within the next five years.

For CRA7 there are also two proposals; increase the TACC or maintain it at the current level. The CPUE for this fishery has increased, and when applied to the current Management Procedure this recommends an increase to the TACC from the current 97.72 tonnes to 112.52 tonnes. There is also a proposal to maintain the TACC at current levels. Neither of the proposals recommend adjustments to the customary or recreational allowances.

Table 1 Proposals

Stock	Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
				Customary Māori	Recreational	Other mortality
CRA 3	CRA3_01: Use the <u>current</u> CRA 3 management procedure and decrease the TAC by decreasing the TACC.	366.86 ↓	237.86 ↓	20	20	89
	CRA3_02 (status quo): Retain the current CRA 3 TAC, allowances and TACC.	389.95	260.95	20	20	89
CRA 4 ¹	CRA4_01: Use the <u>new</u> CRA 4 management procedure (<i>Rule 24</i>) and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 23%.	502 ↓	307 ↓	35	85	75
	CRA4_02: Use the <u>new</u> CRA 4 management procedure (<i>Rule 6</i>) and reduce the TAC by reducing the TACC by 27%.	484 ↓	289 ↓	35	85	75
CRA 7	CRA7_01: Use the <u>current</u> CRA 7 management procedure and increase the TAC by increasing the TACC by 15%.	132.52 ↑	112.52 ↑	10	5	5
	CRA7_02 (status quo): Retain the current CRA 7 TAC, allowances and TACC.	117.72	97.72	10	5	5

¹ The current CRA 4 is 592 tonnes and the TACC is 397 tonnes.

Te Ohu's preferred options

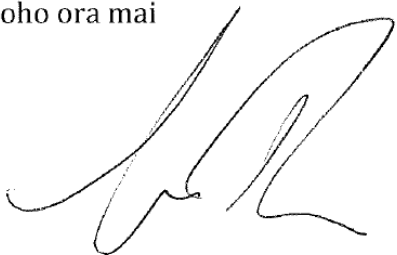
CRA3: Te Ohu supports the ongoing use of the current Management Procedure for this fishery and therefore supports Option one; to reduce the TACC by 23.09 tonnes, from 260.95 tonnes to 237.86 tonnes.

CRA4: Te Ohu consider a significant reduction is necessary to ensure a faster rebuild of this fishery. Such a decrease, while significant, will ensure a higher probability of a successful rebuild. Further, iwi have consistently promoted a more conservative approach to CRA4 fisheries management. Te Ohu therefore supports Option two (that applies new rule 6) and reduce the TACC by 108 tonnes, from 397 tonnes to 289 tonnes.

CRA7: Te Ohu supports the ongoing use of the current Management Procedure for this fishery and therefore support Option one, to increase the TACC by 14.8 tonnes, from 97.72 tonnes to 112.52 tonnes.

Please feel free to contact me on 0212275289 if you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission. Alternatively contact Graeme Hastilow on 0211918906

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR', written in a cursive style.

Alan Riwaka
Senior Fisheries Management Advisor
Te Ohu Kaimoana Trustee Ltd

Tairawhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association Inc Submission on the Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017.

The TRLIA accepts the outcome of the current Management Procedure for CRA 3 and endorses the 23.09 tonne reduction for the 2017/18 year. TRLIA members have observed very healthy catch rates when the fishery in 909 and 910 reopened from the voluntary closed period on the 15th January 2017. Statistical area 911 is also reporting high catch rates when fishing has occurred over the current summer.

A two day catch sampling programme was commissioned by the TRLIA in November 2016 in the Gisborne Port to Pouawa area. One purpose of the survey is to demonstrate the potential for recreational harvest while the commercial fishery is voluntarily closed between the 1st September and the 15th January. The results are attached to this submission and show a healthy stock with significant numbers of male lobsters over 54mm MLS.

The CRA 3 commercial fishery operated quite adequately at a CPUE around 0.5 kg/ pot lift for much of the past 50 years (with two CPUE spikes in 1997 and 2012). The development of the current Management Procedure, effective from 2015 to 2020, was supported by CRA 3 industry as a deliberate strategy to reset the normal stock abundance to a higher level. The new target CPUE is 2.0 kg/ pot lift. This should ensure that the reasonable harvest expectations of each sector are comfortably met.

For CRA 3 industry the high abundance strategy may mean forsaking extra landings, in some years, that could have been taken without compromising sustainability. Off-setting this risk are the benefits of high abundance including the increased flexibility in landing lobsters of preferred size grades at times when market returns are highest.

The high abundance strategy arose from the CRA 3 multi sector forum, initiated by industry in 2004. The recreational sector believed that transferring harvesting rights from commercial to recreational would solve their perception of the problem in CRA 3. The customary and commercial sectors favoured growing stock abundance in CRA 3 for the benefit of all sectors. The resulting rebuild Management Procedure, first operated in 2009, and succeeded by the current maintenance rule in 2015 has been very successful.

The TRLIA accepts the principal that effective fisheries management requires high quality data, particularly catch and effort data. As the sector that harvests two thirds of the available TAC in CRA 3, industry has a vested interest in ensuring that our catch and effort reporting is as accurate as possible. If catch rates are declining or increasing our effort needs to be adjusted to suit. The vast majority of quota share owners are committed to the fishery for the long term.

We note that for MPI the “ overall management approach for Rock Lobster Fisheries is to monitor and manage them closely to provide for utilisation while ensuring sustainability.”

The commercial sector operates under a stringent regulatory system of catch and effort reporting, with accounting for catch at all points from harvest to export shipments. As MPI seems intent on imposing further compliance stress and cost on commercial operators with IEMRS under the quest for better fisheries information, the TRLIA is asking, what about the remaining one third of the CRA 3 TAC, the customary, recreational and illegal components?

In the consultation document we note the reference to the benefits of Management Procedures, 4.1.2.e. “ The ability to address uncertainty in all facets of the assessment and management process.” This suggests that MPI has little incentive to address the longstanding concerns about the quality of information about actual removals from CRA 3 by customary, recreational and illegal harvesters because any blowout can be balanced by reducing the TACC.

The commentary in the consultation document about other removals is concerning, especially when compared to the relative certainty about the commercial landings.

CRA 3 customary has had a long standing reporting system, with most permit issuers understanding the importance of accurate reporting, yet there is “incompleteness and uncertainty” about the information. For all the effort and expense invested by MPI and permit issuers in the current system this reads like a missed opportunity. Perhaps MPI needs to invest a bit more and ensure a better level of certainty that the

customary sector deserves.

The CRA 3 recreational catch estimates are so uncertain as to probably be not worth including in any CRA 3 assessment. The assessment model assumes catches are approaching 20 t based on proportionality with commercial CPUE. An expensive recreational survey came up with about 8 t. It is a sad irony that the only catch and effort data for the recreational sector is the 2.94 t of catch reported by commercial operators under Section 111.

The construction of the CRA 3 illegal component of 89 t remains a closed mystery. While the assumptions behind this figure remain behind closed MPI doors it is hard for anyone to have any confidence that it has any meaning. We suspect that actual annual seizures by MPI compliance represent less than 1 % of the 89 t, which would be embarrassing, if the illegal estimate was really 89 t.

The TRLIA is aware of the practical and financial difficulties that MPI has in refining information on other removals, but it is unacceptable to keep putting this issue in the “ too hard basket “. Perhaps MPI needs to start with a campaign explaining the importance of robust information to effective fisheries management.

