

## ATTACHMENT 1:

### SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED CRA 4 MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

After a stock assessment for CRA 4 (Breen et al. 2006), a set of management procedure evaluations were done, using an operating model based on the CRA 4 assessment model (Breen & Kim 2006b).

The 2005-06 commercial catch in CRA 4 was 504 t; this was less than the TACC of 577 t. In the latter part of 2006, it was obvious that the commercial catch for 2006-07 would be even further below the TACC (it turned out to be 445 t). A series of industry meetings discussed options that included adoption of a management procedure or decision rule that would specify annually how much ACE should be voluntarily shelved.

The Breen & Kim (2006b) study was used as the basis for choosing a management procedure. One of the obvious requirements, not considered by Breen & Kim, was that the 2007-08 catch limit should be set low enough that it actually constrained the catch. A rule was chosen that specified a low catch limit (321 t) when using the most recent CPUE estimate. This rule, E170 (Figure 3), is specified as follows:

$$SCC_{y+1} = 500 \left( \frac{I_y}{0.9} \right)^{1.4}$$

where SCC is the specified catch limit and I is standardised CPUE from the most recent AW season. There is no latent year<sup>1</sup>; the maximum allowable change is 75% and the minimum change is 5%.

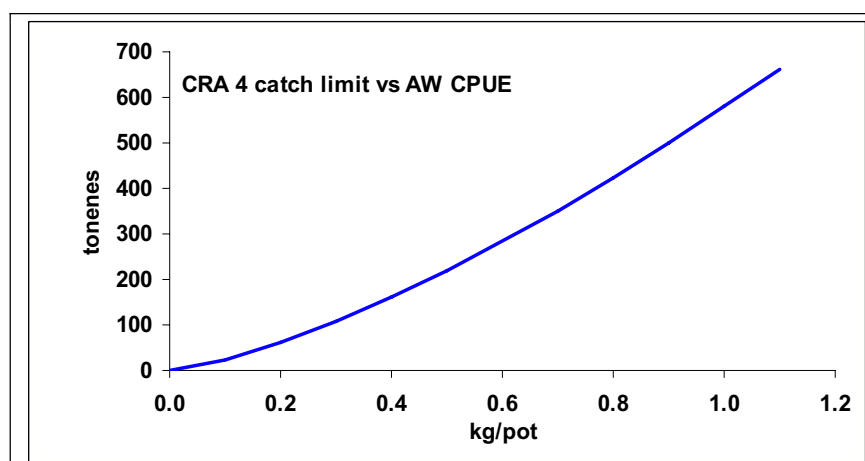


Figure 3: The CRA 4 management procedure.

<sup>1</sup> The original MPEs described by Breen & Kim (2006b) used an asymmetric latent year: a decrease could be made, but not an increase, in a year following a TACC change. The latent year was dropped before a rule was adopted, at the request of NZ RLIC, after examination of the performance of the rule without a latent year.

The following table below shows the history of the rule. In late 2006, the rule delivered a specified catch limit of 321 t. Not all quota owners shelved the requisite ACE, resulting in an operational limit of 339 t, a 41% reduction from the TACC.

In late 2007, the rule delivered a specified catch limit of 229 t. Not all quota owners shelved the requisite ACE, resulting in an operational limit of 240 t, a 57% reduction from the TACC.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Applied to fishing year</b>	<b>AW CPUE</b>	<b>Rule Result</b>	<b>Operational Limit</b>
2006	2007-08	0.656 kg/potlift	321.1 tonnes	339 tonnes
2007	2008-09	0.515 kg/potlift	228.9 tonnes	240 tonnes
2008		0.573 kg/potlift	265.9 tonnes	

## ATTACHMENT 2:

### SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CRA 7 AND CRA 8 MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

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Both the CRA 7 and CRA 8 management procedures specify that:

- a) the output variable is TAC (tonnes) and that standardised CPUE (kg/pot) is to be used as the input variable,
- b) standardised CPUE is to be based on the autumn–winter (AW: April–September) season of the current fishing year and the spring–summer (SS: October–March) season of the previous fishing year, and
- c) CPUE is to be standardised according to the recent usage described in annual Fishery Assessment Reports (FARs), using a data extract obtained in November to ensure that sufficient data from the most recent AW season have been entered.

#### ***CRA7 Management Procedure Specifications***

For CRA 7, the management procedure is specified as follows:

- a) The TAC is to be set at 100 times the standardised CPUE (Figure A);
- b) The management procedure is to be evaluated every year (no “latent year”);
- c) If the procedure results in a TAC that changes by less than 5%, no change will be made; and
- d) If the procedure results in a TAC that changes by more than 50%, the TAC will be changed by 50% only.

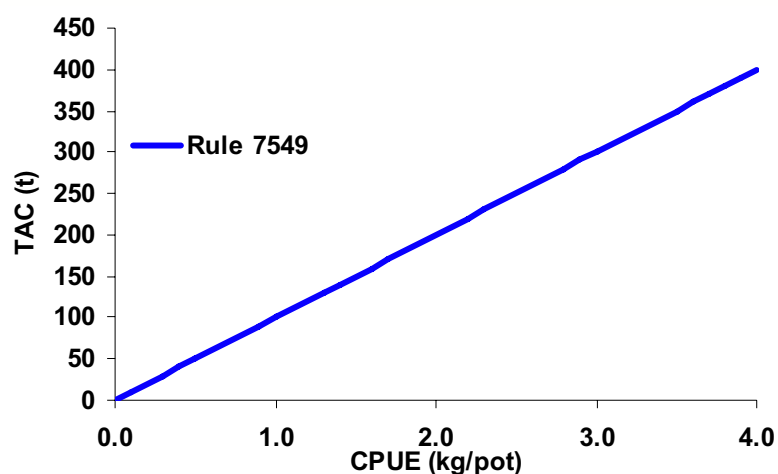


Figure A: CRA 7 Management Procedure.

### CRA 8 Management Procedure Specifications

For CRA 8, the management procedure is specified as follows:

The relation between CPUE, indicated by  $C_y$ , and TAC, indicated by  $T_{y+1}$ , is given in Figure B and in the equations below:

a) )

$$T_{y+1} = \begin{cases} h - s_1(p_1 - C_y) \frac{h}{p_1}, & C_y < p_1, \\ h, & p_1 \leq C_y \leq p_2, \\ h + s_2(C_y - p_2) \frac{h}{p_1}, & C_y > p_2. \end{cases}$$

b) The parameters referred to in the equations above for this management procedure are:

$h$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$s_1$	$s_2$
1053	1.9	3.2	1.2	0.16

c) The management procedure is to be evaluated every year (no “latent year”);

d) If the procedure results in a TAC which changes by less than 5%, no change will be made;

e) There is no limit to the amount by which a TAC may change.

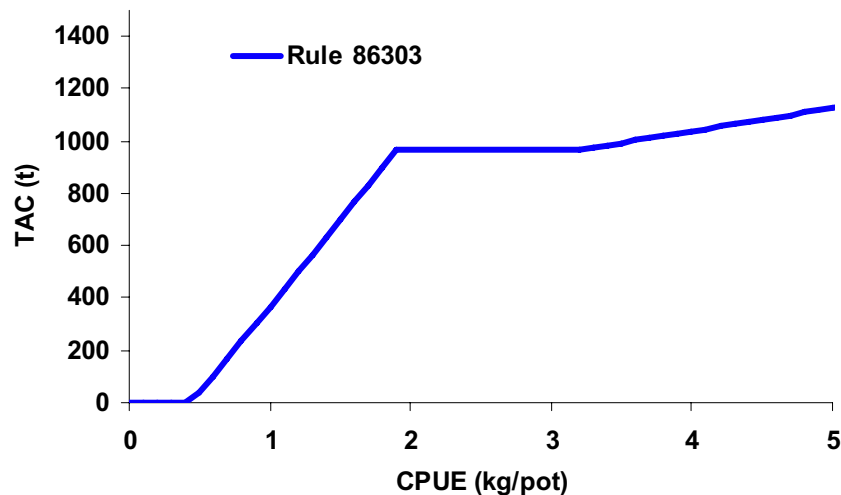


Figure B: CRA 8 Management Procedure.

Management procedures should not remain in place for longer than about five years without a review, because in five years the operating model used to evaluate management procedures will be obsolete, and fishery performance should be re-evaluated. Such a review was written into the 2002 NSS Management Procedure (Bentley et al. 2003). The NRLMG recommends that a review of these management procedures take place in 2012.

**ATTACHMENT 3:**

**SUBMISSIONS**

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## **Submission on Sustainability measures for the cra4 Rock Lobster Fishery**

### **Introduction**

#### **Family history**

I am Antonino Carlo Muollo ,I am third generation fisherman fishing out of Island Bay in Wellington.

I fish statistical area 915.My family has fished out of Island Bay since 1920 when my grand father arrived here from Sorrento in Italy .We have fished for crayfish in the same area since that time .

My father is a fisherman with over 50 years experience and it is from my father and grand father that I draw my knowledge of line fishing and rock lobster potting.

I am a director of Tolaga Bay Fishing Co Ltd and Deep Blue Seafoods NZ Ltd we catch ,process and export live Rock Lobster worldwide and to my knowledge I am the only fisherman/processor/exporter in cra4.

I have fished for rock lobster on Wellingtons South coast for the last 27 years and in the two seasons have landed close to 30 tonnes of rock lobster ,this year I will land 15t even though I finished a month earlier than usual.The reason for this being that there is no more ace available due to excellent landings in the winter and summer fishery.

#### **Statistical Area 915/Wellington South Coastline**

,The Wellington coast line is unique, tide ,shipping movements together with the Cook Strait cable no fish zone and the new marine reserve form areas where rock lobsters find sanctuary to breed and grow.It has been this way for many years and is the reason why recruitment in this area is stong.

The rock lobsters in this area are larger than in other parts of cra4 and the stock has more in common with the western Cook Strait fishery than the Wairarapa one.

These lobsters are found well out into the Cook Strait canyons which provide an excellent breeding ground that can't be fished.

The Wellington fishery is predominantly a summer one with the largest catch being in January February and early March after this period the fishing is always slower as the females finish their mating and are now going in to berry.

It is usually at this time we change fishing methods from rock lobster potting to drop lining or long lining for wet fish this lets the females go about the business of producing new eggs for what will be stock in years to come.This changing of fishing methods has been practiced here for many generations and is successful form of Stock conservation.

#### **08/09 Fishing Season**

In one word can only be described as excellent,catchs in the last two months have been strong with catch per unit effort being around 1.5 to 2 kgs per pot.

This year alot fishermen held off from catching during autumn winter this was because of forecasts for the NZD to drop and the predicted firming of prices over seas together with careful monitoring of the Australian Rock lobster production it became clear it would a better return on ace /quota investment was to catch in the latter parts of the fishing and this is evident in the prices and landings in the last three months.

At this point in time there is no ace available in cra4 .

This year I took Chris Dick from NIWA to do catch sampling aboard my vessel Bonny Kay 900516, no doubt these findings are available to and confirm much of what I have written.

### **NRLMG management procedure**

I agree in part but:

Needs to be adapted to incorporate the spring and summer fishery to account for all fishing cycles in all stat areas especially 915 and 934 and changes in export condition which ultimately drives when the fish is to be caught.

Is to focussed on the Wairarapa fishery

More frequent stock assessments and should cover the entire year and cover all stat areas.

### **Recommendation**

- 1) Close the fishery from April to September to maintain and enhance stock production
- 2 )Keep Tacc at current level
- 3)Split Cra4 in to more manageable zone based on original quota allocation figures

Brendan Flack  
1134 Coast Road  
Karitane  
RD 1  
Waikouaiti

5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Tracey Steel  
Ministry of Fisheries  
P O Box 1020  
Wellington

### **Proposed changes to CRA 7 rock lobster fishery**

Kia ora

I wish to make a submission on the proposed options by the NRLMG.

I **oppose** any increase to the TACC, I feel that any increase is premature given the history of fluctuating catches over the last decade.

I feel that the industry would be better served by abandoning the concession sized fish taken from our shores.

If the fishery is in such great health it is completely unnecessary for commercial fishers to access the smaller fish at the expense of recreational and customary fishers.

The Ministry should also explore the possibility of extending the fishing season in CRA 7, this would spread the catch effort and allow some fish to escape capture. The current situation around the Karitane area is such that the fishing pressure is huge during the winter months (June, July, August).

The Ministry should be reminded that the customary allocation is virtually untouched in our rohe. Takata Tiaki use their allocation to conserve the fishery (ie leaving the fish in the water) any increase given to another sector would nullify this conservative action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kia ora na

Brendan Flack  
**Takata Tiaki**

5 February 2009

Tracey Steel  
Executive Assistant  
Ministry of Fisheries  
PO Box 1020  
Wellington

**SUBMISSION  
REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES – CRA8 ROCK LOBSTER  
FISHERY FOR 1 APRIL 2009**

This submission is made by the CRA8 Management Committee Inc. (“the Committee”). This organisation is a fully constituted and incorporated society that is recognised as the commercial stakeholder organisation representing the interests of the commercial rock lobster industry in the southern South Island including South Westland, Fiordland, Stewart Island, Foveaux Strait and adjacent islands.

The Committee supports the CRA8 Management Procedure as the primary management mechanism for the CRA8 fishery. The Committee further submits that if for any reason the outcome from the operation of the CRA8 Management Procedure is not accepted the whole concept of retaining a management procedure as the primary management mechanism is violated, at which time its continued use becomes invalid.

