

NZ RLIC  
2016-17 Business Plan  
And  
CRA Commodity Levy

Notice to  
CRA Quota Share Owners

The Fishery First.  
From Abundance All  
Benefits Flow.

# CONTENTS

---

2016-17 NZ RLIC Business Plan .....	4
Our Mission .....	5
Funding .....	6
Our Vision .....	6
Our Role .....	6
Confidence to Invest - Protecting a Productive Asset Base .....	7
Protecting and Enhancing Access and Utilisation .....	8
Co-operative User Group Management .....	9
Rock Lobster Fisheries Research .....	10
Data Collection and Management .....	11
Adding Value In Markets .....	12
Contact Details .....	12
The Proposed 2016-17 Budget .....	13
Notes to the Proposed 2016-17 Budget .....	14

# 2016/17 NZ RLIC BUSINESS PLAN

---

The NZRLIC will move into 2016/17 off the back of another successful period of rock lobster fisheries research and management.

---

In the current business year the NZ RLIC has completed an internal organisational review and progressed succession planning at management level and of our science capacity. A senior managerial appointment is confirmed, one which will enhance both the capacity and the capability of the NZ RLIC Head Office. New personnel have been co-opted to the science team and the rollover of a multi-year stock monitoring and stock assessment contract with the Ministry for Primary Industries provides sufficient job security for the team members. The current contingent of sub-contracted stock assessment scientists is committed through to early 2019. A new researcher joins the established group in September 2017.

Despite various outbreaks of unfavourable publicity and very poorly informed criticisms of the fisheries management regime generally and the fishing industry in particular, the facts are that as the current business period draw to a close, the QMS is working well and that subject to expected seasonal variations in abundance, rock lobster fisheries are generally productive and the industry continues to be profitable across all sectors.

The increasing sophistication of rock lobster stock assessments and management procedures used to inform TAC/TACC decisions has moved the lobster industry well away from boom and bust cycles and with industry participants increasingly more in tune with fisheries performance indicators, commercial harvest initiatives are both timely and demonstrably effective.

The 2016/17 period is a notable anniversary for the rock lobster industry – twenty years of industry organisation built on regional representative groups

coordinated and serviced by a central office. There have been many changes over those years – including changes in personnel amongst quota share owners, vessel operators, processors and exporters. The anniversary coupled with the expansion of management capability is a timely opportunity for the NZ RLIC to ensure that all current industry participants better understand the challenges and opportunities that the QMS provides and to assist them to appreciate the important links between science and management.

The NZ RLIC intends a meaningful improvement in communication to and from, and about, the rock lobster industry. Positive changes to the NZ RLIC senior management team provide an opportunity to engage directly with CRAMAC committees and their constituents in the regions and to distribute regular lobster industry newsletters. The NZ RLIC website – [www.nzrocklobster.co.nz](http://www.nzrocklobster.co.nz) – will be further developed and increased provision is being made for CRAMAC Committees to post news and information relevant to the regions.

Opportunities for collaboration with other commercial stakeholder organisations exist in relation to Marine Protected Areas legislation and in attempting to resolve the apparent tension in the commercial/recreational fishing interface which has resulted in Government endorsement of recreational fishing reserves.

The Fisheries System Review initiated by Cabinet during 2015 has yet to be reported back and the outcomes are not yet reflected in proposed legislative or regulatory amendments; or in MPI operational plans. MPI in turn have placed continued emphasis on the roll out of a video surveillance system across all inshore fisheries, again without reference to the rock lobster industry as yet.

The NZ RLIC and CRAMACs are increasingly drawn in to managing the impacts of biotoxin events on rock lobster fisheries and an Industry Biotoxin Response Plan has been compiled and is under continual review to ensure its practicality and effectiveness. The NZ RLIC has co-invested in an extensive biotoxin research project being run in Australia and is coordinating the associated testing protocols and food safety standards across the Trans-Tasman southern rock lobster fisheries.

The NZ RLIC will maintain office and administrative facilities in Wellington and will continue to ensure the safety and comfort of personnel and better serve industry members.

## OUR MISSION

The rock lobster industry has consistently supported and advocated for the New Zealand fisheries management regime (Quota Management System - QMS), one which has a rights-based framework (although so far incomplete) which allows resolution of competing interests, including changing societal values in relation to the marine environment and to non-commercial fisheries, to be resolved by way of market-based outcomes.

Working within the QMS framework the NZ RLIC will continue building and informing a united and sustainable industry operating to acceptable levels of environmental performance to contribute to regional and national economies and therefore valued and respected by Government and by the wider New Zealand community.

# FUNDING

---

The NZ RLIC has primary responsibility for the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy implemented on 01 April 2013. The administrative operation of the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy (invoicing and debt collection) is contracted to Commercial Fisheries Services Ltd (FishServe).

The NZ RLIC also has a separate income stream from the operation of a multi-year rock lobster stock monitoring and stock assessment contract to the Ministry for Primary Industries.



