



## **NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL LTD**

*Ka whakapai te kai o te moana*

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30 June, 2023

Kia Ora koutou

In June each year the NZ RLIC Board and central office undertake work to prepare for the levy year commencing in October.

The NZ RLIC Business Plan for 2023/24 and the accompanying budget and proposed core services levy rates have been endorsed by the Board and approved by shareholders. This notice to quota share owners (QSOs) offers an opportunity to comment, if you are inclined, on the detail of the attached Business Plan and the budget and levy rates.

The core levy rate proposed for CRA for 2023/24 (\$396.65 /tonne) is \$62/tonne less than the current 2022/23 rate. As requested by the packhorse lobster QSOs, for the first time we will have a separate core levy for PHC at \$260/tonne. The differential rate is calculated based on quota weight equivalent, port price and TACCs – the outcome is that CRA picks up 98.8% of total core services levy costs.

The NZ RLIC Board has been careful in scrutinising costs and there are reductions in some categories of expenditure, most particularly in the research area. For 2022/23 the Board had created capacity in some budget areas after a very tight financial end of year position in 2021/22. For 2023/24, the provision for research can be eased back while still having capacity to undertake priority identified projects.

The work undertaken by NZ RLIC under its Business Plan and resourced by the budget is divided into five categories and detail on these areas is outlined in the Plan. In summary, we will seek to influence legislation, public policy and management of lobster fisheries to;

- Enable responsive adjustments to management
- Apply a science and evidence-based best practice approach to resource sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Curtail unwarranted cost impositions and restrictions on fishing
- Maintain the necessary non-exclusive access to inshore fishing grounds
- Minimise habitat damage from threats such as terrestrial run-off and coastal habitat degradation
- Achieve effective management of recreational fishing and reduce uncertainty around the allocation of the TAC.

We seek continuous improvement in the quality of the information, data and science that informs management and delivers social, economic and cultural benefits to all stakeholders. Greater understanding of the environmental variables that impact the productivity of rock lobster stocks informs responsive management and will support delivery of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management that is inherent in the Fisheries Act.

Sustainable use of a marine resource throws up constant challenges. We need to be aware of emerging food safety and biosecurity risks and threats to the health and welfare of lobsters. Marine biotoxin events have been occurring with greater frequency and intensity with serious implications if they were to be detected in export shipments. Industry must continue to build on past work by considering scientific and procedural developments that support assessments. It is also important to monitor advances in animal husbandry and respond to changes in protected species interactions. The NZ RLIC will invest through direct purchase or elective research to allow the industry to act responsibly, adapt, progress and be resilient.

Obtaining maximum value from quota-limited landings is critically dependent on maintaining market access for live rock lobster exports and quickly addressing any barriers or threats to access. There is a need to be responsive to new issues and changes in the requirements and standards that apply in export destinations and changes in preferences or requirements in the market. The NZ RLIC will continue to work closely with LENZ and the Seafood Standards Council (SSC) in these areas.

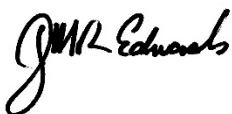
The NZ RLIC has posted the [2023/24 Business Plan to the NZ RLIC](#) website. A copy is also attached to this email. If you prefer a hard copy of the Business Plan, please contact the NZ RLIC central office at [cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz](mailto:cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz) and it can be posted to you.

If you wish to provide comment please email us at [cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz](mailto:cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz). The closing date for receipt of your comments on the Business Plan, budget and levies is *Thursday 10 August, 2023*. Your submissions will be considered and reviewed, and 2023/24 CRA and PHC core services levies confirmed at the August NZ RLIC Board meeting.

You will shortly receive a separate communication dealing with the stock specific levies that support the operation of the CRAMACs.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement for the work of the NZ RLIC central office team.

Yours sincerely



Mark Edwards  
Chief Executive Officer  
NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

Attached:

- The 2023/24 NZ RLIC Business Plan