**NRLMG Proposal**

The Committee supports the NRLMG proposal to increase the CRA8 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from 1053 tonnes to 1110 tonnes.

The Committee does not support the NRLMG proposal that only the Total Allowable Commercial Catch be increased.

The Committee submits that some of the TAC increase should be applied to the Recreational Allowance. A formula for calculating the allocation is included below with recommended totals.

It is accepted that the non-commercial allowances are simply allowances (and not absolute allocations). And due to the use of CPUE as the relative index of the abundance

within the fishery that is available to all sectors, that the allowances do not have a direct role in the management of the CRA8 fishery. However it is submitted that if possible the allowance should represent the actual situation. There is little doubt that recreational fishing success increases as abundance increases. There is also no doubt that recreational fishing activity has increased in CRA8 in recent years. To the extent that the Committee believes that the current recreational allowance is now being exceeded.

The Committee acknowledges that there is little accurate data to confirm this but submits that there is enough anecdotal evidence to support this contention. On this basis it is submitted that it would be prudent to acknowledge this increase through an adjustment to the recreational allowance. Another reason for promoting this increase is that without this action the CRA8 commercial rock lobster industry risks being criticised for failing to acknowledge the other sectors within the fishery and the resultant public perception of greed. The Committee wants to avoid this situation and has no desire to be perpetuate this view.

The Committee would not support increases to the other non-commercial allowances due to the complete absence of data or evidence that these are now being exceeded.

### **Formula For Allocation**

As referred to above, a formula for calculating the allocation has been developed. The formula uses the totals apportioned to the TAC when the first management procedure for the CRA8 fishery was introduced in 1997/98<sup>1</sup>. In particular it compares the TACC at that time (888 t) to that recommended in the consultation document for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 (1023 t). The percentage increase between the two TACC figures is about 15%. (888 x 15% = 1021).

No non-commercial allowances have been altered since they were first introduced in 1999/2000.

On that basis, the Committee submits that recreational allowance be increased by the same percentage. This would result in an increase of 4 t.

For clarification, the following table is included.

	1997/98	2009/10 (1)	2009/10 (2)
TAC	975	1110	1110
Customary	30	30	30
Recreational	29	29	33
Other Mortality	28	28	28
TACC	888	1023	1019

2009/10 (1) Consultation Paper Proposal

2009/10 (2) CRA8 Management Committee Inc. Recommendation

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<sup>1</sup> NSS Management Procedure

### **Collection Of Recreational Data**

The NRLMG Annual Report refers to the issue surrounding the lack of accurate data and the effect of this<sup>2</sup>: “..... there is no data to confirm or quantify catch increases across the whole of the CRA8 fishery.....”

The Committee has also expressed its concern in the past regarding the lack of accurate data relating to catch and effort within the recreational fishing sector. A significant portion of the annual yield is taken by recreational fishing in some areas and this lack of data has a direct impact on the ability to accurately manage these fisheries.

The Committee submits that this situation must be addressed in a meaningful way. It is not acceptable that a sector whose activities can have a major effect on the sustainability of fisheries can continue to remain and operate in an information void.

### **Summary**

The Committee:

Supports the NRLMG proposal to increase the CRA8 TAC from 1053 t to 1110 t;

Does not support the NRLMG proposal to increase the TACC only;

Submits that the TACC be increased from 966 t to 1019 t and the recreational allowance be increased from 29 t to 33 t; and

Submits that MFish must immediately address the issues relating to the lack of accurate recreational fishing catch and effort data.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Lawson  
Chief Executive Officer

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<sup>2</sup> Para 142 “..... There is no data to confirm or quantify catch increases across the whole of the CRA8 fishery.....”



## *East Otago Taiapure Management Committee*

The Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act) contains provisions allowing a Taiapure-local fishery management committee to recommend to the Minister of Fisheries the making of regulations for the conservation and management of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed in the Taiapure-local fishery.

**The Area:** as identified in Fisheries (East Otago Taiapure) Order 1999. All the marine and estuarine waters enclosed by a line commencing at Cornish Head (at 45° 37.28'S and 170° 41.66'E) then proceeding along a straight in a south westerly direction to Brinns Point (at 45° 40.32'S and 170° 39.18 'E) then along a straight line in a south-westerly direction to a point on Warrington Spit (at 45° 43.73'S and 170° 36.0'E) then along a straight line in an easterly direction to Potato Point (at 45° 44.42'S and 170° 38.3'E ) then generally west and north along the mean high-water mark to the point of commencement.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES**

**To manage the East Otago Taiapure area in a sustainable manner.**

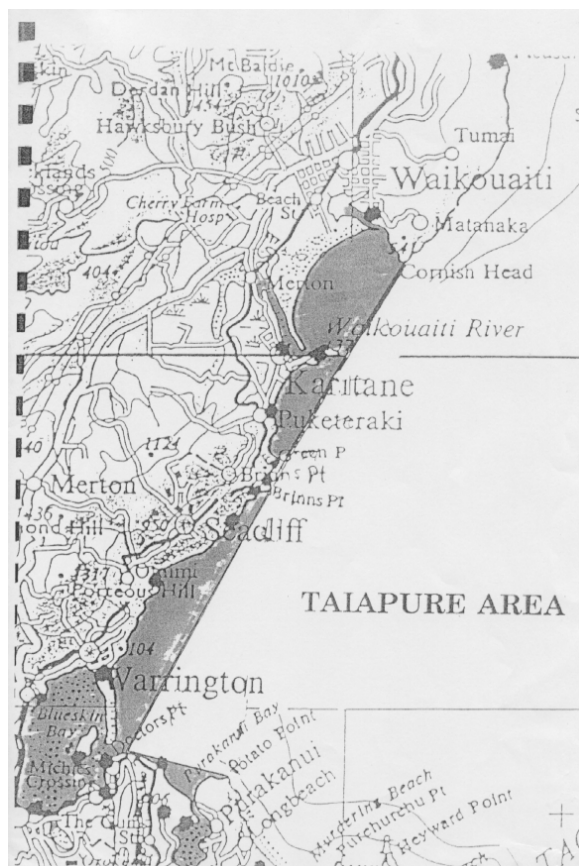
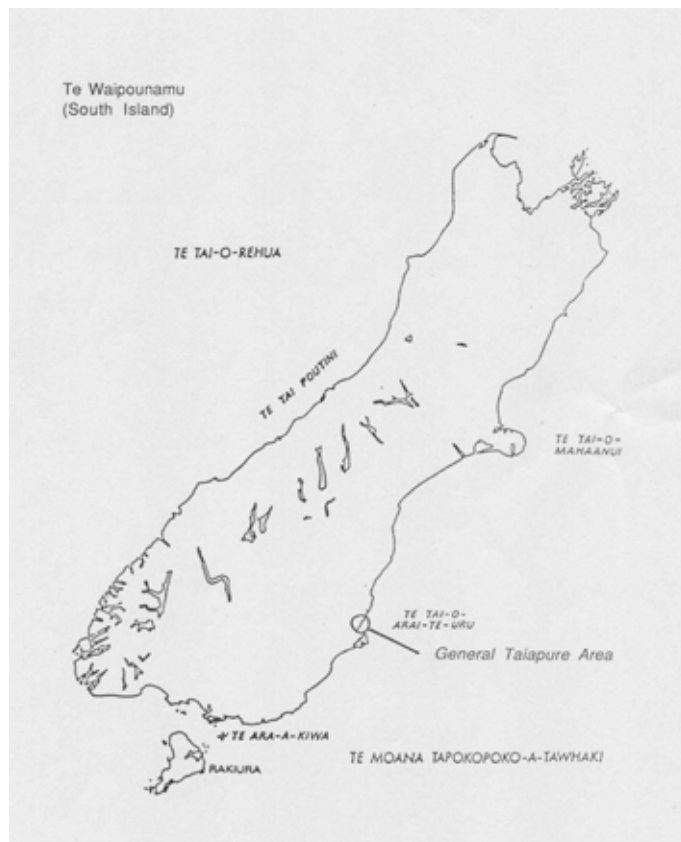
#### **PRINCIPLES**

**To establish appropriate sustainable management measures and structures to protect the East Otago Taiapure area.**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- To establish appropriate research projects
- To develop relationships with stakeholders and other interested parties within the East Otago Taiapure area.
- To establish monitoring regimes
- To establish a pro-active role in resource consent processes which affect the East Otago Taiapure area.
- To have an active role in Fisheries Management Plans
- To apply for grants, or any other monetary gifts for the development and benefit of the East Otago Taiapure
- To enter into appropriate contracts or act in an advisory capacity with any government body or local authority.
- To develop and establish appropriate accountability systems.
- To employ persons with the required skills to further the objectives of the East Otago Taiapure.
- To appoint appropriate persons, who will be responsible for planning and management of programs that are deemed to be of importance to the development of the East Otago Taiapure
- To make recommendation to the Minister for Fisheries regulations for Taiapure area.

*East Otago Taiapure  
Management Committee*



**C/- Kati Huirapa Runaka, Post Office, Karitane. Telephone 465 7300. Fax 465 7318.**





*East Otago Taiapure  
Management Committee*

5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Tracey Steel  
Ministry of Fisheries  
P O Box 1020  
Wellington

**Proposed changes to CRA 7 rock lobster fishery**

Kia ora

The East Otago Taiapure Management Committee wishes to make a submission on the proposed options by the NRLMG.

The Committee **opposes** any increase to the TACC, we feel that any increase is premature given the history of fluctuating catches over the last decade.

We feel that the industry would be better served by abandoning the concession sized fish taken from our shores.

If the fishery is in such great health it is completely unnecessary for commercial fishers to access the smaller fish at the expense of recreational and customary fishers.

The Ministry should also explore the possibility of extending the fishing season in CRA 7, this would spread the catch effort and allow some fish to escape capture. The current situation around the Karitane area is such that the fishing pressure is huge during the winter months (June, July, August).

The Ministry should be reminded that the customary allocation is virtually untouched in our rohe. Takata Tiaki use their allocation to conserve the fishery (ie leaving the fish in the water) any increase given to another sector would nullify this conservative action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kia ora na

Brendan Flack  
**Chairperson**  
***On behalf of the East Otago Taiapure Management Committee***

10 February 2009

Tracey Steel

Ministry Of Fisheries

P O Box 1020

Wellington

This is a private submission on the CRA 4 IPP

1. The IPP strongly appears to be “closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.” Had it not been for the Commercial making their cuts along with recreational and Maori following in the only they could (voluntary cuts) the fishery would be devastated. This is yet another example of the reaction time being too prolonged, the red flag has been up in both CRA 3 and 4 for a number of years and now we start the process which could take many months while the fishery is further decimated.
2. We are in favour of annual assessments being made on the CPUE of commercial fishers. We think using this information to adjust the TAC or TACC, where necessary, will allow MFish to act more quickly. Full stock assessments are still necessary before any change to either increase or decrease the TAC or TACC can be made.
3. The Minister should be very conservative in setting the TACC where stock assessments and Bmsy are not known until there is real proof that the stocks have increased above a conservative level. In general there is too little data on the stocks and sustainable yields of the fisheries. We believe they should be managed well above Bmsy.
4. Under the “Proposed changes to CRA 4” document there are 2 options, 1 the status quo which cannot continue and 2 a TACC reduction of 310 tonnes to 2KK tonnes. We believe that this reduction is sufficient as there is a voluntary shelving in place of 58% for this year. Also the IPP refers to the CPUE figures which,

while showing some late improvements, are still way below the desirable level. We believe that recreational and customary account for an estimated 100 tonnes and there for about 13% of the take so are not responsible in a large part for the huge depletion of the fishery.

5. We believe in “local area management” and as such feel that CRA 4 is divided into 5 sub areas and should be fished accordingly. Nearly all the vessels fishing the CRA 4 area are shore based (trailerred out of the water when not in use) there for remain in relatively close proximity to their base. This would allow for better management of the areas by the stakeholders. Local area problems would show up early and could be monitored and dealt with.
  
- K. Unfortunately the North Island South East Recreational Fishing Forum has not had an opportunity to meet and discuss the IPP so a submission from the Forum was not possible

Edward Beetham

Member  
NISE Recreational Forum  
Wairarapa Sports Fishing Club

# **Members of the Hauraki Gulf Bay of Plenty Recreational Forum**

## **Submission on the**

### **Proposed Changes to the CRA3 Rock lobster Fishery**

**1 :** Members of the **Hauraki Gulf Bay of Plenty Recreational Forum** as named have undertaken to support through this Submission the people of Gisborne who have chosen to give their mandate to Alain Jorion and Hilton Webb who are the two mandated recreational members of the CRA3 Management Working Group

**2 :** As Members of this Forum we as individuals maintain communications with members of other forums and their members and as such are kept up to date with what is happening within other areas as in this case CRA3

**3 :** As members of this Forum we discuss issues of concern with in our area and do on occasions discuss issues of concern in other areas as they arise.

**4:** Approximately 1.35 million New Zealanders fish for sport or sustenance. This does not include those elderly or disabled amateur fishers who can no longer actively participate in catching seafood for the table. 1996 research found that there are approx 1.35 million recreational and sustenance amateur fishers in New Zealand who like the commercial fishers have the right to fish and expect to be able catch a feed of fish for the table

**5:** This Submission has also been endorsed by the following organizations, all of which have a mandate speak on behalf of the Recreational fishing sector of New Zealand and represent both directly and indirectly all recreational and sustenance fishers in New Zealand.

