



NZ's Fishery Management Framework

The Fisheries Act 1996 & Spatial Management Tools

Inshore Fisheries Management

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand



www.mpi.govt.nz

Brief outline

1. Historical context – resources and management to date
2. Overview of current fishery management system
3. Fishery management tools and how they are used
4. Examples of some tools with spatial elements
5. Brief summary
6. Questions

Brief historical context – the past 1000 years

- Use of aquatic living resources important for centuries
- Customary management practices recognise localised depletion etc – limits to use exist
- Increasing population >> commercial fishing and trading
- Technical developments >> more efficient gear and powered vessels
- Export markets and incentives to expand
- Classical problems and treatments until 1980s –
 - Raft of 'input' controls >> vessel, gear, area, season
 - Access controls >> controlled fisheries, licence restrictions

The shift to a rights-based approach

- 1980s - Needed to find a better way to manage fisheries
- Allocation of 'individual harvest rights' to fisheries was designed to alleviate classical problems and foster incentives to look after the resources
- Individual transferable quota (ITQ) for deepwater in 1983
- ITQs expanded to include important inshore species from 1986
- Harvesting rights-based approach part of fisheries settlement under Treaty of Waitangi (1992)
- Now have 100 species groups in 638 stocks/units under ITQ management



Fisheries Management System: The Legal Framework

Fisheries Act 1996

- A *‘use statute’* – to *‘provide for the utilisation of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability’*
- Utilisation – to enable people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being (conserving, using, enhancing, developing)
- Sustainability – to meet future needs and avoid, remedy, mitigate adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment

Quota (ITQ) Management System

- Act enshrines the QMS as the preferred management system
- Can use other approaches (s 11 sustainability measures) if that would better provide for the purpose of the Act

A large school of blue fish, possibly blue tangs, swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed and moving in a coordinated manner, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a deep blue, suggesting an underwater environment.

Fisheries Management Tools

The main management tool

- Catch limits (output controls) to constrain harvest and other mortality to a level that will achieve sustainability outcomes
- Catch limits apply to a single management unit ~ biological population or stock
 - size of stock boundary (QMA) relates to biology and distribution – primary spatial unit
 - also cost-effective management and use >> bigger areas provide more flexibility/efficiency

Supporting management tools

- Sharing the resource by allocating to each sector; s 21 at discretion of Minister
- Taiapure-local fisheries and customary Maori fisheries - providing for customary food gathering and special relationships between tangata whenua and important places for food gathering; ss 175, 186 and associated regulations:
 - rohe moana, kaitiaki, mataitai reserves

