



NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL LTD

Ka whakapai te kai o te moana

July 2023

To all CRA & PHC Quota Share Owners and agents

CRAMAC PLANS and STOCK SPECIFIC LEVIES 2023/24

Kia ora tatou

CRAMAC Funding

The Rock Lobster Commodity 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 is on an annual basis via a letter of engagement or MOU.

The 2023/24 CRAMAC summary work plans and budgets relevant to your CRA quota share ownership as at 30 June 2023 are outlined below. The full text of those plans can be found on the NZ RLIC website:

<https://nzrocklobster.co.nz/documents/cramac-documents>

For each of the stocks for which you are a CRA or PHC Quota Share Owner (QSO) or authorised agent, **you are now requested to endorse the CRAMAC work plans and the stock specific levies that are relevant to them using the online ballot via the link below:**

[CRAMAC and PHC LEVY BALLOT 2023/24 \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com)

If you have signing authority for more than one quota owning entity, please complete an online ballot for each separate QRN/client number. When you have completed that task, please submit your ballot. You will receive an email acknowledgement that your response has been registered.

The closing date for SSL submissions and ballot returns is ***Thursday, 10 August 2023.***

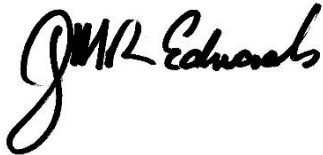
If you prefer to work with printed material, you can 'print screen' and scan or 'save image' your completed online ballot paper and submit that by email to cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz in PDF or image format.

Please put "SSL BALLOT" in the subject line of your email.

Your submissions and ballot results will be considered and reviewed, and CRA levies confirmed at the 22 August 2023 NZ RLIC Board meeting. All QSOs will then be notified of the mandatory levy that will apply for each CRA & PHC stock (incorporating the 'core' and the 'stock specific' components) from 01 October 2023.

We again thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement for the work of CRAMACs and the NZ RLIC central office team.

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Edwards
Chief Executive Officer

CRAMAC WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

CRA 1 WORK PLAN 2023/24

The recent Ministerial decision to cut the CRA 1 TACC has evidenced the external (and often unwarranted) pressures facing the CRA 1 fishery and its participants.

CRAMAC 1 continues to be an important and unified forum to provide a strong representational voice on behalf of the fishery. This voice will be called upon again this season as the Minister has requested to consider further ancillary measures within CRA 1 including - maximum legal size for rock lobster, splitting the Quota Management Area, spatial restrictions, and targeted culling of kina.

The CRAMAC 1 2023/24 work plan provides CRAMAC 1 the necessary resourcing to input an operational perspective into these ongoing challenges and to fund its own core functions including:

- (i) Representation at all forums where CRA 1 fishery business is up for discussion and debate, including scheduling of the CRAMAC AGM and any regional CRA 1 industry meetings required to be held; and
- (ii) Legal and policy advocacy representation; and
- (iii) Ongoing industry promotion including contributing towards TV programming; and;
- (iv) Supporting the Executive Officer role.

In addition, the workplan provides for ongoing elective and research works including:

- (v) Continuation of elective research programs (e.g., tagging); and
- (vi) A provision for responding to any biotoxin event(s); and
- (vii) Investment in [10] new data loggers and recognition of effort by the participants; and
- (viii) Enabling the assessment and review of the impacts of proposals for marine reserves and other marine protected areas to support your property rights and the health of the fishery.

PHC 1 WORK PLAN 2023/24

In July 2022, PHC Quota Share Owners voted to have PHC part of the rock lobster commodity levy process and for representation to be provided through the CRA 1 Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRA 1). This will help the packhorse industry to achieve more effective management of the PHC 1 stock, lead to increased value of PHC1 quota and a healthier and abundant packhorse fishery.

In 2023/24, the PHC1 Workplan and Budget will support the voluntary logbook initiative and will invest in new technology to enhance the detail of data collected. The PHC horn tagging project, now in its 3rd year, will also feature in this year's workplan.

Alongside this elective research, the Workplan and Budget will also invest a media initiative aimed at improving public perception and understanding of the rock lobster fishing industry. The Workplan and Budget acknowledges the increasing need to provide independent professional advice e.g. on discussions on regional coastal plans, other shared fishery forums and marine spatial allocation issues.

