

Recreational Fishing

South-East Fishery Management Area

This brochure is a guide to the recreational fishing rules for the South-East Fishery Management Area (FMA). The South-East FMA includes the South Island East Coast waters lying between Clarence Point, Kaikōura, Slope Point and Southland. Within the South-East FMA there are areas with additional rules and restrictions. These include the Akaroa Taiāpure, the East Otago Taiāpure and the Kaikōura Marine Area. For full details of the rules go to fisheries.govt.nz/rules.

Why Recreational Fishing Rules Matter

Fishing is one of New Zealand's most popular outdoor activities. Recreational fishers (anyone fishing non-commercially or customarily) take large numbers of finfish and shellfish every year. To keep the fisheries sustainable Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) 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);
- accumulation limits (how many fish you can keep over a period of more than one day);
- 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 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.

FNZ 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.

Fishing sustainably

Good fish handling

Correctly handling and releasing unwanted or unlawful catch can increase their chances of surviving. When handling and releasing fish, remember:

- use wet hands (towel 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, FNZ has a 'Responsible Fishing Guidelines' booklet available online or through our offices.

Looking after seabirds

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.

新西兰捕鱼条例

如果您要在新西兰垂钓或捕获海产品，您需要了解新西兰捕鱼条例。如果您不懂英文，请寻求他人帮助。

条例涵盖：允许捕获的类型及尺寸，允许捕获的位置，以及允许捕获的数量。

条例规定您不能将捕获的海产品进行贩卖或者交易，从而获得任何经济收入或者收益。

若违反条例，将面临被起诉、罚款并没收渔具。请您严格遵守法律，做有责任感的捕鱼者，这样才能确保我们现在、未来、世世代代有鱼可捕。

뉴질랜드의 낚시 규정

뉴질랜드에서 낚시를 하거나 해산물을 채취할 경우 반드시 뉴질랜드 낚시 규정을 숙지하고 있어야 합니다. 만약 규정 안내판의 영어를 읽지 못할 경우 번역이 가능한 사람에게 부탁 하십시오.

규정 내용: 낚시 또는 채취 가능한 물고기의 종류 및 크기, 낚시 가능

장소, 채취 가능한 물고기의 수.

채취한 해산물을 상업 및 이윤 취득의 목적으로 판매 또는 거래하는 것은 불법입니다.

본 규정을 위반할 경우 기소, 벌금 또는 재산 압류 등의 결과를 초래할 수 있습니다.

본인 책임하에 낚시 규정을 반드시 준수하여 다음 세대 어류가 정상적으로 성장할 수 있도록 해 주십시오.

Tulafono mo Fagotaga i Niu Sila

Afai o e fagotaina po'o e aoina foi figota o le sami e tatau ona e silafia tulafono nei mo fagotaga i Niu Sila. Afai e le mafai ona e faita'uina i le Gagana Peretania faamolemole faafesoota'i se tasi e mafai ona ia faaliliuina mo oe.

O tulafono e aofia ai: le ituaiga ma le lapo'a o i'a e mafai ona e taofiina, o fea e mafai ona e fagota ai, ma le aofa'i o i'a e mafai ona e taofia.

E matua'i faasaina faaletulafono lou faatauina atu o i'a mo ni tupe maua po o se polofiti.

O le le usita'ia mai o tulafono nei e o'o ina molia ai oe, sala tupe ma aveesea faamalosi au mea totino. O le tausisi i tulafono ma fagota ma le faautauta lelei, e fesoasoani lea i le faamautuina o i'a mo le aso, taeao ma autupulaga o le lumana'i.

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'u. Ko e tauhi 'o e lao mo e toutai fakapotopoto, 'e tokoni ia ki hono fakapapai'i 'e ma'u

Finfish

Daily limits and size restrictions

In the South-East FMA (North) there is a **combined maximum daily bag limit of 30* for finfish**** (excluding specified baitfish and freshwater eels). Individual species limits within this combined daily bag limit must also not be exceeded.

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

*In the Akaroa Harbour Taiāpure a person must not, on any day, take or possess more than 10 finfish (combined daily limit for finfish).

**Finfish includes all species of finfish of the classes Agnatha, Chondrichthyes, and Osteichthyes, at any stage of their life history, whether living or dead.