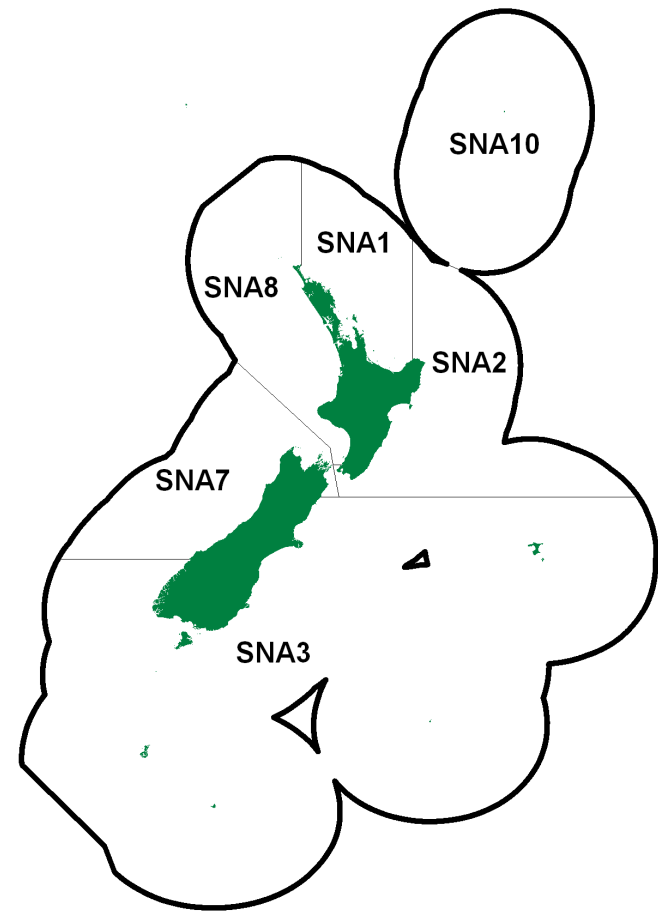
Supporting management tools continued

Supporting tools to constrain catch to allocated shares –

- Catch/effort reporting by commercial fishers
 - tracks fish from catch to market
- reporting of customary harvest
- Surveys to estimate recreational harvest
- Compliance activity and verification
 - observers, cameras, vessel movements, inspections, surveillance

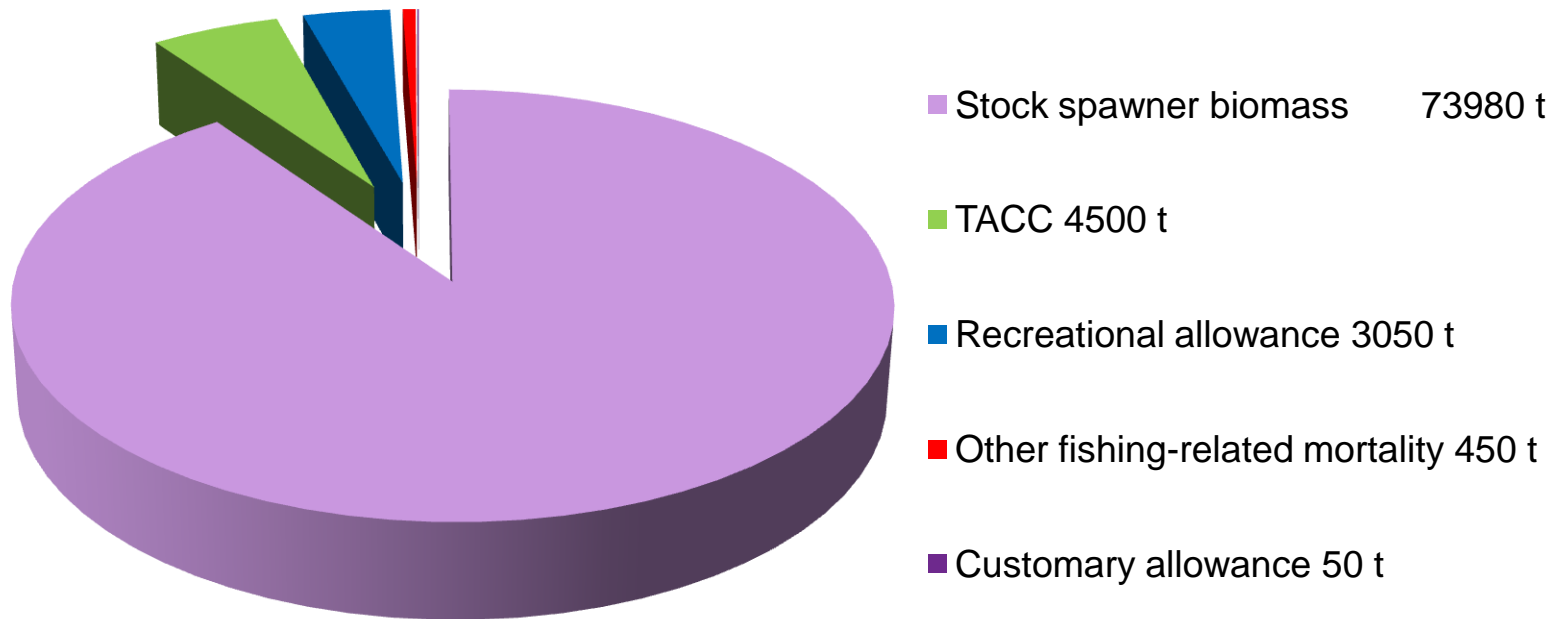
TAC, TACC, allowances for a Quota Management Area (QMA)