#### **The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council**

**6 :** The NRLMG is proposing changes to the CRA 3 fishery for the 2009/10 fishing year. and has offered four options being

Option 1 Retain current catch limits (status quo)

Option 2 Reduce TAC by 8% and decrease TACC only

Option 3A Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC only

Option 3B Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC and Rec

#### **We thank you for this opportunity to participate in this by way of a submission**

**7 :** Since 1993 this fishery has experienced a number of problems with recruitment, and the recreational sectors ability to catch legal size crayfish particularly in area 910.

These include spatial conflict that has been brought about by continuance of the concession and the commercial sector who have ignored the concerns of the recreational sector and their input through the CRA3 Working Group

The recent NRLMG survey has found that crayfish are now not growing at the rate previously believed this finding coupled with a reduction in recruitment has the potential to further deplete this fishery

A recent study carried out in Canada has found that due to the reduction in cod numbers smaller fish are spawning sooner and as result the recruitment overall has also reduced

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090113.wspecies13/BNStory/Science/home>

Allowing commercial fishers to take 52mm male crayfish at given times of the year might well be having a similar effect with in this fishery

This has left the recreational sector at a disadvantage to the point were it is extremely difficult to catch a legal size crayfish in Gisborne area 910.

Discussions between the recreational and commercial sectors through the CRA3 Management working group have to date failed to produce any agreed upon solution that would increase both the size and recruitment of rock lobsters especially with in area 910

Recent Stock assessment suggest that that CRA 3 stock is below the target stock size and is likely to decline over the next four years at current catch levels.

**8 :** After due consideration and having read the information supplied we find that in the best interest of both the Commercial sector and the Recreational sector in the CRA3 area that **Option3A** is the best option and is the only one that will benefit the fishery as a whole so we must there fore support **Option3A Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC only**

## **Members of the Hauraki Gulf Bay of Plenty Recreational Forum**

John Friend, Keith Ingram Richard Baker George Johnston Peter Stevenson  
Brett Rathe Vance Fulton Peter Ellery Don Glass

John Friend



Email [jjfriend@ihug.co.nz](mailto:jjfriend@ihug.co.nz)

Ph 07 572 4073

Submission Endorsed by  
The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council

Submission of Nelson Cross

Although I don't oppose the increase to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), I think the options should not be considered in isolation. I believe the management of crayfish should be looked at together, i.e. recreational, customary and not just the commercial concession.

Any increase in the TAC should also apply to recreational fishers. The daily bag limit should be increased from 6 to 8 crayfish. If the numbers of crayfish are there in the water, we may as well take advantage. The numbers of crayfish will fluctuate, so we need to be careful.

It is important we come to grips with getting accurate figures on what the recreational take is. At the moment MFish don't know how many crayfish are taken. The customary take also needs to be accurately measured. If we are to look after crayfish, we need to know what everyone takes.

**Nelson Cross**  
**8 Totara Street**  
**Kaka Point**  
**RD1 Balclutha**

*Submission recorded by Billy Brough Senior Fisheries Analyst and reviewed via email by Nelson Cross*



## **N Z RECREATIONAL FISHING COUNCIL**

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P.O. Box 238,  
RAGLAN

Phone 07 8258867  
Cell Phone 021943018  
Email [nzrfcsheryl@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:nzrfcsheryl@actrix.gen.nz)

10 February 2009

# **NEW ZEALAND RECREATIONAL FISHING COUNCIL**

## **Submission on the**

### **New Zealand Red Rock Lobster Fisheries**

#### **Consultation 1**

#### **Proposal to Adopt a Management Procedure for CRA4**

#### **Consultation 2**

#### **Proposal to Vary Sustainability Measures For CRA3, CRA4, CRA7 and CRA8**

#### **The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council (NZRFC) and its Representation**

**1:** The national organisations represented by this body are New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, New Zealand Trailer Boat Federation, New Zealand Marine Transport Association, and New Zealand Underwater Association. We also support the Ministry led and funded recreational forums of which many of these regional members are now members as individuals.

**2:.** We maintain close contact with a number of Iwi representatives. While every effort has been made to consult we do not suggest that this submission is representative of their views.

**3:** This Council represents over 76,000 recreational and sustenance amateur fishers. In addition by default we represent the public interest in the fishery and those amateur fishers who are non-members. We say by default because we are the only constituted representative body that has been recognised by Government and the Courts as doing so.

**4:** Over one million people or by recent Ministry of Fisheries figures 20% of New Zealanders fish for sport or sustenance. This does not include those elderly or infirmed amateur fishers who can no longer actively participate in catching seafood for the table. The 1996 research to provide estimates of Recreational and Sustenance Harvest Estimates found that there are approx 1.35 million and increasing recreational and sustenance amateur fishers in New Zealand and therefore we effectively, through our associated member groups, and lack of any other democratically elected or statutory recognised group represent this number also.

**5:** The Council has been recognised in three court cases as representing the recreational and amateur fishers of New Zealand. The Council was attached to two of these cases without its prior knowledge and the court papers show it was ordered, “to represent the recreational fishing public of New Zealand”. The first of these was the order of attachment to the High Court Action on the Manukau, Taiapure application. The second relates to the SNA1 challenge of the Minister’s decision that was heard by the High Court. The Council also holds “Approved Party Status” for consultations with the Ministry of Fisheries and is recognised by them and the Minister of Fisheries as a stakeholder group. In the third case the Council along with the NZ Big Game Fishing Council was the applicant in the recently successful kahawai case.

**6:** The Council has a Board of elected officers and members. The Council consults with its members and the public using various means. These include newsletters, both written and electronic, its web site and various press releases. In addition it consults through the various fishing media and meetings it holds and receives input through those forums.

**7:** This submission has been prepared and presented after consultation via email and our web site to our members and board members.

**8:** As previously stated, we are aware that many of our National Affiliates and Regional Members are submitting their own submissions and in most cases we have seen and support these submissions where they are not in direct conflict with this submissions intent or requested outcome.

**9:** In the submission we talk of both recreational and amateur fishers as these two descriptions are so intertwined. For the sake of some clarity recreational fishers referred to are generally those who have an interest in supporting recreational fishing interests while amateur refers to all fishers who exercise their rights to fish under the amateur fishing regulations.

**10:** The NZRFC would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Rock Lobster Group (NRLMG) for involving us in consultation with this document.

#### **11: Introduction**

We would like to point out to the NRLMG the high value in which Recreational Fishers hold Rock Lobster; they are prized as the premium item to offer to guests to our homes or as a gift when invited to any function.

## **Consultation 1**

### **Proposal to Adopt a Management Procedure for CRA4**

**12:** Management changes that ensure that a stock biomass moves upwards towards and above Bmsy are good and should be encouraged.

The NZRFC supports the implementation of

#### **Option 1      Adopt the CRA4 Management Procedure to guide TAC and TACC setting in CRA4**

**Under option 1, the Minister would use the CRA4 management procedure to guide statutory TAC setting decisions for CRA4.**

**Under Option 1, the Minister would be guided by the operation of the management procedure when setting the TAC and TACC for CRA4 for the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years. During 2011 the management procedure would be reviewed.**

**13:** We note that although Bmsy has not been reliably estimated for CRA4 there is an estimate of a 99% probability that this stock will be maintained above the target stock size by implementing these management measures. With this implementation the recreational fishing opportunities will be improved and management measures will be able to respond quickly to changes in abundance in this fishery without the expense in time of waiting for stock assessments. As an example the last stock assessment was done in 2005 when this fishery was 99% caught, now the picture is completely different with figures from the 2007/08 year saying that it is only 55% caught. We acknowledge that the commercial sector had shelved 44% of their Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) this still left 11% able to be caught that wasn't. For this current year that shelving has been taken to 58% it is unknown at this time if this percentage will result in some fish staying in the water. Action should have been taken in this fishery a lot sooner but managers were impeded by the present management restrictions.

**14:** We agree with the 3-year review procedure as outlined in the document. This gives fishery managers time to assess the success of this project and combined with the proposed 311 tonne reduction in commercial quota we ought to see this fishery move towards a position above Bmsy. A position, which would give recreational fishers a reasonable chance at catching a reasonable daily bag.

**15:** The recreational sector acknowledges the commercial sector in taking the proactive initiative in the shelving of quota in the 2007/08 and 2008/09 fishing years.

**16:** We also support the local recreational sector initiative in the voluntary reduction in bag limit in CRA4, however we will not support any attempt to change the recreational bag limit in legislation in CRA4 or any other Crayfish area.

**17:** Some independent research will still need to be done to maintain the integrity of the information gathered from the commercial sector.

**18:** We request that the commercial fishers voluntarily look to implement higher catch per unit effort (CPUE) proxies in areas of high recreational use, and that commercial fishers agree to rest such areas where the CPUE drops below 0.8kg/potlift. We request that MFish agree to undertake satisfactory surveys with recreational fishers in some of these areas each year over a 5 year period to assess the perceived values and satisfaction of amateur fishers of this action.

**19:** It appears that significant variations in stock abundance are occurring in different statistical reporting areas and we believe it is time to consider dividing this fishery into smaller units. A good starting point would be to use the existing stat areas and fix portions of the quota to each area. This would lead to less serial depletion of other stat areas if abundance drops in one area by limiting the shift of effort. In addition full and proper consideration of the effects of Marine Protected Areas on local fishers would then be able to be better assessed.

## **Consultation 2**

### **Proposal to Vary Sustainability Measures For CRA3, CRA4, CRA7 and CRA8**

#### **CRA 3**

**20:** We are pleased that the NRLMG is reviewing CRA3. This fishery has given rise to significant concern from recreational fishers in the area.

**21:** As a general measure the NZRFC opposes any move to reduce the recreational take by MFish where the recreational take is less than the commercial take. If recreational take exceeds commercial take in any area then we would consider agreeing to share any response that moves towards rebuilding the fishery. However, where the responsibility for the decline in the fishery lies clearly (numerically) with the commercial take, it is clearly the commercial sector that must bear the burden of rebuilding the stocks (they are the ones who have benefited most from reducing them).

**22:** Information available on the CPUE indicates varying abundance in the different stat areas. Information from amateur fishers tends to support the data with indications that the fishing experience in the northern and southern stat areas is much more acceptable than in area 910 adjacent to Gisborne. It is here the full effect of the fishing lost with the introduction of a Marine Reserve is being felt with too many fishers competing for too few fish. Over 30 tonne of fish was fished in the area now within the Marine Reserve and this displacement has never been recognized within the TAC nor fisherman compensated for their loss of access to this area. This is coupled with the inequalities caused by the commercial access to concession fish and customary Maori being able to fish at any size. This has fuelled the fire of conflict between the sectors and needs to be addressed. The amateur sector is being denied access to a reasonable daily bag.

**23:** The amateur allowance is so low in this fishery that no consideration should be given to reducing recreational bag limits as a means of addressing low abundance. The cause is commercial overcatch, made worse by paralysis within Mfish and the commercial sector in recent years. The figures have shown decreasing abundance for years but action has been very slow coming. The sooner a decent management procedure is put in place to overcome

the ostrich like behaviour and procrastination the better. We will be thankful if this submission on behalf of those fishers will take into account not only those proposals within the IPP but also other management proposals not mentioned in the document.

**24:** These include:

- A greater portion on the TACC reduction should be applied to the stat area 910. This could be achieved by apportioning a share of the quota to each stat area. If this was done proper consideration of the impact of the marine reserve could be assessed and allowed for. In addition a recreational only area should be set-aside in the Gisborne area. If this was for exclusive amateur use we are certain the locals would take whatever management measures they deemed necessary to maintain its sustainability.
- Amateur fishers are tired of being accused of not participating in the management of their fishery. Truth is they have never been provided with a spatial share in the Gisborne area they can call their own so why would we bother to save fish only to have them hovered up by the commercial sector at the first opportunity. In this case at a size less than the amateur MLS. Until the concession fishing goes the amateur sector will continue to call long and loud for the largest cuts in TACC as these are what is needed to get abundance to a high enough level to ensure there are some fish of legal size left in the waters adjacent to Gisborne.
- The inequity of the commercial concession has to be addressed, to allow recreational fishers any chance at securing a feed for their families. Instead of being denied that ability because there's nothing left after the commercial sector have taken fish at the smaller concession size limits. We support the MFish proposal to carry out a National Review of all Rock Lobster concession fisheries.
- Closed seasons for all fishers to get pots out of the water during the period of female fish being in berry. This will reduce the continual damage to these fish of being caught time and time again, which often results in disease being rampant within the fishery.
- In keeping with the NZRFC policy in all commercial inshore fisheries we would like to all commercial vessels fitted with a vessel monitoring system (VMS). This would help improve information auditing, along with compliance of non-commercial fishing areas.

**25:** Real action is needed to be taken by MFish to seriously address the 89 tonnes allowance made for fishing related mortality this amounts to over half of the total commercial catch and is totally unacceptable. Recreational fishers cannot imagine why this excess has not already been addressed and must be made a priority action.

**26:** The CRA3 commercial catch appears to be highly unstable, recording an under catch in TACC for the past 6 years. Those under catch figures average 60.50 tonne over this time. This under catch shows that the present TACC is unsustainable.

**27:** The NZRFC supports the implementation of:

**Option 3A Reduce the TAC by 19% and decrease the TACC only**

<b>TAC</b>	<b>257 tonnes</b>
<b>TACC</b>	<b>128 tonnes</b>
<b>Recreational allowance</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>
<b>Customary Allowance</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>
<b>Other Fishing Mortality</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>

**28:** However these reductions may not be enough given the variability of the catches over the last 6 years. We require information from stakeholders or Mfish as to what changed in the fishery between the years 2004/05 when the fishery was 50% caught and 2005/06 when the fishery was 90% caught and has remained around that percentage ever since.