Individual species daily limits within the combined daily limit

Finfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher	Min fish length (cm)
Blue cod Kaikōura – Clarence River to Hurunui River	Refer to the Kaikōura marine area pamphlet	
Blue cod Canterbury – Hurunui River to Rakaia River	2 including in the Akaroa Taiāpire	33 landed whole or gutted only
Blue moki	15††	40
Bluenose	5	–
Blue shark	1	–
Bronze shark	1	–
Butterfish/Greenbone	15††	35
Elephant fish	5	–
Groper (Hāpuku)/Bass	Combined daily limit of a total of 5, with no more than 3 kingfish	–
Kingfish		75
Hammerhead shark	1	–
Kahawai	15	–
Mako shark	1	–
Marlin	1	–
Porbeagle shark	1	–
Quinnat salmon	1	–
Red cod	10††	25
Red moki	15	40
Rig	5	–
School shark	5	–
Seven gilled shark	1	–
Skate/Ray	5	–
Snapper	10	25

Finfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher	Min fish length (cm)
Spiny dogfish	15	–
Southern bluefin tuna	1	–
Tarakihi	15	25
Thresher shark	1	–
Trumpeter	15††	35
Warehou	15	–
All Finfish, inclusive of the individual species limits listed and species not listed above	–	30

† Where permitted, blue cod headed state minimum length is 24cm and is measured from the base of the side pectoral fin to the middle ray of the tail fin.

†† A daily limit of three applies to these species and sea perch within the Akaroa harbour Taiāpure.

Further size limits for finfish within the combined daily limit

Finfish Species	Min fish length (cm)	Min net mesh size (mm)
Flatfish (except Sand flounder)	25	100
Grey mullet	–	90
Red gurnard	25	100
Sand flounder	23	100
Trevally	25	100
All other finfish	–	100

In addition, you may also take the following:

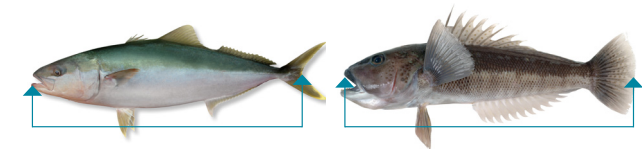
Baitfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher
Anchovy	Daily limit of 50 for any combination of these species
Jack/Horse/Chilean mackerel	
Koheru/Scad	
Pilchard	
Piper/Garfish	
Slender/Stout sprat	
Yellow-eyed mullet	

And

Finfish Species	Max daily limit per active fisher	Min mesh size (mm)
Eel	6	12

Measuring finfish

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



Protection of white pointer shark and spotted black groper

No person may take or possess any white pointer shark or spotted black groper.

Quinnat salmon restrictions

When fishing for quinnat salmon, fishers:

- salmon must be taken by rod and line only;
- must only be in possession of, or have control over, one assembled rod and running line;
- must not use a rod and running line to take quinnat salmon unless that person is within 15 metres of the rod and has the rod under visual observation;
- may use another rod and running line to jig for sprat or other baitfish, so long as any salmon taken on that rod and running line is returned to the water immediately;
- the taking or possession of salmon by using a spear gun or a net is prohibited.

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;
- 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. A phone number is also useful.

Netting restrictions

Net fishing includes set, fyke drag and other nets. In areas where netting is permitted restrictions apply to the number of nets that may be used or carried on a boat, the length of nets, spacing between nets, net mesh sizes and how the nets are used. Details on the rules for netting can be found on the FNZ website at www.fisheries.govt.nz

Shellfish

Daily bag limits and size restrictions

Shellfish are taken when they cannot freely return to the water e.g. placed into a catch bag or similar. At no time while gathering may you be in possession of more than your daily limit.

The South-East FMA limits for taking and possessing shellfish are listed below.

Shellfish Species	Daily limit per fisher	Minimum size (mm)
Cockle	150	none
Kina (sea eggs)	50	none
Mussels	50	none
Oysters – Dredge^+	50	58
Pāua – Ordinary (PAU3 & PAU7 area)*	5	125
– Yellow foot (PAU3 & PAU7 area)*	5	80
Pipi	150	none
Scallops+	20	100
Tuatua	150	none
All others (combined) •	50	none

*/** See closed and restricted areas to view maps.

