

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



**2024** BUSINESS  
**2025** PLAN



FISHERY FIRST - FROM ABUNDANCE, ALL BENEFITS WILL FLOW.



# KAIPUKAHU ABUNDANCE

The concept of kaipukahu, abundance, guides the NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council's approach to fisheries management and serves as the core principle underpinning the 2024/25 business plan.

**KA WHAKAPAI  
TE KAI O TE MOANA  
NURTURING  
THE BOUNTY OF THE OCEAN**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The NZ RLIC aims to influence policy and regulation to achieve ecologically sustainable fishing, cost effective and responsive management and enable the industry's strong contribution to export revenue, employment and regional economic activity.**

As a representative body, NZ RLIC both guides and takes direction from all CRA and PHC Quota Share Owners (QSOs), Iwi, processing and export companies and vessel operators that comprise our sector.

The work programme outlined in this Business Plan will pursue opportunities while working hard to address existing and future challenges for the rock lobster industry including to

- Enable responsive adjustments to management of rock lobster stocks, while taking account of environmental considerations
- Apply a science and evidence-based best practice approach to resource sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Curtail unwarranted regulation, cost impositions and restrictions on fishing
- Confront the cumulative impact of spatial access loss from a number of mechanisms whose effects are not integrated
- Minimise habitat damage from threats such as terrestrial run-off and coastal habitat degradation
- Advance effective management of recreational fishing and reduce uncertainty around the allocation of the TAC<sup>1</sup>
- Advocate for adjustments to electronic reporting to reduce complexity and restore a key relative abundance index

The NZ RLIC's function is supported by engaged participation through its nine-person Board. The nine directors, each appointed by their respective CRAMACs<sup>2</sup>, have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to improved fisheries management and environmental performance. The efforts by CRAMACs, our regional representative organisations and by our individual vessel operators – who contribute their time and effort to provide logbook

coverage and enable observer catch sampling and the tag and recapture programme – are fundamental to the achievements of the lobster industry. While we can celebrate our progress to date, and the setbacks that have been avoided the challenges faced by New Zealand's rock lobster industry are daunting and increasing in scope and complexity.

In seeking to address those challenges, the NZ RLIC's immediate level of cooperation and engagement is with CRAMACs and their membership. Our industry is full of hard-working, inventive, positive and resourceful characters who continually demonstrate their commitment to stewardship of the resource which underpins future benefits for the industry, and for non-commercial customary and recreational fishers.

NZ RLIC is consolidating working relationships with iwi, their companies and asset management groups and seeking to better understand and incorporate iwi values and aspirations, including by encouraging their involvement in CRAMACs. We have a strong working relationship with Te Ohu Kaimoana and recognise their role in safeguarding the Fisheries Settlement, the importance of the Settlement to the integrity of the QMS, and their mandate from Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIOs). Many of those MIOs are also rock lobster QSOs. Therefore, we work with them and Te Ohu Kaimoana so that our positions are aligned and mutually supportive.

Strong relationships between the catching sector and QSOs, processors and exporters are essential for the rock lobster industry. Cooperation is facilitated by the CRAMAC operating model and the engagement that provides with operators and QSOs "on the ground", and the NZ RLIC's working relationship with Lobster Exporters of New Zealand (LENZ<sup>3</sup>).

Through our involvement in the Commercial Fisheries Forum (CFF), NZ RLIC supports the development of well-formulated and integrated positions and collaborative working relationships with Sector Representative Entities (SREs) including the Pāua Industry Council, Seafood New Zealand (including its Inshore and Deepwater councils), Te Ohu Kaimoana and Aquaculture New Zealand. NZ RLIC also maintains positive working relationships with stakeholder groups including environmental NGOs and recreational fishers. We actively seek to instill a greater understanding amongst the public and the media of industry's efforts in responsible resource stewardship and the positive economic and social contributions made by the rock lobster industry.

We work constructively and in a professional manner with central and regional government agencies and Ministers. The 2023 election has provided a fresh opportunity to work with the Government to improve legislative and management frameworks, reduce costs and unnecessary regulation, support the export revenue New Zealand needs, and deliver better outcomes for our sector and the fishery.