**29:** It is important to recreational fishers that this high value fishery is well managed. We believe that by implementing Option 3 A along with the suggested management changes as stated above that the status of this stock will improve to allow for the cultural, social and economic well being of amateur fishers.

**CRA 4**

**30:** We are pleased that the NRLMG is reviewing CRA4. This fishery has also given rise to significant concern from recreational fishers in the area.

**31:** We would like the NRLMG to consider other management initiatives as listed below to help rebuild this fishery towards a sustainable biomass.

- Fine scale management to enable this fishery to be managed on a local basis would be an advantage.
- Closed seasons for all fishers during the period of the female fish being in berry and during periods of soft shell. This will reduce the continual damage and disease caused to these fish, after being caught time after time.
- In keeping with the NZRFC policy in all commercial inshore fisheries we would like to all commercial vessels fitted with a VMS. This would help improve information auditing, along with compliance of non-commercial fishing areas.

**32:** The NZRFC supports the implementation of:

**Option 1**

**Set the CRA4 TAC and TACC based on the operation of the CRA4 Management Procedure**

**Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA4 would be reduced from 771 tonnes to 460 tonnes, and the TACC would be reduced from 577 tonnes to 266 tonnes, from 1 April 2009, The allowances set for customary Maori, amateur and other fishing mortality would remain unchanged.**

**The proposed variations result from operation of the proposed CRA4 Management Procedure. The operation of the CRA4 Management Procedure represents the best available information to guide TAC setting for CRA4 fishery in 2009/10.**

**33:** This fishery is also important to recreational fishers that this high value fishery is well managed. We believe that by implementing Option 1 along with the suggested management changes as stated above that the status of this stock will improve to allow for the cultural, social and economic well being of amateur fishers.

#### **CRA 7**

**34:** The NZRFC supports the TAC as indicated by the management procedure.

#### **Option 1**

**Set the CRA 7 TAC and TACC based on the operation of the CRA 7 Management Procedure**

**Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA 7 would increase from 143.88 tonnes to 209 tonnes from 1 April 2009 as specified by the CRA 7 Management Procedure. To achieve this new TAC, the CRA 7 TACC would be increased from 123.88 tonnes to 189 tonnes. The allowance set for customary Maori, recreational and other fishing mortality would not be changed.**

**The CRA 7 Management Procedure was adopted by the Minister in March 2008 to guide TAC setting in CRA 7. The procedure is described in detail in Attachment 2 to the consultation paper.**

**35:** The NZRFC submits that the concession fishing must go and supports the above in the knowledge that the concession fishing is up for review this year.

**36:** We submit that would like the NRLMG to consider the implementation of areas for amateur fishers to manage within this quota management area.

**37:** In keeping with the NZRFC policy in all commercial inshore fisheries we would like to all commercial vessels fitted with a VMS. This would help improve information auditing, along with compliance of non-commercial fishing areas.

**38:** We feel that table 5 on page 25, which looks as if the other fishing mortality is as a result of non-commercial activity, we would suggest that this is a shared responsibility. This fishing related mortality must be addressed. If this is done it will also allow for more fish in the water.

#### **CRA 8**

**39:** The NZRFC supports the TAC as indicated by the management procedure.

#### **Option 1**

**Vary the CRA 8 TAC and TACC based on operation of the CRA 8 Management Procedure**

**Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA 8 would be increased from 1053 tonnes to 1110 tonnes from 1 April 2009 as specified by the CRA 8 Management Procedure. To achieve this new TAC, the CRA 8 TACC would be increased from 966 tonnes to 1023 tonnes. The allowance set for customary Maori, recreational and other fishing mortality would not be changed.**

**The CRA 8 Management Procedure was adopted by the Minister in March 2008 to guide TAC setting in CRA 8. The procedure is described in detail in Attachment 2 to the consultation paper.**

**40:** The NZRFC submits that the concession fishing must go and supports the above in the knowledge that the concession fishing is up for review this year.

**41:** We also wish to submit that we would like the NRLMG to consider the implementation of areas for amateur fishers to manage within this quota management area.

**42:** In keeping with the NZRFC policy in all commercial inshore fisheries we would like to all commercial vessels fitted with a VMS. This would help improve information auditing, along with compliance of non-commercial fishing areas.

**43:** Once again mentioned in table 6 on page 28, it looks as if the other fishing mortality is as a result of non-commercial activity, we would suggest that this is a shared responsibility. This fishing related mortality must be addressed. If this is done it will also allow for more fish in the water.

**44:** The NZRFC would like to once again thank the NRLMG for the opportunity to submit on this document.

Yours faithfully,

Sheryl Hart  
Secretary



## NEW ZEALAND ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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PRIVATE BAG 24-901 WELLINGTON  
64 4 385 4005 PHONE  
64 4 385 2727 FAX  
[lobster@seafood.co.nz](mailto:lobster@seafood.co.nz)

Standards Team  
MFish  
PO Box 1020  
WELLINGTON

Attention: Tracey Steel - [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)

Cc: *Minister of Fisheries*  
*National Rock Lobster Management Group*  
*SeaFIC*

February 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **APRIL 2009 REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES AND OTHER MANAGEMENT CONTROLS.**

This submission is made on behalf of the New Zealand rock lobster industry by the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZ RLIC). The NZ RLIC is an umbrella organisation for the nine regional commercial stakeholder groups comprised of CRA and PHC quota share and ACE owners, permit holders, processors and exporters.

These nine groups and the NZ RLIC hold a majority mandate from greater than 75% of the CRA quota shares owned in each of the nine management areas, and from the significant majority (>75%) of the participants in the catching, processing and marketing sectors of the industry. That mandate is confirmed annually as part of the renewal of the Commodity Levy that underpins funding for the industry organisations.

The NZ RLIC also endorses the submission made by the CRA 8 Management Committee Inc.

## ***NRLMG RECOMMENDATIONS – 2008 ANNUAL REPORT***

### **THE NATIONAL ROCK LOBSTER MANAGEMENT GROUP:**

1. The NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZ RLIC) reaffirms support for the continuation of the NRLMG as the primary source of management advice to the Minister on rock lobster fisheries and all matters relating to rock lobster fishing.
2. The co-operative user group forum provides the most timely and effective means of communicating issues and policies to and from the respective stakeholder groups, and the NRLMG participants continue to promote an open and transparent dialogue and debate.
3. The role and function of sector group representatives is continually subject to review and refinement in the course of the NRLMG annual programme. The lack of participation by the environment and conservation sector is an ongoing concern; however the facts are that the sector has had as much opportunity as any other to make a positive contribution to utilisation of rock lobster fisheries whilst ensuring sustainability, but unlike the extractive user groups (commercial and non-commercial, which participate at their own costs of time and resources) has failed to act.
4. The NZ RLIC is concerned only in relation to the potential that the environment and conservation sector had to put its constituents to work (as other stakeholder groups have and continue to do now) in support of the agreed management framework for the New Zealand rock lobster fisheries.

### **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:**

5. Illegal removals from rock lobster fisheries adversely impact on all legitimate extractive users and on the fisheries. Fish thieves have cost the industry many millions of dollars in foregone TACC re-instatements, and in lost income and in quota levies paid (until 1999) to the poaching and blackmarket Output Class of inshore shellfish compliance work undertaken by MFish. There is an ongoing cost to all legitimate extractive users as to the quality of fishing, and a cost to the nation in lower economic growth, taxes foregone and public health risks.
6. The NZ RLIC places particular emphasis on the need for MFish to facilitate the implementation of stock specific enforcement and compliance strategies for rock lobster fisheries.

## RECOMMENDED SUSTAINABILITY DECISIONS – APRIL 2009

### CRA 3 (GISBORNE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY)

#### **Option 2 – Reduce the CRA 3 TAC by 8% and adjust only the TACC**

*Under Option 2, the TAC for CRA 3 would be reduced from 319 tonnes to 293 tonnes from 1 April 2009. To achieve this new TAC, the TACC would be reduced from 190 to 164 tonnes. The allowances for customary Maori, recreational, and other fishing mortality would remain unchanged. As with Option 1, a CRA 3 Management Procedure would be developed in 2009 and used to guide statutory TAC setting for CRA 3 from the 1 April 2010.*

***Commercial stakeholders in CRA 3 have noted their belief that the 2008 stock assessment is somewhat pessimistic, citing the increasing trend in standardised CPUE as evidence that stock size is growing at current catch levels. CRA 3 commercial stakeholders have indicated support for Option 2 – a moderate cut to the TAC in 2009 plus application of an agreed management procedure from 2010. They have noted a willingness to bear the full cost of the TAC cut but emphasise the need to ensure catches by other sectors remain within the allowances provided to ensure the cut does not become a re-allocation of available catch. [Emphasis added].***

7. The NZ RLIC and the Tairāwhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association (Industry) support management decisions being informed by the best available information but are concerned that the CRA 3 stock assessment which has guided this NRLMG recommendation is now a season out of date.
8. Industry notes that there are currently no specific proposals made to ensure that catches taken by other sectors remain within the allowances provided.
9. Industry therefore proposes a modification to Option 2 that balances an acknowledgement that decisions need to be made based on good science with the likelihood that the recommended catch reduction will not represent value for money in terms of economic cost to the region and probably cannot achieve the intended management outcome.
10. Industry submits that the Minister must carefully balance cost against risk when considering final decisions for the CRA 3 fishery.

#### **THE CRA 3 STOCK ASSESSMENT:**

11. Industry contends that the time-lag in the stock assessment process causes the most recent fishery data to be excluded and that current stock abundance is understated as a consequence.

12. Commercial CPUE is a relative index of stock abundance. CRA 3 CPUE in Autumn/Winter (AW) is a performance indicator for the stock. 2008/09 AW CPUE increased 15% from the previous season and is within 10% of the 0.75 kg/potlift AW CPUE agreed by CRA 3 stakeholders and MFish to be the performance indicator for a 'rebuilt' stock. Industry respectfully suggests that the assessment projections are very uncertain in a situation where observed CPUE is close to the desired level yet baseline projections suggest a low probability that 0.75 AW CPUE will be reached by 2012.

**THE ECONOMIC COST:**

13. The recommended TACC reduction is 26 tonnes. That is an actual cut to current commercial catches – representing a significant loss of income to fishermen and to the Gisborne/East Coast community.
14. The Tairawhiti Association and the NZ RLIC submit that the economic cost of the proposed TACC reduction is now greater than the NRLMG-estimated \$1.1 million in the first year. Export demand for quality New Zealand lobsters strengthened significantly in the spring/summer of 2008/09 and the 26 tonnes of lost catch now has an estimated value in excess of \$2.1 million – a value which should carry forward into the 2009/10 fishing season given current market indicators and foreign exchange rates.
15. In addition to the direct loss of \$2.1 million in the first year, CRA 3 fishermen will contend with increased catching costs by way of ACE prices. In situations where TACCs constrain commercial catches, ACE prices are high; the greater the constraint the greater the competition between fishermen for the available ACE – particularly in CRA 3 which is a predominately ACE-dependent fishery where fishermen must retain a 3 tonne minimum of ACE on order to maintain a viable commercial rock lobster fishing business.
16. CRA 3 fishermen have seen the ACE pool diminish from 327 tonnes to 190 tonnes from 2004 (a 41.9% reduction). Over the same period there have been no constraints on any non-commercial removals and anecdotal evidence supported by recent MFish Compliance activities suggests that illegal fishing continues to flourish.
17. Despite that unsatisfactory situation the CRA 3 industry observes stock abundance increasing in the three most recent seasons – as measured by AW CPUE; the CRA 3 industry is confident that the voluntary ACE shelving in 2004 and subsequent TACC cut in 2005 are producing results. The current TACC is constraining commercial removals even with a shortened fishing year in two of three statistical areas<sup>1</sup>. CPUE is increasing. The CRA 3 stock size is increasing towards the agreed 0.75 AW CPUE benchmark at a very reasonable rate.
18. Industry submits that if it is expected to take a further economic loss in order to more rapidly 'rebuild' the CRA 3 fishery for the benefit of all legitimate extractive users then there must be meaningful constraints on current non-commercial allowances to ensure that the significant capital investment in stock rebuild is not wasted. There must also be immediate action to constrain the fish thieving reported to be occurring in this fishery.

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<sup>1</sup> A voluntary commercial closure in Statistical Areas 90 and 910 from 01 September to 15 January inclusive.

### **THE RISK OF FAILURE:**

19. When intended to enable to rebuild of a depleted stock a catch reduction has to be effective in order to meet the objective set for it. If decisions of Ministers and fishery managers are to be guided by projections as presented in the 2008 CRA 3 stock assessment we need certainty about actual catches being constrained to nominated allowances.
20. No meaningful attempt has ever been made by MFish and/or the recreational sector to audit, monitor and/or constrain non-commercial catches to the allowances made in previous CRA 3 TAC setting. Given lack of knowledge about non-commercial and illegal removals, where is the certainty of expected “rebuild” and where is the future dividend for the commercial rights holders’ significant investment in enabling a stock rebuild?
21. In the worse case scenario non-commercial fishing effort will quietly “soak up” the commercial catch intended to accrue to the standing stock. Uncontrolled fishing will reduce standing stocks below agreed biological reference points. Current CRA 3 TAC setting (319 tonnes) and the most recent CRA 3 stock assessment assume >40% of the removals from the fishery are non-commercial<sup>2</sup>. The recommended TACC reduction will become a re-allocation of catch to non-commercial extractive users including fish thieves unless the quota cut is matched by more stringent audit and monitoring of and if necessary, constraint on non-commercial, including illegal removals.