- TAC constrains total mortality from fishing:
 - TACC constrains commercial harvest
 - Allowances for customary, recreational, and other mortality from fishing
 - Daily bag and fish size limits to help constrain recreational catch to allowances



SNA 1 example - spawner biomass (2013), TAC, TACC, and allowances

TAC = 8050 t



Other fisheries management tools supporting the purpose of the Act

- General regulatory powers under s 297 to regulate or control fishing, processing, etc
- Regulatory powers under s 298 to implement sustainability measures
- Address inter-sector conflicts and disputes s 311
- Fishing-related mortality limits s 15
- Emergency measures s 16

General regulatory powers under s 297

Managing fisheries by regulating –

- any stock or species
- any area
- any period
- size and bag limits
- disposal conditions
- return/release conditions
- fishing gear, methods, and vessels



Regulatory powers under s 298

- Managing fisheries by implementing or varying –
- any sustainability measure made under s 11
 - Catch limit for a stock not in the QMS
 - Size, sex, biological state of any species taken
 - Areas from which species or stock may be taken
 - Fishing methods that may be used for any species or stock and in any area
 - Fishing season for any species or stock and in any area
 - Implement the above also via *Gazette* Notice

An underwater photograph showing several fish swimming over a dense bed of green seaweed. The water is a clear, light blue-green color. The fish are of various species, including what appear to be snappers or similar coastal fish. The text "Examples of management tools with a sub-QMA spatial element" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

Examples of management tools with a sub-QMA spatial element

Gear controls

- Mesh size 125 mm within 100 m depth
- Set net length < 1000 m

Seasonal controls

1 October to 31 March –

- No trawl or Danish seine within 1 nm off Pakiri Beach
- Inner harbour commercial finfish restriction (exceptions are mullet, flatfish, baitfish, eels & method controls)

Method closures & vessel restrictions

- No trawling – single, pair, vessel length
- No Danish seining – single, pair, vessel
- No set netting – net length, net spacing
- No use of box, teichi, purse seine, or lampara nets
- No dredging (scallops)