Gordon Halley
Chairman TRLIA

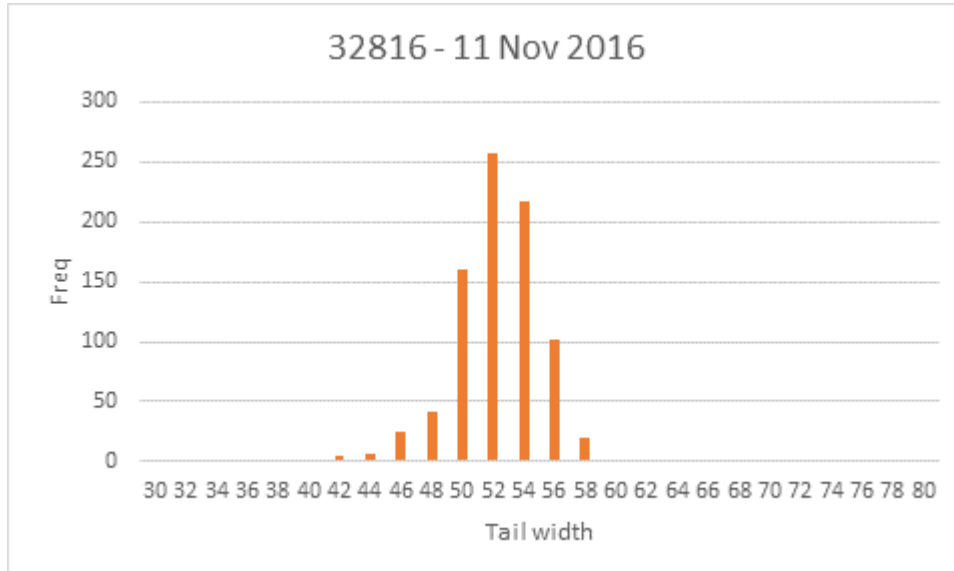
CRA3 Male Rocklobster Survey – Carried Out By Lat37

Day 1 -11 Nov 2016

36 Pots

880 lobsters

135 fish 54mm+

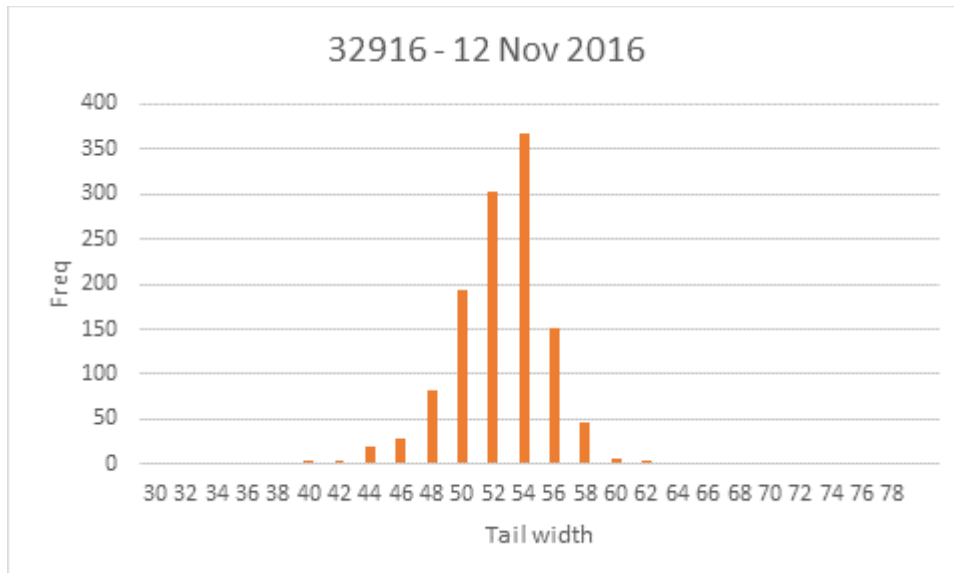


Day 2 -12 Nov 2016

48 Pots

1410 lobsters

236 fish 54mm+





SUBMISSION

Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017

Date Completed: 10/02/2016

Introduction

This submission is presented on behalf of Tāmanuhiri Tūtū Poroporo Trust, the commercial asset holding company established under the Maori Fisheries Act settlement process to receive and manage the quota assets allocated to Ngai Tāmanuhiri.

It is in response to the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017 discussion paper. MPI are seeking feedback to the proposed total allowable catch adjustments in the CRA3, CRA4 and CRA7 rock lobster fisheries for the 2017-18 fishing year.

This scope of our submission is confined to the Gisborne CRA3 fisheries.

The Proposal

The option proposed below are results from the operation of the management procedure in CRA 3 and information from the 2016 stock assessment. They are as follows;

CRA 3

Option	TAC	TACC	Allowances		
			Customary	Recreational	Other mortality
CRA3_01 - Use the current CRA 3 management procedure and decrease the TAC by decreasing the TACC by 9%	366.86	237.86	20	20	89
CRA3_02 (status quo) Retain the CRA 3 TAC, allowances and TACC	389.95	260.95	20	20	89

The CRA3 fishery has seen catch per unit effort (CPUE) increase from 2008-2012, however recent monitoring of the fishery has shown that CPUE is decreasing. The Management Procedure therefore recommends a decrease in the TACC from the current 260.95 tonne to 237.86 tonne, a 9% decrease.

There are no stock sustainability concerns for the fishery as indicated in the most recent stock assessment. Application of the CRA3 management procedure is expected to maintain the stock above B_{MSY} with greater than 50% probability and above B_{MIN} with greater than 90% probability.

There are no proposed changes to customary, recreational and other mortality catch allowances.

Our Position

The reduced TACCs will result in a negative economic impact of lost annual revenue. However, we consider that the recommended option is the best to ensure healthy and sustainable rock lobster fisheries, and will ultimately result in long-term benefits as directed by the current CRA3 management procedure.

We therefore support the following option:

- **CRA3_01: Use the current CRA 3 management procedure and decrease the TAC by decreasing the TACC by 9%**

In supporting this option it is appropriate to continue to raise concerns we have in regards to illegal catch and recreational reporting. The 89 tonnes of “other mortality” allowances are alarmingly high. It would be encouraging and beneficial to the fisheries to see the ministry set plans in motion to address this issue.

Another area of concern continues to be recreational reporting. Good information is the key to good management and better informed decisions, which is why we support efforts to better monitor recreational catch. It seems counter-productive for one sector of the industry to not be recording information. Again, it would be encouraging to see the ministry set plans in motion to accurately address this information gap.

Ngai Tāmanuhiri operates under the Fisheries (Kaimoana) Regulations 1998 and acknowledge that there is no change proposed to the 20 tonne customary Māori allowance for CRA3.