### **INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS – CRA 3:**

- a) The NZ RLIC and the Tairāwhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association (Industry) support management decisions being made on the best available information;
- b) Industry supports the use of Management Procedures to guide TAC and Sustainability decisions;
- c) Industry contends that the projections from the 2008 CRA 3 stock assessment are pessimistic in light of confirmed AW 2008/09 CPUE and evidence of stock size increasing since management interventions were made in April 2004;
- d) Industry contends that the economic cost to the CRA 3 industry of the recommended TACC reduction is much higher than anticipated by the NRLMG and that the Minister must weigh that cost to industry against (a) the risk of failure if the catch reduction becomes a re-allocation, and (b) evidence that previous management interventions have already set the fishery on a trajectory to an agreed “rebuild” reference level.
- e) Based primarily on an acceptance of the importance of retaining a link between good science and informed decision-making the Industry supports a more modest CRA 3 TACC reduction from April 2009 conditional upon the concurrent commitment to using an agreed CRA 3 Management Procedure for guide TAC decisions from April 2010.

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<sup>2</sup> TAC 319 t. - Customary 20 t; Recreational 20 t; Illegal 89 t; Commercial 190t

The Tairawhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association and the NZ RLIC recommend –

- a nominal 13 tonnes reduction in the CRA 3 TACC - 50% of the recommended reduction but still meaningful in terms of industry cost and potential benefit to the stock if re-allocation is averted;
- no changes made to other allowances but implementation of reliable catch monitoring;
- renewed commitment to constraining current high levels of illegal unreported removals; and
- the development and implementation of a CRA 3 Management Procedure in 2009.

#### **CRA 4 (WELLINGTON/WAIRARAPA/HAWKES BAY ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY)**

*Adopt the CRA 4 Management Procedure to Guide TAC and TACC Setting in CRA 4*

*Under Option 1, the Minister would be guided by the operation of the management procedure when setting the TAC and TACC for CRA 4 for the 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 fishing years. During 2011, the management procedure would be reviewed.*

***Set the CRA 4 TAC and TACC based on the operation of the CRA 4 Management Procedure***

*Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA 4 would be reduced from 771 tonnes to 460 tonnes, and the TACC would be reduced from 577 tonnes to 266 tonnes, from 1 April 2009. The allowances set for customary Maori, amateur and other fishing mortality would remain unchanged.*

22. The NZ RLIC and the CRA 4 Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 4) support both recommendations.
23. The operation of the CRA 4 Management Procedure represents the best available information to guide TAC setting for CRA 4 fishery in 2009-10 and beyond. The commercial sector is extremely confident that the CRA 4 Management Procedure will enable intended outcomes. The CRA 4 stock size will continue to increase.

#### **INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS – CRA 4:**

The NZ RLIC and CRAMAC 4 endorse NRLMG recommendations that the Minister should (a) adopt the current CRA 4 Management Procedure and (b) set the CRA 4 TACC at 266 tonnes from April 2009.

## **CRA 7 (OTAGO ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY)**

### ***Set the CRA 7 TAC and TACC based on the operation of the CRA 7 Management Procedure***

*Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA 7 would increase from 143.88 tonnes to 209 tonnes from 1 April 2009 as specified by the CRA 7 Management Procedure. To achieve this new TAC, the CRA 7 TACC would be increased from 123.88 tonnes to 189 tonnes. The allowances set for customary Maori, recreational and other fishing mortality would not be changed.*

24. The NZ RLIC and the Otago Rock Lobster Industry Association (ORLIA) support the recommendation. ORLIA notes that the economic value of the recommended TACC increase will be dependent on the outcome of a regulatory proposal to extend the commercial rock lobster season.

### **INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATION – CRA 7:**

**The NZ RLIC and the ORLIA endorse the NRLMG recommendation to increase the CRA 7 TAC to 209 tonnes and increase the TACC to 189 tonnes.**

**The ORLIA again notes the importance of the proposed amendments to the CRA 7 commercial closed season which will enhance the economic value of the recommended TACC increase to the region.**

## **CRA 8 (SOUTHERN ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY)**

### ***Vary the CRA 8 TAC and TACC based on Operation of the CRA 8 Management Procedure***

*Under Option 1, the TAC for CRA 8 would be increased from 1053 tonnes to 1110 tonnes from 1 April 2009 as specified by the CRA 8 Management Procedure. To achieve this new TAC, the CRA 8 TACC would be increased from 966 tonnes to 1023 tonnes. The allowances set for customary Maori, recreational and other fishing mortality would not be changed.*

25. The NZ RLIC supports the principal recommendation but with one important amendment. As referred to in the CRA 8 Management Committee Inc. submission, a formula for calculating the apportionment of the recommended TAC increase has been developed. The formula uses the totals apportioned to the TAC when the first management procedure for the CRA 8 fishery was introduced in 1997/98<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> NSS Management Procedure

26. In particular it compares the TACC at that time (888 t) to that recommended in the consultation document for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 (1023 t). The percentage increase between the two TACC figures is about 15% (888 x 15% = 1021).
27. No non-commercial allowances have been altered for CRA 8 since 1997/98.
28. On that basis, the Committee submits that recreational allowance should be increased by the same percentage. This would result in an increase of **4** tonnes.
29. For clarification, the following table summarises the CRA 8 industry option.

	1997/98	NRLMG 2009/10	<b>CRA 8 MC 2009/10</b>
<b>TAC</b>	975	1110	<b>1110</b>
<b>Customary</b>	30	30	<b>30</b>
<b>Recreational</b>	29	29	<b>33</b>
<b>Other Mortality</b>	28	28	<b>28</b>
<b>TACC</b>	888	1023	<b>1019</b>

#### INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATION – CRA 8:

The NZ RLIC and the CRA 8 Management Committee Inc:

- **Support the NRLMG proposal to increase the CRA 8 TAC from 1053 tonnes to 1110 tonnes;**
- **Recommend that the TACC be increased from 966 tonnes to 1019 tonnes and the recreational allowance be increased from 29 tonnes to 33 tonnes and no other changes made to other current allowances within the TAC.**

Yours sincerely

***NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council***

*DARYL SYKES*

Executive Officer  
Research Programme Manager



# Ngati Porou Seafoods Ltd

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**NZ RED ROCK LOBSTER FISHERIES  
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**CRA3 SUBMISSION**

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**Submission Compiled by:** M Ngata (General Manager – NPSL)  
**Date Completed :** 8<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This submission, in reply to the Ministry of Fisheries consultation document on “proposals to vary sustainability measures for Cra3 “, is presented on behalf of Ngati Porou Seafoods Limited the commercial asset holding company established under the Maori Fisheries Act settlement process to receive and manage the quota assets allocated to Ngati Porou.

Ngati Porou Seafoods Limited reaffirms our commitment to effective fisheries management and sustainability which have always been part of our core values and culture.

We are descendants of Tangaroa (the god of the sea). The relationship is recorded in our history and in our lifestyles. From fishing in the Pacific to trapping crayfish in whanau allotted pools, to cruising the Tasman trading goods gathered in Ngati Porou, to enforcing Rahui for the conservation of our kapata kai by sheer force of mana. We are part of the sea and other fisheries and they are part of us.

This philosophy is further embodied in our company vision statement and purpose for its existence ;

**Me te tiaki, i te moana me ona rawa, ka taea te whakahiato nga kai moana tokomaha rawa atu ma Ngati Porou me ona hapu mo ake tonu atu.**

‘ To manage, protect and enhance Ngati Porou’s seafood resources and environment in a profitable and sustainable manner for the future ‘

The onset of colonial contact brought the Treaty of Waitangi and its guarantee of our rangatiratanga and other tikanga. They form the basis of the rights now metamorphosed into a bundle of assets, some still held in stewardship by Te Ohu Kai Moana (TOKM), which includes Cra3 quota shares and ACE, and others which have recently commenced being allocated to Ngati Porou.

There are more than 70,000 registered members of Ngati Porou in accordance with section 8 of the Maori Fisheries Act, and this number continues to grow.

They share a strong desire to ensure our resources, agreements with the crown, and tikanga are maintained and honoured.

## SCOPE OF MOF PROPOSAL

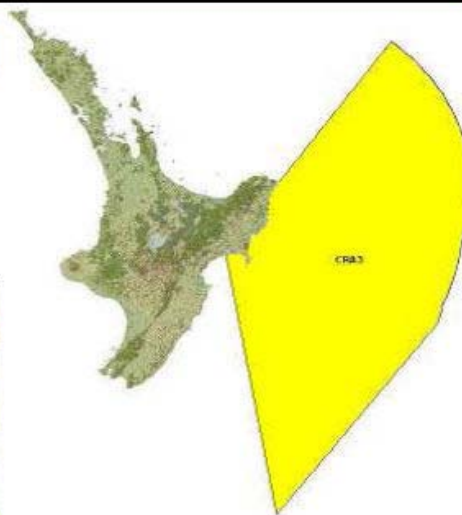


### Proposed changes to the CRA 3 rock lobster fishery

#### The CRA 3 rock lobster fishery

The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) is a multi-sector group that provides advice to the Minister of Fisheries on managing New Zealand's rock lobster fisheries.

The NRLMG is proposing changes to the CRA 3 fishery for the 2009/10 fishing year.



#### Why is the NRLMG proposing changes to the CRA 3 fishery?

The results of the recent stock assessment research suggest the CRA 3 stock is below target stock size and is likely to decline over the next four years at current catch levels. The NRLMG is inviting feedback on the following four options to rebuild the stock.

#### What are the four options proposed by the NRLMG?

CRA 3 Rock Lobster Fishery	Option 1* Retain current catch limits (status quo)	Option 2* Reduce TAC by 8% and decrease TACC only	Option 3A* Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC only	Option 3B* Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC and Rec
TAC	319 tonnes	293 tonnes	257 tonnes	257 tonnes
Customary	20 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged
Recreational	20 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	14 tonnes
Fishing mortality	89 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged
TACC	190 tonnes	164 tonnes	128 tonnes	134 tonnes

\* For all options, a management procedure will be developed to guide TAC setting from 2010. A management procedure monitors abundance and adjusts the TAC annually.

#### How long do I have to make a submission?

Your submission must be received before 12.00pm on **Monday the 9th of February 2009**. Send your submission to Tracey Steel, c/- Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020 Wellington. For more information on where to send your submission please refer to the Ministry of Fisheries website [www.fish.govt.nz](http://www.fish.govt.nz) by clicking on the 'consultations' link.

#### Where can I find more information?

The consultation documents are available on the Ministry of Fisheries website [www.fish.govt.nz](http://www.fish.govt.nz) by clicking on the 'consultations' or 'hot topics' links. Alternatively you can contact Tracey Steel via email [[tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)] at the Ministry of Fisheries.

## Ngati Porou Seafoods Limited - SUBMISSION

I have copied the key components pertaining to Cra3 and make comment on those herein ;

### Rationale for Management Options for Cra3

#### Cra3 Sustainability Indicators:

- 156: A Bmsy reference point has been calculated for Cra3. The Bmsy calculation is sensitive to the period chosen to represent mean recruitment, which varies substantially over the period for which estimates are available; this causes uncertainty in Bmsy. The NRLMG and MFish Plenary therefore consider this Bmsy estimate unreliable as a target stock size for the fishery.
- 157: The current Bref for Cra3 is the stock size associated with a Standardized-autumn winter CPUE of 0.75 kg/potlift. This target point level was selected for the fishery as it represented a desirable and economically sustainable catch rate for the commercial fishery. It was also noted to be beneficial to other fishery stakeholders as it represented a larger stock size than the Bref used previously.
- 158: Bmin is set at the lowest stock size estimated by the stock assessment model.

#### Cra3 Stock Status:

- 159: The 2008 Cra3 stock assessment incorporated best available relevant information including new growth information, and updated commercial CPUE and length-frequency information. An important feature of the new stock assessment is that it incorporates a “regime shift” in growth. Analysis of the growth rate information showed that a change in growth rates has occurred between two Cra3 research data sets: one dataset encompasses 1975-81 and the other 1996-2006. Growth rates are slower in the latter dataset.
- 160: The stock assessment results indicate that current stock size is just above Bmin and well below Bref. Under current catches and recent recruitments the assessment model predicts a 75% probability that stock size will decline over the next four years.

### Management Options

#### Options Table:

CRA3	Option 1 Current Catch Limits (status quo)	Option 2 Reduce the TAC by 8% and decrease the TACC only	Option 3a Reduce the TAC by 19% and decrease the TACC only	Option 3b Reduce the TAC by 19% and decrease the TACC & recreational Allowance
TAC	319 tonnes	293 tonnes	257 tonnes	257 tonnes
TACC	190 tonnes	164 tonnes	128 tonnes	134 tonnes
Recreational Allowance	20 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	14 tonnes
Customary Allowance	20 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged
Other Fishing Mortality	89 tonnes	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged
Impact to NPSL	7,600mt (nil)	-600kg (\$10k)	1,444mt (\$25k)	1,444mt (\$25k)

## CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

“Maori will always be part of the fishing industry, and therefore we need to take the long-view. We have always said that where science and management indicate that catch limits should be cut, NPSL will support a reduction and as the Commercial arm of Ngati Porou we have taken an active role in seeking this precautionary approach with all stakeholder groups and fisheries we are involved in.

