

Minimum sizes

Lobster species	Tail width measurement
Red or spiny rock lobster	Male – 54mm Female – 60mm
Packhorse rock lobster	Male – 84mm Female – 90mm

If you are unsure of the sex, use the female (larger), measurement.

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). Specific exemptions apply for very large rock lobster with damaged tails – for more information go to www.fisheries.govt.nz/rock-lobster

General restrictions

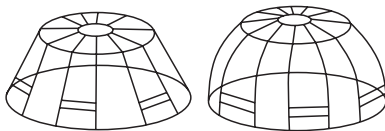
In areas where rock lobster may be gathered, the following restrictions apply:

- 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;
- spears or devices which could puncture the shell must not be used when taking rock lobster. Possessing any rock lobster which has been speared is an offence;
- external eggs or the egg-bearing appendages must not be removed from any rock lobster.

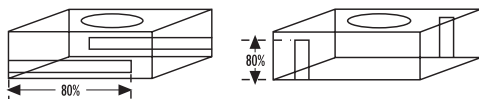
Rock lobster pots

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 three 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.

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 above;
- species specific pots (eg: cod pots, crab pots etc) can be used but may have specific requirements (eg: cod pot mesh size) as well as pot and float marking.

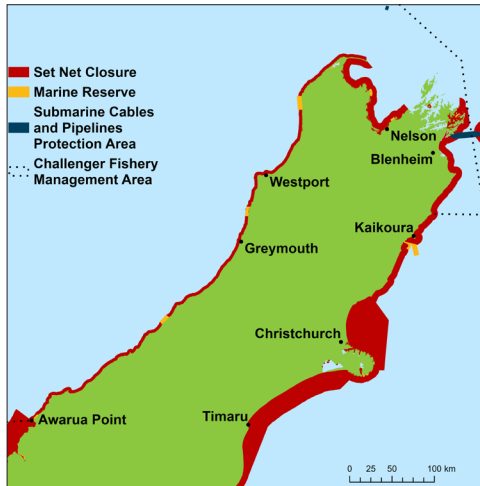
Closed and restricted areas

Restricted areas

Restricted areas are areas where the use of particular fishing methods is restricted or where catch limits may be different, or taking some species prohibited. Some restricted areas in the Challenger FMA (West area) are listed below. These are only a guide. Check for local restrictions and recent closures by contacting your nearest FNZ office and the Department of Conservation (DOC) for marine reserves (where fishing is prohibited).

Set net restrictions

Map 1: Set netting is totally prohibited on the West Coast from Farewell Spit to Awarua Point. The prohibited area extends from the shore out to two nautical miles. Check the regulations for coordinates. Set netting is permitted in most estuaries, rivers, lagoons. Check the regulations or FNZ website for set net rules.

