

BOTTOM LINE – KNOW THE REGULATIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEW RULES
AND HOW THEY PROTECT BLUE COD FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS TO ENJOY, GO TO
fish.govt.nz



Ministry of Fisheries
Regional Offices

BLENHEIM
(03) 579 1088

NELSON
(03) 548 1069

March 2011

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING



CALL 0800 4 POACHER
(0800 476 224)



Ministry of
Fisheries
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

Good fishing practices for recreational fishers

HANDLING BLUE COD

It is essential to return under- or oversized fish to the water as quickly as possible.

- > Minimise the length of time fish are out of the water.
- > Measure fish immediately and return fish outside the size limits gently back to sea.
- > Hold the fish behind the head to extract hooks.
- > If fish need to be handled out of the water, wear wet gloves and avoid placing the fish on hot, dry surfaces.
- > Cut the line if gut- or gill-hooked, do not use a gob stick.

FISHING TACKLE

When choosing fishing tackle, use a hook that minimises mortality from hook damage.

- > Use larger hooks (6/0 minimum) to prevent undersized fish from being hooked.
- > Use circle type hooks, preferably with no offset.
- > Pinch or remove the barb of hooks for easier extraction.
- > Take all your tackle and artificial baits home for disposal.

Remember, small hooks kill fish!

PREDATION

Released fish are the targets for predation by shags and barracouta.

- > Move location if known predators are close by.
- > Use a downpipe to lower fish back into the water.

SUSTAINABILITY

Blue cod are very vulnerable to localised depletion. Every fisher can play a part:

- > Move location if you are repeatedly catching undersized fish.
- > Exclude blue cod as a category species in fishing competitions.

Blue Cod Fishing in the Marlborough Sounds

From 1 April 2011

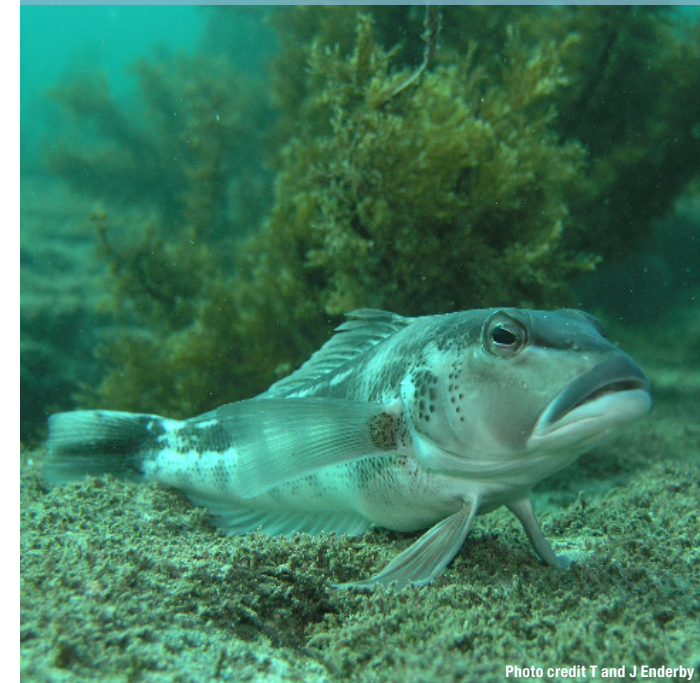


Photo credit T and J Enderby

New Zealand Government

Play your part to conserve blue cod in the Sounds

Blue cod is one of the most popular species for recreational fishing in the Marlborough Sounds. The fishery was closed in 2008 after high levels of recreational fishing led to a decline in the blue cod population in the Sounds. The fishery is reopening on 1 April 2011. Fishers need to act responsibly and follow the new rules so future generations can also enjoy fishing for blue cod.



Why do blue cod need these new rules?

Most blue cod stay in the same area, moving only small distances, which makes them vulnerable to localised depletion. Also, blue cod take the hook easily making it even more important for recreational fishers to limit the number of fish they take.

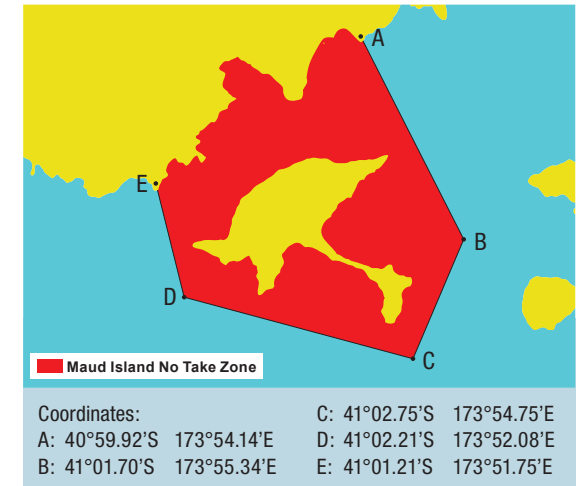
In the Marlborough Sounds, we need to manage fishing in a way that will support blue cod reproduction. Blue cod are quite unusual in that female blue cod can change sex to become male. When the biggest dominant fish dies, a big female will change sex to become male. If too many big fish are removed from a population by fishing, females tend to change to males earlier and at a smaller size. This leads to many more males in that population than females and the average size of the females decreases. As bigger females produce more eggs than smaller ones, it is important to retain as many large females as possible.

Having a maximum size limit and a minimum size limit will protect juveniles as well as the larger male and female blue cod. This will result in more (and larger) females in the population, ensuring that blue cod can keep reproducing so our grandchildren can enjoy fishing for blue cod too!



Marlborough Sounds Area

- > This area will be **closed** to blue cod fishing from **1 September until 19 December** (inclusive) each year to protect the core spawning season.
- > Within this area, fishers can only take or possess **2 blue cod per fisher** at any one time. This applies even if you caught the fish over more than one day, fished outside the Marlborough Sounds Area, or you are transporting the fish through the area.
- > You can only have blue cod between **30cm and 35cm long**.
- > You must not fillet blue cod unless you eat them immediately. Any blue cod eaten form part of your daily limit.
- > You must not use more than 2 hooks per fishing line when fishing for any finfish species (excluding longlines).
- > Fishers staying in baches or living aboard vessels are not exempt from these regulations and may only land or transport by sea 2 whole or gutted blue cod on any one day.



Maud Island

- > No finfish of any species can be taken.

Challenger East Area

- > The daily limit is 3 blue cod 30cm or longer per fisher.
- > When accumulating your daily bag limits, you may have a maximum of 6 blue cod only at any one time, even if you caught the fish from outside the area.
- > You must not fillet blue cod unless you eat them immediately. Any blue cod eaten form part of your daily limit.
- > You cannot transport blue cod from other Fishery Management Areas into the Marlborough Sounds Area unless it meets those regulations, ie, only 2 blue cod and each must be between 30cm and 35cm long.