Noho ora mai koe



Shane Bradbrook
Board Chair
Tāmanuhiri Tūtū Poroporo Trust

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10 February 2017

NZ Sport Fishing Council submission on the review of Rock Lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017

Contents

1. THE SUBMITTERS	2
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
3. RECOMMENDATIONS	3
4. INTRODUCTION	4
5. ROCK LOBSTER - PROPOSALS	4
5.1. CRAYFISH 3 (CRA 3) GISBORNE.....	4
5.2. CRAYFISH 4 (CRA 4) WELLINGTON/HAWKE'S BAY	8
5.3. CRAYFISH 7 (CRA 7) OTAGO.....	11
6. OTHER MATTERS	13
6.1. NRLMG ADVICE	13
6.2. CPUE AS A PROXY FOR ABUNDANCE.....	13
6.3. APPLICATION OF MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES.....	14
6.4 RECREATIONAL CATCH BY COMMERCIAL FISHERS	16
7. PREVIOUS NZSFC SUBMISSIONS	16

1. THE SUBMITTERS

- 1.1 The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and supporters of our public outreach LegaSea, (the submitters) appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback on the *Discussion Paper No: 2017/03 Review of Rock Lobster Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2017*.
- 1.2 The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) released a summary of the National Rock Lobster Management Group's (NRLMG's) proposals on 20 December 2016. MPI released their Discussion Paper on 11 January 2016, with no amendments to the NRLMG's proposals. Submissions are due by 10 February 2017.
- 1.3 The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is a National Sports Organisation with almost 34,000 affiliated members from 55 clubs nationwide and a growing number of contributing supporters to LegaSea. Our representatives are available to discuss this submission in more detail if required. We look forward to positive outcomes from this review and would like to be kept informed of future developments. Our contact is Dave Lockwood, secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz.
- 1.4 Despite the lack of any meaningful responses to our earlier submissions we continue to submit our feedback because our members, LegaSea supporters and others nationwide are disillusioned with the ongoing mismanagement of rock lobster and want us to help effect change. <https://goo.gl/OxG97T>
- 1.5 Collectively we want the Minister to act in a more precautionary manner so crayfish stocks can be rebuilt, the ecosystem can be restored, and so there is sufficient abundance to provide for current and future generation's needs.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Rock lobster abundance is important for maintaining a diverse ecosystem. It is not sufficient that current management settings are designed to maximise commercial harvest while denying public fishing opportunities both now and in the future. We remind the National Rock Lobster Management Group and the Ministry for Primary Industries that the Minister, Nathan Guy, has a statutory duty to sustainably manage fisheries to maintain the potential of our fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, pursuant to s8(2)(a) of the Fisheries Act 1996.
- 2.2 The submitters are committed to ensuring that sustainability measures and management controls are designed and implemented to achieve the Purpose and Principles of the Act. A precautionary approach needs to be taken in these highly valued rock lobster stocks, which are all managed using uncertain and incomplete information.
- 2.3 It is only fair and reasonable to expect the total reduction of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to be applied to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) in CRA 3 and 4. It is commercial exploitation that has depleted these fish stocks and the effects of past mismanagement are still making an impact and denying reasonable public access today.
- 2.4 In July 2014 a multi-stakeholder workshop was held to discuss the performance and future aspirations for the CRA 3 (East Cape - Gisborne) fishery. The fishery was not meeting expectations in 2014 and there is no evidence that the high yield strategy of the CRA 3 Management Procedure can meet the future aspirations of any of the stakeholders. We are concerned that the proposed 9% reduction to the CRA 3 TACC will not be enough to stop the decline in abundance and catch rates. Any new management settings must be tailored to meet the statutory obligations to both Maori and recreational non-commercial fishing interests, to provide an abundant fishery to enable people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and to satisfy stakeholder aspirations and the community's desire for a resilient fishery.

- 2.5 The CRA 4 fishery has suffered from a boom and bust cycle since at least the 1980s. It is now time for the Minister to take a more precautionary approach when managing this important fishery between the Hawke's Bay and Wellington. We acknowledge the CRA 4 commercial rock lobster association for advocating in 2016 for a lower TACC than proposed by the Ministry and National Rock Lobster Management Group. As shown by the drop in Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) since, their concerns were well founded. The TAC and TACC must be reduced further to enable this fishery to rebuild.
- 2.6 We are concerned that under current management settings the biomass in CRA 7 (Otago) is projected to decline by 7% by 2018, but remain above reference levels. The proposed 15% increase to the TACC just adds to our concerns about the long-term viability of this stock. This stock is managed using uncertain, self-reported data and there is no reliable estimate of B_{MSY} , the biomass level required to produce Maximum Sustainable Yield, due to the high level of movement of rock lobster out of this management area. The current TAC, allowances, and TACC must be retained until the use of a Management Procedure is discontinued and the concession enabling the commercial harvest of rock lobster smaller than the recreational minimum legal size is revoked.
- 2.7 Management Procedures based on self-reported commercial catch rates may be a guide but we are not convinced that commercial CPUE tells the whole story regarding trends in stock abundance in most crayfish management areas. Moreover, setting and altering the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) based on unvalidated, self-reported catch by individual fishers, including legal crayfish returned to the sea and number of potlifts, requires a good deal of faith to overcome the possibility that fishers are ignoring the high incentive to change their operation to ensure stable or increasing CPUE.
- 2.8 There is no mention in the MPI Discussion Document that a commercial concession applies in CRA 3 and 7 (and CRA 8), enabling commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) applying to recreational harvest. This omission denies submitters the opportunity to learn how the exploitation of concession fish has caused ongoing conflict between commercial interests and non-commercial fishers who resent the impacts of this exploitation on their ability to harvest legal size crayfish, particularly in CRA 3. We consider this to be a serious omission of relevant information.
- 2.9 The CRA 3 concession arises from a stock rebuilding programme initiated in 1993 for 3 years, to offset the economic impacts on commercial fishers of a 50% reduction in the TACC. The CRA 7 concession arises from the historical need to land rock lobster small enough so their tails could be canned. It is highly objectionable that a tool that was generously introduced to prevent economic disaster from commercial overexploitation in CRA 3, and to enable commercial opportunities in CRA 7, is now being used as a reallocation tool for commercial benefit.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Minister addresses the sustainability concerns of non-commercial stakeholders by agreeing to stop the use of Management Procedures based on Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) controls, and to initiate a full review of rock lobster management.
- 3.2 CRA 3 –
- The Minister sets a TAC of 366 t for CRA 3
 - The Minister sets aside 20 t to allow for Maori customary interests in CRA 3.
 - The Minister sets aside 20 t to allow for recreational fishing interests in CRA 3.
 - The Minister sets aside 120 t to allow for fishing related mortality in CRA 3.
 - The Minister sets a TACC of 206 t in CRA 3.

3.3 CRA 4 –

- The Minister sets a TAC of 484 t for CRA 4.
- The Minister sets aside 35 t to allow for Maori customary interests in CRA 4.
- The Minister sets aside 85 t to allow for recreational fishing interests in CRA 4.
- The Minister sets aside 75 t to allow for fishing related mortality in CRA 4.
- The Minister reduces the TACC to 289 t in CRA 4.

3.4 CRA 7 –

- The Minister sets a TAC of 117.7 t for CRA 7.
- The Minister makes an allowance of 5 t for recreational interests in CRA 7.
- The Minister makes an allowance of 10 t for customary fishing interests in CRA 7.
- The Minister makes an allowance of 5 t for other sources of fishing mortality in CRA 7.
- The Minister sets a TACC of 97.7 t for CRA 7.

4. INTRODUCTION

4.1 For some time the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and supporters of our LegaSea outreach (the submitters) have been concerned that current rock lobster management and the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) processes show little regard for the public's interests, in environmental and fishing terms, and our social, economic and cultural wellbeings.

4.2 These interests and wellbeings are largely ignored or passed over with a cursory paragraph or two. This sense of disengagement is amplified by the truncated submission periods offered to stakeholders by the Ministry and NRLMG.

4.3 The submitters object to the Ministry's ongoing habit of curbing public input by only allowing limited consultation time. Excluding the traditional pre-Christmas rush and holidays, this only left us 20 working days to respond to the Ministry's complex sustainability measures for CRA 3, 4 and 7.

4.4 It is unreasonable to expect non-commercial entities such as ours to consult with a range of interests and volunteers and respond with adequate information to inform the Minister's decision, as required by ss 12 and 13 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act).

4.5 In an effort to alert people to this review and better inform our members and supporters, the Council developed a summary of the Ministry's proposals that were released on 11 January. That summary was distributed on 25 January to clubs, other groups and organisations, encouraging feedback prior to development of this submission. This submission is richer for having initiated that engagement with others.

5. ROCK LOBSTER - PROPOSALS

5.1. Crayfish 3 (CRA 3) Gisborne

5.1.1 MPI advise "*there are no sustainability concerns for the CRA 3 fishery*".

5.1.2 MPI propose a decrease to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by reducing the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) by 9%, or to retain the status quo.

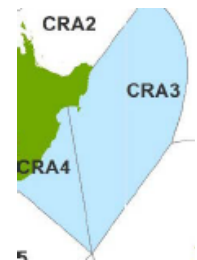


Table 1. TAC, allowances and TACC proposals for CRA 3, from 1 April 2017.

	TAC (tonnes, t)	Recreational allowance (t)	Customary allowance (t)	Other mortality (t)	TACC (t)
Status quo	389.95	20	20	89	260.95
Proposed 9% TACC reduction	366.86	20	20	89	237.86
NZSFC recommendation	366	20	20	120	206

- 5.1.3 There is **no proposed change to the customary allowance of 20 tonnes**. In 2015 approx. 11,000 crayfish were reported harvested from CRA 3. There is no mandatory harvest reporting system. A 20 t estimate was used in the last stock assessment model in 2014.
- 5.1.4 There is **no proposed change to the recreational allowance of 20 t**. The 2011-12 National Panel Survey estimated annual recreational harvest to be around 8 t.
- 5.1.5 There is **no proposed change to the ‘other mortality’ allowance of 89 tonnes**. MPI and the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council had input into a 2012 report to estimate illegal take. The report¹ notes it did not estimate illegal take from the Mahia Peninsula area and recommends that handling mortality needs to be taken into account. In conclusion the report suggests **total illegal catch in CRA 3 “could approach 120 tonnes per year”**.
- 5.1.6 The Minister has a statutory duty to allow for *“all other mortality to that stock caused by fishing”* (Fisheries Act, s 21(1)(b)). This includes the best estimate of illegal take and handling mortality. The latter includes predation of crayfish while in the craypot, mortality in holding nets and mortality of undersize, softshell, and females in berry caught in pots and released at the surface.
- 5.1.7 In CRA 4 the estimate of illegal take is 40 t and handling mortality is 18.4 t based on the estimate calculated in the 2016 stock assessment and a 5% mortality rate. In CRA 3 the assumed handling mortality rate is 10% of released catch and the proportion of small rock lobster would be much higher than in CRA 4.
- 5.1.8 Based on plots of CRA 3 length frequency collected by MPI observers in 2013–14 **we estimate about 47% of catch (by number) is concession fish**, smaller than the legal size limit applying to recreational harvest.
- 5.1.9 In the absence of a handling mortality estimate from the 2014 stock assessment we submit that **an allowance of 31 t is needed** to cover handling mortality in CRA 3.
- 5.1.10 There is **no mention in the IPP that a commercial concession applies in CRA 3**, enabling commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) applying to recreational harvest; this is a serious omission of relevant information from the *“Consultation Document”*. This omission denies submitters the opportunity to learn how the exploitation of concession fish has caused ongoing conflict between commercial interests and non-commercial fishers who resent the impacts of this exploitation on their ability to harvest legal size crayfish.
- 5.1.11 Commercial catch rates have dropped about 22% since the stock assessment in 2014, from 2.21 kg per potlift to 1.72 kg per potlift in 2016.

¹ Developing and Applying a Methodology to Estimate Illegal Take from New Zealand Fisheries. MRAG Asia Pacific. February 2012.

- 5.1.12 The Rock Lobster Fisheries Assessment Working Group consider that the CRA 3 stock remains above B_{MSY} , the biomass level required to produce Maximum Sustainable Yield, but no reference biomass has been agreed on.
- 5.1.13 Using the current CRA 3 Management Procedure the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) would be decreased 23 tonnes (9%).
- 5.1.14 MPI advise the ongoing application of the CRA 3 Management Procedure will “*maintain fishing opportunities for all sectors by maintaining stock abundance above the agreed reference levels*”. Clearly the NRLMG need to reconsider those reference levels so CRA 3 can be rebuilt to a level that enables recreational fishers to access adequate numbers of legal sized crayfish.
- 5.1.15 In July 2014 representatives of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop held in Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa’s boardroom. The workshop was held to discuss the performance of the CRA 3 fishery and our future aspirations. The results of this meeting were intended to guide the development of the next CRA 3 Management Procedure.
- 5.1.16 It is timely to recall the aspirations of the multi-stakeholder workshop and rate the performance of the Management Procedure used by the NRLMG for CRA 3.
- a. **Maintain yield in CRA 3** was considered desirable by many stakeholders. This is measured as average catch and is always a trade-off between high yield and increasing abundance. The TACC and annual commercial catch remained at about 260 t in 2014–15, 2015–16 and 2016-17, which is the highest it has been since 2005–06. The Ministry proposes a 238 t TACC for 2017-18. The recreational catch is uncertain, but likely to be less than the 20 t allowance. A project that investigated survey methods to estimate recreational harvest for CRA 3 was completed, but this was not seen as a priority by the NRLMG notwithstanding that there is ongoing advocacy by commercial interests for recreational harvest reporting. The illegal take is highly uncertain but a recent case study on CRA 3 indicates it may have increased. Overall yield, particularly commercial yield, remains high.
 - b. **Maintaining or increasing abundance in CRA 3** was considered desirable by all stakeholders. On a stock-wide basis commercial Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is assumed by managers to track changes in relative abundance. However, the reality is that there are many operational and market driven influences on a fishery that can overturn that assumption, but it is the view of the NRLMG that standardised CPUE is considered to be a reliable indicator of relative stock size in CRA 3. Commercial fishers at the meeting wanted to maintain 2 kg per potlift or above of takeable rock lobster. Since 2014 the sequence of standardised CPUE has declined consistently from 2.2 kg per potlift to 1.9 kg/p and now 1.7 kg/p in 2016, a 23% decline. It is likely that the recreational catch rate and availability of rock lobster has also declined over this period as commercial CPUE includes concession fish, but those fish are not available to recreational fishers. So while commercial yield has been maintained, abundance is below recreational and commercial fisher expectations.
 - c. **Maintaining a sustainable stock in CRA3 for future generations** was considered essential by all stakeholders. A stock assessment provides an update on the status of CRA 3 every five years, the last assessment was in 2014. It predicted that biomass would decline by 15-31% over the next four years and that the vulnerable biomass at the time (2014) was about 704 t. For the next 3 years the TAC was set at 389 t, or 55% of the vulnerable biomass each year. Given this exceptionally high exploitation rate it is no surprise that CRA 3 has the lowest average weight of rock lobster in country and the concession to take 52 mm males is so stoutly defended by commercial fishers.

