Recreational Fishing

Why recreational fishing rules matter

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular outdoor activities. Recreational fishers (anyone fishing non-commercially) 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):
- 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 fishing rules for 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 (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'ú. 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 đinh cá cua 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 nhuân tiền bac.

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 hê mai sau.

បទបញ្ចូញតតិសតីការនសោទរបស់បរទសេណវលែសឡេង

បុរសិនប**្តីល**ោកអុនកធ្មវ**្រីការនសោទ ឬបុរមូល**ផលអាហារសមុទុរន**ៅកុនុងបុរទសេ** ណូវលេសទៀង ល**ាកអុនកត្**រូវតស្សែវែងយ

ល់ពីបទុបញ្ចញ្ញកុតិសុតិពីការនសោទរបស់បុរទសេនដោមុនសិន។ បុរសិនប**ើល**ោកអុន កមិនចរះអានជាភាសាអង់គលសេទ េយ**ី**

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បទុបញ្ចេញគុតិទាំងនះពាក់ព័ន្ធធនឹង៖ បុរកទេ និងទំហំតុរីដលែលោកអុនកអាចនសោទ ទឹកនល់ងែដលែអាចធរកែការនសោទ និងចំ

នួនក្សីដលែលោកអុនកអាចរកុសាទុកបាន។ វាជាបទលុមស្រីសកុនុ ឯការដលែលោកអុនកធុវស៊ីការលក់ ឬជួញដូរផលក្សីដលែចាប់បាន។ ការរល់លោកទទៅនឹងបទុបញ្ចញ្ញកុតិទាំងនរេ លហកអុនកអាចក្សូវទទួលទសាស ការជាកពិន័យឬទទួលរងនូវការរឹបអូសទុរពុយសមុបកុតិ។ ការគសារពបទបញ្ជាក្នុកគិនការនសោទ និងការនសោទបរកបដស្វាយ

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ទៀត។

Finfish

Daily bag limits and size restrictions

infish Species

There is a combined maximum daily bag limit of 20 of any combination of the following finfish. (Individual species limit must not be exceeded).

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

Min length (cm) Max daily Min mesh size

		limit (per fisher)	for nets (mm)
Blue Cod – Challenger East (includes Marlborough Sounds Area)	33 (landed whole or gutted only)	2*	100
Blue Cod – Challenger Kahurangi (West Coast Farewell Spit Light House to Heaphy River)	33 (landed whole or gutted only)	10**	Set netting prohibited
Blue Moki	40	20	114
Bluenose	-	5	160
Butterfish/Greenbone	35	20	108
Elephant Fish	-	20	150
Flatfish	25	20	100
Grey Mullet	-	20	100
John Dory	-	20	100
Kahawai	-	20	100
Red Gurnard	25	20	100
Red Moki	40	20	114
Rig	-	20	150
School Shark	-	20	150
Tarakihi	25	20	100
Trevally	25	20	100

* You can possess up to 4 blue cod in the Challenger East Area (includes the Marlborough Sounds Area) if you can prove that no more than 2 of those blue cod were taken on any one day from the Challenger East Area. This restriction applies if you caught the fish from outside of the Challenger East Area and want to transit into the Challenger East Area.

** You can possess up to 20 Blue cod in the Challenger Kahurangi if you can prove that no more than 10 Blue cod were taken on any one day.

In addition you may also take the following:

infish Species	Min length (cm)	Max daily limit (per fisher)	Min mesh size for nets (mm)
els	-	6	12
Garfish (Piper), Pilchard, Herrings (Yellow Eyed Mullet)	-	No limit	25

Finfish SpeciesMin length (cm)Max daily limit (per fisher)Min mesh size for nets (mm)Groper/Hapuku/Bass— Daily bag limit of 5 with max 3 kingfish160Salmon— 4—Sea Perch— No limit100Snapper – Challenger Snapper – Marlborough Sounds Area2510Trumpeter35No limit100All others not otherwise stated— No limit100

Measuring Finfish

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



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.

Marlborough Sounds Area rod and reel hand line restrictions

When fishing in the Marlborough Sounds Area, you must not use more than 2 hooks per rod and reel (or hand line) for any finfish species.

letting restrictions

Net fishing includes set, fyke, drag and all other nets. In areas where netting is permitted the following general restrictions apply:

- no person may set or possess more than one drag net, set net, fyke net, or any other type of net at any time (excludes landing net);
- nets must be hauled by hand only;
- any net or nets used either individually or jointly must not extend across more than one-quarter of the width of any river, stream, channel, bay or sound at any time of the tide;
- no person may set or use a baited net (except fyke nets);

Drag nets

Set nets

Shellfish

than your daily limit.

Shellfish Species

listed below.

Cockles

Mussels

Scallops

Kina (sea eggs)

Oysters - Dredge*

Paua – Ordinary

All others (combined) •

- Rock & Pacific

barnacles and freshwater crayfish (koura).

