

Ka whakapai te kai o te moana



Rock Lobster Stock Specific Levy Consulation 2020

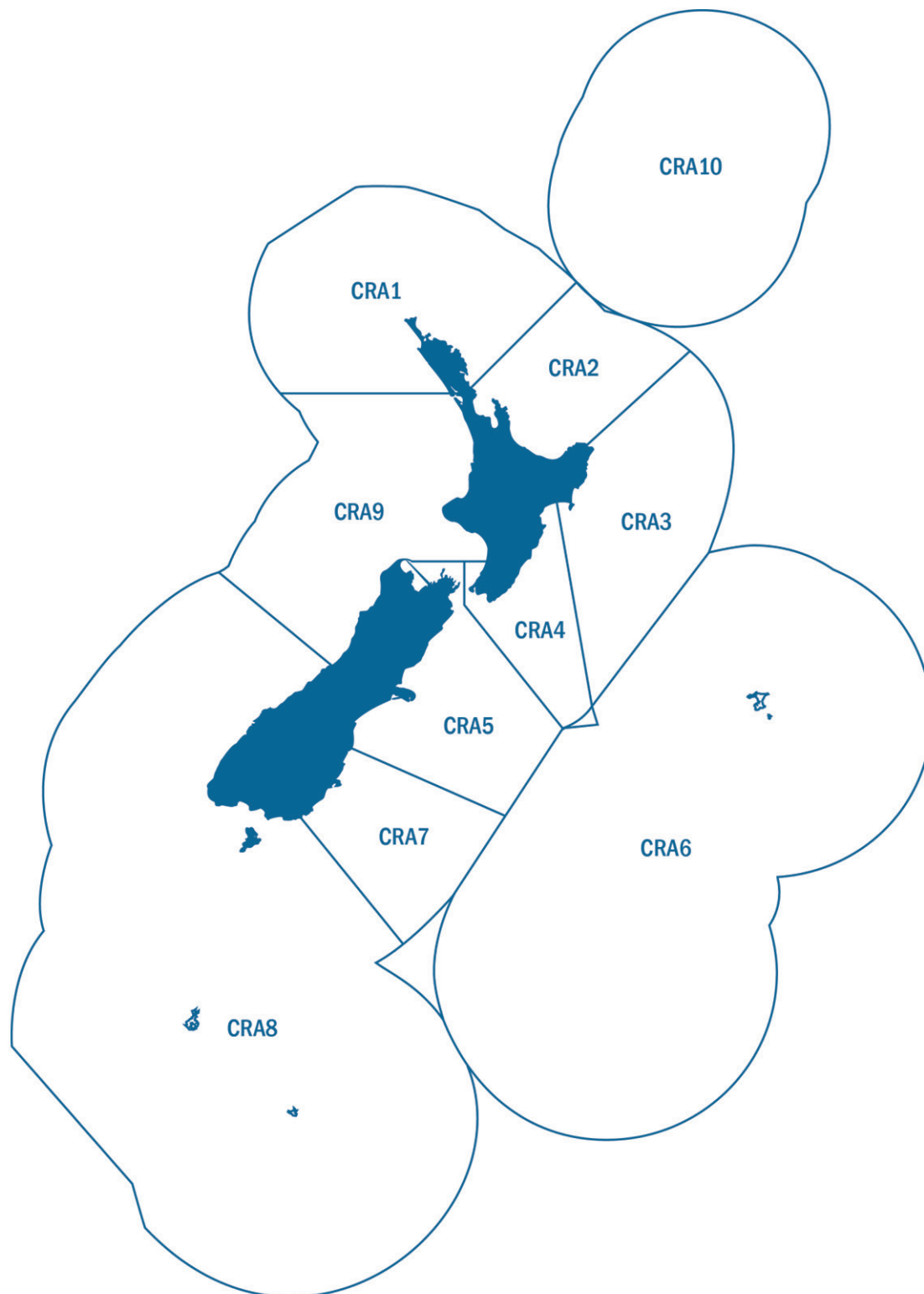
**Notice to all CRA Quota Share Owners
July 2020**



NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

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NZ Rock Lobster Management Areas



Rock Lobster Stock Specific Levy Consultation 2020

The Commodity Levies (Rock Lobster) Order 2013 came into force on 1 April 2013 and was renewed in 2018. The levy order enables CRAMACs to fund projects that relate to their stock by way of a stock specific levy (SSL). Subject to the CRAMACs receiving a satisfactory mandate for regional work plans and budgets, the NZ RLIC will formally engage them to provide the services outlined in each project plan. This engagement will be on an annual basis via a letter of engagement or MOU.