^ Hand gathering dredge oysters: Within the South-East FMA there is no restriction on either size or season for dredge oysters taken by hand-gathering (includes shore picking and free diving but does not include diving using underwater breathing apparatus). During the open season dredge oysters can be harvested by dredge and the use of UBA. Both the daily limit and minimum size of 58mm applies.

+ Limited provision allows a diver on a vessel to gather extra bag limits of oysters and scallops for up to two other people acting in a dive safety capacity.

• 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, barnacles and freshwater crayfish (koura).

Land shellfish in a measureable state

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

Dredge oysters and scallops may be opened for immediate consumption onboard the vessel. Any scallops and dredge oysters eaten form part of your daily limit. Any scallops and dredge oysters not eaten must be landed in the shell.

Pāua accumulation limits

When daily limits are accumulated the maximum number or amount of pāua that one person can have in their possession at any one time for the PAU3* (Canterbury) and PAU7* (Nelson/Marlborough) area:

- 10 pāua (both 10 ordinary and 10 yellowfoot species allowed) or;
- 1.25kgs of minced pāua;
- this possession limit applies everywhere, including in the home.

*See closed and restricted section to view map.

Measuring shellfish

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

Scallops: measure the greatest diameter of the shell.

Dredge Oysters: must not pass through a rigid circular metal ring with an inside diameter of 58mm.



Pāua minimum size 125mm



Scallop minimum size 100mm

Underwater breathing apparatus (UBA)

- No person may take pāua using UBA.
- No person may be in possession of pāua while in possession of UBA. This includes possession in or on any vessel or vehicle.

Open seasons

- **Dredge Oysters:** open season is 1 March to 31 August inclusive.
- **Scallops:** 15 July to 14 February inclusive.

Protection of Coral

No person may take or possess any black coral or red coral.

Potting

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 – see 'Rock Lobster';
- 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;
- blue cod pot minimum mesh size 54mm.

Rock lobster

Daily bag limits

No person may take or possess more than six rock lobster (both species combined) on any one day. Rock lobster may not be possessed seaward of the high water mark in an unmeasurable state.

Rock lobster accumulation limits

When rock lobster are accumulated over multiple days (adhering to the daily limits), the maximum number of rock lobster that a recreational fisher can have in their possession is three daily bag limits or 18 lobster. Your catch is to be stored adhering to the bag and tag conditions below.

Bag and tag conditions apply

A single day's catch not exceeding the daily limit must be stored in a clearly labelled bag or container marked with the following:

- fisher's full name;
- date taken;
- number held in the bag or container.

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.

What is the telson clipping rule?

The telson is the central part of the tail fan on a rock lobster.

Telson clipping is a way of marking spiny rock lobster to make it clear that they have been recreationally caught. One-third of the telson is cut off so that it is noticeably shorter than the other sections of the tail fan. (See the picture for an example).

Under the new rules, once a fisher has checked that a lobster is legal size, condition and not subject to any other protections (i.e. carrying eggs) they must immediately cut one-third off the telson.

A person must not possess any spiny rock lobster taken from within the South-East Fisheries Management Area if it has not had one-third of the telson cut off.

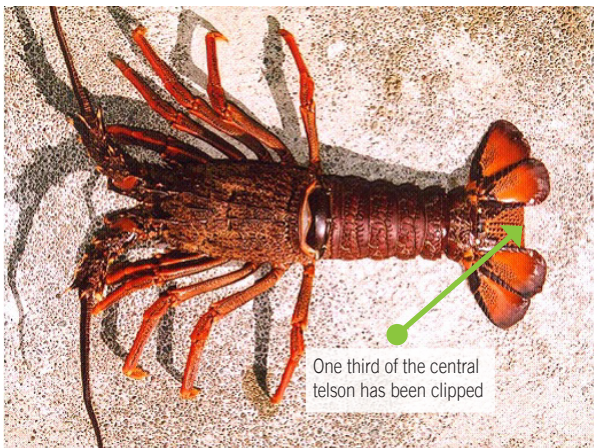


Photo: Professional Skipper magazine

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 lobsters carrying external eggs (in berry) – these are 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

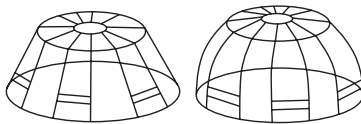
In areas where rock lobster may be gathered, the following restrictions apply:

- 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.