## OUR VISION

To be a united, thriving and ecologically sustainable rock lobster industry valued and respected by Government and by the wider New Zealand community. To be an industry which delivers a premium quality seafood product to discerning domestic and international consumers.

To be an industry well equipped to increasingly take a greater fisheries research and management role.

## OUR ROLE

The NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd (NZ RLIC) operates as the central service agency for the commercial lobster fishing industry. It is in our capacity to liaise with government, media, environmental groups and other marine stakeholders on behalf of our constituents and in their best interests.

# CONFIDENCE TO INVEST. PROTECTING A PRODUCTIVE ASSET BASE

---

The issues likely to be the focus of NZ RLIC attention in 2016/17 are again those which have absorbed significant resources in recent seasons – spatial access; compliance and enforcement; data collection and management and coordination and delivery of research services. Activities will be undertaken by the NZ RLIC central office and by CRAMACs and will be run independently or in partnerships or collaborations with other seafood industry sector groups.

The NZ RLIC has consistently promoted an effective, including cost-effective, grouping of inshore fishing interests sharing an agreed vision for strategic growth and development. The 2016/17 NZ RLIC work plan and budget

includes a substantial contingency to invest in generic and ‘club goods’ projects negotiated and agreed at the discretion of the NZ RLIC Board. The Board is agreed that all future collaborations will be pursued on a contract by contract basis where the outcomes can be demonstrated to be of direct or indirect benefit to the rock lobster fisheries and to our industry generally.

The NZ RLIC work plan anticipates the 2017 General Election and the policy development across all political parties in the lead- up period. Efforts are already underway in 2016 to make a positive influence on party manifestos and in collaboration with other inshore fishing interests that work will be a priority from early 2017.





# PROTECTING AND ENHANCING ACCESS AND UTILISATION

---

The NZ RLIC senior management team has expanded and the increased level of expertise available in-house enables a more consistent and energetic focus on key operational policy issues.

---



In addition, provision is again being made in the 2016/17 operational budget for the NZ RLIC to continue to commission high-level external policy and legal advice in support of the rock lobster industry.

Commercial access and utilisation rights and opportunities are under constant challenge as recreational fishing industry activists and lobbyists continue to press for access and utilisation priority and preference. Their success to date is reflected in proposed Marine Protected Area legislation which establishes Recreational Fishing Reserves.

Cooperative endeavours with the Paua Industry Council, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand and some key Commercial Stakeholder Organisations across inshore fisheries are again anticipated for 2016/17.



An increasingly demanding environment lobby is also promoting closures to commercial fishing; absolute protection of marine mammals and seabirds; and the implementation of ecosystems-based marine management policies.

Existing projects which demonstrate the environmental responsibility of the lobster industry will continue to be supported and refined. The *Whale\_Safe* programme is now complemented by the *OceanSnap* reporting system. As the use of these programmes increases across the inshore fishing fleet a significant data base of observations will be developed and a 'ready-response' protocol implemented in order to reduce the risks of cetacean entanglements.



Download the App  
[www.oceansnap.co.nz](http://www.oceansnap.co.nz)

The reform of the Primary Industry Training Organisations is completed and the opportunity now exists for the rock lobster industry to clarify training standards in support of career pathways. The NZ RLIC will engage with professional consultants to ensure that harvest, handling, transportation and storage qualifications are practical and effective and if necessary, form a key part of a suitable framework for a rock lobster product validation system.

## CO-OPERATIVE USER GROUP MANAGEMENT

---

The NZ RLIC continues to support the operation of the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) including the provision of administrative support services as required.

The NZ RLIC and CRAMACs will maintain working alliances with a range of relevant non-commercial user groups, local government agencies, and independent research advisers. As required the NZ RLIC will facilitate the CRAMAC interactions with non-commercial stakeholders in the regions and ensure a well-coordinated and professional response to local, regional and national issues.



# ROCK LOBSTER FISHERIES RESEARCH

---

## The Principal Research Contract - Stock Monitoring and Stock Assessment



Since 1997 the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd is the principal contractor to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for the provision of rock lobster fisheries stock monitoring and stock assessment research services.

The NZ RLIC has an extensive array of contractual relationships with skilled service providers in New Zealand and overseas which enable delivery of the research services provided under the principal contract. These relationships include with NIWA, Trophic Resources, StarrFish, Haist Consultancy, Lat37 Ltd, Breen Consultancy, QuantiFish and seven other sub-contractors doing field work.

The current stock monitoring work programme for the NZ RLIC and contracted providers comprises:

- observer catch sampling in four management areas and vessel Logbook programmes in three management areas to collect length frequency and other biological data; and
- tag release and recapture programmes to measure the growth of lobsters for use in length-based population models.

