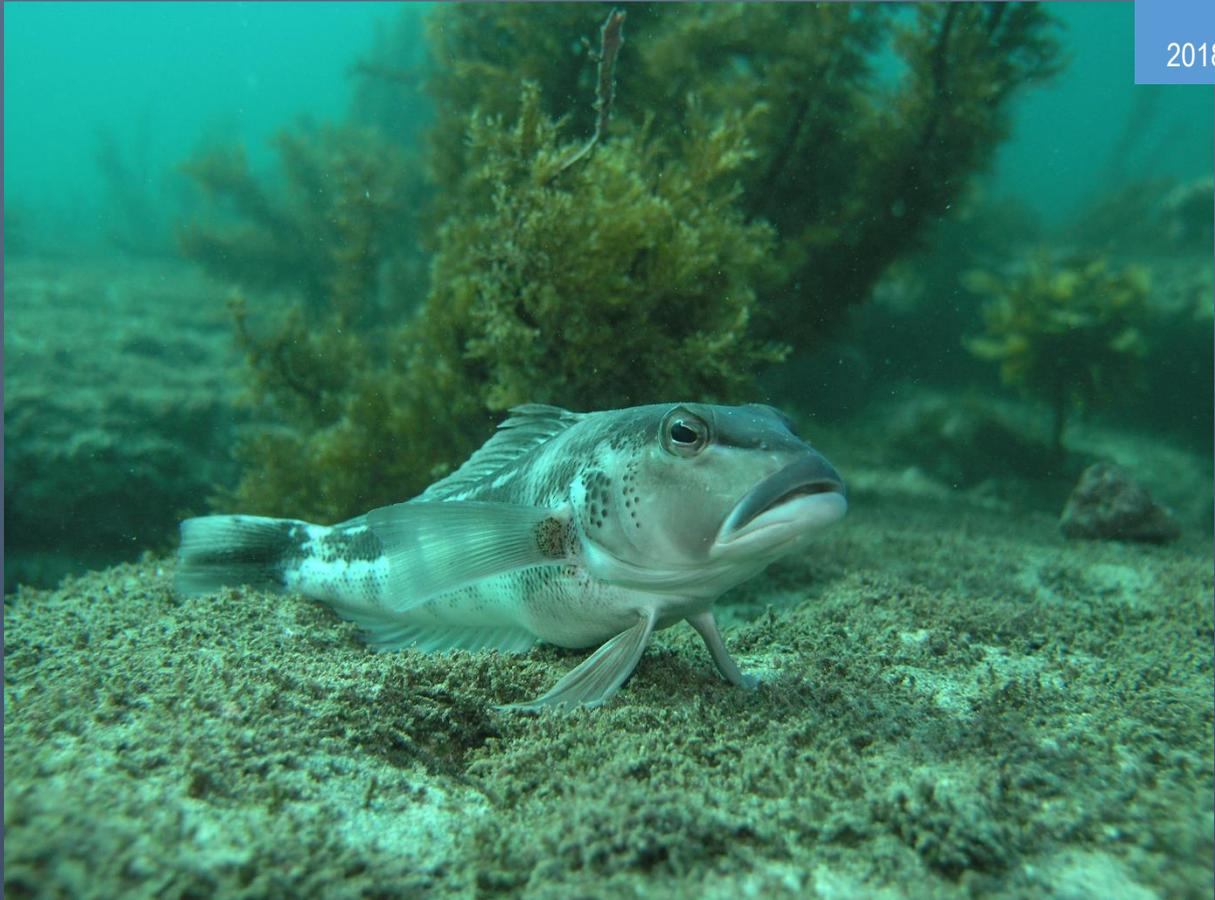


2018



National Blue Cod Strategy

WIDER ENGAGEMENT 2: SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Shared Sustainable
Fisheries for the Future

Introduction

In March – April 2018, Fisheries New Zealand held Wider Engagement 2 as part of the National Blue Cod Strategy engagement process (**Figure 1**). Fisheries New Zealand engaged with the public to discuss the problems identified in the results from Wider Engagement 1. Additionally, Fisheries New Zealand asked the public whether they agreed with the proposed options developed by the expert working group to address the issues identified during Wider Engagement 1. We held our third expert group meeting in April and are now in the process of finalising the strategy. An overview of the process is shown in **Figure 1**.