Yellowfoot

In areas where drag nets are permitted the following restrictions apply:

In areas where set nets are permitted the following restrictions apply:

must have surface floats that are clearly, legibly and permanently marked with

only one set net is allowed to be used from, or be on board any vessel. (An

may not be used in a way that causes fish to be stranded by the falling tide.

Shellfish are taken when they cannot freely return to the water e.g. placed into a

Remember there may be local restrictions or area closures, check the 'Closed

and Restricted Areas' section. Limits for taking and possessing shellfish are

Limited provision allows a diver on a vessel to gather extra bag limits of oysters

Shellfish must be landed in a measureable state

• 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,

All shellfish to which a minimum size restriction applies (including paua, 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.

catch bag or similar. At no time while gathering may you be in possession of more

Daily limit per fisher

Closed

Prohibited

size (mm

none

Closed

none

Prohibited

the fisher's initials and surname at each end of the net. A phone number is also

additional net is allowed for bait fishing if it is less than 10 metres long and has

must not exceed 40 metres in length;

must not exceed 60 metres in length;

a mesh size of 50mm or less):

Daily bag limits and size restrictions

total warp length must not exceed 200 metres.

must not be set within 60 metres of another net:

useful. (Only one float is required for fyke nets):

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 10 pāua or 1.25kgs shucked meat weight (shell removed). This possession limit applies everywhere including in the home.

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

Measuring shellfish

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

oysters not eaten must be landed in the shell.



Shellfish Restrictions

Underwater breathing apparatus (UBA) UBA does not include snorkels:

- no person may take paua using UBA;
- no person may be in possession of paua 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: Scallop fishing is closed until further notice.

Protection of black coral

No person may take or possess black coral.

Rock Lobster

Daily bag limits

No person may take or possess more than 6 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.

Telson clipping

Rock lobster must have 1/3 of the middle telson removed immediately once the decision has been made to keep the lobster. (Refer diagram)

One-third of

the central

telson has

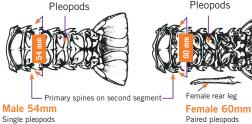
been cut off



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.

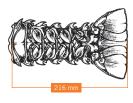


Small pincers on rear leg

Packhorse lobster minimum size

Measure the tail length along the underside in a straight line from the rear of the calcified bar on the first segment to the tip of the middle fan of the tail.

Must have a tail length of at least 216mm (male and female).



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 lobster carrying external eggs (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.



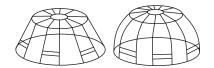
^{*}Within the bag limit of 10 snapper is a sub-limit of 3 which can be taken from the Marlborough Sounds Area.

Rock Lobster Restrictions (continued)

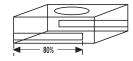
Rock lobster pots

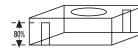
Rock lobster pot means any pot, baited or not, that is capable of catching or holding rock lobster; and includes any other device capable of catching, holding or storing rock lobster. All rock lobster pots must have escape gaps (apertures). These are openings in the pot designed to allow undersized rock 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

Round or beehive pots: must have at least 3 escape gaps (other than



Square or rectangular pots: must have at least 2 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





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 2 opposite sides.

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 –
- species specific pots (cod pots, crab pots etc) can be used. They are exempt from escape gap requirements but all other requirements (such as marking and pot limits) remain.

Closures and Restrictions

Restricted areas

Restricted areas are areas where the use of particular fishing methods (e.g. set nets) is restricted or where catch limits may be different. Some restricted areas are listed below. However, these are only a guide. Check for local restrictions and recent closures by contacting your nearest MPI Fisheries Compliance Office.

Scallop closured until further notice.

Blue Cod Restricted Areas

Area 1: Challenger East Area (includes Marlborough Sounds Area): Daily Limit: 2 per fisher.

Size Limit: 33cm minimum.

Closed Season (Marlborough Sounds Area only) 1 September – 19 December inclusive every year.

You can possess up to 4 blue cod in the Challenger East Area if you can prove that no more than 2 blue cod were taken on any one day from the Challenger

Challenger East Area

Area 2: Challenger Kahurangi Daily Limit: 10 per fisher.

Size Limit: 33cm minimum.

You can possess up to 20 blue cod in the Challenger Kahurangi Area if you can prove that no more than 10 blue

cod were taken on any one day. Both areas - Challenger Kahurangi and Challenger East

- Must be landed whole or gutted
- Blue cod cannot be filleted at sea unless you eat them immediately.
- Any blue cod eaten form part of your daily limit.

• Fishers staying at baches and aboard vessels are not exempt from these regulations and may only land or transport by sea, whole or gutted blue cod on any one day.

Challenger East only

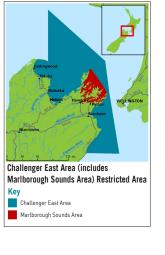
During the Closed Marlborough Sounds season, you may transport blue cod from other areas into the Marlborough Sounds as long as you can prove where the fish were taken from.

