

RED GURNARD (GUR), TRUMPETER (TRU) AND BLUE COD (BCO) RECREATIONAL SIZE LIMITS – FINAL ADVICE

Executive Summary

- 1 The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) consulted on options to introduce recreational minimum legal size limits (MLS) of 25cm for red gurnard, and 45cm for trumpeter. MFish also consulted on an option to decrease the existing blue cod recreational MLS in the North Island from 33cm to 30cm.
- 2 Currently there is no MLS for red gurnard or trumpeter. Recreational fishers have raised concerns about the small size of both species being taken. The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council (NZRFC) requested that MFish review and consult on options to introduce a national MLS for both species.
- 3 There is currently a national MLS of 33 cm for blue cod, except in parts of the Challenger Fisheries Management Area (the Marlborough Sounds) and the South-East Fisheries Management Area, where the MLS is 30 cm. The analysis supporting the MLS of 33cm was specific to South Island fisheries and the NZRFC consider the MLS to be too high in the North Island. The NZRFC requested MFish review and consult on an option to reduce the blue cod recreational MLS to 30 cm in the North Island.

Red Gurnard

- 4 Information on the effect of setting a MLS for red gurnard is equivocal. While recreational fishers are concerned at the number of small red gurnard they observe being landed, 98% of the length data of red gurnard collected at boat ramp surveys is above the suggested 25 cm MLS.
- 5 While a MLS is used to protect and enhance fish populations by allowing fish to live long enough for them to breed at least once, they can also increase the quality of fishing by preventing the harvest of smaller individuals and thus allowing a greater number of fish to survive to a bigger size before entry to the fishery.
- 6 From a biological perspective a MLS of 25 cm would be appropriate.
- 7 Twenty one of twenty five submitters support setting a recreational MLS of 25 cm for red gurnard and perceive this will be beneficial to their fishery. At the local level, especially in predominantly recreational fishery areas a MLS may well contribute to an improved quality of fishing but the degree of improvement will be contingent upon post release survival.
- 8 There is no hard data available to estimate the survival of released red gurnard. Recreational fishers submit that, if released in good condition, small red gurnard are likely to survive when returned to the sea. In the absence of data on post release survival, MFish considers the widely corroborated assessment by experienced

recreational fishers to be the best available information. On balance, MFish considers that the benefits to be gained from a MLS of 25cm will outweigh any yield loss generated through release-related mortality. This is the MFish preferred option.

Trumpeter

- 9 Of the twenty submissions received, seven supported setting a 45 cm MLS, nine supported setting a MLS less than 45 cm (seven recommended 35 cm) and four did not support setting a MLS for trumpeter.
- 10 When setting a MLS for sustainability reasons, the size used is generally above the size of age at maturity for the species concerned, as this allows the fish to spawn at least once before entering the fishery. The best available information indicates that for trumpeter, this is likely to be around 45 cm.
- 11 The largest category of submitters is those requesting a MLS less than the 45 cm figure consulted on in the IPP. Of these seven identified 35 cm as a compromise length. These submitters considered that a MLS of 45 cm would effectively exclude them from access to the trumpeter fishery. MFish agrees that a MLS of 45 cm would effectively exclude the majority of recreational fishers from the trumpeter fishery.
- 12 MFish considers that a further option be put forward for your consideration; that is a recreational MLS of 35 cm could be set until more reliable information on size at maturity is available for New Zealand stocks. Such a measure would allay the concerns of recreational fishers about 10-15 cm fish being taken, maintain reasonable access for recreational inshore fishers to the trumpeter fishery, improve the yield per fish and could be reviewed at a later date when the results of the research on the biological characteristics of trumpeter became available. This is the MFish preferred option.

