



24 January 2014

Tēnā koe

Review of Shellfish Sustainability Measures for 1 April 2014

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is seeking feedback from tangata whenua and stakeholders on proposals to review sustainability measures for selected shellfish stocks. MPI is proposing that Total Allowable Catches (TACs), sector allowances and Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) are reviewed for five rock lobster stocks and one scallop stock for the 2014-15 fishing year, beginning 1 April 2014.

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

The following proposals are now released for public consultation. The proposals are outlined in detail in the consultation documents that are available on the MPI website at: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm>

Rock lobster

The multi-stakeholder approach of the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) allows representatives from all fishing sectors and MPI to work together to foster the sustainable use of rock lobster fisheries, and develop innovative management strategies for rock lobster within the Quota Management System.

1. Proposal to use new management procedures to guide catch limit setting for rock lobster stocks

A tool called a 'management procedure' is used in many rock lobster fisheries to guide catch limit setting. This management approach is consistent with the statutory requirement to ensure the sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources.

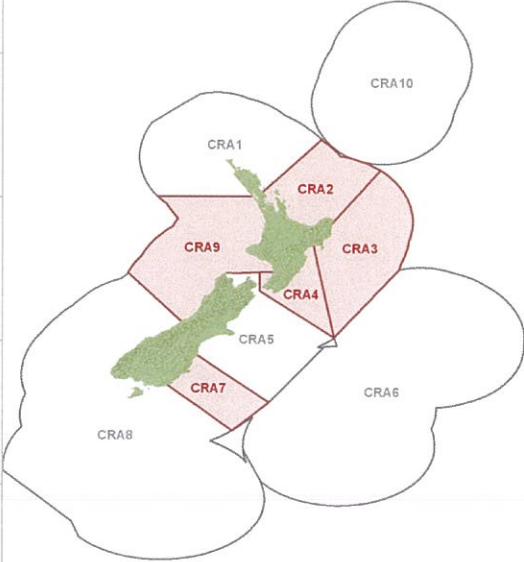
The NRLMG is proposing that new management procedures are used for the first time in the CRA 2 (Bay of Plenty) and CRA 9 (Westland/Taranaki) rock lobster fisheries. Two different management procedures are provided for consideration for each stock (Options CRA 2 A&B and CRA 9 A&B).

The use of management procedures in CRA 2 and CRA 9 will establish a management regime that can respond to changes in stock abundance in the fishery on an annual basis and provide greater certainty of achieving management goals. To date, catch limit setting in CRA 2 has been informed by infrequent stock assessments and CRA 9 has had no stock assessment to inform catch limit setting.

2. Proposed changes to catch limits for five rock lobster stocks

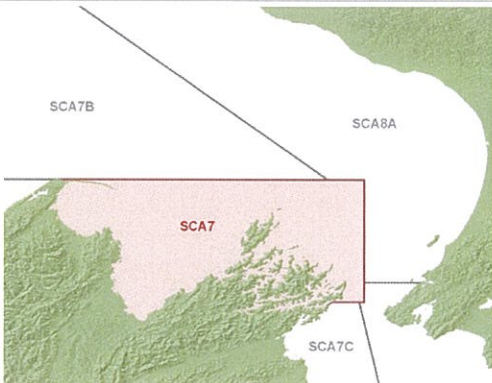
The review of rock lobster catch limits is informed by management procedures that are either currently in place for a stock or are proposed for the first time. It is expected that ongoing application of each management procedure will increase stock abundance from its current size or maintain it above the agreed target level.

The options proposed by the NRLMG are outlined in the following table. There are no proposals to vary non-commercial allowances or recreational bag limits for any rock lobster stock, except for the CRA 9 rock lobster fishery where non-commercial allowances are proposed for the first time.

Stock	Map	NRLMG proposal
CRA 2 Bay of Plenty		The NRLMG is proposing to <i>decrease</i> the CRA 2 TAC and TACC by 26 or 36 tonnes (Options CRA 2_01 & 02).
CRA 3 Gisborne		The NRLMG is proposing to <i>increase</i> the CRA 3 TAC and TACC by 35 tonnes (Option CRA 3_01).
CRA 4 Hawkes Bay/ Wellington		The NRLMG is proposing to <i>decrease</i> the CRA 4 TAC and TACC by 33 tonnes (Option CRA 4_01).
CRA 7 Otago		The NRLMG is proposing to <i>increase</i> the CRA 7 TAC and TACC by 22 tonnes (Option CRA 7_01).
CRA 9 Westland/ Taranaki		The NRLMG is proposing to <i>set</i> a CRA 9 TAC and non-commercial allowances for the first time and <i>increase</i> the TACC by 14 or 21 tonnes (Options CRA 9_01 to 04).

Southern scallop

MPI is proposing to decrease the TAC for SCA 7 as outlined in the following table. There are no proposals to vary non-commercial allowances or recreational bag limits for SCA 7.

Stock	Map	MPI proposal
SCA 7 Top of the South Island		MPI is proposing to <i>decrease</i> the SCA 7 TAC by 697 tonnes, <i>set</i> an allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality for the first time (at 4 tonnes) and <i>decrease</i> the TACC by 701 tonnes (Option 2).

Making a Submission

Please ensure that MPI receives your submission on the proposals no later than **5pm on Friday 21 February 2014.**

Written submissions should be sent to:

Email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Post: Shellfish Submissions
Fisheries Management – Inshore Fisheries
Ministry for Primary Industries
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6140

If you have difficulties accessing the documents or would like a hard copy of the papers, please phone 04 894 0076 or email FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā



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