

Play your part to conserve the resource

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular recreational activities. Every year a large number of finfish, rock lobster and shellfish are taken by recreational fishers. This can seriously affect local fisheries. This means it is important for all fishers to act responsibly and help conserve the resource.

Know the limits

Commercial fishers taking fish for sale must have a current fishing permit and are subject to the Quota Management System with limits on how much they can catch, along with many other controls. The restrictions on recreational fishers are relatively simple. The three main things to remember are:

- > **Don't take more than the daily limit.**
- > **Don't take undersized fish.**
- > **Don't sell or trade your catch.**

Only those physically taking finfish, rock lobster, or shellfish are entitled to claim a catch within the daily limit. You should also be aware of the restrictions on the fishing gear and methods you can use.

Alive and unharmed

Unlawfully taken fish (such as fish taken in excess of your daily limit, undersized fish, or fish taken with undersized mesh) must be immediately returned to the water. Fish taken alive should be handled with wet cotton or rubber gloves or at least wet hands and returned to the water very gently, allowing the fish to slide into the water from as close to the surface as possible. It is important to return fish, especially shellfish and rock lobster, as near as possible to the place where they were found. Dead fish that are taken unlawfully must also be returned to the water. If you encounter large numbers of undersized fish then change locations or use a larger hook size.

A guide

These notes provide a guide to the regulations which may be subject to change without notice. For full details on amateur fishing restrictions, contact your nearest Ministry of Fisheries office or check the website www.fish.govt.nz. A complete copy of the legislation can be obtained from Bennett's Government Bookshops.

Southland Fishery Management Area

The Southland and Sub Antarctic Fishery Management Area includes all those waters lying south and west from Awarua Point, South Westland to Slope Point, on the Catlins south east coast and includes Foveaux Strait, Stewart Island and all adjacent islands and waters out to the edge of the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Within the Southland Fishery Management Area, separate rules may apply to some specific areas including the Flordland Marine Area. (Refer Closed and Restricted Areas section of this brochure for further details)

Finfish

Bag limits and size restrictions

In the Southland Fishery Management Area **there is a combined maximum daily bag limit of 30 finfish per person, consisting of any combination of the species listed on the following panel, as long as the individual species limits are not exceeded.**

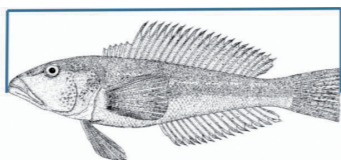
Finfish Species	Maximum daily limit per fisher	Finfish Species	Maximum daily limit per fisher
Barracouta	30	Porbeagle shark	1
Blue cod	30	Quinnat salmon	2
Blue moki	15	Red cod	10
Bluenose	30	Red gurnard	30
Blue shark	1	Red moki	15
Bronze shark	1	Rig	5
Butterfish/Greenbone	15	School shark	5
Eel	6	Seven gilled shark	1
Elephant fish	5	Skate ray	5
Flatfish	30	Snapper	30
Grey mullet	30	Spiky dogfish	15
Hammerhead shark	1	Stargazer	30
Kahawai	15	Tarakahi	15
Lamprey	30	Thresher shark	1
Ling	30	Trevally	30
Mako shark	1	Trumpeter	15
Marblefish	30	Warehou	15
Marlin	1	Wrasse	30

Species daily limits

Additionally, there are individual limits, over and above the combined bag, for groper/hapuku/bass and kingfish. These species have a combined daily limit of 5 (with no more than 3 kingfish). There is no limit on species not named above.

Length measurement

Finfish length is measured from the tip of the nose to the end of the Middle Ray or "V" of the tail fin (as shown in diagram).



Protection of White pointer shark

No person may take or possess any White pointer shark.

Minimum mesh sizes

There are restrictions on net mesh sizes for taking particular species. In some cases the minimum mesh sizes for set nets are different from the minimum sizes for other nets such as drag nets.

- > The minimum mesh size for eel fyke nets or traps is 12 mm.

Finfish Species	Minimum fish length (cm)	Minimum set net mesh size (mm)
Blue cod	33	100
Blue moki	40	114
Bluenose	-	160
Butterfish/Greenbone	35	108
Elephant fish	-	150
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	100
Garfish (piper)	-	25
Groper/Hapuku/Bass	-	160
Herring (Yellow eyed mullet)	-	25
Kahawai	-	90
Kingfish	75	100
Grey Mullet	-	90
Pilchard	-	25
Red cod	25	100
Red Gurnard	25	100
Red moki	40	115
Rig	-	150
Sand flounder	23	100
School shark	-	150
Snapper	25	125
Tarakahi	25	100
Trevally	25	100
Trumpeter	35	100
All Others	-	100

Method and species restrictions

Line fishing restrictions

- > No person may use or be in possession of more than one line (other than handlines or rod and reel lines).
- > All surface floats attached to any line must be marked clearly, legibly and permanently with the fisher's initials and surname. A phone number is also useful.
- > No person may use or possess a line with more than 25 hooks.
- > Where more than one person is using a line from a vessel (other than handlines or rod and reel lines), no more than two lines (other than handlines or rod and reel lines) may be used, set from or possessed on board that vessel.

