



B24-0431

Tēnā koe,

Changes to the recreational daily limit for kina in FMA 1

I write to inform you of the decision I have made on the recreational daily limit for kina in FMA 1.

Kina barrens are a significant concern across parts of New Zealand (particularly in north-eastern New Zealand) where high densities of sea urchins can consume most, or all of the vegetation (kelp and other macroalgae) on a rocky reef. The result of this over-grazing by kina is not just a loss of kelp forests, but also the loss of coastal productivity and biodiversity.

I am taking an integrated approach to address kina barrens and recognise the need for urgent action. This integrated approach includes various measures aimed at restoring kelp forests, with this review of the recreational daily limit being just one element of a wide-ranging strategy.

While I am aware that the increased recreational daily limit in FMA 1 will not on its own resolve the kina barren issue, I believe it does have potential to mitigate the further formation of kina barrens in areas that are fished. It may also provide potential for smaller scale community management of kina barren areas without the need for permitting.

In making my decision, I have considered feedback and submissions received from tangata whenua and stakeholders on the initial proposals. I also considered final advice from Fisheries New Zealand, relevant legislative provisions, and my obligations under the Fisheries Act 1996. I would like to express my thanks to all those who provided their views on this fishery. Your feedback and submissions have been crucial in informing my decisions on its management.

Under the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013, 'kina' is defined as *Evechinus chloroticus* (New Zealand sea urchin) and *Centrostephanus rodgersii* (the long-spined urchin). Therefore, my decision on the recreational daily bag limit covers both of these species.

As there are no sustainability concerns for either sea urchin species in FMA 1, I have decided to increase the recreational daily limit from 50 kina per fisher to 150 kina per fisher. While it is unlikely that increasing the recreational daily bag limit will result in any sustainability issues, Fisheries New Zealand will continue to monitor the kina fisheries in FMA 1 and will consider adjusting the management measure if any concerns arise.

The new recreational daily limit will come into effect on 1 August 2024.

The decision document that informed my decision is available on the Fisheries New Zealand website here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-the-recreational-daily-kina-limit-in-fishery-management-area-1-the-east-coast-of-the-upper-north-island/>

The changes to the recreational daily limit for kina in FMA 1 will be published by *Gazette* Notice later in July 2024.

Nāku iti noa, nā,

(signed)

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries