



NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL LTD

Ka whakapai te kai o te moana

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Making a submission on the Fisheries Amendment Bill

The New Zealand Parliament is currently considering amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996. There is a lot of interest in the Bill, including those who oppose the Bill. It is important that politicians understand there is broad support for the Bill and that it contains meaningful improvement to the Act that will support better fisheries management for all sectors.

Why submit on the Bill ?

The Bill, overall makes some important improvement to the Fisheries Act by:

- Improving the tools available to manage fisheries,
- Making better use of information
- Recognising the industry's role in management
- Enabling a more cost-effective approach

The proposals do not lower sustainability standards, preclude consultation, undermine the QMS or Treaty settlement obligations.

How to make a submission

Submissions must be made through Parliament's website.

[Click here to make a submission on the Fisheries Amendment Bill \(will open in a new tab\).](#)

Decide if you wish to appear in person and make an oral submission to the Select Committee. You are not required to appear in person. Not everyone who ticks 'yes' will be selected to speak. At this stage only 2 hearing days have been allocated. NZ RLIC will be working with other SREs to coordinate on making the best use of speaking slots allocated. We can offer support for anyone appearing in front of the Committee if that would be helpful.

You can make a submission in support of the Bill by either uploading your own submission as a document or by filling out the online submission form.

Your voice and submission are important so please submit before 11:59pm Wednesday 29 April 2026.

Guide to writing your submission

This is your chance to tell the Select Committee why you support this Bill.

There is some material below that you could use in a submission.

It is useful to provide some information about yourself including where you fit in the industry, the region you fish, how the proposals affect you, the benefit you provide to your region/community and why involvement in the rock lobster sector is important to you.

The Bill will introduce important improvements and address issues with the operation of the Fisheries Act.

- The Fisheries Act provide a solid foundation for fisheries management in New Zealand. However, the proposals in the Bill will enhance the tool set available to deliver benefits for the management of stocks and therefore to all sectors. The additional mechanisms enable more responsive and timely management and increase the number of stocks that can be reviewed annually.
- Because the provisions also enable careful planning around future decisions, they support investment in research and monitoring because of clearer links between science and evidence and management decisions. These improvements increase the certainty around how stocks are managed.
- Management of the rock lobster fishery is driven by science. Most of the information that informs that science is generated by vessel operators collecting information through an extensive log book program and by independent technicians funded by the industry deployed on commercial vessels. Industry is closely involved in research and management and has made extensive use of management procedures and industry generated management initiatives such as shelving. The Bill recognises the value of these measures and provides for the implementation of appropriate reporting and monitoring requirements. The Bill promotes efficiency by improving the use of the data and information being collected. The improvements to the tools available under the Act are therefore central to better management of the rock lobster fishery, for the benefit of all sectors.
- Where adverse events or exceptional circumstances, unrelated to sustainability of harvest, prevent ACE being taken, the new provisions will allow for a greater level of unused catch entitlements to be carried over into the next fishing year based on application by owners of 75% of quota shares in a stock. This would not allow a greater amount of catch to be taken overall, but adjusts the timeframe over which the sustainability limit can be taken. This provision would be very important to reduce economic loss in circumstances such as the current fuel crisis, transient biotoxins events that prevent harvest, or temporary market conditions that thwart sale of product for an economic return.
- Although the Fisheries Act remains a very good statute by world standards, after 30 years of operation, it is evident that changes and revisions would improve its performance and benefit the management of fisheries. For example, changes to the front end of the Act would ensure

the most effective and targeted measure is able to be applied to address the issue of concern. The TAC and TACC are primarily directed at managing stock abundance. Decisions on TACs must take into account factors including effect on other stocks, the interaction between stocks and environmental conditions affecting the stock. The provisions will also better recognise the different levels of information available on a stock and enable the more regular revision of TACs to address sustainability and provide for use. Using more direct mechanism to address sub QMA and adverse effect issues will be more effective, targeted and pose lower cost overall.

- There has been considerable comment on the Act, some of it misinformed. Examination of the proposals shows that they will maintain and build on the current protections and safeguards in the Act to ensure sustainability of harvest and address any adverse effects of fishing. Despite concern about consultation, the new provisions support better planning for stock management over multiple years while ensuring the full participation of stakeholders in establishing those frameworks.

Conclude by making a recommendation, e.g.

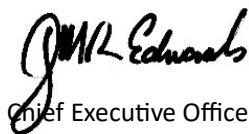
I support this Bill and ask the Select Committee to recommend this Bill be passed with the amendments as suggested by the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

NZ RLIC supports the Bill's proposals as important enhancements to the Act. There are improvement that can be made to adjust some of the provisions in the Bill. NZ RLIC will provide a detailed submission setting out those adjustments. That submission will be available on our website <https://nzrocklobster.co.nz/>. We will focus on those proposals that are relevant to and important to the rock lobster sector. If you have particular questions or issues – please feel welcome to get in touch with me.

But overall, it is important that politicians, and particularly the Select Committee, understand that there is broad support for the proposals and that they will improve the management of the rock lobster fisheries.

Best regards

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council


Chief Executive Officer