We have discussed the need for careful management of Cra3 with quota owners and various other iwi over the last few weeks and looked at the consultation document regarding various options, rationale and impacts.

It should be noted that the Cra3 Multi Stakeholder Forum, mentioned in the consultation document, has had a significant part in initiating the 2008 stock assessment process through its decision to adopt a management procedure as part of its fishery plan objectives focusing on sustainability.

The key outcome of this decision was to establish a clear view of the stock status now so that management decisions could be developed around this position, we believe this has now been achieved.

NPSL believes the ‘regime shift’ reflects the sensitivity of models in calculating stock abundance and growth. This regime shift has not been tested thoroughly yet and this season will provide data I am sure to test its accuracy.

Rightly or wrongly the MoF has adopted a new approach to viewing growth rates which has provided a different view than just a month before.

We believe it is in the long-term interests of Ngati Porou, NPSL, and Maori fishing to take a larger TAC and TACC cut now to ensure future gains with this fishery based on the following rational ;

- We, believe that option 2, whilst halting stock decline does not promote stock rebuild at the pace we think is required which is paramount in our view towards achieving our goals and that of the Cra3 Multi-Stakeholder Group of stock abundance and sustainability.
- We are concerned that option 2 promotes a smaller TAC & TACC cut and the likelihood is that, if and when a management procedure is introduced it could induce a further cut in 2010. This uncertainty is unacceptable in our view and we believe a larger cut now would result in no requirement for a further cut in 2010.
- We also promote a ‘sharing the pain’ option as we believe recreational responsibility is inadequate and that reporting and information in this area is critical in future management decisions that could impact the stock.

- We do not believe this is a lost cause, with some recreational views suggesting they would not report under any circumstances. How is this view supporting sustainability, we ask you, and therefore we will continue to promote recreational responsibility and reporting initiatives because to not do so will have implications on good decision making which is what we all need and want.
- NPSL believes poor information is the major risk area to be addressed, once full information is at hand decision making will be more certain and allocating splits between sectors will not be an issue.
- We acknowledge that the management procedure will to some extent make this easier as well, however, the underlying issue for MoF is still based around information of what's being taken from the stock by all users.

NPSL therefore recommends option 3b as the most appropriate and responsible option in terms of rebuilding the fishery as quickly as possible for the future and sharing that TAC and TACC cut across Commercial and Recreational sectors.

Kind Regards



M R Ngata  
General Manager – NPSL

10 February 2009

Tracey Steel  
Ministry Of Fisheries  
P O Box 1020  
Wellington

## **Submission on the New Zealand Red Rock Lobster Fisheries From the Ngawi Sports Fishing Club**

### **Consultation 1 Proposal to Adopt a Management Procedure for CRA4**

**The Ngawi Sports Fishing Club wish to submit this submission on the proposed National Rock Lobster Management Group Management Procedure for CRA4.**

**At the end of our financial year, [30 June 2008], the Ngawi Sports Fishing Club had 475 paid members.**

**The Club was formed in 1991 when the first Ngawi Big 3 Fishing Competition was held with approximately 25 anglers competing.**

**The Ngawi Big 3 Fishing Competition has been held every year since with competing anglers now around 500.**

As a Club that fishes the Cape Palliser area, we are extremely interested in any positive Crayfish Management.

The Ngawi Sports Fishing Club supports the implementation of:

**Option 1      Adopt the CRA4 Management Procedure to guide TAC and TACC setting in CRA4**

**Under Option 1, the Minister would use the CRA4 management procedure to guide statutory TAC setting decisions for CRA4**

**Under Option 1, the Minister would be guided by the operation of the management procedure when setting the TAC and TACC for CRA4 for the 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 fishing years. During 2011 the management procedure would be reviewed.**

- 1] Over the past two seasons, a very noticeable decline in crayfish available to harvest has been giving concern even to the extent that it is not worth setting pots.

- 2] This resulted in the formulation and support for a voluntary shelving from six to four crayfish per day for recreational/amateur catch. [Supported by maoridom]  
This has been in place for approx five to six months but it is difficult to measure response.
- 3] The general public view is positive.
- 4] We wish to retain the voluntary shelving for the foreseeable future to allow stock rebuild which can be reviewed in the future as seen fit.
- 5] As a Club, we understand that most Commercial Quota holders have supported a voluntary shelving but this needs to be unanimous for any fair result.
- 6] We therefore support a legislative reduction in the annual catch entitlement in conjunction with better science to achieve an urgent stock rebuild.
- 7] The science providers need to consult with the local fishermen on a more regular basis and listen to their views, then maybe a more up to date analysis could be made. At present a three to four year delay seems to be the case.

**The Ngawi Sports Fishing Club supports the proposed Quota cuts and suggests the following points which we see will help improve the situation.**

- 1] Reduction in Quota. The Commercial sector have taken a voluntary reduction in their allowable catch. [This only covers what they have not been able to catch anyway]
- 2] The Minister should be very conservative in setting the TACC where stock assessments and Bmsy are not known until there is real proof that the stocks are recovering. In general there is all too little data on the stocks and sustainable yields of the fisheries. We believe they should be managed well above Bmsy.
- 3] Locally managed areas. [More local input should be requested when altering TACC levels]
- 4] Original CRA4 was set up as an area from the Manawatu River on the West coast to the Wairoa River on the East Coast.  
This area [CRA4] was divided into five zones -
  - 934 Manawatu river to Cape Terawhiti
  - 915 Cape Terawhiti to Lake Onoke
  - 914 Lake Onoke to Flat Point
  - 913 Flat Point to Porangahau Beach
  - 912 Porangahau Beach to Wairoa River
 Every Commercial and Recreational/Amateur fisherman we have spoken and consulted with is of a view that the ACE for each zone should be caught and landed in that zone.  
This means no transport [trucking] of catch and quota from zone to zone.

- 5] A closed season one month before females are in berry and during berry.
- 6] A closed season while crayfish are in soft shell.  
These two closed seasons should be enforced for all sectors - Commercial, Recreational/Amateur and Customary.  
The closed seasons would help to maintain better fish numbers and healthier fish stocks.  
Black rot is starting to be noticed at Ngawi.

**This Submission is supported by the following Clubs after significant email and telephone consultation due to time restraints:**

**Hawkes Bay Sports Fishing Club,  
Wairarapa Sports Fishing Club,  
Akitio Fishing Club,  
Pukemanu Boating and Fishing Club.**

These Clubs have a combined membership of approximately 4500.

Yours faithfully,

**George Zander  
3 Daniel Place  
Palmerston North  
Phone: 0274504455  
Email: [zanderengineering@inspire.net.nz](mailto:zanderengineering@inspire.net.nz)**

Member of the Ngawi Sports Fishing Club  
Ngawi Sports Fishing Club Representative to the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council  
Ngawi Sports Fishing Club Representative to the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council  
Member of the North Island South East Regional Forum

Submission of Noel Parker

I believe an increase of 65 tonnes to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is far too high. Although there are more fish in the water, I don't think we should alter TAC until we have been through a migration. Most commercial fishers know the fish from this area migrate south. I believe the migration happens as part of a cycle, and as a former commercial fisher I know what happens when the fish march. They disappear completely from some areas, so what will commercial fishers do then?

I have talked to commercial fishers and they are now targeting larger fish in deeper water because bigger fish are worth more money. When I was commercial fishing we could catch large closer to the shore. I have no idea if this will have an impact on the fishery? Maybe the concession size should be increased to 6 inches?

Commercial fishers also tell me they may not be able to catch a 65 tonne increase to the TAC. They say any increase should be the same as the last TAC cut.

I think we need to look at the fishery as a whole, and stop looking out for commercial fishers. There are now many more customary and recreational fishers than there ever used to be, and we need to look after them as well.

**Noel Parker**  
**16 Freemans Road**  
**RD16**  
**OAMARU**

*Submission recorded by Billy Brough Senior Fisheries Analyst and reviewed via telephone by Noel Parker*

# Recreational CRA3 Working Group Members

## Submission on the

### Proposed Changes to the CRA3 Rock lobster Fishery

**1 :** As recreational members of the CRA3 Management Working Group and on behalf of those who have given to us their mandate to speak on their behalf Alain Jorion and Hilton Webb who are the two mandated recreational members of the CRA3 Management Working Group submit the following

**2 :** As Members of the CRA3 Working Group we as individuals maintain communications with members of other forums clubs and organization and their members and as such are kept up to date with what is happening within this case CRA3 area and how their being effected through the almost non-existent legal size crayfish in this area

**3:** Approximately 1.35 million New Zealanders fish for sport or sustenance. This does not include those elderly or disabled amateur fishers who can no longer actively participate in catching seafood for the table. 1996 research found that there are approx 1.35 million recreational and sustenance amateur fishers in New Zealand who like the commercial fishers have the right to fish and expect to be able catch a feed of fish for the table

**4 :** The NRLMG is proposing changes to the CRA 3 fishery for the 2009/10 fishing year. and has offered four options being

Option 1 Retain current catch limits (status quo)

Option 2 Reduce TAC by 8% and decrease TACC only

Option 3A Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC only

Option 3B Reduce TAC by 19% and decrease TACC and Rec

**We thank you for this opportunity to participate in this by way of a submission**

**5 :** Since 1993 this fishery has experienced a number of problems with recruitment, particularly in area 910.

The recent NRLMG survey has found that crayfish are now not growing at the rate previously believed this finding coupled with a reduction in recruitment has the potential to further deplete this fishery

A recent study carried out in Canada has found that due to the reduction in cod numbers smaller fish are spawning sooner and as result the overall recruitment has also reduced

Allowing commercial fishers to take 52mm male crayfish at given times of the year might well be having a similar effect with in this fishery

This has left the recreational sector at a disadvantage to the point were it is extremely difficult to catch a legal size crayfish in Gisborne area 910.

Discussions between the recreational and commercial sectors through the CRA3 Management working group have to date failed to produce any agreed upon solution that would increase both the size and recruitment of rock lobsters especially with in area 910

Recent Stock assessment suggest that that CRA 3 stock is below the target stock size and is likely to decline over the next four years at current catch levels.

**6** : After having read the information supplied we find that in the best interest of both the Commercial sector and the Recreational sector in the CRA3 area that **Option3A** is the best option and is the only one that will benefit the fishery as a whole so we must there fore support **Option3A**

**Submission on behalf of  
Recreational CRA3 Working Group members and their Mandate**

Alain Jorion

Hilton Webb

**Mandate included on page 3 to 5 below**

**RECREATIONAL NON-COMMERCIAL MANDATED GROUPS  
SITUATED AROUND THE CITY OF GISBORNE that have given Alain  
Jorion letters of support for the CRA3 Stakeholder Forums**

1. Tourism Eastland, Manager Graham Breckell. Phone : 868 6139  
Email : [graham@gisbornenz.com](mailto:graham@gisbornenz.com)  
Address : 209 Grey Street, Gisborne.  
P.O.Box 170 Gisborne  
Website : [www.gisbornenz.com](http://www.gisbornenz.com)
  
2. **Dive Tatapouri-Dive Expeditions. Chris and Dean Savage**  
Phone : 868 5153  
Email : [divetatapouri@xtra.co.nz](mailto:divetatapouri@xtra.co.nz)
  
3. **Sportsworld Diving. Attention Mark or Tracy**  
Email : [sportsworldgisborne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sportsworldgisborne@xtra.co.nz)  
Phone : 06 868 6686  
308 Gladstone Road, Gisborne.
  
4. **Catchy Charters. Manager Bernard Cranswick.**  
Cell Phone : 027 – 4461123  
Email : [bernardc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bernardc@xtra.co.nz)
  
5. **Mahia Boating and Fishing Club**  
President Bill Nicoll Phone : 06- 837 8680  
Email : [telyall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:telyall@xtra.co.nz) (800 members)  
Trevor Lyle Secretary. (06) 837-5560  
Email: [gofish@kol.co.nz](mailto:gofish@kol.co.nz)  
However Grace Ormond would be our best immediate person to speak to.  
Grace's Email : [ormondgk@gmail.com](mailto:ormondgk@gmail.com)  
Phone : 06- 8375112  
Address : 133 Parakiwai Road, Mahia. Postal : P.O.Box 26 Mahia
  
6. **Gisborne Surfcasters.**  
President Carla Tardieu Phone : 8680446  
Address : 9 Haig Street, Gisborne.  
Email : [tardieutribes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tardieutribes@xtra.co.nz)
  
7. **Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club**  
Manager Melissa Rowe Cell : 027 322 5036  
Also Roger Faber Work : 867 4618 Home : 8673675 Cell : 027 440 6555

Club Phone 06-8684756  
P.O.Box 693, Gisborne (3000+ members)  
Email : [gjs-tatapouri@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gjs-tatapouri@xtra.co.nz)

**8. Surfit Charters**

Manager Boyd McGregor  
Address : 48 Awapuni Road Gisborne Cell : 027 2307016 Home : 867 2970  
Email : [boyd@surfit.co.nz](mailto:boyd@surfit.co.nz)

**9. Touchwood Charters**

Manager David "Scruffy" Wallace  
Phone : Wallace Maritime 0274 305 701 or 06 8671066  
Email : [Wallace.d.j.pship@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Wallace.d.j.pship@xtra.co.nz)

**10. Urewera Raukumara Hunting club (Also recreational fishers at times)**

President Alan Hughes 335 Ormond Road, Gisborne (06) 867-5392

**11. The Williams family, Angela and Hamish, of Pouawa, Turihaua Angus Stud,**

RD3 Gisborne. Phone (06) 868 - 8421  
Email: [turihaua@xtra.co.nz](mailto:turihaua@xtra.co.nz)  
Website : [www.turihaua.co.nz](http://www.turihaua.co.nz)

**12. The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council**

(Providers of our legal rights, strategy and direction)  
Past President : Keith Ingram  
Phone : (09) 533-4336  
Email : [keith@skipper.co.nz](mailto:keith@skipper.co.nz)

**13. Department of Conservation Gisborne (An interested Party)**

Kerry Hogan Phone : (06) 869-0460 Extn. 6606  
Email : [the\\_hogans@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the_hogans@xtra.co.nz) (note in address "the\_hogans@xtra.co.nz")  
(Data supplied Marine Reserve, coast line length  
and scientific data taken by Debbie Freeman, rock lobster tail width growth etc.)