When fishing in the Marlborough Sounds Area, use no more than 2 hooks per fishing line when fishing for any finfish species (Excluding Longlines).

Additional restrictions: You must not:

- fillet blue cod, unless you eat them immediately. Any blue cod eaten form part of your daily limit;
- during the closed Marlborough Sounds season you may transport blue cod from the Challenger East Area into the Marlborough Sounds Area as long as you can prove where the fish were taken from:
- fishers staying in baches and aboard vessels are not exempt from these regulations and may only land or transport by sea, whole or gutted blue cod on any one day;

 when fishing in the Marlborough Sounds Area use no more than 2 hooks per fishing line, when fishing for any finfish species (excluding longlines).



Set net restrictions

Map 1: Set netting is totally prohibited from Cape Jackson to the Clarence River (extends out to 4 nautical miles and includes the entire Queen Charlotte Sound, Tory Channel, Port Underwood, Cloudy Bay, Clifford Bay, and Cape Campbell areas).

Map 2: Set netting is totally prohibited on the West Coast from Farewell Spit to Awarua Point (extends out to 2 nautical miles). Check the regulations for co-ordinates.







- Exemption: Queen Charlotte Sound inside a line from West Head Point (Ruakaka Bay) to Deiffenbach Point – refer to the red area on Map 3. Applies between 1 April and 30 September for Flatfish set nets only (a net that is 9 meshes deep or less, is anchored at each end, does not exceed a total length of 60 metres, has a mesh size greater or equal to 100mm and a monofilament diameter less than 0.35mm).
- Exemption: East Coast.
- Fishers must stay with their nets at all times and set no more than 200m from shore, between Cape Jackson and Rarangi Port Underwood and then Cape Campbell to Needles Point between 1 January – 30 April inclusive. (See purple line on Map 3).

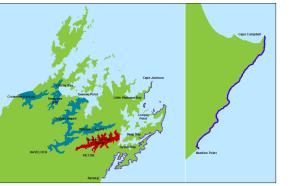
Map 3: Set netting may only be undertaken using set nets with a net mesh size greater than or equal to 100mm which do not exceed 9 meshes in height and must be set in direct contact with the seabed. These restrictions apply to the following (all blue areas on Map 3):

Pelorus Sound: inside a line from Tawero Point to Opani-Aputa Point.

Tennyson Inlet and Hallam Cove: inside a line from Sheep Point to Camel Point to Cregoe Point.

Croisilles Harbour: inside a line from Cape Soucis, outside the Islands to Kakaho Point.

Within Kenepuru Sound: set netting is totally prohibited from 1 October to



Map 3: Set Net Restricted Areas

Set line restricted areas

Map 4: Possession and use of set lines is prohibited in Pelorus Sound inside a line from Tawero Point to Opani-Aputa Point and in Kenepuru Sound.



Map 4: Set Line Restricted Areas



Kaikõura earthquake shellfish closure

Map 5: The area from Marfells Beach to the Conway River is closed to the taking of shellfish and seaweed species (excluding rock lobster and scampi). This closure is necessary for the area to recover from the Kaikōura earthquake on 14 November 2016.

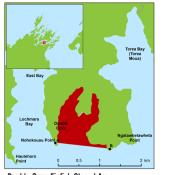
Closed Areas

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

Challenger FMA closed areas include: Long Island Marine Reserve, Tonga Island Marine Reserve, Horoirangi Marine Reserve, Whanganui/Westhaven Inlet Marine Reserve and in Double Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound.

Maud Island Area

Closed year round. No finfish of any species can be taken.



Double Cove Finfish Closed Area



Westhaven Inlet Marine Reserve



Horoirangi Marine Reserve





Tonga Island Marine Reserve



Area 2: Maud Island Closed Area

Poacher Prevention

MPI fisheries compliance is responsible for protecting local fisheries and stopping illegal activities such as poaching. To do this, MPI needs you to report any suspicious or illegal activity in your area.

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 (0800 476 224).

New Zealand's Fishing Rules at Your Fingertips

This brochure is a summary of the recreational fishing rules for the Challenger 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 services:

our free NZ Fishing Rules app by texting the word 'app' to 9889. The app works even when you have no coverage.

- Free text the name of the species you are fishing for (e.g. rock lobster) to 9889 and receive legal size and bag limit via return text.
- Visit www.fisheries.govt.nz/rules

Contact your Local Office

Nelson (03) 548 1069

Blenheim (03) 579 1088

• Email recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz to subscribe to fishing related updates in your area.

118 Vickerman Street, Nelson

State Highway 1, Blenheim

Marlborough Research Centre, Grovetown Park,

• Follow us on Facebook



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MPI Fisheries – Otago/Southland



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Shared Sustainable Fisheries for the Future

FSH006JULY2020

New Zealand Government

Recreational Fishing Rules CHALLENGER

Fisheries New Zealand

(East and Kahurangi)

Effective from: July 2020 subject to change without notice.