Blue Cod

- 13 In 1993 the national MLS for blue cod was increased from 30 to 33 cm. This adjustment was based on data obtained from the South Island blue cod fishery. The NZRFC believes that the MLS of 33 cm is too high in the north and recreational fishers would like to see the limit revert to 30cm.
- 14 Information from submissions indicates that this problem is largely centred on BCO 1. (a map of the BCO management areas is at the end of the IPP) The clear majority of submitters from the lower North Island do not want a smaller MLS for blue cod, while the clear majority of submitters from the upper North Island support a lower MLS.
- 15 Within this context, MFish considers that an alternative management option would be to retain the current MLS of 33 cm in BCO 2, BCO 8 and BCO 10, and, to reduce the MLS from 33 cm to 30 cm in BCO 1. MFish believes that the probable absence of recreational fishing for blue cod from BCO 10 (Kermadec) means that an adjustment for this quota management area would not be necessary. This is the MFish preferred option.
- 16 MFish notes that an MLS set for sustainability purposes should be set above the average size at maturity for the species. Size at age at maturity of Northland blue cod

is known to be 10-19 cm total length (TL) at an age of two years, whilst in the Marlborough Sounds it is reached at 21–26 cm (TL) at three to six years. In Southland, fish become sexually mature at 26–28 cm (TL) at an age of four to five years. A MLS of 30 cm would be biologically appropriate.

- 17 Recreational blue cod fishers from northern New Zealand clearly feel that the quality of the blue cod recreational fishery would be enhanced by setting a MLS at 30 cm.

Summary of Options

Red Gurnard

- 18 With respect to *establishing a recreational MLS for red gurnard*, this paper considers the following management options:
- a) Set a recreational MLS of 25 cm for red gurnard in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 (MFish preferred option); or
 - b) Retain the status quo and set no minimum legal size for the species.

Trumpeter

- 19 With respect to *establishing a recreational MLS for trumpeter* this paper considers the following management options:
- a) Set a recreational MLS of 45cm for trumpeter in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986; or
 - b) Set a recreational MLS of 35 cm for trumpeter in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations (MFish preferred option); or
 - c) Retain the status quo and set no minimum legal size for the species.

North Island Blue Cod

- 20 With respect to *lowering the recreational MLS for North Island blue cod*, this paper considers the following management options:
- a) Amend relevant regional amateur fishing regulations to decrease the blue cod recreational MLS from 33cm to 30cm in the North Island; or
 - b) Amend relevant regional amateur fishing regulations to decrease the blue cod recreational MLS from 33cm to 30cm in BCO 1 only (north of the North Island) (MFish preferred option); or
 - c) Retain the 33cm blue cod recreational MLS in the North Island.

Submissions Received

Red Gurnard (25)

- Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishing Club
- Denis Petty (ProDive NZ)
- Garry Workman
- Hartley Family
- Hilton Leith
- John Forrest / Wanders Surfcasting and Anglers Club
- John Robertson
- K.B. Turner
- Kaikoura Boating Club (Inc)
- Keith Ingram
- Mark Iggo
- Marlborough Combined Divers Association (Inc)
- Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association
- New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd
- Ngati Whatua Fisheries Limited
- North Island South-East Regional Recreational Forum
- North Island South-West Regional Recreational Forum
- Pelorus Boat Club
- Piako Underwater Club
- Raglan Sports Fishing Club
- South Taranaki Underwater Club (Inc)
- Tasman and Sounds Fishers Association (Inc)
- Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua
- The New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council (Inc) and option4

- Tim Hornby

Trumpeter (20)

- Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishing Club
- Brian Dean
- G.A. O'Rourke
- Hartley Family
- Hilton Leith
- John Robertson
- Kaikoura Boating Club (Inc)
- Keith Ingram
- Mark Iggo
- Marlborough Combined Divers Association (Inc)
- Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association
- New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd
- Ngati Whatua Fisheries Limited
- North Island South-East Regional Recreational Forum
- North Island South-West Regional Recreational Forum
- Raglan Sports Fishing Club
- Tasman and Sounds Fishers Association (Inc)
- Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua
- The New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council (Inc) and option4
- The South Marine Recreational Fishers Advisory Committee

North Island Blue Cod (21)

- Hilton Leith
- John Forrest / Wanders Surfcasting and Anglers Club
- John Robertson

- K.B. Turner
- Keith Ingram
- Marlborough Combined Divers Association (Inc)
- Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association
- New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd
- Ngati Whatua Fisheries Limited
- Ngawi Sports Fishing Club)
- North Island South-East Regional Recreational Forum
- North Island South-West Regional Recreational Forum
- Pelorus Boat Club
- Raglan Sports Fishing Club
- South Taranaki Underwater Club (Inc)
- Stuart Marsh
- Tasman and Sounds Fishers Association (Inc)
- Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua
- The New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council (Inc) and option4
- The Top of the South/West Coast Regional Recreational Forum
- Tim Hornby