**14. Makorori Beach Recreational Fisher Residents Group**

Spokesperson : Jenny Manttan  
53 Makorori Beach Road, RD3 Gisborne  
Phone : 863 3284

**15. Hone Taumaunu**

(Creator of Te Tapui Mataitai O Hakihea Mataitai and  
Te Tapuwae O Rongaokakao Marine Reserve)  
Kamatua Ngati Konihi

Whangara,  
Gisborne. Phone: (06) 862-2715  
Email: [hone@ruralinzone.net](mailto:hone@ruralinzone.net)

**16. Kathleen Mato**

Chairperson Mahia Maori Committee  
Customary Fisheries Notified Authority  
Email: [kmato@hotmail.com](mailto:kmato@hotmail.com) Phone: (06) 837-5922

**Please note that there were two organisations that preferred to abstain from the negotiations owing to being involved with members of the commercial industry. We respect their wishes.**

**They are:**

Please also note that I have numerous letters of support from individuals from our region.

All the above individuals represent significant numbers of our people.

# *TAIRAWHITI EARTH CENTRE*

(Gisborne Environmental Centre Inc)

**SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES NZ  
RE**

**REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR CRA 3,  
CRA 4, CRA 7 AND CRA 8 RED ROCK LOBSTER  
FISHERIES FOR 1 APRIL 2009**

**February 9 2009**



**TAIRAWHITI EARTH CENTRE**

**Office 3 Treble Court Gisborne**

**Phone 06 867 4708**

**Email [earthcentre@xtra.co.nz](mailto:earthcentre@xtra.co.nz)**

**Postal Address PO Box 1033 Gisborne**

This is a submission supporting the adoption of Management Option 3A for CRA3 (Gisborne Rock Lobster Fishery) ie reduce the CRA3 TAC (Total Allowable Catch) by 19% and adjust only the TACC (Total Allowable Commercial Catch).

The Tairāwhiti Earth Centre (the 'Centre', incorporated as the 'Gisborne Environmental Centre') is a not-for-profit, community based organization with approximately sixty five members based in the Tairāwhiti/East Coast region of Aotearoa NZ. Our membership comprises individuals and groups from all walks of life, and our governing committee currently includes recreational, customary, and ex-commercial fishers, as well as individuals from the education, health, and resource management sectors.

The philosophy of the Centre is strongly based around environmental sustainability, and the restoration of our indigenous resource base in the context of equitable social development programs.

The reasons for our submission are as follows.

1. There are significant levels of uncertainty in many areas of understanding of the rock lobster fishery in our region, not only in terms of the impacts of varying harvest regimes, but also in relation to ecosystem dynamics and inter-regional variation. These levels of uncertainty, and the differing anecdotal evidence available, indicate the adoption of a precautionary approach to the overall management of the fishery. In this vein, the current research provided by the NRLMG suggests that sustainable outcomes may best be achieved by adopting a 19% reduction in the TAC.
2. Unlike some other areas of the country, the East Coast (including CRA3) has a long tradition, amongst both Maori and non-Maori, of the utilization of the rock lobster fishery for subsistence and cultural purposes. Possibly because these purposes fall under the statutory category of 'recreational fishing', their significance to our communities has not always been fully understood by non-participant policy analysts. At both a local and regional scale, the harvesting of kai moana provides a catalyst for a significant component of our informal, socially constructive behaviour (as distinct from that specifically related to hui and tangi) and also provides a focus for programs relating to healthy eating, intergenerational experience, marine education, and the like. In this context, the red rock lobster can be seen as one of our iconic species and a natural resource of considerable significance to a large part of the region's communities.
3. Such 'recreational' rock lobster fishing has been heavily impacted by commercial fishing for several decades. The movement to a sustainable focus for the fishery through an improved understanding of species behaviour and responses to varying harvest regimes, and through more extensive monitoring, is to be applauded. We argue, however, that this focus should not further compromise the wider community's rightful utilization of the resource, and thus, that the 19% reduction in TAC should come from the relatively narrow set of commercial interests, which would nevertheless still leave these interests with more than six times the quota allocation of the recreational sector (128 tonnes cf 20 tonnes).

Murray Palmer

(Chairperson)

On behalf of the Tairawhiti Earth Centre

9<sup>th</sup> February 2009

# Te Kupenga Whitureauroa a Maui

9 February 2009

To Whom it may concern

Tena koe

Re: CRA4 submission

Te Kupenga a Whitureauroa a Maui Customary Fisheries Forum (TKWM) resolved at their meeting 9 February 2009 met last week to make the following submission in an effort to proactively support the sustainability of our taonga species *koura* in the QMA area identified by the Ministry of Fisheries as CRA4.

TKWM submit the following points;

- TKWM support the management protocol that reassess the Bmsy and TACC annually
- That the Ministry increase the harvest size of *koura* across all sectors
  - Female to 64 mm; Male to 55 mm
- There is a closure of harvest across all sectors customary, commercial and recreational over the breeding time, in the significant traditional breeding areas of Ngawi, Pourerere, Castlepoint, Cape Kidnappers
- That there is an increase of the size of escape hatches to 60mms for all crayfish pots, across all sectors
- To use 2 1/8 mesh instead of 1 3/4 mesh in all crayfish pots to enable juvenile fish to swim in and out
- Recreational - That there is a change to the recreational harvest of *koura* to – four crayfish per person, per day, up to a maximum of 16 crayfish per boat
- Recreational – That a system is developed to record recreational crayfish extractions, and for that matter all fish from the recreational sector.
- Commercial- That there is a 50% reduction of Commercial TACC
- That the Ministry of Fisheries actively supports and engages in the education of taonga species and the relevance of the species in the cultural, social, scientific and economic context from a tangata whenua world view
- That Customary Practitioners are actively included in the management and decision making of the taonga species *koura* in CRA4 and in our rohe moana.
- That Customary Practitioners are represented on the National Rock Lobster Management Group

TKW believe the points above align with our values of kaitiakitanga to promote sustainable fishing initiatives.

This submission should be viewed as an integrated intervention towards the preservation of fish stocks and a potential example of a shared fisheries management practice.

Te Kupenga Whiturauroa a Maui Customary Fisheries Forum is representative of 75 mandated and gazetted tangata kaitiaki from Mahia to the Wairarapa. These tangata kaitiaki represent approximately 700 miles of coastline, are committed to a cohesive solution focused future for the fisheries, and this is a significant contribution, which we would like to see to come into effect.

Naku noa  
na

Tom Paku  
Tiamana  
Chairperson  
Te Kupenga Whiturauroa a Maui  
Customary Fisheries Forum



9 February 2009

File: F108-02 AR

National Rock Lobster Management Group  
C/o Leigh Mitchell  
Ministry of Fisheries  
PO Box 19747  
WELLINGTON

Tena koe Leigh,

## PROPOSALS RELATING TO ROCK LOBSTER FISHERIES – CRA 3, 4 AND 7

### INTRODUCTION

1. This submission is made in response to your letter dated 18 December 2008, inviting Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Ltd (Te Ohu) to provide comments on the proposals contained in the Initial Position Paper entitled *New Zealand Rock Lobster Fisheries, Public Consultation Document*.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In relation to the development of a management procedure for CRA4 Te Ohu:
  - Support the development of a management procedure for CRA4
  - Recommend MFish works with Te Ohu in ensuring iwi are provided with an opportunity to be involved in the development of a management procedure for CRA4.
  - Note that management procedures cannot be the sole determinant in any TAC decision making.
3. In relation to a TAC adjustment in CRA4 Te Ohu:
  - Support a TACC reduction in 2009 of 311 tonnes and for a large portion of this to be via shelving.
  - Note the issues raised by iwi regarding the CRA4 fishery and their inability to provide for the needs of marae, hapu and whanau
  - Note that kaitiaki are constraining customary catches as a means of rebuilding the fishery
4. In relation to a TAC adjustment in CRA3 Te Ohu:
  - Support option 3b to reduce the TAC from 319 tonnes to 257 tonnes and for the 62 tonne reduction to be spread across the TACC and recreation allowance at 56 tonnes and 6 tonnes respectively.
  - Support a new option in the event that option 3b is rejected. This option will require:
    - the TAC to be reduced to a level that provides a 70% probability of rebuilding over the next four-years; and
    - the reduction to be taken from the TACC.

- Recommend MFish and the National Rock Lobster Management Group advocate mandatory reporting for recreational fishers.
  - Support the development of a management procedure for CRA3
  - Recommend MFish works with Te Ohu in ensuring iwi are provided with an opportunity to be involved in the development of the management procedure for CRA3.
  - Note that the management procedure cannot be the sole determinant in any TAC decision making.
5. In relation to a TAC adjustment in CRA7 and CRA8 Te Ohu:
- Support increases in the TACs for CRA7 and CRA8
  - Support the increases in CRA7 and CRA8 being applied to the TACC

#### **CONSULTATION 1 – PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR CRA 4**

6. In 2008 Kahungunu ki Uta, Kahungunu ki Tai, developed a strategy aimed at integrating, protecting and developing the commercial and non-commercial fishing interests of Ngati Kahungunu iwi. The group membership comprises representatives from Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Inc, Ngati Kahungunu Asset Holding Company, Kahungunu Coastal Hapu Collective, and other hapu representatives. Ngati Kahungunu has the largest interests of all iwi within the CRA4 QMA.
7. In developing that strategy the group identified, in consultation with Kahungunu hapu, key qualities they would like in the rock lobster fishery. Some of those qualities include:
- A sustainable fishery
  - An abundant fishery
  - An abundance of large rock lobster
  - A sustainable and stable commercial fishery
  - A healthy environment
8. Key to achieving the majority of these qualities will be choosing the correct CPUE reference point and rebuild time frame that will be used in the management procedure. A management procedure is described in the consultation document as a tool used to guide the setting of catch limits. A management procedure:
- Specifies what data will be used to make catch limit decisions
  - Specifies how the data will be collected and analysed
  - Contains a harvest control rule
  - Has been extensively simulation-tested using an operating model that is a model of the fishery system being managed.
9. Under a management procedure approach, agreement is obtained among managers and stakeholders before the procedure is implemented: they agree about the data inputs, the way the inputs will be treated to make inferences, the harvest control rule and the period for which the management procedure will be used.
10. An important consideration for the National Rock Lobster Management Group is whether the management procedure is capable of operating more than one management regime within a QMA in order to meet the needs of multiple stakeholders. For example iwi may wish to manage an important traditional fishing ground at a higher CPUE reference point

than might be applied elsewhere in a QMA, or they may want a faster rebuild time frame. At the same time recreation might wish to operate a different regime in a different area of the QMA using a different CPUE reference point and time frame.

11. In developing the management procedure we invite MFish to work with Te Ohu in ensuring iwi have an opportunity to be involved in the development of that management procedure. Indeed, the greatest results will come from all sectors participating in the development of the management procedure, and gaining alignment on how it will operate in moving forward.
12. In terms of application it is important to recognise that the management procedures can only be used as a guide and not as the sole determinant of a TAC adjustment. There are a range of potential issues that sit outside the scope of the management procedure - such as allocation, spatial and local depletion issues – that may have some bearing on decisions relating to TAC adjustments. Furthermore, the Minister when making decisions relating to TAC adjustments is required to consult with stakeholders and tangata whenua and to have regard to various customary fishing interests.

13. S21(2) of the Fisheries Act states that:

*“before setting or varying a total allowable commercial catch for any quota management stock, the Minister shall consult such persons and organisations as the Minister considers are representative of those classes of persons having an interest in this section, including Maori, environmental, commercial, and recreational interests.”*

14. S21(a) of the Fisheries Act states that the Minister must have regard to :

*“Maori customary non-commercial fishing interests; and (ii) Recreational interests”*

15. There are 8 iwi who have commercial and non commercial interest in the CRA4 quota management area. They include Ngati Raukawa, Muaupoko, Ngati Apa, Ngati Toa, Te Atiawa ki Waikanae, Te Atiawa ki Poneke, Rangitane and Ngati Kahungunu. They will all need to be consulted on the development of the management procedure that could affect their interests.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

16. Te Ohu:

- Support the development of a management procedure for CRA4
- Recommend MFish works with Te Ohu in ensuring iwi are provided with an opportunity to be involved in the development of a management procedure for CRA4.
- Note that the management procedure cannot be the sole determinant in any TAC decision making.