Shared Sustainable Fisheries for the Future

Figure 1. Development overview of the National Blue Cod Strategy

What did we do?

Over a four week period during Wider Engagement 2 (13 March to 13 April), Fisheries New Zealand sought feedback on the options proposed. We utilised a mix of social media, digital channels, fishing websites, recreational fishing mailing lists, local radio and local newspapers (**Figure 2**). People had the option to feedback on the proposed options via an online survey, or attending one of eight information sessions throughout the South Island and one in Mana, Wellington. These drop in sessions provided an opportunity for iwi, stakeholders and the public to come along and discuss the strategy and raise any concerns or other options.

This new, multi-channelled engagement approach was effective, with positive public reaction during the process.

In total, during Wider Engagement 2 there were:

- 4,257 visits to the National Blue Cod Strategy webpage (www.mpi.govt.nz/bluecod);
- 150 people attending the 9 information sessions;
- 1,182 responses to the second online survey from all over New Zealand (**Figure 3**);
- 783 views of the National Blue Cod Strategy YouTube video; and
- 49,707 people reached through social media advertising.

Fisheries New Zealand would like to thank everyone involved in both rounds of engagement, as their information, views and proposals have helped to shape the strategy. The feedback gathered during the engagement process has provided important insight into how people view the issues facing our blue cod fisheries and how best to address these.



Figure 2. A concept advert used during the advertising campaign for Wider Engagement 2.

Key Findings

In total, 88% of the 1,182 Online Survey responses were from recreational fishers. Of these respondents, 87% were from BCO3, BCO5 and BCO7 collectively, highlighting the importance of these blue cod fisheries to recreational fishers. The majority of commercial respondents were interested in BCO5 (48%), highlighting its importance as one of our larger blue cod commercial fisheries.

Overall, feedback gathered from both the online survey and the information sessions suggests the majority of stakeholders are in support of the objectives proposed in the strategy:

The key issues were identified as:

- slow decision making process, takes too long to get new regulations in place;
- lack of education around blue cod's unique biology and how to best fish for blue cod;
- current inconsistency in management approach to blue cod bag limits and the need to standardise certain regulations such as Minimum Legal Size (MLS) and pot mesh size;
- the need to address current bag limits - almost all survey respondents and people who attended the drop in sessions felt the current bag limits are too high and that we need to reduce these. There was a mix of views on what the limits should be throughout the different areas (**Figure 3**).
- environmental impacts on blue cod and possible habitat loss contributing to local depletion; and
- lack of recreational catch information and fine scale commercial data to help inform fisheries management decisions.

Proposed approaches to addressing these concerns had wide support. The key proposals are highlighted below.

- 86% of respondents agreed we need better recreational fishing information;
- 72% supported introducing universal regulations through the use of the traffic light system (refer to Wider Engagement 2 public drop in session posters at fisheries.govt.nz/bluecod)
- 88% of respondents believed information about responsible blue cod fishing should be the top priority for the proposed education campaign, and
- 83% of respondents agreed that decision making around blue cod management needs to be faster and more agile.

Some issues were more important in some areas, highlighting the specific stresses in each area. Both the national and regional results have provided valuable insight into the state of the blue cod fishery and the pressures in local areas. A full report detailing all of the results and feedback, both nationally and regionally can be found at fisheries.govt.nz/bluecod.