CRA 3 is propped up by the settlement of puerulus (spat) from other areas, but for how long? CRA 2 to the north is on verge of collapse, prompting commercial operators to shelve 25% of the TACC last year, yet CPUE still declined. While in CRA 4 to the south commercial operators last year insisted on a 15% reduction in the TACC, but the alarming decline in CPUE has continued. By 2019, when the next CRA 3 assessment is due, the stock will most likely be following suit with its neighbours. CPUE is heading back toward 0.5 kg/p, as it was in the mid-2000s, and all stakeholder aspirations will be dashed. Can this be avoided? The submitters believe we must try, it is what the stakeholder group asked for.

- d. **Better information on total fishing mortality in CRA 3.** Commercial landings are reasonably well recorded with about 260 t taken in 2015–16 plus 2.8 t taken home by commercial fishermen for personal use under Section 111 of the Fisheries Act. What is not well documented or reported is the number of rock lobster caught and released by commercial fishers and the estimated fishing mortality associated with this. The Minister is required to allow for “other fishing related mortality” before setting the TACC, yet this information is missing from the Rock Lobster Fisheries Assessment Working Group and NRLMG reports.

The current estimate of illegal catch is 89 t based on an estimate made by the Ministry in 1989. The allowance for other fishing related mortality is 89 t so clearly this does not include release mortality. As above, a 2012 report suggests illegal catch alone could be as high as 120 t per annum.

Since 2014 there has been a report on methods to collect information on recreational harvest in CRA 3. One of those options was a repeat of the National Panel Survey with boosted recruitment in the East Coast / Hawke’s Bay region which is scheduled to start in October 2017. An MPI project run by NIWA has monitored the main Gisborne boat ramp since October 2014 using their web camera and interview technique to collect information on recreational fishing effort, harvest and size of fish and rock lobster kept. The research report will be reviewed and published over the next few months.

- e. **Stability and certainty** was an important consideration for the Management Procedure, for fishers and Maori with commercial interests in CRA 3. While the TACC was maintained for three years, the high exploitation rate has inevitably resulted in a steady decline in abundance, as predicted by the stock assessment. The reliance on consistent recruitment of small rock lobster to the fishery is a high-risk strategy that does not meet the aspirations of recreational and customary fishers at the stakeholder meeting who wanted a better quality fishery and larger rock lobster.

5.1.17 In summary, there is no evidence that the high yield strategy of the CRA 3 Management Procedure can meet the aspirations of any of the stakeholders, or that the proposed 9% reduction in the TACC is enough to stop the decline in abundance and catch rates. Any new management settings must be tailored to meet stakeholder aspirations that were clearly articulated in 2014.

Recommendations – CRA 3

5.1.18 The Minister decides to –

- a. Discontinue the use of the Management Procedure to guide TAC and TACC settings in CRA 3 due to the continued decline of rock lobster abundance.
- b. Revoke the CRA 3 commercial concession enabling commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) applying to recreational harvest.

- c. Require the recording and public reporting of the proportions of sub-MLS crayfish versus legal sized crayfish taken commercially in CRA 3.
- d. Reduce the TACC to enable a rebuild of CRA 3 abundance. The total reduction of the TAC must be applied to the TACC given that it is commercial exploitation that has depleted the fishery and the effects of past mismanagement are still making an impact.

5.1.19 CRA 3 –

- o The Minister sets a TAC of 366 t for CRA 3
- o The Minister sets aside 20 t to allow for Maori customary interests in CRA 3.
- o The Minister sets aside 20 t to allow for recreational fishing interests in CRA 3.
- o The Minister sets aside 120 t to allow for fishing related mortality in CRA 3.
- o The Minister sets a TACC of 206 t in CRA 3.

5.2. Crayfish 4 (CRA 4) Wellington/Hawke’s Bay



5.2.1 The Management Procedure (MP) applying to CRA 4 has expired. MPI has proposed a new MP to apply for the next 5 years, and a reduction to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Two Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) reductions have been proposed, either a 23% or 27% reduction. There are no proposed changes to the non-commercial allowances.

Table 2. TAC, allowances and TACC proposals for CRA 4, from 1 April 2017.

	TAC (tonnes, t)	Recreational allowance (t)	Customary allowance (t)	Other mortality (t)	TACC (t)
Status quo	592	85	35	75	397
Option 1 - Proposed 23% TACC reduction	502	85	35	75	307
Option 2 - Proposed 27% TACC reduction	484	85	35	75	289
NZSFC recommendation	484	85	35	75	289

- 5.2.2 **Commercial catch rates have dropped about 48%.** The peak was in 2012 when CPUE was 1.37 kg per potlift, while in 2016 it was 0.71 kg per potlift.
- 5.2.3 The proposed reductions in the table above come from two options for the new Management Procedure. Both are more conservative than the current Management Procedure when CPUE is about average.
- 5.2.4 There is no proposed change to the ‘Other mortality’ allowance of 75 t. For the 2015-16 fishing year the illegal catch estimate used in the model was 40 t.
- 5.2.5 The 2016 stock assessment assumed that handling mortality was 10% of returned crayfish until 1990, and 5% thereafter based on a literature review.
- 5.2.6 In the 2016 stock assessment model MPI assume that estimated levels of illegal catch (40 t) and handling mortality (18.14 t) are within the other mortality allowance.

- 5.2.7 In 2016 MPI proposed a 5% TACC reduction, the CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 4) recommended a 10% and then a 15% TACC reduction. The Minister approved the 15% reduction in March 2016. The NZSFC is concerned **this fishery is continuing to decline** despite the NRLMG’s faith that the CRA 4 Management Procedure will produce a precautionary outcome.
- 5.2.8 CRA 4 has produced the second largest commercial yield in New Zealand behind the CRA 8 fishery (Fiordland and Southland). The average yield over the last 5 years has been 467 t per year, but the catch rate has declined in each of the last 4 years. The new stock assessment shows the current biomass is below the reference biomass (Bref), and predicts that **abundance will continue to decline at current catch rates**.
- 5.2.9 Two options are presented for a new Management Procedure. Both have a lower TACC at average CPUE than the old Management Procedure, as shown by the flat section of the plots, between 0.9 and 1.3 kg/potlift, in Figure 1. Currently **all eastern North Island CRA stocks are in decline and not as productive as they once were**. Models based on past fishery performance may be overly optimistic.

