

Monthly Summary - Fisheries management issues - July 2024

For NZSFC clubs

By the NZSFC Fisheries Management team

NEWS:

CAULERPA UPDATE

1. As invasive seaweed caulerpa continues to spread along the northeast coastline, it's important we play our part and respect Controlled Area Notices (CAN) with restrictions on anchoring and fishing.
 - a. **Great Barrier Island CAN:** Anchoring prohibited on the western side of the Barrier except for within Port Fitzroy. [Map here](#). Line fishing from the shore, drift fishing from a vessel, hand gathering, spearfishing and shore based longlining are permitted in this area. More information [here](#).
 - b. **Great Mercury Island CAN:** Anchoring prohibited from Maunganui Point to Ahikopua Point. [Map here](#). Line fishing from the shore, drift fishing from a vessel, hand gathering, spearfishing and shore based longlining are permitted in this area. More information [here](#).
 - c. **Te Rawhiti Inlet CAN:** Anchoring prohibited from Whau Point to Tokatokahau Point. [Map here](#). Any form of fishing is banned within this area. More information [here](#).

MILKY FLESH SNAPPER UPDATE

2. NIWA and Fisheries NZ [released their findings](#) for the possible causes of milky fleshed snapper. The report concluded that a mix of complex climate factors are likely the cause behind milky fleshed snapper. While climate may have a role to play, the NZSFC are disappointed that there was no mention of overfishing of key food sources such as baitfish.
3. You can read LegaSeas opinion piece [here](#).

HAURAKI GULF MARINE PROTECTION BILL

4. The Environment Select Committee has unanimously agreed to support the [Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill](#) and recommended it be enacted this year. The Bill will establish 12 new high protection areas, five seafloor protection areas, and two extensions to marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf.
 - a. The NZSFC is disappointed with this outcome. Our [2023 submission](#) advocated for the Hauraki Gulf to be 100% protected from bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining. You can view the submission summary [here](#).

- b. LegaSea has discussed the implications of the Bill in an article published by Mahurangi Matters [here](#).

KINA DECISION

5. The Minister has approved an increase to the recreational daily bag limit of kina sea urchin along the north-eastern coast of the North Island including East Northland, the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty. The current bag limit is 50 per person per day and will be increased to 150 from 1 August 2024.
6. The [NZSFC submission](#) recommended:
 - a. A daily bag limit of 70 urchin on the basis that this is roughly the number of kina that will fit in an average dive bag.
 - b. Raised concerns that a bag limit set too high would lead to localised depletion in hotspot fishing areas.
7. The Minister has approved special permits for removal of kina from kina barrens.
 - a. [NZSFC submission](#) supported the introduction of permits.

SUBMISSIONS:

TWENTY STOCK REVIEWS

8. Fisheries NZ have proposed catch reviews for 20 different fish stocks across the North and South Island, majority of which recommend increases to the total allowable commercial catch (TACC). The deadline for submissions is 29 July 2024. NZSFCs expert fisheries management team will be developing submissions for at least 15 of the proposals, more if we have the resources.

EXTENDING MARINE FARM CONSENTS

9. On 16 June NZSFC opposed the proposed Amendment Bill to extend aquaculture marine farm consents by 20 years but no further than 2050.
10. While serving expediency & the economic purposes of the Resource Management Act (RMA), the proposed Bill does not reflect the social, environmental and cultural aspects, which are also pillars in the purpose & intent of the RMA.

HAURAKI GULF TEMPORARY CLOSURES

11. On 6 June NZSFC [submitted in support](#) of Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and Ngāti Tamaterā for 2-year temporary closures at three areas within the Hauraki Gulf. The temporary closure applies to Waiheke, Umupuia Beach, Te Mātā and Waipatukahu and prohibits the harvest of selected shellfish species, including rock lobster at Waiheke Island.

COROMANDEL EAST SCALLOP TEMPORARY CLOSURE

12. On 6 June NZSFC [submitted in support](#) of Ngāti Hei's application to apply a 2-year scallop closure in Coromandel East. Given that the application covers an area already closed to scallop harvesting under section 11 of the Fisheries Act, we're interested in how the Minister will respond. We will keep you informed.
13. We also recommended a survey and assessment of scallop abundance within the closure area if the Coromandel scallop beds are to re-open to harvest in the future.

READING MATERIAL:

Below are some of the latest articles published by LegaSea that address issues impacting our inshore fishery.

[Why are our snapper starving?](#)

[Small but mighty, where have our baitfish gone?](#)