



Recreational Fishing Rules CHALLENGER

(West Area)

Effective from: December 2022 (subject to change without notice).

NEW LIMITS FOR HĀPUKU AND BASS



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Recreational Fishing

Why recreational fishing rules matter

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular outdoor activities. Recreational fishers (anyone fishing non-commercially or customarily) take large numbers of finfish and shellfish every year. To keep the fisheries sustainable the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) sets recreational fishing rules. By sticking to the rules and fishing responsibly, fishers help make sure that there will be fish today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

What do the rules cover?

Anyone fishing recreationally has to follow rules about;

- daily bag limits (how many fish you can keep);
- legal size limits (the sizes of fish you can keep);
- species restrictions (the types of fish you can keep);
- accumulation limits (how many fish you can keep over a period of more than one day);
- closed and restricted areas (where you can fish).

Things to remember:

- it is illegal to sell or trade recreational catch;
- breaking the rules can lead to prosecution, fines and property confiscations;
- only those physically involved in taking finfish, rock lobster, or shellfish can claim a catch within the daily limit;
- unwanted or unlawful catch (catch above your daily limit, undersized fish, fish taken with undersized mesh, unintentional catch or bycatch) must be immediately returned to the waters from which they were taken, dead or alive.

How can I check the rules?

This brochure is a summary of the recreational fishing rules for the West Coast of the Challenger Fishery Management Area (FMA). It is a guide only and may not include local restrictions or rules that have changed since it was printed. To keep up to date, check the rules each time you fish.

MPI provides lots of (free) ways to check the rules. This includes a free text service, a free Smartphone app, or visiting our website or offices. For more information see the back page of this brochure.

Good fish handling

Correctly handling and releasing unwanted or unlawful catch can increase their chances of surviving to be caught legally another day. When handling and releasing fish, remember:

- use wet hands (towel or wet gloves);
- be gentle – slide fish into the water from as close to the surface as possible;
- return fish as near as possible to where you found them (especially shellfish and rock lobster);
- the best way to protect undersized fish is not to catch them in the first place. If you are catching lots of undersized fish, change locations, or use a larger hook or mesh size.

For more information, MPI has a 'Fish Handling Guide' available online or through our offices.

Seabird Safety

Seabirds are experts at seeing bait and fish scraps in the water and can get hooked or become tangled in fishing line. Find out how to avoid attracting seabirds and how to handle them safely at www.southernseabirds.org

New Zealand's fishing rules

If you're fishing or collecting seafood in New Zealand you need to know New Zealand's fishing rules. If you do not read English, have someone translate for you.

Lao ki he toutai 'a Nu'usila

Kapau ko ha tokotaha toutai ika koe, pe 'oku ke fangota ki ha me'atahi 'i Nu'usila, kuopau ke ke 'ilo ki he ngaahi lao 'o e toutai 'a Nu'usila. Kapau 'oku 'ikai ke ke lava 'o lautohi fakapilitania, pea kole ki ha taha ke ne liliu ki ho'o lea.

Ko e lao 'oku anga pehe ni: ko e fa'ahinga mo e lalahi 'o e ika 'oku lava ke ke ma'u; feitu'u 'oku ngofua ke ke toutai ai; pea mo e ika 'e fiha 'oku lava ke ke 'ave.

'Oku ta'efakalao ke fakatau atu pea ke fai ha fefakatau'aki e ika 'o ke ma'u ai ha fa'ahinga pa'anga, pe tupu fakapa'anga.

Ko hono maumau'i 'o e lao, 'e ala faka'ilo ai koe, tautea pa'anga, pea to'o mo e koloa 'oku ke ma'u. Ko e tauhi 'o e lao mo e toutai fakapotopoto, 'e tokoni ia ki hono fakapapau'i 'e ma'u ha ika he 'aho ni, pongipongi, pea mo e to'utangata 'o e kaha'u.

Quy định cá của New Zealand

Nếu bạn đang đánh bắt cá hoặc thu mua hải sản ở New Zealand, bạn cần phải biết quy tắc đánh cá của New Zealand. Nếu bạn không đọc được tiếng Anh, có một người nào đó phiên dịch cho bạn.

Các quy tắc bao gồm: các loại và kích cỡ của cá bạn có thể giữ; nơi bạn có thể câu cá; và bao nhiêu cá bạn có thể giữ.