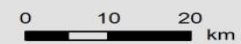
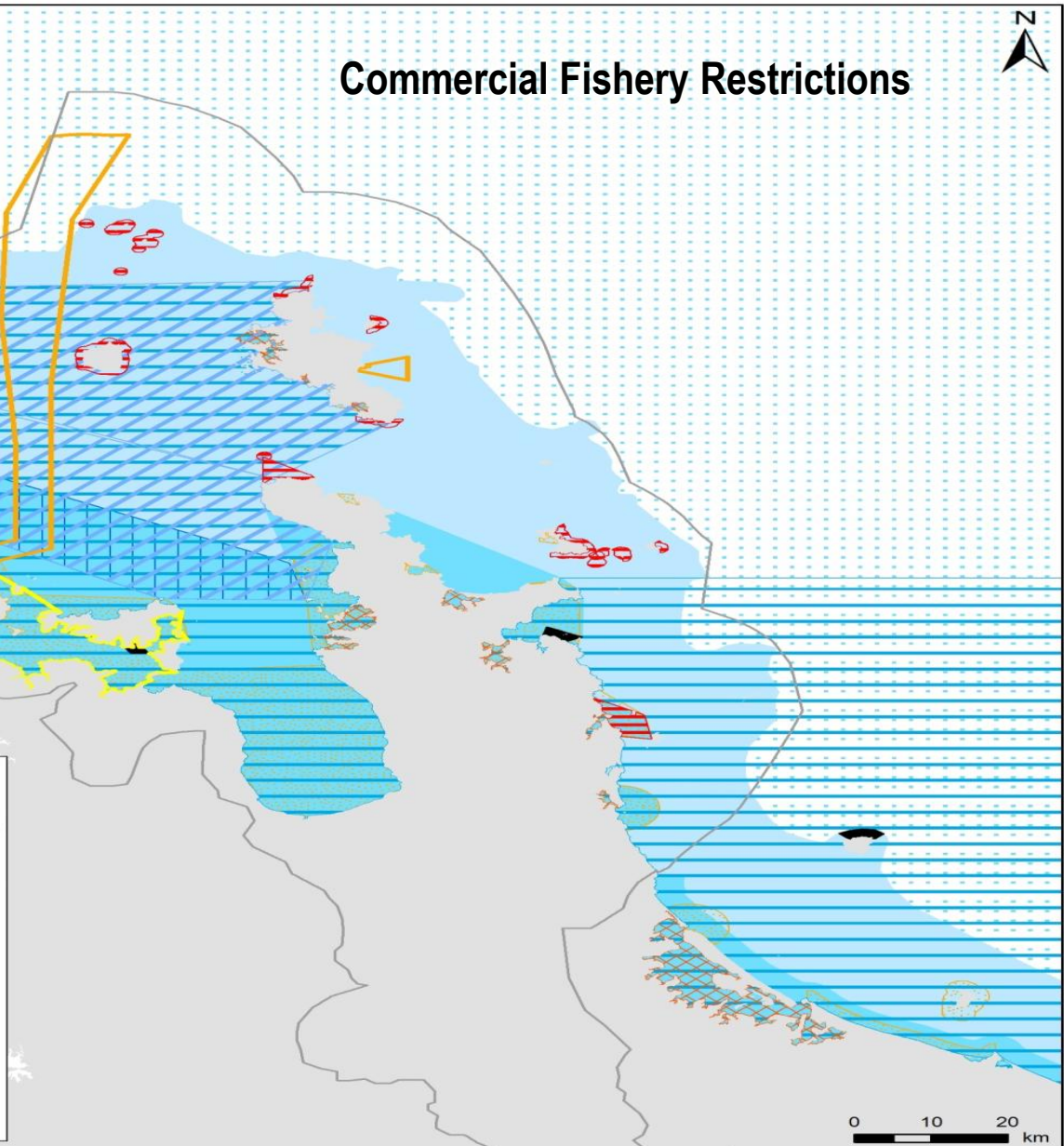
Some specific examples of area measures

- to –
 - control adverse effects of fishing:
 - set net closure in Tamaki River estuary to protect shags
 - address conflicts and support allowances:
 - Recreational-only scallop areas
 - Inner Waitemata finfish seasonal closure
 - protect habitats of significance:
 - Nearshore and harbour closures to bottom-contacting methods

Commercial Fishery Restrictions



- Marine Reserve
- No use of trawl or Danish seine net (seasonal)
- Danish seine allowed if not towed by more than 1 vessel
- No use of trawl or Danish seine net if the vessel is larger than 20m in length
- No use of trawl or Danish seine net if towed by more than 1 vessel
- No use of trawl net if vessel is larger than 46m in length
- No use of trawl or Danish seine net
- No use of any trawl net <125mm in the cod end for taking fish
- No take of scallops
- Temporary closure
- No use of box, teichi, purse seine, Danish seine, trawl, lampara or set net > 1000m No set net within 60m of any other net
- No use of set net
- Submarine cable and pipeline closure
- No take of finfish 1 October to 31 March
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



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Selected Restrictions in HGMP

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Overview Map



Summary

- Provide for use & ensure sustainability
- At scale of QMAs, stocks
- Catch limits are the main tool
- Supporting tools to –
 - share
 - help control
 - ensure sustainability
 - address adverse effects



Questions...?