

13 December 2010

Dear Stakeholder

REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES AND OTHER MANAGEMENT CONTROLS FOR ROCK LOBSTER FISHERIES FOR 1 APRIL 2011

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in the review of sustainability measures and other management controls for spiny and packhorse rock lobster fisheries for the 2011-12 fishing year beginning 1 April 2011.

Background

The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) is a national-level, multi-stakeholder group comprising representatives of the customary, amateur, and commercial fishing sectors; environmental and interests; and the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish).

Since its formation in 1992, the NRLMG has been the primary source of advice to the Minister of Fisheries on New Zealand's rock lobster fisheries. In December each year, the NRLMG provides the Minister with initial advice on rock lobster fisheries for the upcoming fishing year beginning on 1 April.

Proposed Sustainability Measures and Other Management Controls for 1 April 2011

The NRLMG has submitted three initial advice papers for public consultation:

Paper 1	Proposal to use new management procedures to guide Total Allowable Catch setting in CRA 5 and CRA 7
Paper 2	Proposal to set Total Allowable Catches, Total Allowable Commercial Catches and allowances for CRA 4, CRA 5, CRA 7 and CRA 8
Paper 3	Proposal to review deemed value rates for spiny and packhorse rock lobster

You will find the NRLMG initial advice papers on the MFish website at: www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/Spiny+and+Packhorse+Rock+Lobster/default.htm If you would like a hard copy of the papers, please contact Trudie Macfarlane by email: trudie.macfarlane@fish.govt.nz or phone: 04 819 4739.

1. Proposal to Use New Management Procedures in CRA 5 and CRA 7

The NRLMG proposes to use new management procedures in CRA 5 (Canterbury/Marlborough) and CRA 7 (Otago) rock lobster fisheries to guide Total Allowable Catch (TAC) setting from the 2011-12 fishing year, beginning 1 April 2011.

The following options are proposed for CRA 5 and CRA 7 in Paper 1:

Stock	Option	Description
CRA 5	Option 1	Agree to use the proposed new CRA 5 Management Procedure to guide TAC setting in CRA 5
	Option 2	Continue to use periodic stock assessments to guide TAC setting in CRA 5 (<i>status quo</i>)
CRA 7	Option 1	Agree to use the proposed revised CRA 7 Management Procedure to guide TAC setting in CRA 7
	Option 2	Continue to use the current CRA 7 Management Procedure to guide TAC setting in CRA 7 (<i>status quo</i>)

With respect to CRA 7, the NRLMG advises that the main distinguishing factors between the two CRA 7 management procedures is in predicted stock biomass levels and the social, cultural and economic impacts associated with TAC changes that may be invoked by either procedure. The proposed new CRA 7 management procedure would also provide fewer dramatic changes in the TAC than under the current procedure.

2. Proposal to set TACs, TACCs and allowances for CRA 4, CRA 5, CRA 7 and CRA 8

The NRLMG proposes varying the TACs and allowances for CRA 4 (Wellington/Hawkes Bay), CRA 5 (Canterbury/Marlborough), CRA 7 (Otago) and Southern (CRA 8) rock lobster fisheries for the 2011-12 fishing year beginning 1 April 2011. The TAC options are based on the operation of management procedures specific to each stock.

The following TAC, TACC and allowances variations are proposed in Paper 2:

Stock	Option	TAC	TACC	Customary Allowance	Recreational Allowance	Other mortality
CRA 4	Option 1: Increase the TAC based on the operation of the agreed CRA 4 management procedure	661.9 tonnes	466.9 tonnes	35 tonnes	85 tonnes	75 tonnes
	Option 2: Retain the current TAC, TACC and allowances	610.625 tonnes	415.625 tonnes	35 tonnes	85 tonnes	75 tonnes
CRA 5	Option 1: Accept the proposed new CRA 5 management procedure and then increase the TAC based on its operation	522.1 tonnes	350 tonnes	10 tonnes	110.1 tonnes	52 tonnes
	Option 2: Retain the current TAC, TACC and allowances	467 tonnes	350 tonnes	40 tonnes	40 tonnes	37 tonnes
CRA 7	Option 1: Accept the proposed new CRA 7 management procedure and then maintain the TAC based on its operation	104.5 tonnes	84.5 tonnes	10 tonnes	5 tonnes	5 tonnes

Stock	Option	TAC	TACC	Customary Allowance	Recreational Allowance	Other mortality
CRA 7	Option 2: Reduce the TAC based on the operation of the agreed CRA 7 management procedure	95.7 tonnes	75.7 tonnes	10 tonnes	5 tonnes	5 tonnes
	Option 3: Retain the current TAC, TACC and allowances	104.5 tonnes	84.5 tonnes	10 tonnes	5 tonnes	5 tonnes
CRA 8	Option 1: Reduce the TAC based on the operation of the agreed CRA 8 management procedure	1053 tonnes	962 tonnes	30 tonnes	33 tonnes	28 tonnes
	Option 2: Retain the current TAC, TACC and allowances	1110 tonnes	1019 tonnes	30 tonnes	33 tonnes	28 tonnes

3. Proposal to Review Deemed Value Rates for Spiny and Packhorse Rock Lobster

The NRLMG proposes to change the deemed values rates for all spiny and packhorse rock lobster stocks for the 2011-12 fishing year as follows: increase the annual deemed value rate from \$100 per kg to \$110 per kg, increase the interim deemed value rate from \$75 per kg to \$99 per kg, and as a consequence adjust the differential deemed value rates.

If you require further information on the rock lobster proposals for 1 April 2011, please contact:

Steve Halley at 04 819 4622 or steve.halley@fish.govt.nz; or

Alicia McKinnon at 06 831 0279 or alicia.mckinnon@fish.govt.nz

Providing Submissions on the Proposals

MFish welcomes written submissions on the proposals discussed above. Written submissions are due by **5pm Wednesday, 2 February 2011** and should be sent directly to:

Trudie Macfarlane

Ministry of Fisheries

P O Box 1020

Wellington

or emailed to trudie.macfarlane@fish.govt.nz

Finally, I wish to advise you that all submissions received by the Ministry are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission, and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. MFish will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions under the OIA.

Yours sincerely



Steve Halley

Inshore Fisheries Team Leader

Ministry of Fisheries