Sẽ là bất hợp pháp nếu bán hoặc kinh doanh thứ bạn bắt được vì bất kỳ lợi ích hay lợi nhuận tiền bạc.

Phá vỡ các quy tắc này có thể dẫn đến truy tố, phạt tiền và tịch thu tài sản. Gắn chặt với các quy tắc và đánh bắt cá có trách nhiệm giúp đảm bảo rằng sẽ có cá ngày hôm nay, ngày mai và cho thế hệ mai sau.

បទបញ្ញត្តិស្តីពីការនេសាទរបស់ប្រទេសណូវិលសេឡង់

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នឹងផ្តល់ការបកប្រែជូនលោកអ្នក។

បទបញ្ញត្តិទាំងនេះពាក់ព័ន្ធនឹង: ប្រភេទ និងទំហំត្រីដែលលោកអ្នកអាចនេសាទ ទឹកនល់ដែលអាចធ្វើការនេសាទ និងថ្ងៃ

នេសាទដែលលោកអ្នកអាចរក្សាទុកបាន។ វាជាបទល្មើសក្នុងការដលៃ លោកអ្នកធ្វើការលក់ ឬជួញដូរផលត្រីដែលចាប់បាន។ ការរំលោភទៅនឹងបទបញ្ញត្តិទាំងនេះ លោកអ្នកអាចត្រូវទទួលបាន ការដាក់ពិន័យទទួលបាននូវការរឹបអូស ទុរពុយសម្បត្តិ។ ការគោរពបទបញ្ញត្តិស្តីពីការនេសាទ និងការនេសាទប្រកបដោយ

ការទទួលខុសត្រូវ នឹងធានាផលិតផលមានគុណភាពលេចធ្លោបំផុត អនាគត និងសម្រាប់កូនចៅយើងច្រើនជំនាន់ក្រោយមុខ

ទៀត។

Remember there are local restrictions and area closures, check the 'Closures and Area Restrictions' section.

Finfish

Daily limits and size restrictions

In the Challenger FMA (West Area) there is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 20 for finfish*** (excluding specified baitfish and freshwater eels). Individual species limits within this combined daily bag limit must also not be exceeded.

There may be local restrictions or area closures, check the 'Closed and Restricted Areas' section.

*Finfish includes all species of finfish of the classes Agnatha, Chondrichthyes, and Osteichthyes, at any stage of their life history, whether living or dead.

Individual species daily limits within the combined daily limit

Finfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher	Min fish length (cm)	Min net mesh size (mm)
Blue cod South West – Sandhill Point to South Bank of Haast River	10	33 landed whole or gutted only	–
Blue cod Westland – South Bank of Haast River to Heaphy River	15	33 landed whole, gutted or headed and gutted	–
Bluenose	5	–	160
Groper (Hāpuku)/Bass*	2	–	160
Kingfish	3	75	100
Quinnat salmon	4	–	–
Snapper	10	25	100
Southern bluefin tuna	1	–	100

*When fishing over multiple days you can possess up to 3 hāpuku/bass if you can prove that no more than 2 hāpuku/bass were taken on any one day.

Further size limits for finfish within the combined daily limit

Finfish Species	Min fish length (cm)	Min net mesh size (mm)
Blue moki	40	114
Butterfish/Greenbone	35	108
Elephant fish	–	150
Flatfish	25	100
Red cod	25	100
Red gurnard	25	100
Red moki	40	114
Rig	–	150
School shark	–	150
Tarakihi	25	100
Trevally	25	100
Trumpeter	35	100
All other finfish	–	100

In addition, you may also take the following:

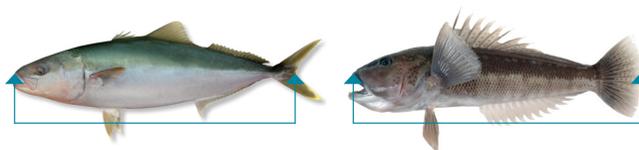
Baitfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	Daily limit of 50 for any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	
Koheru/Scad	
Pilchard	
Piper/Garfish	
Slender/Stout sprat	
Yellow-eyed mullet	

And

Finfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher	Min mesh size (mm)
Eel	6	12

Measuring Finfish

Measure from the tip of the nose to the middle ray or 'V' in the tail.



Blue cod Measurable state

In the South West blue cod area (south of Haast River) blue cod must be landed whole or gutted and measure a minimum of 33cm.