The stock assessment science team is principally engaged in:

- updating the standardised CPUE analysis from all management areas and reporting on the operation of current Management Procedures and decision rules;
- estimating biomass and sustainable yields for nominated rock lobster stocks; and
- refining existing and evaluating new management procedures for rock lobster fisheries.

The assessment team members are also science advisors to the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) which is the primary source of advice to

the Minister on all matters relating to rock lobster fisheries research and management.

Oversight and management of the principle research contract is a fiscally neutral transaction for the NZ RLIC and work is not reliant upon Rock Lobster Commodity Levy income.

## Direct Purchase of Research Services

The NZ RLIC has a small programme of direct-purchased research services in support of TAC/TACC setting. That programme will be progressively expanded where it can be demonstrated to be of better value than cost-recovered research contracted by MPI. The projects are generally small, clearly of generic benefit to the lobster fisheries and to industry; and although run independently of MPI the methodology and outcomes are reported to the Fisheries Assessment Working Group process and submitted for independent peer review.

The two projects intended for 2016/17 are directed at improving the reliability of the CPUE standardisation protocols; and the continuation of what is referred to as the *CRAfore* Project which is intended to provide reliable short-term predictions of CPUE for use in the operation of Management Procedures which guide advice on TAC/TACC setting.

## DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

---

The NZ RLIC is the principal steward of industry generated data gathered from Vessel Logbook programmes. For 2016/17 the NZ RLIC proposes further investments in data base systems management and maintenance.

Several CRAMACs have long-established electronic logbook programmes and their investment is extended to enable the collection of 'harvest data' – in effect an elective catch and effort recording option available to participating fishermen. Search functions across the Vessel Logbook and revised TagTracker data bases have already been evaluated and implementation of those and refinement of options for electronic catch effort and landing reporting direct from lobster fishing vessels will continue in 2016/17.



# ADDING VALUE IN MARKETS

---

The NZ RLIC contributes to the work of the Seafood Standards Council and to the development of Animal Welfare and Animal Products standards for rock lobster fisheries.

Food safety is a crucial issue for domestic and export markets. The NZ RLIC has 'refreshed' a Rock Lobster Biotoxin Response Plan endorsed by the Marine Biotoxin Technical Committee in response to the concerns over toxic algal blooms and PSP toxin events. The Plan ensures that necessary biotoxin responses are timely, of limited impact on commercial lobster fishing, exceed MPI standards, and provide credible security to markets as to food safety and product quality.

---

The NZ RLIC Board is agreed that the 2016/17 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$640,000 to offset NZ RLIC operational expenses for the period 01 October 2016 through to 30 September 2017.

---

Should you have any enquiries about the proposed 2016/17 NZ RLIC Business Plan and Budget, or about the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy please contact the NZ RLIC office at your convenience.

## CONTACT NZ RLIC



NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council  
Private Bag 24-901  
Wellington 6142



Daryl Sykes  
Executive Officer



[lobster@nzrocklobster.co.nz](mailto:lobster@nzrocklobster.co.nz)



+64 4 802 1509



# THE PROPOSED 2016/17 BUDGET

Income	Annual Budget 2015/16	Proposed 2016/17
CRA Commodity Levy	\$588,500.00	\$640,000.00
External Service Provision	\$8,000.00	\$12,500.00
MPI Research Contract	\$903,017.000	\$989,502.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,499,517.00</b>	<b>\$1,642,002.00</b>

	Annual Budget 2015/16	Proposed 2016/17
Co-operative Management	\$136,000.00	\$150,000.00
Education and Information	\$26,000.00	\$30,400.00
Elective Research	\$11,000.00	\$27,000.00
External Consultants	\$31,000.00	\$42,100.00
MPI Research Contract	\$783,017.00	\$869,502.00
Product Standards	\$7,500.00	\$14,920.00
Commodity Levy Renewal	-	\$8,500.00
Staff and Resources	\$505,000.00	\$555,050.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,499,517.00</b>	<b>\$1,697,472.00</b>
<b>Deficit</b>		<b>-\$55,470.00</b>



# NOTES TO THE PROPOSED 2016/17 BUDGET

---



1. The NZ RLIC is proposing a deficit budget in order to minimise the Commodity Levy increase. The deficit will be made up principally from the prudent use of current cash reserves and any savings that can be made in the remainder of the current year work plan.
2. The budget increases the commodity levy income requirement from the current \$588,500 to \$640,000 – an 8.75% increase for 2016/17.
3. The levy increase is driven in the main by a planned increase in available staff and resources and anticipated collaborations with industry sector representative groups and professional consultants. An expanded direct-purchase research programme and education communications agenda, in particular for 2017, also contribute to the increased cost of the business plan.
4. The NZ RLIC Board has made every attempt over a number of revisions to ensure a ‘no fat’ and well directed budget. As noted, prudent use is being made of modest cash reserves and the Board remains confident that the company will function efficiently and effectively with the provision made for 2016/17.





**NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council**

*Ka whakapai te kai o te moana*