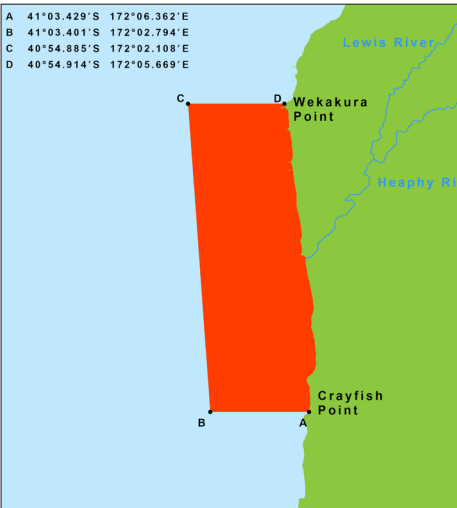


Map 1: Set net closed area

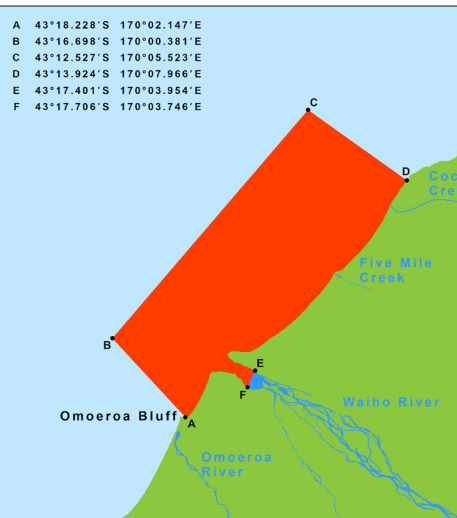
Closed areas

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

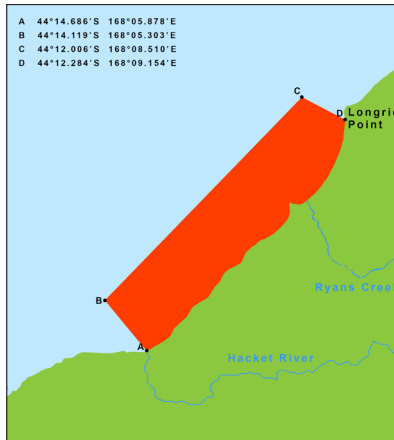
Marine reserves



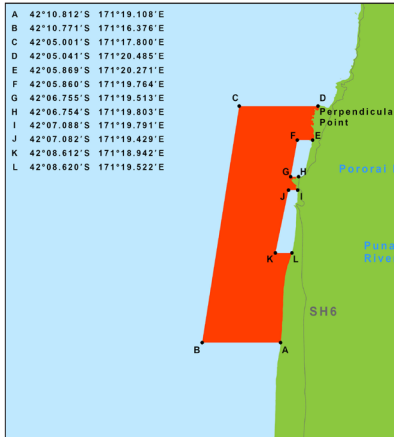
Kahurangi



Waiau Glacier Coast



Hautai



Punakaiki



Tauparikaka

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 Challenger Fishery Management Area (West area). 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. "kahawai" or "kina") 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

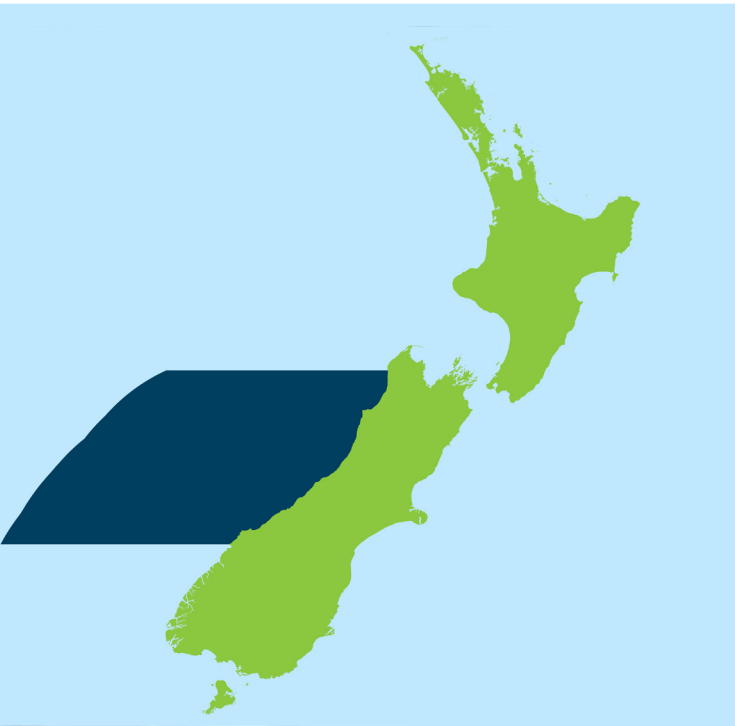
Tini a Tangaroa

Recreational Fishing Rules

CHALLENGER

(West area)

Effective from: December 2024 (subject to change without notice).



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Shared Sustainable Fisheries for the Future