In the Westland blue cod area (north of Haast River) blue cod may be landed whole or gutted, or headed (head removed in front of the pectoral fin) and gutted. Headed blue cod has a minimum size of 24cm measured from the rear of the base of the pectoral fin to the posterior end of the middle ray of the tail fin.

It is an offence to possess blue cod in New Zealand fisheries waters in an unmeasurable state. Fishers may possess blue cod in another state only if it is immediately eaten on board the fishing vessel it was taken from.

Accumulation limit

The accumulation limit for blue cod is no more than two times the daily limit when blue cod is taken over two or more days.

Blue cod pots

Blue cod pots must be covered with a single layer of rigid square mesh with minimum inside dimension of 54mm and not have any cover, liner, or any other construction that restricts the inside dimensions of the mesh to less than 54mm.

Gear Restrictions

Set line restrictions

Set line fishing includes the use of long lines and dahn (drop) lines but does not include rod and reel or hand lines. In areas where line fishing is permitted, the following restrictions apply:

- no person may use, or be in possession of, more than one line (other than handlines, or rod and reel lines);
- no person may use or possess a line with more than 25 hooks;
- where more than one person is using a line from a vessel (other than rod and reel lines), no more than two lines (other than rod and reel lines), may be used, set from or possessed on board that vessel;
- surface floats attached to any line must be marked clearly, legibly and permanently with the fisher's initials and surname at each end of the line. A phone number is also useful.

Netting restrictions

Net fishing includes set, fyke drag and other nets. In areas where netting is permitted restrictions apply to the number of nets that may be used or carried on a boat, the length of nets, spacing between nets, net mesh sizes and how the nets are used. Details on the rules for netting can be found at the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/21677/direct

Shellfish

Daily bag limits and size restrictions

Shellfish are taken when they cannot freely return to the water e.g. placed into a catch bag or similar. At no time while gathering may you be in possession of more than your daily limit.

Remember there may be local restrictions or area closures, check the 'Closed and Restricted Areas' section. Limits for taking and possessing shellfish are listed below.

Shellfish Species	Daily limit per fisher	Minimum size (mm)
Cockles	150	none
Kina (sea eggs)	50	none
Mussels	50	none
Oysters – Dredge*	50	58
– Rock & Pacific	250	none
Pāua – Ordinary/Blackfoot	10	125
– Yellowfoot	10	80
Pipi	150	none
Scallops	Closed	Closed
Toheroa	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tuatua	150	none
All others (combined) •	50	none

* Limited provision allows a diver, diving from a vessel, to gather additional daily bag limit of oysters or scallops for safety person on vessel.

• This is a combined, mixed-species bag limit. It applies to all shellfish species not specifically named above, and includes all crabs, limpets, starfish, periwinkles, whelks, barnacles and freshwater crayfish (koura).

Shellfish must be landed in a measurable state

All shellfish to which a minimum size restriction applies (including pāua, and dredge oysters) must be landed in the shell and cannot be shucked or shelled seaward of the mean high-water mark. This includes transporting on the water.

Dredge oysters may be opened for immediate consumption on board the vessel. Any dredge oysters eaten form part of your daily limit. Any scallops and dredge oysters not eaten must be landed in the shell.

Pāua accumulation limits

When daily limits are accumulated the maximum number of pāua that one person can have in their possession at any one time is 20 pāua or 2.5kgs shucked meat weight (shell removed). This possession limit applies everywhere including in the home.

Measuring shellfish

Pāua: measure the greatest length of the shell in a straight line. Do not measure over the curve of the shell.

Dredge Oysters: must not pass through a rigid circular metal ring with an inside diameter of 58mm.



Shellfish Restrictions

Underwater breathing apparatus (UBA)

- UBA does not include snorkels;
- no person may take pāua using UBA;
- no person may be in possession of pāua while in possession of UBA. This includes possession in or on any vessel or vehicle.

Open seasons

- **Oysters:** the oyster fishery is open year round. (Rock oysters and Pacific oysters must not be opened while they adhere to the object on which they grow).
- **Scallops:** 15 July to 14 February inclusive.

Protection of black coral

No person may take or possess black coral.