To minimize costs, PHC 1 QSOs agreed that CRA 1 would represent PHC 1 at the regional and national level. In 2023/24, CRA 1 Rock Lobster Industry Association will manage the proposed PHC 1 Stock Specific Levy of 355.58 per tonne per annum.

CRA 2 WORK PLAN 2023/24

The CRA 2 Rock Lobster Management Company (CRAMAC 2) work plan enables a range of support services including liaising with the BOP Regional Council, coordination of research initiatives and media promotion of the industry.

This year's budget includes the replacement of the current logbook programme data collection units. The current units are over 14 years old and the technology under which these loggers operate has become redundant. CRA 2, along with the other CRA areas, have invested in developing new loggers and these will be available in the new financial year.

The CRAMAC 2 Board remains focused on guiding the rebuild of the fishery. The updated rapid stock assessment in 2023 will support discussions with FNZ to advocate the re-instatement of commercial catches as abundance increases and fishery performance improves.

Spatial access is a significant issue for CRAMAC 2. The Motiti Protection Zone displaced several fishing vessels and forced a shift of effort into adjacent fishing grounds which are already identified as areas interest to Marine and Coastal Area Act (MACA) applicants.

The Hauraki Gulf *SeaChange / Revitalising the Gulf* proposals seek to establish a network of marine protected areas in the Gulf portion of the CRA 2 fishery and CRAMAC 2 will be actively engaging in the formal consultation processes in a coordinated effort to bring credible fishery performance data into the spotlight and to promote management of fishing as a better proposition than area and method closures.

CRA 3 WORK PLAN 2023/24

The Tairāwhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 3) continues to consolidate their vessel logbook programme which delivers important data to stock assessments and management considerations. The CRAMAC is also mindful of the voluntary commercial initiatives linked to the continuation of the MLS differential and is careful to remind vessel operators of the benefits and potential costs if those arrangements are not maintained.

The CRAMAC 3 Executive takes responsibility for co-ordination and reporting of the Voluntary Logbook programme as well as co-ordination of the tail fan necrosis and tail blistering syndrome research, CRA 3 biotoxin monitoring and responses in addition to continuing the independent catch sampling survey work in statistical area 910.

CRAMAC 3 is anticipating a number of MACA applications and will maintain a process of dialogue and education for non-commercial stakeholders and ensure appropriate consideration of the effects on commercial harvest from the CRA 3 fishery.

CRA 4 WORK PLAN 2023/24

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.

The work plan provides co-ordination of the logbook programme including investment in new datalogger units (as the old units become redundant), acknowledgement to programme participants and data monitoring. The CRAMAC also co-ordinates biotoxin monitoring when required.

The 'wet tag' trial for the purpose of collecting temperature at depth data from commercial pot lifts will be continued and efforts will be made to extend participation.

CRAMAC 4 is also anticipating a number of MACA applications and will maintain a process of dialogue and education for non-commercial stakeholders and ensure appropriate consideration of the effects on commercial harvest from the CRA 4 fishery.

CRA 5 WORK PLAN 2023/24

The CRA 5 Industry Association (CRAMAC 5) remains focused on industry-generated data collection across several different aspects of their fishery. Their work plan supports maintenance of a high level of participation in the voluntary logbook programme.

Logbook participants are also reporting 'wet tag' temperature at depth data. Supplementary catch sampling and tag and release projects will be continued from the current year (22/23).

A new project to develop reliable pre-recruit indices was initiated in 2022/23. This data should provide a reliable predictive index for future stock abundance when it is incorporated to stock assessments.

An ongoing 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).

CRA 6 WORK PLAN 2023/24

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 office remains a hub of reliable information and support for the local rock lobster industry and for the pāua and finfish sector organisations as required.

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.

In the recommended 2023/24 work plan, CRAMAC 6 will continue the CRA 6 tag and release work commenced initially in 2018 and the observer catch sampling programme.

Catch sampling data will supplement and benchmark CRA 6 Logbook data for representativeness and accuracy.

CRA 7 WORK PLAN 2023/24

The Otago Rock Lobster Industry Association (CRAMAC 7) coordinates vessel access for technicians to undertake catch sampling and tag and release work within season.