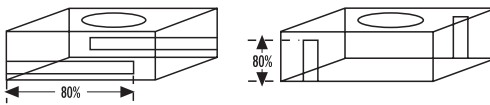
Rock lobster pots

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 x 200mm.

Round or beehive pots: must have at least 3 escape gaps (other than the mouth).



Square or rectangular pots: must have at least two 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 contained.



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 two opposite sides.

Closed and Restricted Areas

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 in the South-East FMA are listed below. However, these are only a guide. Check for local restrictions and recent closures by using our free information services provided in this brochure.

General Restricted Areas

Map 1: Rapaki Mātaitai Reserve: Fishing and seafood gathering restrictions in place contact the Rapaki Marae Ph (03) 339 3662 or use our free information services provided in this brochure.

Map 2: Port Levy Mātaitai Reserve: Cockles can only be taken from within the reserve on any Saturday or Sunday during the month of September. Only cockles can be taken by each person gathering and you must be in possession of a gathering PERMIT from the local Kaitiaki.

Map 3: Akaroa Taiāpure (blue area): There are reduced bag limits for many fish and shellfish species within this area. Please use our free information services for further information.

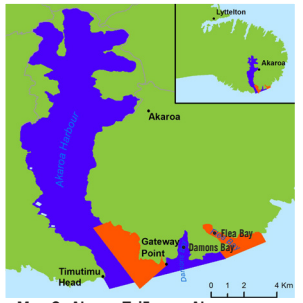
Map 4: Whakaraupo Mātaitai: There are reduced bag limits for many fish and shellfish species and the taking of certain species are also prohibited. Please use our free information services for further information.



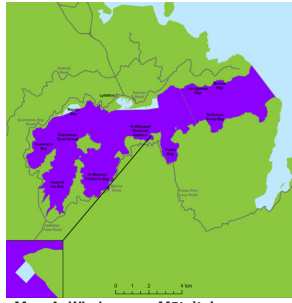
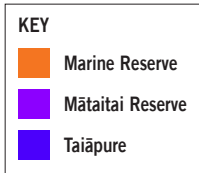
Map 1: Rapaki Mātaitai Reserve



Map 2: Port Levy Mātaitai Reserve



Map 3: Akaroa Taiāpure, Akaroa Marine Reserve, Flea Bay (Pohatu) Marine Reserve



Map 4: Whakaraupo Mātaitai

Closed Areas

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

Map 3: Flea Bay (Pohatu) Marine Reserve: (orange area) no take area.

Map 3: Akaroa Marine Reserve: (orange area) no take area.

Set Net Restricted Areas

Set netting is prohibited along the East Coast of the South Island out to a distance of 4 nautical miles. There are a number of exemptions and extensions from the prohibition.

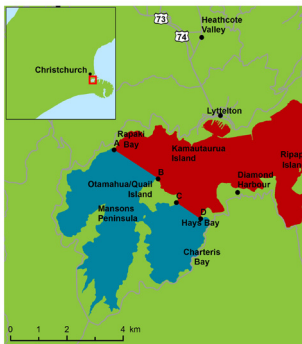
East coast recreational set-net closure extensions.

From just south of Timaru to Banks Peninsula set netting is prohibited offshore to the Territorial Sea boundary, and north of Banks Peninsula to a point south west of Motunau beach approximately 19 nautical miles offshore.

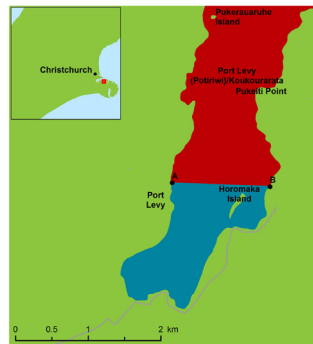


Map 5: Set net closures

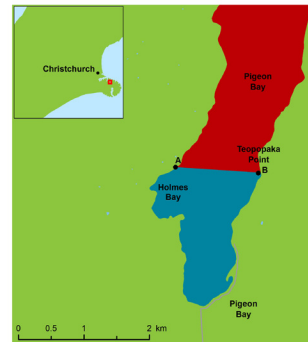
- Set netting for flounder* is permitted between 1 April and 30 September in the following Lyttelton Harbour, Port Levy, Pidgeon Bay, Akaroa Harbour (see maps 6–9). *A Flatfish set net is a net that:
 - is equal to or less than nine meshes deep;
 - has a monofilament diameter equal to or less than 0.35mm;
 - has a mesh size equal to or greater than 100mm;
 - is anchored at each end;
 - does not exceed a total length of 60m.
- Set netting is still permitted in estuaries, rivers, lagoons, and inlets except for the Avon Heathcote Estuary.