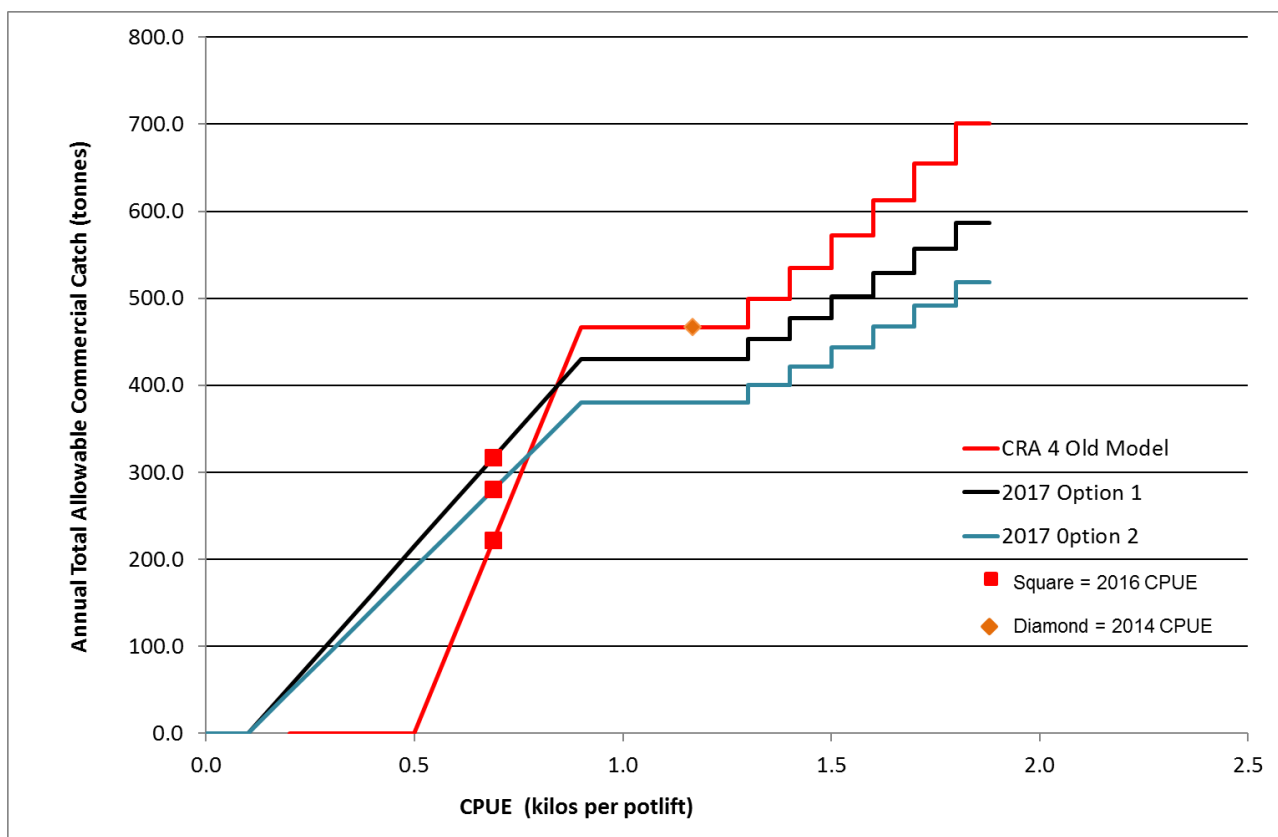


Figure 1: The three Management Procedure options presented by NRLMG and MPI with the status quo (Old Model) in red. New Option CRA4_01 in black and option CRA4_02 in blue, and the position of the 2016 standardised CPUE (red square) that could determine the TACC for 2017–18.

- 5.2.10 The submitters acknowledge the conservative approach taken by the CRAMAC 4 last year in advocating for a more precautionary TACC than proposed. As shown by the drop in CPUE over the last year, their concerns were well founded. Management Procedures may be a guide, but we are not convinced that commercial CPUE tells the whole story regarding trends in stock abundance in most CRA areas.
- 5.2.11 The CRA 4 TACC was 467 t in 2015-16 and the options presented this year equate to a 35% and 38% reduction over two years. Having less ACE to catch will lead to a change in behaviour of fishers. For

example, they could concentrate their effort in places and times with good catch rates and not have to fish through leaner parts of the season to catch their ACE. The NRLMG note in their discussion on the choice of a previous CRA 3 Management Procedure that, “*In reality, future CPUE will not be independent of the TAC. For example, setting a lower TAC would result in a higher CPUE the following year than would setting a higher TAC*”.

5.2.12 **The submitters advocate for the most precautionary option for CRA 4 this year**, given the uncertainty associated with the inputs into the stock assessment model, and the boom and bust cycle in this fishery since at least the 1980s. (Refer figure below, source: MPI). We oppose an increase in the TAC and TACC if that is based on a small increase in commercial CPUE in 2017, and where that CPUE increase is due to a lower TACC rather than an increase in abundance as assumed in these Management Procedures.

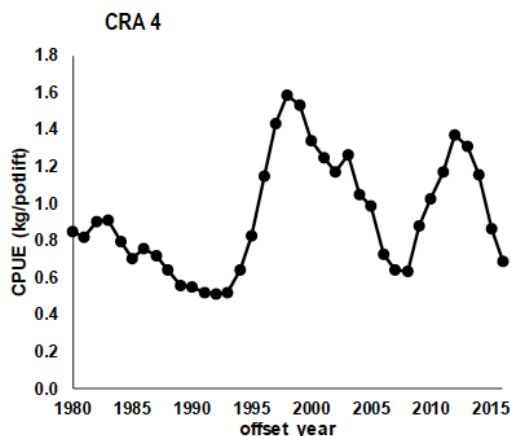


Figure 7.1: The history of CPUE in CRA 4, 1980 – 2016 (offset years) (based on the procedure for preparing data for CPUE standardisation called “F2-LFX”).

- 5.2.13 While there is no proposed change to the recreational allowance of 85 tonnes, it is an ongoing concern that recreational catch and catch rates are declining. The Minister has a statutory duty to ‘allow for’ recreational interests in this important fishery.
- 5.2.14 There is no proposed change to the customary allowance of 35 t. Annual estimated harvest is less than 5 tonnes in the past three years. There is no mandatory reporting system so it is unclear if this harvest level satisfies existing customary needs. We remind the Minister there is a statutory obligation to provide for the input and participation into fisheries management by tangata whenua while enabling them to fulfil their kaitiaki responsibilities, including establishing a robust reporting system if that is desired.
- 5.2.15 The submitters acknowledge the foresight of Ngai Te Ruruku o Te Rangi in establishing two mataitai reserves in Hawke’s Bay in 2005. Commercial fishing is prohibited in these mataitai. The Moremore mataitai encompasses the Pania reef, near the Port, and the area from Whirinaki north to Old Man’s Bluff. Both are now providing the local Napier community with sufficient abundance of rock lobster to meet their needs. People from the wider Hawke Bay region would like to enjoy similar abundance of crayfish however, the effects of commercial fishing and stock depletion denies them adequate access to this taonga, treasure.

Recommendations – CRA 4

- 5.2.16 The Minister decides to -
- a. Discontinue the use of the Management Procedure to guide TAC and TACC settings in CRA 4 due to

the continued decline of abundance of rock lobsters.

- b. Apply the total reduction of the TAC to the TACC given that it is commercial exploitation that has depleted the fishery and the effects of past mismanagement are still making an impact.

5.2.17 CRA 4 –

- o The Minister sets a TAC of 484 t for CRA 4.
- o The Minister sets aside 35 t to allow for Maori customary interests in CRA 4.
- o The Minister sets aside 85 t to allow for recreational fishing interests in CRA 4.
- o The Minister sets aside 75 t to allow for fishing related mortality in CRA 4.
- o The Minister reduces the TACC to 289 t in CRA 4.

5.3. Crayfish 7 (CRA 7) Otago



5.3.1 MPI advise “*there are no sustainability concerns for the CRA 7 fishery*”.

5.3.2 MPI has proposed a 15% TACC increase or retention of the status quo. There are no proposed changes to the non-commercial allowances.

Table 3. TAC, allowances and TACC proposals for CRA 7, from 1 April 2017.