Red Gurnard

Background

- 21 Currently there is no recreational MLS in place for red gurnard. A MLS is used to protect and enhance fish populations by allowing fish to live long enough for them to breed at least once. They are also an effective way to provide quality fishing by preventing the harvest of smaller individuals and thus allowing a greater number of fish to survive to a bigger size before entry to the fishery.
- 22 The NZRFC has advised MFish that there are growing concerns from recreational fishers about the small size of red gurnard regularly being taken. They have received reports that fish as small as 10cm are being landed. This is causing concern about the impact on future recruitment into the fishery, and on the availability of larger fish.

- 23 MFish consulted on whether or not recreational fishers support a MLS for red gurnard.
- 24 MFish has no particular concerns about the current sustainability of red gurnard.

Assessment of Management Options

- 25 Twenty five submissions were received concerning setting a national recreational MLS for red gurnard.
- 26 Of these, twenty one submissions were in general agreement that a MLS would be appropriate for red gurnard. The points raised to support setting a MLS for red gurnard concerned the following themes:
- Personal observation of small fish being taken and that this is a wasteful practice given the small size of fillet able to be obtained from small fish.
 - The need to obtain a quality fishing experience by moving harvesting toward the best yield by species.
 - Support for promoting take above the breeding size as a principle for best management.
 - That if released in good condition, small red gurnard are likely to survive when returned to the sea.
- 27 Four submissions considered setting a national recreational MLS for red gurnard would not achieve any worthwhile result or would be counter-productive. The points raised to support the *status quo* concerned the following themes:
- The available data suggests that no problem exists.
 - There is insufficient information upon which to determine the best management response as to why small fish are being landed.
 - The focus should be on well targeted regulations aimed at ensuring sustainability rather than on measures that may, or may not, provide for utilization.
 - Setting a MLS will lead to greater waste from high grading and post release mortality.
 - That the recreational catch is already poorly monitored and that the allowance made for recreational catch is likely to be impacted by setting a MLS.
 - There is no information on post release mortality except for vague assessments based on anecdotal reports.
 - The recreational catch is low in comparison to commercial catches and the amount of small red gurnard killed by commercial practices make setting a MLS meaningless.

- The focus should be on encouraging recreational fishers to modify fishing practices to reduce the incidence of small fish being caught.
 - A code of practice, with the objective of increasing yield per recruit, would be more appropriate.
- 28 As stated in the IPP, there is no available analysis to model the effect of a recreational MLS on the red gurnard population.
- 29 The largest estimates of the national recreational catch of red gurnard are that it is about 10% of the national commercial landing.
- 30 The IPP states that the lengths of red gurnard measured during boat ramp surveys indicate that most red gurnard (98%) taken recreationally are longer than 25 cm. This would indicate that there are few small red gurnard being taken which is at variance with the concern expressed by recreational fishers. This may indicate that landing small fish is not widespread but localized.
- 31 Therefore, submissions on the magnitude of the problem and the contribution a MLS would have on reducing the risk to the national sustainability of red gurnard are correct in that it is likely to be small.
- 32 However, at the local level and especially in predominantly recreational fishery areas, a MLS may well contribute to an improved quality of fishing, but the degree of improvement will be contingent upon post release survival.
- 33 There is no hard data available to estimate the survival of released red gurnard. As the probability of survival of released fish declines, MLSs become less effective in improving recruitment and increasing yield per recruit because greater numbers of undersized fish die and cannot contribute to future spawning biomass or catches.
- 34 In the absence of data on post release survival of small red gurnard, MFish considers the widely corroborated assessment by experienced recreational fishers, that the majority are likely to survive, to be the best available information. On balance, MFish considers that the benefits to be gained from a MLS will outweigh any yield loss generated through release-related mortality.
- 35 One submitter cautions the use of uncertain, unreliable or inadequate information. However, MFish notes that section 10 of the Act provides that decisions should be based on the best available information and, the absence of, or any uncertainty in, any information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take any measure to achieve the purpose of this Act.
- 36 Implementing a MLS can have clear benefits by a) allowing fish to live long enough for them to spawn, and b) improving yield per recruit by allowing fish to grow to a larger size. Size limits may also result in forgone yield due to the mortality associated with releasing undersize fish, but again this loss of numbers of fish may be offset by the increased weight of those that do survive release.
- 37 Given that no analysis has been undertaken on optimal size limits, or their effects on red gurnard stocks, a valid option is to maintain the status quo until better information

is available. In addition, there may be alternative management measures, such as suggested in submissions, to develop a code of practice with the objective of increasing yield per recruit. It should be noted that the recreational sector is very diverse and experience to date with codes of practice has produced varied results.