Rock Lobster Restrictions (continued)

Rock Lobster Restrictions

Protected rock lobster

The following types of rock lobster are protected by law and must be returned immediately to the water:

- undersized rock lobster;
- female rock lobsters carrying external eggs (in berry) – these are carried between the pleopods on the underside of the tail;
- soft shell stage rock lobster;
- rock lobster that cannot be measured (e.g. because of damage to the tail preventing accurate measurement).

General restrictions

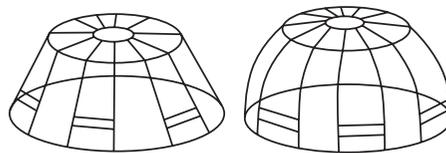
In areas where rock lobster may be gathered, the following restrictions apply:

- rock lobster may not be possessed seaward of the high-water mark in an unmeasurable state;
- only hand operated loops or lassos may be used. Spring loaded loop or lassos are prohibited;
- spears or devices which could puncture the shell must not be used when taking rock lobster. Possessing any rock lobster which has been speared is an offence;
- external eggs or the egg-bearing appendages must not be removed from any rock lobster.

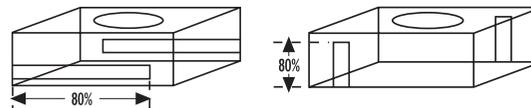
Rock lobster pots

Rock lobster pot means any pot, baited or not, that is capable of catching or holding rock lobster; and includes any other device capable of catching, holding or storing rock lobster. All rock lobster pots must have escape gaps (apertures). These are openings in the pot designed to allow undersized rock lobster to escape. No escape gap shall be incorporated in either the top or the bottom of any pot. Each escape gap must have an inside dimension of at least 54mm x 200mm.

Round or beehive pots: must have at least three escape gaps (other than the mouth).



Square or rectangular pots: must have at least two escape gaps (other than the mouth) in opposite faces of the pot. Each shall not be less than 80 percent of the height or length of the face of the pot in which the escape gaps are contained.



Mesh pots: any pot constructed entirely of unaltered spot welded mesh with minimum inside dimensions of 54mm x 140mm does not require escape gaps. Mesh pots may be used with covers or liners provided they leave unencumbered at least 80 percent of the surface area of each of two opposite sides.

Potting

In areas where potting is permitted the following general restrictions apply:

- individuals may use, set, or possess, up to three pots in any one day;
- all pots and surface floats must be clearly and permanently marked with the fisher's surname and initials;
- two or more individuals fishing from a vessel may use, set, or possess up to six pots in any one day provided they have their name on the pots and that each person is using no more than three of the pots;
- bobs and ring pots may be used to catch rock lobster but all other requirements such as marking and pot limits apply;
- pots used to catch rock lobster have specific escape gap requirements – see above;
- species specific pots (eg: cod pots, crab pots etc. can be used but may have specific requirements (eg: cod pot mesh size) as well as pot and float marking.

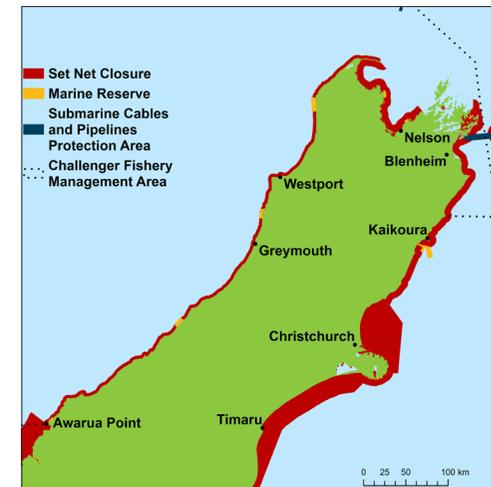
Closures and Restrictions

Restricted areas

Restricted areas are areas where the use of particular fishing methods is restricted or where catch limits may be different, or taking some species prohibited. Some restricted areas in the Challenger West area are listed below. These are only a guide. Check for local restrictions and recent closures by contacting your nearest MPI Fisheries Compliance Office and DOC office for Marine Reserves (where fishing is prohibited).

Set net restrictions

Map 1: Set netting is totally prohibited on the West Coast from Farewell Spit to Awarua Point. The prohibited area extends from the shore out to two nautical miles. Check the regulations for coordinates. Set netting is permitted in most estuaries, rivers, lagoons. Check the regulations or MPI website for set net rules.