	TAC (tonnes, t)	Recreational allowance (t)	Customary allowance (t)	Other mortality (t)	TACC (t)
Status quo	117.72	5	10	5	97.72
Proposed 15% TACC increase	132.52	5	10	5	112.52
NZSFC recommendation	117.7	5	10	5	97.7

5.3.3 The submitters do not accept that Management Procedures (MP) based on commercial CPUE is a legitimate indicator of abundance, **so we do not accept the proposed CRA 7 TACC increase is valid.**

5.3.4 We are concerned that under current management settings **the biomass is projected to decline by 7% by 2018**, but remain above reference levels. The proposed 15% increase to the TACC just adds to our concerns about the long-term viability of this CRA 7 stock.

5.3.5 There is **no mention in the MPI Discussion Document that a commercial concession applies in CRA 7** enabling commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) applying to recreational harvest. We consider this to be a serious omission of relevant information from the “Consultation Document”. This omission denies submitters the opportunity to learn how the exploitation of concession fish has caused ongoing conflict between commercial interests and non-commercial fishers who resent the impacts of this exploitation on their ability to harvest legal size crayfish.

5.3.6 MPI note “*no regulatory or other changes are proposed as part of this document,*” however, we intend to continue to highlight the concession regulation because:

- a. The concession is so unfair to non-commercial interests;
- b. The concession jeopardises the future productivity of CRA 7; and
- c. We support the conservative management of CRA 7.

- 5.3.7 MPI advise there is a reliable estimate of current biomass. MPI advise there is no reliable estimate of B_{MSY} , the biomass level required to produce Maximum Sustainable Yield, due to the high level of movement of rock lobster out of this management area.
- 5.3.8 MPI emphasise the revenue gain for the industry from the TACC increase as approx. \$1.07 million. No attempt is made to assess the value of an abundant CRA 7 fishery to non-commercial interests or the Otago region.
- 5.3.9 Catch Per Unit of Effort started to decline after 2009, reaching a low point of 0.68 kg per potlift. Whether by a miracle of nature or management, the application of a Management Procedure in 2013 saw the CPUE leap to an unprecedented 2.06 kg/p in 2014. The following year it increased slightly, to 2.09 kg/p, before returning to 2.06 kg/p in 2016.
- 5.3.10 **Commercial CPUE includes concession fish.** There is no data to describe the proportions of sub-MLS crayfish versus legal sized crayfish. The collection and public reporting of this data must be part of the future management regime applying to CRA 7 or any rock lobster stock that enables the commercial harvest of concession, smaller than minimum legal size, crayfish.
- 5.3.11 In 2014-15 the TACC increased from 44 to 66 tonnes. In 2015-16 the TACC was increased again, from 66 to the current 97.72 t. If the fishery is really this healthy and able to cope with a 122% TACC increase then we submit **the concession needs to be revoked now.**
- 5.3.12 There is no proposed change to the customary allowance of 10 tonnes. An estimate of 1 tonne was used in the last 2015 stock assessment. There is no mandatory reporting system for customary harvest.
- 5.3.13 There is no proposed change to the recreational allowance of 5 t. The 2011-12 National Panel Survey estimated annual recreational harvest to be around 0.23 tonnes, not reliable given it was based on one fisher's data. A 5 t harvest estimate has been used in the stock assessment.
- 5.3.14 There is no proposed change to the 'Other mortality' allowance of 5 t. A 1 tonne estimate is used in the stock assessment model.

Recommendations:

- 5.3.15 The Minister decides to -
- a. Discontinue use of the Management Procedure to guide TAC and TACC settings in CRA 7.
 - b. Revoke the commercial concession enabling commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the Minimum Legal Size (MLS) applying to recreational harvest.
 - c. Require the recording and public reporting of the proportions of sub-MLS crayfish versus legal sized crayfish taken commercially in CRA 7.
 - d. Retain the current TAC, allowances and TACC until the use of Management Procedures is discontinued.
- 5.3.16 CRA 7 –
- The Minister sets a TAC of 117.7 t for CRA 7.
 - The Minister makes an allowance of 5 t for recreational interests in CRA 7.
 - The Minister makes an allowance of 10 t for customary fishing interests in CRA 7.
 - The Minister makes an allowance of 5 t for other sources of fishing mortality in CRA 7.
 - The Minister sets a TACC of 97.7 t for CRA 7.

6. OTHER MATTERS

6.1. NRLMG advice

- 6.1.1 In 1992 the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) was established as a statutory body to provide advice to the Minister on managing the rock lobster fisheries. It is advertised as a multi-stakeholder group comprising representatives of customary, recreational and commercial fishing interests, and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). In reality, sector participants include Te Ohu Kaimoana (TOKM), NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZRLIC), past members of the now defunct New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council (NZRFC), and the Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO).
- 6.1.2 In 2001 it was agreed by the Minister and the NRLMG that the group would “*provide well informed, credible, and consistent research and management information and advice to sector groups, Government agencies, and Ministers*”². The NRLMG must be held accountable to all stakeholders for achieving this unfulfilled commitment.
- 6.1.3 In our view it is time to review the NRLMG membership and process. A number of members have been there a long time and developed entrenched positions. It is not clear to us who the recreational participants are representing as they do not represent public opinion and they do not report to or consult with us, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, the largest recreational fishing organisation in the country.

6.2. CPUE as a proxy for abundance

- 6.2.1 Assuming that commercial Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) is a reliable index of abundance comes with many risks. CPUE is the term for kilo caught or harvested per potlift. Commercial CPUE is often affected by operational changes, discard rates and market demands, but there is no consistent way that these changes are recorded or taken into account.
- 6.2.2 The practice of high grading and returning the less profitable grades of rock lobster to the sea has become widespread. This is allowed under Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Act, but released legal fish are included in commercial CPUE in some areas and not others. Fisher self-reported estimates of the weight of those released crayfish have a significant influence on CPUE in some areas.
- 6.2.3 The use of holding pots also complicates the recording of retained catch, which has to be estimated by the fisher each day. At the peak of the season some fishers work a lot of pots or work further afield. Is the fishing effort of a pot lifted every day the same as a pot lifted every 2 or 3 days? No account seems to be taken of these operational changes when assuming that standardised CPUE is proportional to abundance.
- 6.2.4 Another critical assumption is that commercial fishing effort effectively samples the vulnerable biomass. The submitters reject the assumption that CPUE gives an unbiased sample of population abundance, primarily on the grounds that rock lobster have always suffered serial depletion, as the stock is fished down effort is redeployed to pockets of remaining adult stock, as has happened in CRA 2.

² NRLMG 2003 Annual Report.

- 6.2.5 The rock lobster population is fished at different rates across its range. Areas close to home are often the first to be depleted. As catch rates diminish pots are moved to grounds holding a less heavily fished population, where abundance is greater. When that area is exhausted another move is made, allowing stocks to be serially depleted without any apparent decline in CPUE to highlight changes in stock size.
- 6.2.6 Without knowing what effort is applied to the same area, in the same way, and the catch composition, the changes in raw CPUE data becomes non-attributable.
- 6.2.7 In future, some form of electronic logging of location and catch by potlift would show the extent of shifting effort.