- 38 A MLS for red gurnard that protects the juvenile component of stocks will have positive effects on local populations. However, the precise benefits that may be gained will depend on the level of mortality associated with releasing undersize fish.
- 39 MFish sought recreational fishers views on regulatory issues of importance to improve perceptions of credible fisheries management. An important consideration in evaluating the benefit of a MLS for red gurnard is MFish's commitment in the Statement of Intent to credible fisheries management.
- 40 The desired management outcomes of recreational fishers are not just sustainability, but an improved quality of a fishery. The clear majority of submissions demonstrate a wish to participate in the management of recreational fisheries, leading by example by supporting measures they believe will benefit those fisheries. In this particular case, a clear majority of fishers support introducing a MLS for red gurnard as they perceive they are enhancing their fishery. MFish therefore recommends that a MLS of 25cm for red gurnard be implemented.

Trumpeter

Background

- 41 Recreational fishers in the South Island raised concerns about the trumpeter fishery based on their observations of the number of 10 – 15 cm fish that were being landed. They considered that if left unchecked this could pose problems for the fishery.
- 42 As with red gurnard, there is currently no recreational MLS in place for trumpeter. Furthermore, smaller fish occur in inshore waters where they are targeted by recreational fishers, potentially reducing the yield per recruit. These problems have prompted a request for management action to improve the status of the fishery.
- 43 No estimates of current and reference biomass are available for trumpeter. The 2006 Report from the Fisheries Assessment Plenary states that it is not known if recent catch levels are sustainable or at levels that will allow the stock to move towards a size that will support the maximum sustainable yield. However, there is anecdotal information from Australia and New Zealand that localised populations of trumpeter can be quickly fished out.
- 44 Trumpeter was introduced into the QMS in 1998 and the combined recreational allowance for all stocks is 39 tonnes. The combined TACCs (all stocks) is currently 144 tonnes but catches have not been this high since introduction into the QMS. In fact, in 2000–01 and 2001–02, commercial catches were as low as 25 tonnes. Trumpeter is largely a bycatch fishery.

Assessment of Management Options

- 45 Twenty submissions were received on the proposal to set a recreational MLS of 45 cm for trumpeter in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986, or to retain the *status quo* for the species.
- 46 Of the twenty submissions received, seven supported setting a 45 cm MLS, nine supported setting a MLS less than 45 cm (seven recommended 35 cm) and four did not support setting a MLS for trumpeter.
- 47 All of the reasons for and against setting a MLS for red gurnard are repeated in submissions on trumpeter. These are discussed under the red gurnard heading and don't require repeating (refer paragraphs 26 and 27). Points from submissions particular to trumpeter are:
- Trumpeter is not as widely distributed as red gurnard, so a regional rather than a national MLS was suggested.
 - As there is little known about trumpeter, this lack of information has been put forward as a reason not to take management action.
 - Juvenile trumpeter inhabit inshore reefs while adult trumpeter (45 cm +) tend to inhabit deep water offshore reefs. A MLS of 45 cm would, therefore, effectively exclude most recreational fishers from the trumpeter fishery. Consequently, nine submitters have requested a smaller compromise MLS be set for trumpeter.
- 48 Trumpeter occurs all around New Zealand but mainly from the Bay of Plenty southwards. Therefore, the problems that arise from juvenile trumpeter habitat preference being inshore reefs will apply to the majority of the New Zealand coastline. As trumpeter is more common in the south, the problem is more pronounced there, but will not be exclusive to this area. For this reason MFish considers that a regional approach would not fully address the issue.
- 49 Trumpeter is wide spread throughout the southern hemisphere and in Tasmania the species is a highly regarded and well researched recreational fish. Tasmania has set a MLS of 45 cm, but initially began with a MLS of 35 cm. Further, as trumpeter in New Zealand waters is known to move into deeper waters at about 40-50 cm length, this behavioural change may indicate onset of maturity in local stocks.
- 50 As a result, MFish consulted on a 45 cm MLS as appropriate for the species. However, trumpeter in Tasmania is thought to spawn at a different time of the year than in New Zealand indicating there may be other differences between these stocks. This highlights a need for New Zealand-specific research, especially in this instance, on size at maturity. The Inshore Fishery Assessment Working Group has agreed to a research programme to determine the basic biological information about a group of less important commercial stocks. Trumpeter would be appropriate for this programme.
- 51 In addition, no analysis has been undertaken on optimal size limits, or their effects on trumpeter stocks. MFish, therefore, considers that a valid option is to maintain the *status quo* until further information is available.