Map 6: Lyttelton Harbour



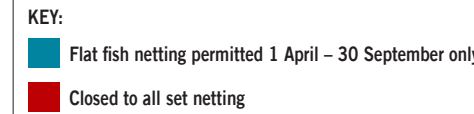
Map 7: Port Levy



Map 8: Pigeon Bay



Map 9: Akaroa Harbour



Map 10: North Canterbury: Restrictions apply for set netting in the Kaipoi and Waimakariri rivers from 1 February – 30 April.

Lake Ellesmere: No person shall use any net for the taking of finfish in the waters of Lake Ellesmere lying within an arc of a circle having a radius of 1.2km around the centre of the mouth of: The Iwell River, Harts Creek, The Selwyn River, No two Drain, The Halswell River. The points where the circular arc meets the shore of the lake being indicated in each case by posts painted with alternate black and yellow bands.



Map 10: Netting in North Canterbury

Poacher Prevention

Fisheries New Zealand's Compliance Team is responsible for protecting local fisheries and stopping illegal activities such as poaching.

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 South-East North 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 app:

Download our free NZ fishing rules app by scanning the QR code or visiting the app store. The app works even when you have no coverage.



Other services

- Free text the name of the species you are fishing for (e.g. snapper) to **9889** and receive a text with the legal size and bag limit.
- Visit www.fisheries.govt.nz/rules
- Email recreationalfisheries@mpi.govt.nz to subscribe to fishing related updates in your area.
- Follow us on Facebook



MPI Fisheries – Northland
MPI Fisheries – East Cape/Bay of Plenty
MPI Fisheries – Nelson/Marlborough/Kaikōura
MPI Fisheries – Canterbury/Westland
MPI Fisheries – Otago/Southland

Contact us **0800 00 83 33**

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



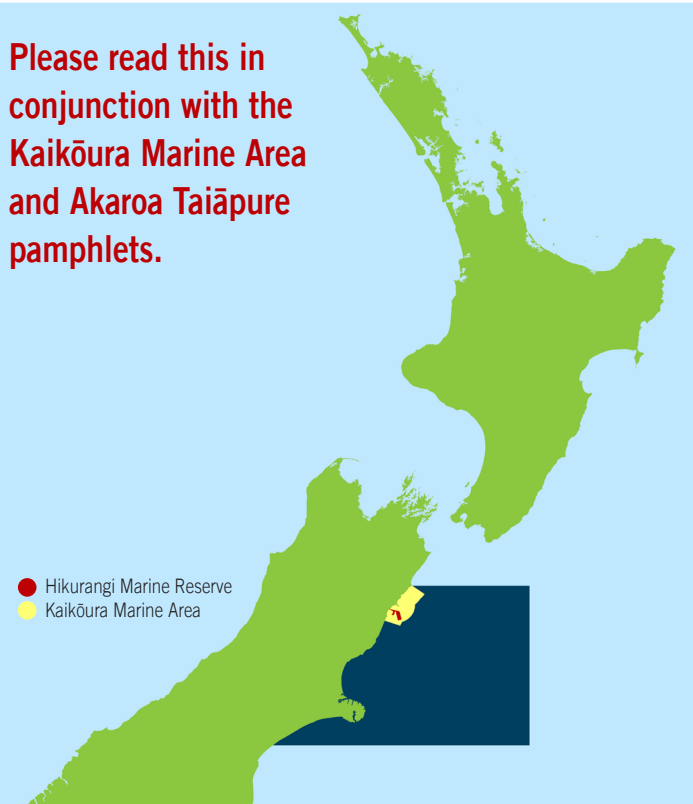
Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Recreational Fishing Rules

SOUTH-EAST (North) (North of the Rangitata river)

Effective from: December 2023 (subject to change without notice).

Please read this in conjunction with the Kaikōura Marine Area and Akaroa Taiāpure pamphlets.



WANT THE RULES ON YOUR PHONE?

Use our free-text service.

Download our free smartphone app.

Check the back of the brochure for details.



Shared Sustainable Fisheries for the Future