6.3. Application of Management Procedures

- 6.3.1 Management Procedures (MPs) are a mechanism used to guide catch limit decisions in most rock lobster fisheries. The Management Procedures, which the National Rock Lobster Management Group have staunchly defended and relied on, seem to be unravelling. Management Procedures are driven by the annual standardised commercial CPUE from the previous year.
- 6.3.2 Setting and altering the Total Allowable Catches based on un-validated, self-reported catch by individual fishers, including legal crayfish returned to the sea and number of potlifts, requires a good deal of faith to overcome the possibility that fishers can ignore the high incentive to change their operation to ensure stable or increasing CPUE.
- 6.3.3 When the MPs deliver an inconvenient result the approach by the Ministry and NRLMG is to simply abandon it. For example, a Management Procedure was applied in CRA 9 for the first time in 2014-15 to set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and increase the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) by 29%. The Management Procedure was abandoned “*when the NRLMG accepted advice that CPUE was not a reliable index of abundance for this stock*”³. MPI advise the Minister agreed not to use the CRA 9 MP in 2016 “*as long as alternative management approaches were explored*”. Five commercial fishers are now using logbooks to record catch rates and size frequencies. So, the MP was abandoned in 2015, a new reporting system has been established, yet the inflated TAC and TACC remain intact.

Case study – CRA 2

- 6.3.4 A Management Procedure has applied in the CRA 2 stock (Pakiri to East Cape) since 2014. The decision rule was not triggered last year or this year even though Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) declined to less than 0.3kg per potlift in both 2015 and 2016.
- 6.3.5 Last year CPUE from the Eastern Coromandel area of CRA 2 was measured at 0.25 kg per potlift, meaning a fisher lifts his craypot four times before he harvests, on average, one kilo of rock lobster. How can this be sustainable?
- 6.3.6 Despite the low catch rates MPI advises “*there is no information to suggest a strong sustainability concern for the fishery at this time*”. The submitters do not accept this assessment given that recreational harvest has collapsed and the overall allowance of 140 t is uncatchable. Recreational harvest is now less than 30% (41 t) of the allowance set aside by the Minister to provide for recreational interests, and there are regular, independent reports of once-prolific areas now devoid of any legal size crayfish.

³ Operation of Management Procedures. For the NRLMG. Starr & Breen. 16 November 2016.

6.3.7 At the beginning of the last fishing season commercial rock lobster fishers in CRA 2 voluntarily cut landings by 25% (50 t). This should have made crayfish easier to catch as fishing could focus on times and areas where rock lobster were available. Instead, the catch rate is the lowest it has ever been since 1980. (see Figure 2).

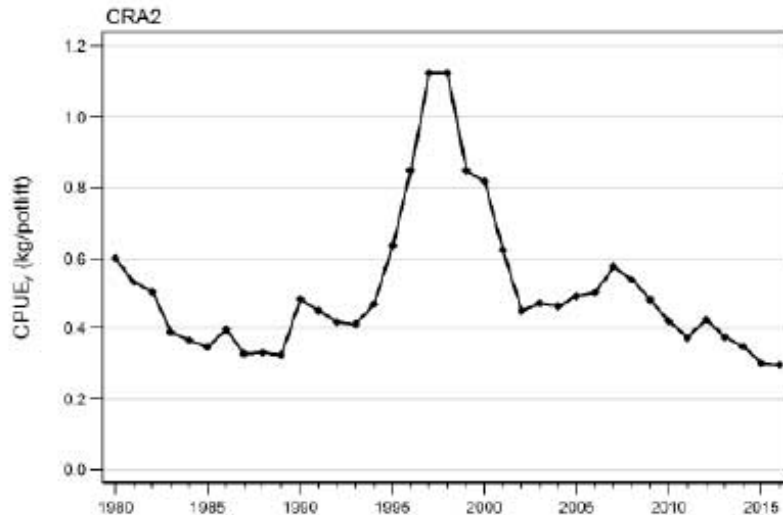


Figure 2. CRA 2 Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) 1980 to 2016.

6.3.8 A review of the CRA 2 stock has been brought forward to 2017-18. However, the signs of decline have been obvious to managers, commercial and non-commercial interests for several years yet the NRLMG, including MPI officials, have failed to address the decline, and neither have they acknowledged the failure of the Management Procedure to deliver an abundant fish stock.

6.3.9 MPI and the NRLMG cannot avoid the natural conclusion that this fishery is in trouble. The sooner we acknowledge this dire situation and address it; the sooner CRA 2 can be restored to an abundant state. Any other action, or inaction, represents a blatant disregard for the statutory duties of the Minister to manage fisheries at a level required to provide for both the needs of current fishing interests and those of future generations.

Management Procedures must be revoked

6.3.10 We have raised concerns about problems with CPUE-based Management Procedures in previous submissions and these latest proposals just reinforce our concerns regarding the universal application of this strategy. <https://goo.gl/LQPXLw>

6.3.11 Management Procedures must be acknowledged for what they are – a tool to engineer favourable outcomes for commercial users of the rock lobster fishery.

6.3.12 Management Procedures must be revoked and replaced with a responsive management regime that provides for public use and future generation’s needs.

6.3.13 The effort and resources that MPI apply to maintaining the use of Management Procedures in the rock lobster fishery while denying reasonable public access to this taonga [our treasured crayfish] is a reflection of the state of broader fisheries management in Aotearoa, where we have a government

department totally captured by commercial fishing industry interests. This state of capture poisons the dreams of many who hope for abundance and diversity in our inshore waters.

6.4 Recreational catch by commercial fishers

6.4.1 There is a high level of catch classed as “recreational” taken by commercial under s111 of the Fisheries Act 1996. This catch is taken during commercial fishing operations and is added to harvest estimates from recreational fishing surveys. (Refer Table 1)

Table 4. Section 111 landings, in tonnes, as reported by commercial fishers, by QMA, in 2015-16.

Stock	S111 catch (t)	Recreational allowance (t)	Proportion of recreational allowance (%)
CRA 2	1.38	140	<1
CRA 3	2.84	20	14.2
CRA 4	5.09	85	6
CRA 7	0.33	5	6.6
CRA 9	2.96	30	9.9

7. PREVIOUS NZSFC SUBMISSIONS

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council maintains an online record of our rock lobster submissions, Ministry proposals and the Ministers decisions. <https://goo.gl/OxG97T>

2016 – Submission on the review of the [Crayfish 3 \(Gisborne\) fishery](#).

2016 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainably measures for 1 April 2016](#).

2015 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainably measures for 1 April 2015](#).

2014 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainability measures for 1 April 2014](#).

2013 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainability measures for 1 April 2013](#).

2012 – Submission on the review of [Rock Lobster regulatory controls](#).

2012 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainability measures for 1 April 2012](#).

2011 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [commercial Concession Area Regulations](#)

2011 – Submission on the review of Rock Lobster [sustainability measures for 1 April 2011](#)

2010 – Submission on the review of sustainability measures for [CRA 3 & 4 for 1 April 2010](#).

2010 – NZSFC Zone 5 clubs submission on the review of [CRA sustainability measures for 1 April 2010](#).

From: [Michael Ellison](#)
To: [FMSubmissions](#)
Subject: (CRA 7, Otago) Review of rock lobster sustainability measures for 1 April 2017
Date: Saturday, 28 January 2017 10:31:53 p.m.

As a recreation fisherman in Dunedin, crayfish can be hard to find. When I have found crayfish the majority of the time they have been under size. I believe the size limits for commercial fishermen are partly to blame with crays being taken commercially before they are of legal size for recreational fisherman. Although this is not what is being seen proposed I think the size limits should be consistent across the sectors to avoid this problem.

I also believe the TAC should not be increased as it is already extremely difficult to find legal crayfish with the current catch.

Cheers, Michael Ellison