The CRAMAC summary work plans and budgets relevant to your CRA quota share ownership as at June 2020 are included with this notice.

Levy payers are requested to endorse the CRAMAC work plans and stock specific levies that are relevant to them using the online ballot which has been emailed to all CRA quota share owners.

The closing date for submissions and ballot returns is Friday 31st July 2020. Submissions and ballot results will be considered and reviewed, and the new CRA levies confirmed at the August 2020 NZ RLIC Board meeting.

The NZ RLIC will then notify all levy payers of the rock lobster levy that will apply for each CRA stock (incorporating the 'core' and the 'stock specific' components) from 01 October 2020.

The NZ RLIC has separately notified its proposed 2020/21 Business Plan to all levy payers and this is also posted to the NZ RLIC website – www.nzrocklobster.co.nz. Additional copies can be obtained if CRA quota share owners email lobster@nzrocklobster.co.nz and place '**Business Plan**' in the subject line.

CRAMAC Workplan Highlights

CRA 1 WORK PLAN 2020/21

Provision is made in the CRA 1 work plan to have regular representation at all forums where CRA 1 fishery business is up for discussion and debate. Budget is also set to provide administrative support for the CRAMAC 1 committee and to enable a further round of CRA 1 industry meetings to be held in the region in the 2020/21 season. The appointment of a shared Regional Liaison Officer (RLO, *Julie Hills*) in collaboration with CRAMACs 2, 3 and 4 provides for timely supervision and support for CRAMAC initiatives and lead to noticeable improvements in communications to and from CRA 1 industry participants.

The RLO will assist the CRA 1 industry response to biotoxin events as they occur and will work to ensure the Vessel Logbook participation rate and data quality are maintained and improved from season to season.

CRAMAC 1 is monitoring proposals for marine reserves and other marine protected areas and is compiling fishery and economic data that will be used in response to formal applications. Their workplan makes provision to document and to demonstrate the economic contribution of the CRA 1 fishery to the export economy and enables the ongoing development of credible social and economic indicators to inform consideration of the impacts on commercial property rights of Government policies and management decisions.

During 2020 CRAMAC 1 commissioned the first formal stock assessment for the Packhorse (PHC1) fishery and the results should be presented at the November MPI Plenary meeting. The assessment will guide a full 2020/21 review of current management provisions for PHC, including the TAC, TACC and various input controls.

CRA 2 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The CRA 2 industry took a significant quota cut in April 2018 and the CRAMAC 2 Board remains focused on guiding the rebuild of the fishery and enabling the re-instatement of commercial catches as abundance increases and fishery performance indicators are met.

Spatial access to rock lobster fishing grounds is an abiding concern to the CRA 2 industry. The announcement of the Motiti commercial closures was a setback during 2020; the loss was consolidated by the recent declaration of a significantly large mataitai at Cape Runaway. That declaration is currently under legal review, but a significant amount of work will be required to satisfactorily reconcile customary and commercial interests.

The Hauraki Gulf *SeaChange* proposals seek to establish a network of no-take marine reserves in the Gulf portion of the CRA 2 fishery and CRAMAC 2 is actively engaging in the consultation process which will require considerable input and participation by the fishing industry generally.

CRAMAC 2 continues to maintain and refine the Electronic Vessel Logbook for use by rock lobster fishermen. Their *ERNIE* electronic reporting format has been demonstrated to be easy to use, very reliable and provides more detailed catch and effort reporting in addition to size frequency and other data useful to stock assessments.

CRAMAC 2 maintains a commitment to servicing puerulus collectors at selected sites within CRA 2 and has the capacity to expand coverage if additional sites are identified as being potentially informative over time.

The CRA 2 Rock Lobster Management Company (CRAMAC 2) shares the resource of a full-time Regional Liaison Officer (*Julie Hills*) who provides a range of support services including coordination of the marine biotoxin responses as required.

CRA 3 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The Tairāwhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 3) is very focused on promoting accurate record keeping and reporting by fishermen and maintains oversight of spatial access opportunities and the ongoing operation of voluntary commercial initiatives linked to the continuation of the differential CRA 3 MLS regime. CRAMAC 3 will maintain a process of dialogue and education for non-commercial stakeholders and seek further efficiencies to commercial harvest of the CRA 3 fishery.

CRAMAC3 continues to fund and expand a vessel logbook programme which delivers important data to stock assessments and management considerations. CRAMAC 3 in collaboration MPI Biosecurity New Zealand continues to invest in tail fan necrosis research to isolate causative agents and to separately establish an effective sanitation protocol for vessel operators.