Quinnat salmon fishing restrictions

- > No person fishing for Quinnat salmon shall be in possession or have control over more than one assembled rod and running line.
- > No person shall use a rod and running line to take Quinnat salmon unless that person is within 15 metres of the rod and has the rod under visual observation.
- > A person fishing for Quinnat salmon may use another rod and running line to jig for sprat or other baitfish, so long as any salmon taken on that rod and running line is returned to the water immediately.

General netting restrictions

Note: In the Southland Fisheries Management Area there are set netting prohibitions in place to protect Hector's Dolphins. (Refer Closed and Restricted Areas section).

In those areas where netting is permitted:-

- > No person may set or possess more than one drag net, set net, fyke net, or any other type of net at any one time.
- > Nets must be hauled by hand.
- > Any net or nets used either individually or jointly must not extend across more than one-quarter of the width of any river, stream, channel, bay or sound.
- > No person may set or use a baited net (except fyke nets).
- > Nets must not be staked (except fyke nets).
- > No net may be used in a way that causes fish to be stranded by the falling tide.
- > Each end of a set net must have a surface float that is marked legibly and permanently with the fisher's initials and surname. A phone number is also useful. Only one float is required for fyke nets.

Drag net restrictions

- > Drag nets must not exceed 40 metres in length.
- > Total warp length must not exceed 200 metres.
- > The minimum mesh size for drag nets is 100 mm.

Set net restrictions

Note: In the Southland Fisheries Management Area there are set netting prohibitions in place to protect Hector's Dolphins. (Refer Closed and Restricted Areas section).

In those areas where set netting is permitted:-

- > Only one set net is allowed to be used from, or be on board any vessel. (An additional net is allowed for baitfishing if it is less than 10 metres long and has a mesh size of 50 mm or less).
- > Set nets must not exceed 60 metres in length.
- > A set net must not be set within 60 metres of another net.
- > It is unlawful to take any freshwater sports fish using a set net (including trout and salmon species).

Protection of Coral

- > No person may take or possess any black coral or red coral.

Shellfish

Underwater breathing apparatus (UBA)

(Does not include snorkels)

- > No person may take paua using UBA.
- > No person may be in possession of paua while in possession of UBA. This includes possession in or on any vessel or vehicle.

Open seasons

Dredge Oysters: Within the Southland Fishery Management Area the open season is 1 March to 31 August inclusive.

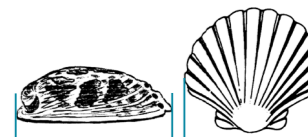
Note: No Rock or Pacific oysters are known to exist in Southland FMA. All oysters taken within the Southland FMA are subject to season, daily limit and minimum size restrictions.

Scallops: Within the Southland Fishery Management Area the open season is 1 October to 15 March inclusive.

How to measure shellfish

Paua: Measure the greatest length of the shell in a straight line, parallel to the ventral surface. Do not measure over the curve of the shell.

Scallops: Measure the greatest diameter of the shell.



Dredge Oysters: Must not pass through a rigid circular metal ring with an inside diameter of 58 mm.

Shellfish to be landed in a measurable state: All shellfish to which a minimum size restriction applies (including paua, scallops and dredge oysters) must be landed in the shell and cannot be shucked or shelled seaward of the mean high-water mark.

- > Within prescribed limits, provision exists permitting the opening of dredge oysters and scallops for consumption onboard a vessel. Any scallops and dredge oysters not eaten must be landed in the shell.

Oyster dredge size restriction

- > Within certain areas of the Foveaux Strait dredge oyster fishery, use or possession of a dredge with a bar or bit exceeding 1 metre in length is prohibited. **(Contact the Ministry of Fisheries for further details)**

Shellfish Species	Maximum daily limit per fisher	Minimum size (mm)
Cockle	150	none
Kina (sea egg)	50	none
Mussel	25*	none
Oyster - Dredge	50^	58
Paua - Ordinary	10	125
- Yellow foot	10	80
Pipi	150	none
Scallop	10^	100
Toheroa #	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tuatua	150	none
All Others (combined) •	50	none

* Excluding Stewart Island where the mussel limit is 50.

