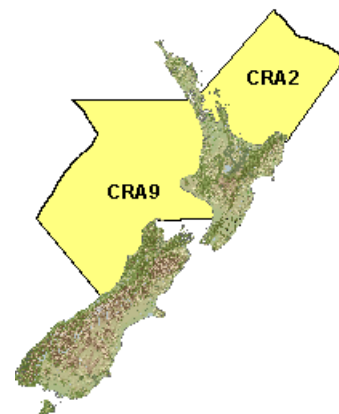


Review of CRA 2 and CRA 9 sustainability measures for 1 April 2014

The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) is currently considering whether a tool called a 'management procedure' should be used to guide catch limit setting in the CRA 2 (Bay of Plenty) and CRA 9 (Westland/Taranaki) rock lobster fisheries from 1 April 2014.



Management procedure overview

Management procedures are currently in place for the CRA 3 (Gisborne), CRA 4 (Wellington/Hawkes Bay), CRA 5 (Canterbury/Marlborough), CRA 7 (Otago) and CRA 8 (Southern) rock lobster fisheries.

A management procedure contains a harvest control rule - a mathematical equation that determines what the exact TAC or TACC will be given the data inputs.

Management procedures are operated for each fishing year and deliver a TAC/TACC result annually that is consistent with the Minister's statutory obligations (i.e. to move stock biomass to, or maintain stock biomass at, a size at or above the maximum sustainable yield (*Bmsy*)).

Management procedures are generally reviewed every five years to ensure that the TAC/TACC remains compliant with the statutory structure set out in the Fisheries Act 1996.

The key advantages that a management procedure approach has over the traditional stock assessment approach relates to the:

- The establishment of a management regime that can respond to changes in stock abundance in a fishery on an annual basis; and
- Greater certainty of achieving stakeholder management goals (e.g. of greater stock abundance and greater stability in abundance).

CRA 2 Proposals

CRA 2 stock status

Modelling suggests 2012 CRA 2 biomass is above *Bmsy* by 36%, but below *Bref* (an agreed target level) by 20%. Projected biomass is predicted to stay near its current level under current levels of catch.

Current CRA 2 catch limits/allowances

The current TAC, TACC and allowances for CRA 2 are shown in the table below.

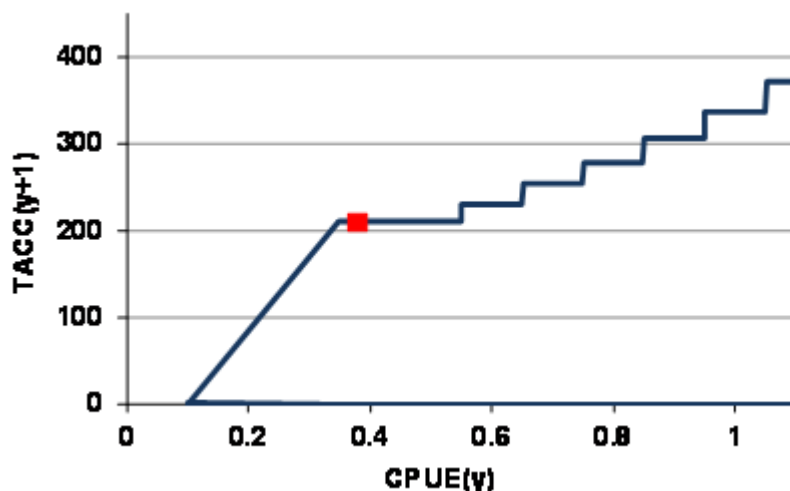
Of the TAC, 52% comprises the TACC and 31 % the recreational allowance. CRA 2 is an important shared fishery.

TAC	452.583 t	<i>Set in 1997</i>
Customary allowance	16.5 t	<i>Set in 1999</i>
Recreational allowance	140 t	<i>Set in 1999</i>
Other mortality allowance	60 t	<i>Set in 1999</i>
TACC	236.083 t	<i>Set in 1997</i>

CRA 2 management procedure proposals

The NRLMG is currently considering which CRA 2 management procedure options should be released for public consultation in mid-December 2013.

A graphical representation of an example CRA 2 management procedure is shown in the graph below (*note this may not be an example that goes out for consultation*). The proposed TACC for next year is a function of catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in the current year. The red square on the graph represents an example TACC proposal for next year (i.e. 210 tonnes).



The NRLMG is also considering whether any changes should be made to the non-commercial allowances based on modelling information. There are no proposals to change the daily bag limit or minimum legal size for recreational fishers in CRA 2.

CRA 9 Proposals

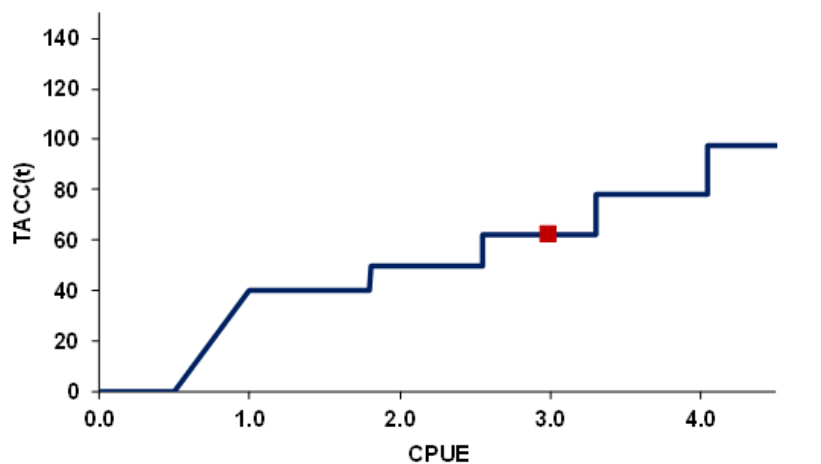
Current CRA 9 stock status

Modelling suggests current CRA 9 abundance is well above *B_{msy}* (the statutory reference level) and current fishing intensity is low. There is also an abundance of very large rock lobsters in the fishery.

CRA9 management procedure proposals

The NRLMG is currently considering which CRA 9 management procedure options should be released for public consultation in mid-December 2013.

A graphical representation of an example CRA 9 management procedure is shown in the graph below (*note this may not be an example that goes out for consultation*). The proposed TACC for next year is a function of catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) in the current year. The red square on the graph represents an example TACC proposal for next year (i.e. 62 tonnes).



TAC and non-commercial allowance setting

No TAC or non-commercial allowances have been previously set for CRA 9. There is only a TACC of 47 tonnes which has remained unchanged since April 1992.

Because the operation of a proposed new CRA 9 management proposal is likely to recommend a modest TACC increase for CRA 9 from April 2014, a TAC and non-commercial allowances will need to be proposed for the first time. The NRLMG is currently considering potential allowance options based on available information.

Allowance for Maori customary non-commercial fishing interests?

Information on customary harvest of rock lobster is incomplete and highly uncertain. In the model, customary catches were assumed to be a constant 1 tonne in the absence of adequate information.

Allowance for recreational fishing interests?

In the model, recreational catches were assumed to be proportional to abundance (as reflected by CPUE). The 2011 recreational survey estimate was matched with 2011 spring-summer CPUE to give an estimate of recreational harvest. In 2011 the model assumed recreational catch was equal to 17.96 tonnes.

Allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality?

A constant 1 tonne estimate of illegal take was used in the model.