- 52 As stated previously, when setting a MLS for sustainability reasons, the size used generally corresponds with the size of age at maturity for the species concerned as this allows the fish to spawn at least once before entering the fishery. The best available information indicates that for trumpeter, this is likely to be around 45 cm.
- 53 The largest category of submitters was those requesting a MLS less than the 45 cm figure consulted on in the IPP. Of these seven identified 35 cm as a compromise length. These submitters considered that a MLS of 45 cm would effectively exclude them from access to the trumpeter fishery.
- 54 Few trumpeter have been measured in boat ramp surveys, particularly in the southern region where trumpeter fisheries are most significant. However, the limited information that is available suggests that a large proportion of fish taken recreationally are smaller than 45cm. Together with the fact that the recreational trumpeter fishery is mostly based inshore where juveniles predominate, there is likely to be a substantial loss of recreational catch and access to the fishery if you decide to set the MLS at 45 cm..
- 55 However, MFish noted in the IPP that setting a MLS may also assist in obtaining better value from a recreational fishery by enhancing the yield obtained from fish retained. Also, MFish noted in the IPP that as juveniles grow rapidly, a MLS smaller than 45 cm would still increase the proportion of larger juveniles available in shallow water.
- 56 As with red gurnard, there is no available analysis to model the effect of a recreational MLS on the trumpeter population. However, it is clear that the recreational fishery contributes significantly to the total amount of trumpeter harvested. A management tool that protects a proportion of the population from this harvest is likely to result in future recruitment and yield benefits.
- 57 As mentioned, a MLS will only be effective if fish are likely to survive being returned to the sea. Unfortunately, the probability of survival of released trumpeter is not known. Given the biological characteristics of trumpeter, however, and concerns about the small size of trumpeter being landed, MFish considers that the benefits to be gained from a MLS will outweigh losses that may occur through release related mortality.
- 58 Given there is anecdotal evidence that localised populations of trumpeter can be fished out, and that fishers in some areas are concerned about the availability of trumpeter, a MLS for the species is likely to have considerable stock benefits.
- 59 By taking no management action at this time, there is a risk that problems with the availability of trumpeter will worsen. Within the context of significant submitter support MFish considers that a further option be put forward for your consideration, that is a recreational MLS of 35 cm be set. Such a measure would allay the concerns of recreational fishers about 10-15 cm fish being taken, maintain reasonable access for recreational inshore fishers to the trumpeter fishery and improve the yield per fish. This situation could be reviewed at a later date when the results of the biological characteristics of trumpeter became available. MFish therefore recommends that a MLS of 35cm for trumpeter be implemented.

Blue Cod

Background

Blue Cod (BCO 1, BCO 2, BCO 8, BCO 10)

- 60 The national MLS for blue cod is currently 33cm, as prescribed in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 (the Regulations).
- 61 In 1993 the national MLS for blue cod was increased from 30 to 33 cm. This adjustment was based on data obtained from the South Island blue cod fisheries. The NZRFC has reported that the MLS of 33 cm is actually too high in the north, and that recreational fishers would like to see the limit revert to 30cm.