^ Limited provision allows divers on a vessel to gather extra bag limits of oysters and scallops for up to 2 other people acting in a dive safety capacity.

Toheroa must not be taken, possessed, or disturbed unless authorised by a Customary Authority or an open season is declared by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Fisheries.

- This is a combined, mixed-species bag limit. It applies to all shellfish species not specifically named above and includes all crabs, limpets, starfish, periwinkles, whelks, barnacles and freshwater crayfish (koura).

Paua accumulation limits

When daily limits are accumulated the maximum number or amount of paua that one person can have in their possession at any one time is:

- > **20 paua or**
- > shucked weight (shell removed) of **2.5kgs** of paua

This possession limit applies everywhere, including in the home.

Pots limits

- > All pots and surface float must be clearly and permanently marked with the fisher's surname and initials.
- > Individuals may use, set, or possess up to three pots in any one day.
- > Two or more individuals fishing from a vessel may use, set, or possess up to six pots in any one day provided they have **their** name on the pots and that each person is using no more than three of the pots.
- > Bobs, ring pots may be used to catch rock lobster but all other requirements such as marking and pot limits apply
- > • Species specific pots (cod pots, crab pots etc.) can be used. They are exempted from escape gap requirements but all other requirements such as marking and pot limits remain.

Rock Lobster

Daily limit

No person may take or possess more than 6 rock lobsters (both species combined) on any one day.

Minimum sizes

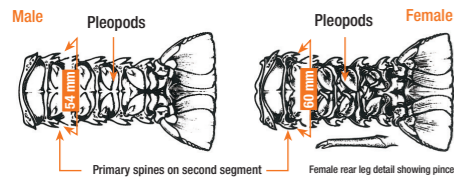
No person may take or possess:

- > Male spiny rock lobster with a tail width less than 54 mm.
- > Female spiny rock lobster with a tail width less than 60 mm.
- > Packhorse rock lobster (either sex) with a tail length less than 216 mm.

How to measure a spiny rock lobster

The tail width is measured in a straight line between the tips of the two large (primary) spines on the second segment of the tail, (as shown in diagram):

The sex is easily determined:



- > Females have small pincers on the rear pair of legs.
- > Pleopods are in paired form on each side of the underside of female tails, and are in single form in male tails.

If you are unsure of the sex, use the 60 mm measurement and you will be safe.

How to measure a packhorse rock lobster

The tail length is measured along the underside in a straight line from the rear of the calcified bar on the first segment to the tip of the middle fan of the tail.



Possession

Rock lobster may not be possessed seaward of the high water mark in an unmeasurable state.

Protected rock lobster

The following types of rock lobster are protected by law and must be returned immediately to the water:

- > Undersized rock lobster.

- > Any female rock lobster carrying external eggs (these are carried between the pleopods on the underside of the tail).
- > Any rock lobster in the soft shell stage (following moulting where the exoskeleton has not reached full hardness).
- > Any rock lobster that cannot be measured (e.g. because of damage to the tail preventing accurate measurement).

General restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- > Remove external eggs or the egg-bearing appendages from any rock lobster.
- > Use a spear or any device which could puncture the shell when taking rock lobster, or possess any rock lobster which has been speared.
- > Use or set a baited net for taking rock lobsters, or possess any rock lobster with a baited net.

It is lawful to use a ring pot, hoop net or bob to take rock lobster.

Lassoes

Only hand operated loops or lassoes may be used to take rock lobster. It is prohibited to use a spring loaded loop or lasso.

Rock lobster pots

Rock lobster pot means any pot, whether baited or not, that is capable of catching or holding rock lobsters; and includes any other device capable of catching, holding or storing rock lobsters.

- > All pots and surface float must be clearly and permanently marked with the fishers surname and initials.

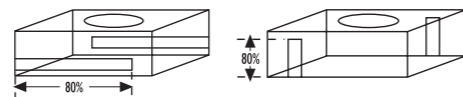
Rock lobster pot limits

Rock Lobster pot restrictions do apply. Refer Method & species restrictions section.

Escape gaps restrictions

It is unlawful to use or possess on a vessel any rock lobster pot without escape gaps.

- > No escape gap or aperture shall be incorporated in either the top or the bottom of any pot.
- > Escape gaps or apertures are designed to allow undersized rock lobster to escape.
- > Round or beehive shaped pots must have at least **3** escape gaps or apertures (other than the mouth). Each aperture must have an inside dimension of not less than **54 mm x 200 mm**.
- > Square or rectangular shaped pots must have at least **2** escape gaps or apertures (other than the mouth) in opposite faces of the pot. Each aperture shall not be less than 80% of the height or length of the face of the pot in which the apertures are contained. Each aperture must have an inside dimension of not less than **54 mm x 200 mm**.