The CRAMAC 3 workplan will be assisted by the shared Regional Liaison Officer, Julie Hills, who has the responsibility for oversight and coordination of the Vessel Logbook programme and CRA 3 biotoxin responses and also to enable frequent communication to industry participants and to promote the CRA 3 industry in media as opportunities arise.

CRA 4 WORK PLAN 2020/21

CRAMAC 4 initiated the collaboration which led to the appointment of the shared Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) and Julie Hills is now more frequently updating communications to CRA 4 industry participants. The CRAMAC 4 workplan remains focused on oversight and monitoring of the CRA 4 fishery and maintaining the reputation of the CRA 4 industry across the wider community.

CRAMAC 4 operates a formal CRAMAC 4 Biotoxin Response which meshes with a national plan. Those plans are directed at making a timely and credible response to biotoxin events whilst minimising as much as possible any disruption to rock lobster fishing. The RLO appointment ensures that future responses to biotoxin events will be timely and well-coordinated and overall levels of communication to and from the most affected industry participants greatly improved.

The supervised CRA 4 Voluntary Logbook programme has been expanded across all Statistical Areas. For 2020/21 CRAMAC 4 will introduce a range of incentives to encourage reliable logbook participation and tag recapture reporting.

CRA 5 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The CRA 5 Industry Association (CRAMAC 5) work plan supports a regional liaison officer and Logbook supervisor and maintains a high level of Logbook participation. An elective research programme related to puerulus settlement supplements the MPI-contracted research done by NIWA and helps to inform the CRA 5 industry as to the potential trends in future stock abundance.

CRAMAC 5 retains important and productive relationships with non-commercial stakeholder groups and is actively involved in the Te Korowai (Kaikoura Guardians).

CRAMAC 5 is invested in a purpose-built electronic logbook and 'smart tag' technologies and has consolidated electronic logbook coverage across the CRA 5 fleet. Supplementary catch sampling and tag and release projects will be continued in the business cycle commencing October 2020.

CRA 6 WORK PLAN 2020/21

Maintaining the Fishermen's Office at Waitangi is a primary objective of every CRAMAC 6 work plan. Under the combined supervision of the CRAMAC 6 Executive Committee, the NZ RLIC and FishServe, the Fishermen's Office provides a range of registry services to all Chatham Island industry personnel. The CRAMAC has adjusted the working hours of the office as a consequence of the roll-out of the ER/GPR reporting regime but has ensured the office remains a hub of reliable information and administrative support for the local rock lobster industry and the paua and finfish sector organisations.

In their recommended 2020/21 work plan, CRAMAC 6 will continue the sequences of CRA 6 tag and release work commenced in 2018 and expand their observer catch sampling programme. Catch sampling data will supplement and benchmark CRA 6 Logbook data for representativeness and accuracy. A participation incentive for CRA 6 Logbook participants will be trialled to the end of the current fishing year. The CRA 6 stock monitoring initiatives are being taken to ensure that the next scheduled CRA 6 stock assessment is well informed by up to date size frequency, fecundity, growth and other biological data and able to generate greater certainty of stock status and harvest opportunities.

CRAMAC 6 also coordinates a range of maritime safety and local infrastructure discussions and maintains a watching brief on local government issues that have potential to impact on Chatham Islands fishing businesses.

CRA 7 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The Otago Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 7) work plan actively contributes to the operation of the CRA 7 Management Procedure that guides TAC/TACC. CRAMAC 7 coordinates vessel access for technicians to undertake catch sampling and tag and release work within season. Commercial catch and effort data coupled with the stock monitoring programme data will contribute to a new CRA 7 Stock Assessment due to commence in September 2021.

CRAMAC 7 appointed *Kate Hesson* as an executive officer in 2019. Her oversight and coordination have become increasingly vital for the CRA 7 industry as the South East Marine Protected Areas saga continues to play out, presenting industry with a risk of commercial exclusion from some significantly important Otago rock lobster fishing grounds.

CRAMAC 7 has already invested in a significant amount of legal work and economic analysis and it is very likely that more will be required to properly safeguard commercial access and utilisation opportunities. Provision is again made in the recommended business plan to underpin the CRA 7 industry challenge to proposed commercial exclusions and collaborations and to offset expenses, cost sharing with other similarly affected parties will be pursued.

CRAMAC 7 will deliver a marine user group proposal for Ministerial consideration, seeking to establish a regional stakeholder forum similar to Te Korowai (CRA 5) and to compile an integrated fisheries harvest strategy as a credible alternative to the marine protection agenda being heavily promoted by environmental interests and the current Minister of Conservation.