Assessment of Management Options

- 62 Twenty submissions were received regarding the proposals to either amend relevant regional amateur fishing regulations to decrease the blue cod recreational MLS from 33cm to 30cm in the North Island; or retain the status quo in this area.
- 63 Of these submissions 12 supported lowering the MLS for blue cod in the North Island, and eight did not support lowering the MLS.
- 64 An examination of submissions shows that of the eight that do not support lowering the MLS, seven are from the lower North Island or top of the South Island, the remaining submission being from SeaFIC. Those that do support lowering the MLS are from the upper North Island. Fishers in the lower North Island are adamant that there is ample blue cod available to recreational fishers and they are able to access fish in excess of the current 33 cm MLS. These submitters cite the greater period available for breeding as the main reason to maintain the larger MLS. Some submitters also considered that there was a risk, that in popular areas, the size of fish would decrease with any lowering of the MLS and that the quality of the fishery would decrease correspondingly.
- 65 Submitters in support of lowering the MLS note that blue cod tend to swallow the hook and are often damaged with a consequential high post release mortality. These submitters contend that a lower MLS would reduce the incidence of post release mortality in recreationally caught blue cod.
- 66 Regional differences in the size of blue cod available for harvesting are not known with any certainty. However, MFish notes in the IPP that there is a known gradient of age at maturity for blue cod by latitude, blue cod mature earlier in the north than the south. Northland blue cod mature at 10–19 cm total length (TL) at an age of two years, whilst in the Marlborough Sounds maturity is reached at 21–26 cm (TL) at three to six years. In Southland, fish become sexually mature between 26–28 cm (TL) at an age of four to five years. Abundance of the fish, as indicated by landings, also suggest blue cod are more prolific in the south.
- 67 As mentioned, from 1986 until 1993, northern blue cod had a MLS of 30 cm. This was increased in 1993 to 33 cm, however, this adjustment to the MLS was based on South Island data.

- 68 The clear majority of submitters from the lower North Island do not want a smaller MLS for blue cod, while the clear majority of submitters from the upper North Island support a lower MLS.
- 69 Within this context, MFish considers that an alternative management option would be to retain the current MLS of 33 cm in BCO 2, BCO 8 and BCO 10, and, to reduce the MLS from 33 cm to 30 cm in BCO 1. MFish believes that the probable absence of recreational fishing for blue cod from BCO 10 means that an adjustment for this quota management area would not be necessary. This is MFish's preferred option.
- 70 SeaFIC contends that amendments must be able to be assessed in terms of their impacts on sustainability. SeaFIC submits that for blue cod there is no information about what is being caught by the recreational sector, the reasons for there being no large fish off the North Island, or the size distribution of fish off the North Island. In SeaFIC's view this lack of information should preclude any change to the MLS at this stage.
- 71 MFish notes that an MLS set for sustainability purposes needs to be set above the size at maturity for the species. Size at maturity of Northland blue cod is known to be 10-19 cm (TL). A MLS of 30 cm would be biologically appropriate from a sustainability perspective.
- 72 Recreational blue cod fishers from northern New Zealand clearly feel that the quality of the blue cod recreational fishery would be enhanced by setting a MLS at 30 cm.

Statutory Considerations

- 73 MFish is satisfied that these proposals are consistent with the relevant statutory obligations under the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Act). MFish considers that all of the proposals will further the purpose of the Act, in providing for utilisation while ensuring sustainability (section 8). The environmental and information principles set out in sections 9 and 10 of the Act have also been taken in account in developing the proposals and, other than those specific concerns discussed in this paper, MFish is unaware of any concerns here relating to those principles. Similarly, MFish believes the proposals raise no concerns in relation to New Zealand's international obligations and the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 (section 5).

Final Recommendations

Red Gurnard

- 74 MFish recommends that you either:
- a) Agree to specify a national recreational MLS of 25 cm for red gurnard in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 (MFish preferred option); or
 - b) Retain the status quo and set no MLS for the species.

Trumpeter

- 75 MFish recommends that you either:

- a) Agree to specify a recreational MLS of 45 cm for trumpeter in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986; or
- b) Agree to specify a recreational MLS of 35 cm for trumpeter in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations (MFish preferred option); or
- c) Retain the *status quo* and set no MLS for the species.
- d) Note that option b) has not been consulted on.

North Island Blue Cod

76 MFish recommends that you either:

- a) Agree to amend relevant regional amateur fishing regulations to decrease the blue cod recreational MLS from 33cm to 30cm in the North Island; or
- b) Agree to amend the relevant regional amateur fishing regulations to decrease the blue cod recreational MLS from 33cm to 30cm in BCO 1 only (north of the North Island) (MFish preferred option); or
- c) Retain the 33 cm MLS for North Island blue cod MLS.