- > Any rock lobster pot constructed entirely of unaltered spot welded mesh with inside dimensions of **54 mm x 140 mm** does not have to have escape gaps or apertures but the pots must be used without covers or liners or with covers or liners that leave unencumbered at least 80% of the surface area of each of 2 opposite sides.

Closed and restricted areas

The use of set nets is prohibited in the Southland Fishery Management Area from Slope Point to Sandhill Point, east of Fiordland — offshore to four nautical miles. Set netting is also prohibited in the whole of Te Waewae Bay between Old Man Rock, west of Garden Bay and Sandhill Point. (Refer map).

[Note: The prohibition also extends beyond Slope Point into the South East Fishery Management Area. Recreational set netting is also prohibited within the Fiordland Marine Area, west of Sandhill Point.]

Unless specified, the set netting prohibitions do not apply to harbours, estuaries, rivers, inlets and lagoons. (Contact the Ministry of Fisheries for further details).



Te Whaka a Te Wera / Paterson Inlet Mataitai Reserve:

Additional bylaws apply within the Te Whaka a Te Wera / Paterson Inlet Mataitai Reserve including area closures, prohibitions and reduced bag limits.

(Contact the Ministry of Fisheries for details and a copy of the Te Whaka a Te Wera / Paterson Inlet Mataitai Reserve brochure).

Fiordland Marine Area:

Specific rules apply for the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area including area closures and reduced bag limits. (Contact the Ministry of Fisheries for details and a copy of the Fiordland Marine Area brochure).

The Department of Conservation should be contacted for details regarding:

- > Marine Reserves (where fishing is prohibited) and Marine Mammal Sanctuaries that exist within the Stewart Island and Fiordland areas.



Contact Fishery Officers Ministry of Fisheries

Invercargill
137 Spey Street
(03) 211 0060

Dunedin
73 Otaki Street
Phone: (03) 466 3607

For information on fishing rules
www.fish.govt.nz

0800 4 POACHER (0800 476 224)
to report illegal fishing

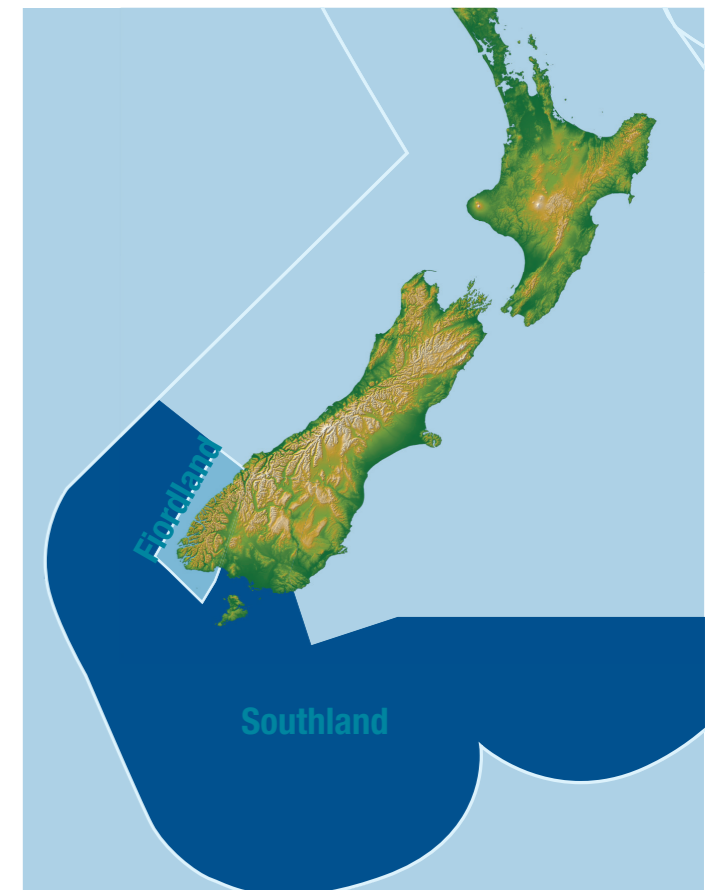


Ministry of
Fisheries
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa



Southland Fishery Management Area Recreational fishing rules

Includes Southland and Sub-Antarctic Fishery Management Areas
Effective from 1 October 2010. Subject to change without notice



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