Having successfully established a voluntary logbook program across the CRA7 statistical areas, CRAMAC 7 will continue to develop the programme to maximise industry-generated data.

Development of ongoing elective research projects with the University of Otago will help to inform CRAMAC 7 with an index for future stock abundance.

CRAMAC 7 invested in high level policy work and economic analysis in relation to the South East Marine Protected Area proposal. There is expected to be an outcome this 23/24 year and provision is made to underpin a CRA7 industry challenge to proposed commercial exclusions.

CRAMAC7 will continue to maintain investment in the development of a management procedure, industry agreed standards, compliance initiatives and other research programmes.

Provision is also made to have representation at forums where CRA7 fishery business is relevant.

CRA 8 WORK PLAN 2023/24

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 2023/24 budget supports the continuation of an electronic Vessel Logbook recording and reporting system to support fisheries required research by the provision of data from a representative portion of the CRA 8 fleet.

CRAMAC 8 will continue facilitating the rock lobster tag recapture programme in support of fisheries required research and to augment the supply of stock assessment data on lobster growth rates and movements.

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

plan.

The CRAMAC 8 work plan will also continue to support industry use of the mandatory ER/GPR digital reporting system.

CRAMAC 8 contracts a full-time Chief Executive, *Malcolm Lawson*, who represents the CRA 8 industry on the NZ RLIC and in other forums. Mr Lawson is also the current chairman of the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd (NZ RLIC).

CRAMAC 8 will maintain investments to contribute to the maintenance and upgrade of appropriate standards and specifications for inclusion in fisheries plans and/or agreed commercial harvest strategies. This will include the collation of harvest agreements; codes of practice; industry agreed standards; compliance initiatives; research programmes; and consultation with other stakeholders.

CRA 8 is extending its research initiatives to include a collaboration with Otago University on examining the effect of heat stress on lobsters from marine heatwaves and the development of biopolymer materials as alternatives to plastics used by industry.

CRA 9 WORK PLAN 2023/24

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.

Sonya Tuerlings continues to represent CRA 9 as a director on the NZ RLIC Board.

The focus of the 2023/24 work plan is maintenance of the CRA 9 Vessel Logbook programme. Improving the consistency of reporting is an ongoing priority for the CRAMAC.

While the CRAMAC 9 marine biotoxin response plan was not invoked during 2022/23, it remains a high priority given a biotoxin event came within 60km of CRA 9 fishing grounds. The 2023/24 workplan has provision for necessary biotoxin testing as required.

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 the NZ RLIC website - <https://nzrocklobster.co.nz/documents/cramac-documents/>.

Please feel free to contact the NZ RLIC office directly with your request for printed copies of those documents.

Please email - cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz

COMPARISON OF CRA & PHC LEVIES – CURRENT AND PROPOSED.

COMMODITY LEVY 2022/23 National TACC 2793.3 tonnes			
Stock	Core Levy	Stock Levy	Total Levy per tonne
CRA 1	\$458.15	\$538.10	\$996.25
CRA2	\$458.15	\$257.91	\$716.06
CRA 3	\$458.15	\$439.16	\$897.31
CRA 4	\$458.15	\$341.31	\$799.46
CRA 5	\$458.15	\$268.21	\$726.36
CRA 6	\$458.15	\$155.56	\$613.71
CRA 7	\$458.15	\$1,022.42	\$1,480.57
CRA 8	\$458.15	\$168.19	\$626.34
CRA 9	\$458.15	\$450.66	\$908.81

COMMODITY LEVY 2023/24 National CRA TACC, 2777.3 t. PHC TACC 49.3t			
Stock	Core Levy	Stock Levy	Total Levy per tonne
CRA 1	\$396.65	635.63	1032.28
CRA2	\$396.65	654.1	1050.75
CRA 3	\$396.65	455.77	852.42
CRA 4	\$396.65	385.61	782.26
CRA 5	\$396.65	354.66	751.31
CRA 6	\$396.65	198.34	594.99
CRA 7	\$396.65	1121.08	1517.73
CRA 8	\$396.65	227.90	624.55
CRA 9	\$396.65	532.89	929.54
PHC 1	\$260.35	355.58	615.93

Levies are expressed in \$/tonne per annum and are invoiced in twelve instalments

Commencing 01 October 2023.