

Review of Sustainability Measures for Rig in Area 2 (SPO2)

The Ministry of Fisheries has released an initial position paper (IPP) proposing increases to the commercial quota in fisheries management area 2 – Cape Runaway to Porirua.

1. Reasons for review;
 - a) TACC routinely exceeded
 - b) TACC constraining catch of other species
2. There are no reported increased sustainability risks for Rig (also known as spotted dogfish) in SPO2.
3. The condition of the stock is unknown and catch decisions must be based on examining catch per unit effort (CPUE) data.

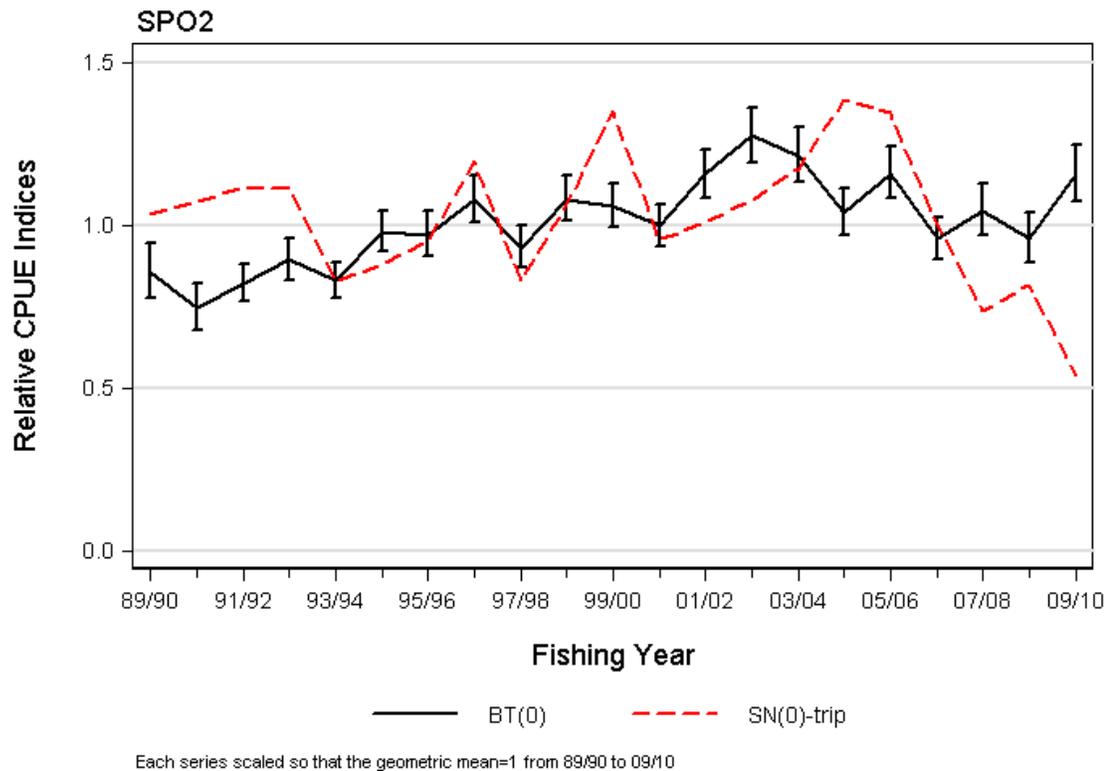
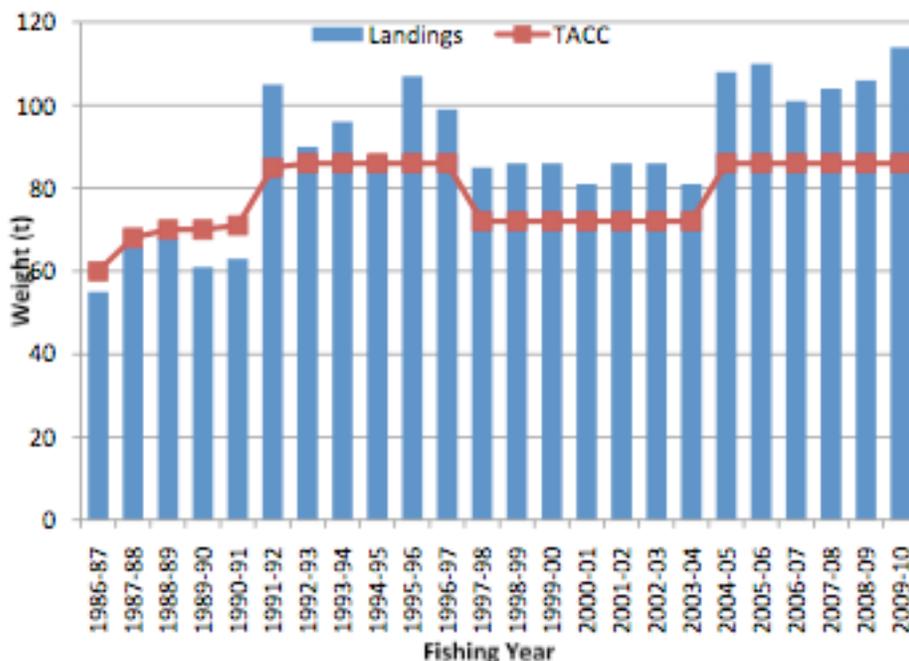


Figure 1: Trends in catch per unit effort for Rig from all bottom trawl catch in FMA2 (black line) and all set net fisheries landing rig in FMA2 (red dash line).

4. No credible information is offered to explain the extreme decoupling of trawl and set net CPUE displayed in the record. If the set net targeted effort had moved from rig to other species this would be in the CELR record, but the IPP only makes a general reference to other species.

Figure 2: Historical landings and TACC for SPO 2.



- There appears to be marginal catch landed in excess of TACC, regardless of quantum, and regardless of the DV. This would suggest residual incentive to land Rig when taken as part of a mixed species catch, as in the trawl fishery.

Options for rig in SPO2.

Option	TAC	TACC	Customary Non-commercial Catch	Recreational Catch	Other sources of Mortality
Option 1 (status quo)	122	86	20	10	6
Option 2	130	108	5	10	7

- Option 1 retains the current TAC, TACC, and allowances. This may continue to give rise to deemed value payments which have been between \$36,000 and \$100,000 per year.
- Option 2 increases the TAC by 8 tonnes, and transfers 15 tonne of Customary allowance to the TACC, making a total TACC of 108 tonnes, an increase of 22 tonnes.

8. No recreational catch data exists and there has been no anecdotal submissions asking for greater recreational allowance or increased bag limits.
9. A TACC of 108 tonnes matches the average commercial catch for the last 6 years.
10. The Ministry is also consulting on adding Rig to the sixth schedule. This would enable commercial fishers to return Rig to the sea alive, if they expect it to live.

Issues for inclusion in submission.

- a) There is a 10-15% historical overcatch of Rig regardless of changes to the TACC, which indicates causes other than unavoidable catch are present.
- b) At some level the TACC must be expected to constrain catch – what are the indicators that would trigger a need to cap catch?
- c) Using catch in excess of TACC as the reason for increasing TACCs places a firm incentive for ITQ holders to repeatedly and deliberately overcatch.
- d) Can Rig be released successfully from trawl nets? Does adding rig to the sixth schedule provide for Rig to be caught and released alive, or does it provide for legalized dumping.
- e) The CPUE trend over the last 7 years is down, and no explanation is offered.

Please supply input from Area 2, particularly on the matters of catch experience, observed abundance, and any matters concerned with recreational fishing of SPO2 before July 20th.

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