## CONSULTATION 2 – PROPOSAL TO VARY SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES FOR CRA3, CRA4, CRA7 AND CRA8

### Proposal to vary CRA4 TAC

17. Te Ohu supports option 1 – reduce the TAC from 771 tonnes to 460 tonnes, and to reduce the TACC from 577 tonnes to 266 tonnes, from 1 April 2009.
18. The consultation document states that the CRA4 stock size may have declined more than was anticipated in the 2005 stock assessment. The autumn-winter CPUE declined from 0.728 kg /potlift in 2005 to 0.611 in 2006, and then 0.527 in 2007. Despite a very slight increase in 2008 the general trend in CPUE is downward. The CPUE is also very low when it is compared with other QMAs which are more than twice the target CPUE of .75 kg / potlift.
19. We note that commercial did not harvest the full TACC in 2004-05 (six tonne shortfall), in 2005-06 (72 tonne shortfall), and in 2006-07 (131 tonne shortfall), For the 2007-08 fishing year commercial shelved 44% of the TACC and in the current fishing year 58% of the ACE was shelved. It seems reasonable to deduce from this that it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to catch the current TACC.
20. As noted earlier in this submission Ngati Kahungunu has the largest interests of all iwi within the CRA4 QMA. The consistent message Te Ohu has received from within Kahungunu is the rock lobster stocks are in such a poor state that the needs of marae, hapu and whanau are not able to be met. This is consistent with the low average CPUE being experienced by commercial fishers across QMA4.
21. In an attempt to help rebuild the fishery some Ngati Kahungunu kaitiaki are limiting the number of rock lobster able to be caught under customary fishing authorisations. In some areas of Kahungunu rohe kaitiaki are refusing to issue customary authorisations for rock lobster, particularly within important traditional fishing grounds. It is important for MFish and the National Rock Lobster Management Group to take account of these initiatives when making decisions in relation to broader sustainability and TAC adjustments.
22. We note that the National Rock Lobster Management Group has reviewed the best available information and has found nothing that would prevent the Minister from being guided by the management procedure for 2009. We also note that the National Rock Lobster Management Group acknowledges the current TAC as not sustainable.
23. Having considered a range of information Te Ohu is prepared to support the proposal to decrease the TACC by 311 tonnes. Our preference however is for a large portion of this amount to be shelved.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 24. Te Ohu:

- Support a TACC reduction in 2009 of 311 tonnes and for a large portion of this to be via shelving.
- Note the issues raised by iwi regarding the CRA4 fishery and their inability to provide for the needs of marae, hapu and whanau
- Note that kaitiaki are constraining customary catches as a means of rebuilding the fishery

### Proposal to vary CRA3 TAC

- 25. Te Ohu support option 3b – to reduce the TAC from 319 tonnes to 257 tonnes and for the 62 tonne reduction to be spread across the TACC and recreation allowance at 56 tonnes and 6 tonnes respectively.**
26. The latest stock assessment indicates CRA 3 is below the target stock size and is likely to decline over the next four years if the current catch levels are maintained. It is clear that in order to correct the decline it will be necessary to reduce the TAC. Therefore option one, which is to maintain catch levels (TAC 319 tonnes, TACC 190 tonne, recreation and customary 20 tonnes each), is not supported by Te Ohu.
27. Option 2 proposes to reduce the TAC from 319 tonnes down to 293 tonnes and to reduce the TACC from 190 tonnes down to 164 tonnes. We note that stock assessment projections based on a 293 tonne TAC indicate a 50% expectation that stock size in 2012 would be greater than current stock size. Furthermore, it is said that the probability of falling below Bmin over that four-year period is higher than desirable (at approximately 40%). In short, these projections give us little if any confidence that the fishery will rebuild. We therefore cannot support option 2.
28. Option 3 proposes to reduce the TAC from 319 tonnes down to 257 tonnes. This equates to a reduction in the TAC of 62 tonnes. At this level there is an 88% probability that stocks will rebuild over a four-year timeframe. Te Ohu is prepared to support this proposal but it is conditional upon the recreation sector agreeing to reduce their allocation to 14 tonnes, down from 20 tonnes. We would support commercial absorbing the remaining 56 tonnes. This option is consistent with option 3b.
29. In the event that recreation is not prepared to share in any of the reductions then we suggest the TAC is reduced to a level which provides a 70% probability of the fishery rebuilding over the next four-year period. We support that reduction being taken off the TACC.
30. We recognise that it is difficult to keep recreation within the current or any future allowance, especially if we have no means of recording and monitoring recreational catch data. Given the mandatory reporting requirements placed on customary and commercial fishers we feel it is not unreasonable to expect a similar system for recreational fishers, regardless of area and species. Accordingly we encourage MFish and the National Rock Lobster Management Group advocating the implementation of a recreational reporting system to the Minister. We note that at various times leaders within the New Zealand Recreational Council have expressed their support for a reporting system. So too have recreational representatives at a regional level. It is time recreational fishers were more responsible in managing their interests.
31. Te Ohu supports the development of a management procedure to guide the Minister in any future decisions concerning adjustments to the TAC. However, as with CRA4, the management procedure cannot be the sole driver in TAC setting decisions. Also, iwi will need to be involved in the development of the management procedure as it may adversely affect their interests. The iwi having an interest in the CRA3 fishery include Ngati Porou, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngati Kahungunu, and Ngaitamanuhiri.
32. Finally we would like to acknowledge the work of the CRA3 Multi Stakeholder Working Group and the progress they have made to date. We would like to encourage stakeholders and iwi to continue this work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Te Ohu:

- Support option 3b to reduce the TAC from 319 tonnes to 257 tonnes and for the 62 tonne reduction being spread across the TACC and recreation allowance at 56 tonnes and 6 tonnes respectively.
- Support a new option in the event that option 3b is rejected. This option will require:
  - ✦ the TAC to be reduced to a level that provides a 70% probability of rebuilding over the next four-years; and
  - ✦ the reduction to be taken from the TACC.
- Recommend MFish and the National Rock Lobster Management Group advocate mandatory reporting for recreational fishers.
- Support the development of a management procedure for CRA3
- Recommend MFish works with Te Ohu in ensuring iwi are provided with an opportunity to be involved in the development of the management procedure for CRA3.
- Note that the management procedure cannot be the sole determinant in any TAC decision making.

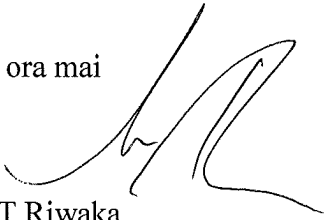
### Proposal to vary CRA7 and CRA8

33. The proposed variations to the TACs of CRA 7 and CRA 8 are the result of the operation of management procedures adopted by the Minister in March 2008 to guide TAC setting. We understand that the National Rock Lobster Management Group has reviewed best available information and has found nothing that would warrant the Minister setting aside the management procedures for 2009-10. Implementing the procedures would result in TAC increases of 65.12 tonnes (from 143.88 tonnes to 209 tonnes) and 57 tonnes (1053 tonnes to 1110 tonnes) for CRA 7 and CRA 8 respectively.
34. In relation to allocation of the TAC increases for CRA7 and CRA8 the National Rock Lobster Management Group recommends the increases going to the TACC. The rationale behind this decision is the best available information on customary and recreation catch in CRA 7 and CRA 8 suggests that existing allowances are not being caught.
35. We note that recreation representatives on the National Rock Lobster Management Group say that increased fishing activity may have increased recreation catches beyond the current allowances, but no data exists to confirm or quantify such increases at this time.
36. The National Rock Lobster Management Group notes that any risk associated with increased recreation catch is mitigated by the operation of the management procedures.
37. On the basis of all the information provided in the consultation document Te Ohu supports the proposal to increase the TAC and to allocate the increase to the TACC.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support an increase in the TACs for CRA7 and CRA8
- Support the increases in CRA7 and CRA8 being applied to the TACC

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Alan T Riwaka.

Alan T Riwaka  
Senior Fisheries Management Advisor



## Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou (Inc)

Tamatea Road  
Ōtākou  
RD 2  
DUNEDIN, N.Z.

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4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Tracey Steel  
Ministry of Fisheries  
P o Box 1020  
Wellington

Re: Amendment to TAC & TACC CRA7

Tena koe Tracey

I am making this submission on behalf of Te Runanga o Otakou, we are a Papatipu Runaka of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. Our coastal Takiwa encompass the marine environment to the EEZ between Hayward Point and Nugget Point. We represent 11,067 members who Whakapapa to this Runaka.

Article Two of the Treaty of Waitangi guaranteed Kāi Tahu the continued customary ownership of the fisheries resources within their takiwā. For example the English version of the Treaty guarantees tākata whenua “*full, exclusive and undisturbed possession of their land, estates, forests, fisheries and other properties, which they may collectively or individually wish and desire in their possession...*”

The regulations provide for Kāi Tahu to manage customary food gathering and for Kāi Tahu input into fisheries management. The Minister is required to provide for such input into and participation into fisheries management and to have particular regard for kaitiakitaka under the Fisheries Act 1996.

Pursuant to the Settlement Act the Minister of Fisheries is required to develop policies to help recognise the use and management practices of tākata whenua in the exercise of customary non-commercial fishing rights.

Hence we request that a precautionary approach is taken when setting TAC and TACC for the CRA7 Rock Lobster Fishery.

We would also be concerned if the concessionary size regime was maintained along side any increase in TACC. This would have the added impact, of disproportional ncrease in individual numbers being taken within the increased tonnage.

Understanding that there are no definitive estimates available or to use the words from the final advice for CRA7 (20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 MFish) “the figures are scarce and unreliable” for the level of non-commercial harvest of this species. We are opposed to any increase in the TAC or TACC at this time, and recommend that the fishery is allowed several more years to recovery from the past impacts from high TAC levels.

Secondly should QMS levels be amended then providing for a non-commercial allowance of 25% of the TAC, would recognise the principle that the first priority for the resource is to provide for the needs of the community, including both customary and recreational fishers. It is considered that this is a provision which is sufficiently generous as to avoid the risk that commercial and non-commercial uses will come into conflict in the foreseeable future..

A minimum non-commercial allowance of 25% of the TAC with 80% of the non-commercial allowance being allocated as customary. This provides an effective means for Kaitiaki Runaka to exercise our kaitiakitaka responsibility. A customary allocation does not require a harvest to be deemed to be utilised traditionally. Kaitiaki Runaka would be significantly disadvantaged if non-commercial allocation is insufficient to remove competition between the non-commercial sectors.

We further request that MFish provides us with a quantifiable means to participate in the management of all species associated with our Takiwa.

Te Runanga o Otakou are a significant stakeholder in all fisheries within or associated with our coastal takiwa.

### **Outcome Sought;**

*Retain the “Status Quo” and also that there is no increase in TAC or TACC in CRA7 rock lobster fishery for the next two years.*

Should you wish to discuss the content of this submission further, please contact the Office of Te Runanga o Otakou.

E noho ora mai



Hoani Langsbury  
For Te Runanga o Otakou Inc.

C.C. Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu  
Kati Huirapa ki Puketeraki  
Moeraki Runanga  
Hokonui Runanga  
Te Runanga Awarua

## **Submission of Ted Young – Recreational Fisher**

### ***Proposals to vary sustainability measures for CRA 3, CRA 4, CRA 7 and CRA 8***

#### **CRA 7**

Support Option 2

Would like the issue of concession fish sorted then would look to review fishery as it stands at that time.

#### **CRA 8**

Support Option 2

Would like to maintain the TAC for the time being to ensure current catch levels are sustainable.

*Oral Submission recorded by Alicia McKinnon, Fisheries Analyst, MFish.*

**From:** Tim.Kennedy@fultonhogan.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 January 2009 1:39 p.m.  
**To:** Steel, Tracey

**Subject:** submission on cray three quota review

I have been diving in the area between Mahia and Tolaga bay since 1990 and have seen first hand the drop in cray numbers and the affects of being handled and stressed. This is often seen in dark areas or damage to the cray fish similar to being bruised

The removal of closed season and the reduction in size for male fish for the commercial quota has been a huge mistake.

The meeting held in 2008 at the Tapatouri fishing club with MAF, Doc, commercial, customary and recreation fishers showed the facts.

These were that although the new reserve had taken a large area out of the traditional fishing area the number of cray taken from the edges of the reserve was greater than that taken from the area before the reserve was put in place. The catch from remaining area of cray three was still falling. This clearly shows that the reserve is the only area holding its own and is in fact compensating for the reduction in the greater area.

Doc also has data that shows cray even within the reserve do not grow two mm within the season so this assumption was incorrect and now need to be corrected.

The commercial operators are crying foul and say they have had a great season and this is all part of a 5-7 year cycle. If this is so then it is our responsibility to base the quota on the worst case scenario to ensure fish stocks remain sustainable. If the commercial operators are correct and the fish do grow 2mm in a season and the stock is sustainable then all they have to do is lift the male limit to 54mm and within one season there should be enough fish all sectors.

I would also ask why have reduced the number of sites where cray are monitored in the Gisborne area as it is my understanding that up until 2008 there were three places where samples of sprat were monitored in three different stages to try and build data as to how these numbers related to the successful building of catch able quota.

The obvious answer is that until we have undisputable data and proof that the numbers of Cray fish within the cray three areas remain steady or are increasing we have to set limits to the lowest or worst case scenario from the information we currently have.

The setting aside of areas for recreational users only is a false perception as it does not deal with the problem reducing numbers but only shifts the issue to another area. The simple answer is to make sure there is sufficient fish in all areas as this gives the greatest chance for the survival of the cray fish stock.

Thanks  
Tim Kennedy

**ATTACHMENT 4:**

**NRLMG INITIAL ADVICE**

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