



OIA24-0011

16 February 2024

Shaun Lee
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun Lee

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2023, requesting information relating to the reduction of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for unmanaged species. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Will the TAC and TACC for these unmanaged species (Pipi, Horse Mussel, Anchovy, Paddle Crab, Sprat, Pilchard, Blue Cod, Leatherjacket, Red Cod, Trumpeter, Jack Mackerel, Longfin Eel, Flatfish, Spiny Dogfish, Rig, Pōrae) be reduced? If so when?

It is proposed that flatfish (FLA 1 and FLA 7), rig (SPO 2), blue cod (BCO 5) and red cod (RCO1) be considered for review in the October 2024 sustainability round, although this is subject to final decisions. The other stocks you have identified that fall within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park will continue to be monitored and considered for review on a case-by-case basis over the lifespan of the Fisheries Plan.

Stocks for which catch limits are set are managed under the Quota Management System. Catch limits are informed by an assessment of the sustainable level of harvest in a fishery using the best available information. This is presented through annual Plenary documents. The harvest strategy and Plenary documents for stocks can be found here: [The population status of NZ fish stocks | NZ Government \(mpi.govt.nz\)](#)

In setting catch limits for a fishery, the Minister must consider the purpose of the Fisheries Act 1996:

- (1) The purpose of this Act is to provide for the utilisation of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability.*
- (2) In this Act,—ensuring sustainability means—*
 - (a) maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
 - (b) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment*

Sustainability rounds and several other fisheries management responses, such as those outlined in the [Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan](#), [National Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan](#), and research prioritisation rounds, address management actions for selected stocks.

We use a variety of criteria (including those listed below) to guide prioritisation of stocks for sustainability rounds. Stocks are initially longlisted for review because they meet some of these criteria:

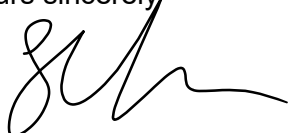
- Consistency of reviewing the stock with the statutory requirements in section 8 of the Fisheries Act (if there are sustainability concerns or utilisation opportunities).
- The relative importance of the stock (i.e., is the fishery of high value to tāngata whenua, and recreational and commercial stakeholders).
- What new information is available and the quality of data that a potential review would be based on.

Other factors that influence prioritisation include feedback from engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders, resourcing availability, and balancing against other work priorities. Following advice, the Minister decides which stocks are prioritised for review.

The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan seeks to take a more holistic approach to fisheries management. Where new information suggests that catch settings should be reviewed or a review aligns with the goal of the Fisheries Plan to progress ecosystem-based fisheries management, stocks will be prioritised through the twice-yearly sustainability review rounds.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Simon Lawrence

Director Science and Information