CRA 8 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The CRA8 Rock Lobster Industry Association Incorporated (CRAMAC 8) was formed to further the interests of the CRA8 area fishery, and the commercial industry. The 2020/21 workplan and budget sets out the specific areas and actions in which the Association will be active.

CRAMAC 8 contracts a full-time Chief Executive, Malcolm Lawson, who has oversight and responsibility for the various regional initiatives and who represents the CRA 8 industry on the NZ RLIC and other forums.

The 2020/21 budget supports the continuation of an electronic logbook recording and reporting system to support fisheries required research by the provision of the data from a representative portion of the CRA 8 fleet. CRAMAC 8 will facilitate a rock lobster tagging programme in support of fisheries required research and the supply of stock assessment data on lobster growth rates and movements.

CRAMAC 8 will invest to contribute to the development of appropriate standards and specifications for inclusion in fisheries plans and objectives-based management. This will include the collation of agreements; codes of practice; industry agreed standards and initiatives; compliance initiatives; research programmes; and consultation with other stakeholders.

CRAMAC 8 will continue the operation of a Fiordland/West Coast biotoxin screening programme as part of the implementation of a national biotoxin risk management programme.

CRA 9 WORK PLAN 2020/21

The CRA 9 Industry Association (CRAMAC 9) provides effective coordination and support for an industry split between two islands and maintains an effective representation and advocacy function.

The 2020/21 work plan provides for maintenance of the CRA 9 Vessel Logbook programme which underpins the retention of the current TACC given the difficulty in operating a stock assessment for the fishery.

CRAMAC 9 is consolidating a marine biotoxin response plan having experienced disruptive toxic algal blooms in 2019. As more and better information about the movement and types of toxic algal blooms becomes available from the research collaborations coordinated by the NZ RLIC, CRAMAC 9 will upgrade toxin monitoring and lobster sampling protocols in an effort to minimise disruption and cost to commercial fishing.

Voluntary codes of practice in relation to recreational fishing opportunity have been long-established in Taranaki and CRAMAC 9 continues to promote and broker the reality of shared fisheries and shared responsibilities in its dealings with non-commercial sector groups.

Copies of the more detailed individual CRAMAC work plans and budgets are available on request to the CRAMACs. Please feel free to contact the NZ RLIC office directly with your request for file copies of those documents. Please email cramacs129@nzrocklobster.co.nz

Completing the Stock Specific Levy Consultation Process

Your online Stock Specific Levy ballot paper is emailed to you. For all the stocks for which you are a CRA quota share owner please give your endorsement to the work plan and the recommended stock specific levy. When that is completed please submit your ballot. You will receive an email acknowledgement that your ballot response has been registered.

If you prefer to work with printed material you can 'print screen' and scan or 'save image' your completed online ballot paper and email to cramacs129@nzrocklobster.co.nz in PDF or image format. Please put **"SSL BALLOT"** in the subject line of your email.

You are also invited to again read the NZ RLIC Business Plan. If you wish to comment on the NZ RLIC Business Plan you can email separately to lobster@nzrocklobster.co.nz with **2020 Plan** in the subject line please.

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council
July 2020

Comparison of CRA Levies - current and proposed.

NZ RLIC COMMODITY LEVY 2019/20

	Core Levy	Stock Specific	Total Levy
CRA 1	\$260.21	\$389.13	\$694.34
CRA 2	\$260.21	\$560.00	\$820.21
CRA 3	\$260.21	\$251.23	\$511.44
CRA 4	\$260.21	\$181.00	\$441.21
CRA 5	\$260.21	\$340.91	\$601.12
CRA 6	\$260.21	\$138.00	\$398.21
CRA 7	\$260.21	\$1,175.26	\$1,435.47
CRA 8	\$260.21	\$152.00	\$412.21
CRA 9	\$260.21	\$443.49	\$703.80

* Levies are expressed in \$/tonne per annum and are invoiced in twelve instalments commencing 01 October.

NZ RLIC COMMODITY LEVY 2020/21

	Core Levy	Stock Specific	Total Levy
CRA 1	\$321.19	\$273.00	\$594.19
CRA 2	\$321.19	\$114.36	\$435.55
CRA 3	\$321.19	\$282.64	\$603.83
CRA 4	\$321.19	\$232.90	\$554.09
CRA 5	\$321.19	\$339.64	\$660.83
CRA 6	\$321.19	\$138.00	\$459.19
CRA 7	\$321.19	\$1073.45	\$1394.64
CRA 8	\$321.19	\$162.71	\$483.90
CRA 9	\$321.19	\$394.24	\$715.43