Map 1: Set Net Closed Area

Rock Lobster

Daily bag limits

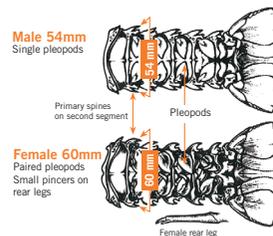
No person may take or possess more than six rock lobster (both species combined) on any one day.

Rock lobster may not be possessed seaward of the mean high-water mark in an unmeasurable state.

Spiny rock lobster minimum size

Measure the tail width in a straight line between the tips of the two large (primary) spines on the second segment of the tail.

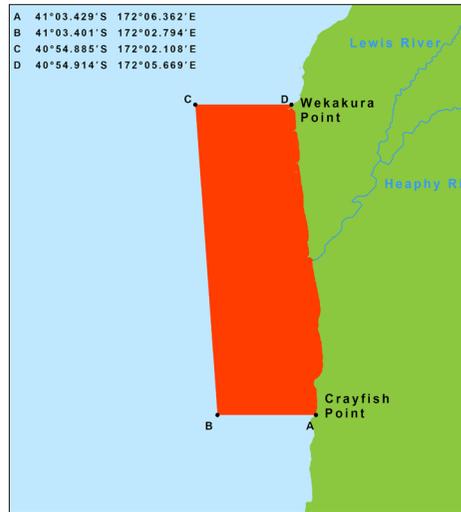
If you are unsure of the sex, use the 60mm measurement.



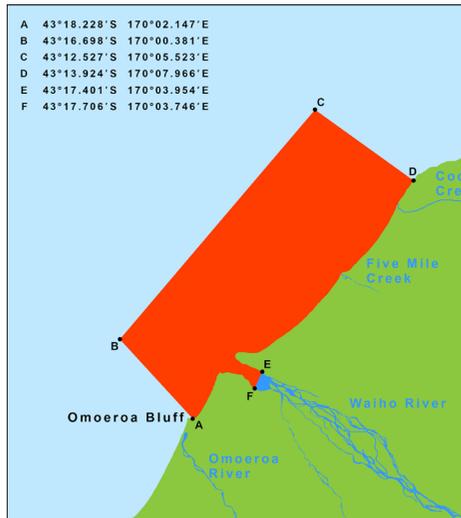
Closed Areas

Closed areas are areas where no fishing is allowed. These may be closed by MPI as prohibited fishing areas, or by the Department of Conservation (DOC) as Marine Reserves. For full details of Marine Reserves contact DOC.

Marine Reserves



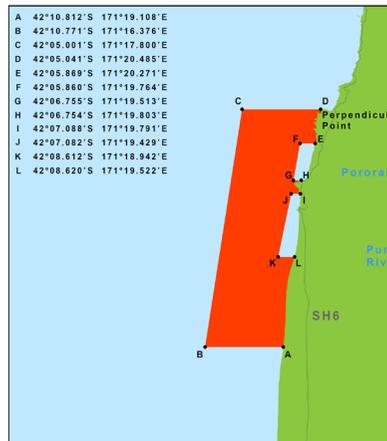
Kahurangi



Waiau Glacier Coast



Hautai



Punakaiki



Tauparikaka

Poacher Prevention

MPI's Fisheries Compliance Team is responsible for protecting local fisheries and stopping illegal activities such as poaching.

If you see people acting illegally, taking more than their daily limit or undersized fish or selling or trading their catch, please report it. Any information provided stays completely confidential.

Report poaching, suspicious or illegal activity – call 0800 4 POACHER (800 476 224).

New Zealand's Fishing Rules at your Fingertips

This brochure is a summary of the recreational fishing rules for the Challenger West Fishery Management Area (FMA). It is a guide only and may not include all local restrictions and rules or any changes made since it was printed. To keep up to date, check the rules each time you fish. It is illegal to sell or trade your catch.

Check the rules

Check the rules using our **FREE app**:

Download our free NZ fishing rules app by scanning the QR code or visiting the app store. The app works even when you have no coverage.



Other services

- Free text the name of the species you are fishing for (e.g snapper) to **9889** and receive a text with the legal size and bag limit.
- Visit www.fisheries.govt.nz/rules
- Email recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz to subscribe to fishing related updates in your area.
- Follow us on Facebook



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 MPI Fisheries – East Cape/Bay of Plenty
 MPI Fisheries – Nelson/Marlborough/Kaikōura
 MPI Fisheries – Canterbury/Westland
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Contact us 0800 00 83 33