Topic	National	Rec Fish	Com Fishers	General Public	BCO1	BCO2	BCO3	BCO4	BCO5	BCO7	BCO8
Number of respondents	1182	1032	54	46	60	62	421	6	140	457	29
Support for better recreational fishing information	86%	86%	94%	83%	77%	79%	88%	100%	87%	88%	89%
Support for traffic light system use for bag limits	72%	73%	59%	70%	80%	63%	77%	84%	62%	71%	83%
Support for 15, 10, 5 traffic light system bag limit options	18%	19%	11%	7%	2%	4%	31%	0%	30%	7%	0%
Support for 12, 8, 3 traffic light system bag limit options	18%	19%	11%	13%	16%	25%	16%	0%	11%	22%	21%
Support for 10, 5, 2 traffic light system bag limit options	39%	37%	57%	60%	53%	47%	29%	83%	31%	47%	63%
Support for increased pot mesh size	85%	86%	68%	80%	78%	80%	86%	50%	93%	83%	96%
Support for increased Minimum Legal Size (MLS)	85%	74%	89%	90%	75%	86%	84%	82%	89%	85%	91%
Support for fine scale commercial reporting	90%	93%	52%	83%	91%	97%	91%	50%	71%	96%	96%
Support for more agile and faster management decisions	83%	82%	66%	78%	91%	88%	79%	100%	78%	84%	92%
Support for development of decision rules	78%	78%	78%	75%	69%	86%	75%	100%	76%	81%	88%
Support for setting allowances for all stocks	84%	82%	87%	92%	84%	83%	83%	100%	87%	80%	93%
Support for accumulation limit	64%	62%	80%	73%	62%	62%	62%	83%	65%	64%	76%
Support for no filleting at sea	55%	54%	64%	73%	73%	64%	49%	67%	42%	62%	71%
Support for seasonal and area closures	59%	60%	39%	73%	80%	58%	47%	83%	41%	73%	84%

Figure 3: Online survey rankings of combined “support” and “strongly support” answers for proposals. Green = lower percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Red/yellow = higher percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Rec Fishers = Recreational Fishers, Com Fishers = Commercial Fishers.

Topic	National	Rec Fishers	Com Fishers	General Public	BCO1	BCO2	BCO3	BCO4	BCO5	BCO7	BCO8
Number of respondents	977	871	42	27	45	48	361	6	117	376	24
Fishing responsibly	88%	88%	88%	89%	91%	94%	85%	100%	90%	89%	88%
Keep fishers up to date with health of stocks	85%	85%	83%	44%	84%	83%	83%	100%	85%	86%	92%
Keeping fishers informed of upcoming consultation and rule changes	84%	84%	81%	78%	89%	90%	82%	100%	85%	83%	63%
Information on how to avoid small fish	70%	69%	71%	74%	62%	69%	68%	83%	68%	74%	67%
Reducing mortality by promoting larger pot mesh size	60%	60%	50%	67%	58%	56%	58%	83%	60%	60%	75%
Reducing mortality by avoiding predation by seabirds	44%	43%	52%	37%	22%	31%	40%	50%	47%	50%	42%
Reducing mortality by using larger hooks	37%	49%	57%	59%	42%	46%	48%	67%	44%	56%	33%

Figure 4: Online survey rankings of combined “support” and “strongly support” for the proposed education campaign topics. Green = lower percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Red/yellow = higher percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Rec Fishers = Recreational Fishers, Com Fishers = Commercial Fishers.

Topic	National	Rec Fish	Com Fishers	General Public	BCO1	BCO2	BCO3	BCO4	BCO5	BCO7	BCO8
Number of respondents	1182	1032	54	46	60	62	421	6	140	457	29
Support for investigating recreational self-reporting	32%	31%	60%	23%	29%	32%	30%	67%	39%	33%	21%
Support for more boat ramp surveys in high use areas	51%	52%	19%	14%	56%	47%	56%	0%	46%	48%	59%
Support for increased frequency of the National Panel Survey	9%	9%	2%	57%	10%	11%	8%	17%	9%	8%	17%

Figure 5: Online survey rankings of combined “support” and “strongly support” for the proposed options for increasing recreational catch knowledge. Green = lower percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Red/yellow = higher percentage of respondents choosing “support” or “strongly support”. Rec Fishers = Recreational Fishers, Com Fishers = Commercial Fishers.

Expert Workshop III and finalisation of the Strategy

On 30 April 2018, Fisheries New Zealand held the third expert workshop in Dunedin (**Figure 1**). The results from Wider Engagement 2 were used to help guide the workshop to further developing options to achieve the aim and objectives of the strategy.

The proposed options are being worked into a final strategy. Once this is completed, Fisheries New Zealand will seek endorsement of the strategy from the Minister of Fisheries. If approved, further input from tangata whenua and consultation with stakeholders and the public will take place before any changes to regulatory rules, such as minimum legal size, bag limits or pot mesh size, are made.

Stay up to date on how you can continue to be involved with completion of the National Blue Cod Strategy at www.fisheries.govt.nz/bluecod