This Business Plan acknowledges the ongoing uncertainty and rapid pace of change in our operating environment, the opportunities created by government reforms and the shift towards an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. NZ RLIC seeks a better understanding of the role of rock lobsters in the marine ecosystem, and of climate change, environmental variability and regime shifts that affect rock lobster stocks and their habitats. We are responsive to advances in science and technology and increased attention to ethical and animal welfare matters. Our approach is intended to ensure a long-term future for our industry through best-practice research and environmental performance informed by industry initiated and/or directly funded stock monitoring and research.

Risks to market access through geopolitical events or pandemics highlight the desirability of diversification. However, despite considerable efforts by our exporters, there are no viable alternatives that can absorb the volume, or provide the return needed, commensurate with current

production costs. The NZ RLIC is working with government to implement a legislative carry-forward mechanism that could be used to mitigate the consequences of loss of market access or inability to obtain a viable economic return.

During 2023/24 an extended and severe biotoxin event created substantial financial liability beyond the means of the CRAMAC concerned. After examining the alternatives to address similar future circumstances, the Board determined to establish a collective fund from the commodity levy that will enable financial support for CRAMACs for the cost of future biotoxin events. The incentive to ensure self-funding by CRAMACs is retained by only providing support after a threshold level is first paid by that CRAMAC and repayment over time.

NZ RLIC seeks to improve public understanding and appreciation of what the rock lobster industry delivers to our nation. Our sector has a compelling story to tell – we can be proud that New Zealand's commercial rock lobster fishery is a high-value and low-environmental impact sector. Industry participants are resourceful and hard-working, place a high value on the fishing lifestyle and are therefore inherently conservative on sustainability and environmental issues. The rock lobster industry provides a significant economic contribution and employment regionally and maximises the return to the national economy from sustainable commercial harvest through its live exports.



Mark Edwards  
Chief Executive Officer

<sup>1</sup> TAC – Total Allowance Catch

<sup>2</sup> CRA Management Area Councils – the regional organisations that represent the rock lobster industry in the nine QMAs

<sup>3</sup> Lobster Exporters of New Zealand is an incorporated society whose members comprise rock lobster export companies



# OUR ROLE, MISSION & VISION

## OUR ROLE

The NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd (NZ RLIC) is the representative body and central service agency for the commercial lobster fishing industry. NZ RLIC advocates for outcomes that are positive for our constituents and for the health of rock lobster fisheries. We work with government, tangata whenua, environmental groups and other marine stakeholders to address common challenges.

## OUR MISSION

NZ RLIC will continue building a cohesive and sustainable industry operating to deliver responsible environmental performance, making a substantial economic contribution - regionally and nationally - and safeguarding the social and cultural value of New Zealand's rock lobster fisheries through the practice of kaitiakitanga – guardianship and management – to ensure the health of the fisheries now and in the future.

New Zealand's fisheries management regime, including the Quota Management System (QMS), underpins the success of the rock lobster industry. The Fisheries Act is based primarily on ensuring sustainability through output controls on all extractive use, creating constructive incentives through secure harvest rights, resolving competing interests, delivering on the Fisheries Settlement and addressing interactions with the marine environment. Further work is needed to implement this fisheries management framework to realise its full potential.

## OUR VISION

- To be a united, prosperous and ecologically sustainable rock lobster industry valued and respected by the wider New Zealand community and government
- To be regarded by local and international consumers as an industry that produces a "beyond premium", fresh seafood product
- To take on a greater role in fisheries research and management and be acknowledged, both locally and abroad, as a leader in the sustainable and innovative management of rock lobster fisheries.



# FUNDING

The NZ RLIC has primary responsibility for the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy, first implemented in 2013 and renewed in 2018 and 2023 for red rock lobster (CRA) and packhorse rock lobster (PHC).

The administration of the mandatory levy (invoicing and debt collection) is contracted to Commercial Fisheries Services Ltd (FishServe).

The NZ RLIC has a separate income stream from the operation of the rock lobster stock monitoring contract with the Ministry for Primary Industries. Income is also derived from providing a range of contract management, financial management and administrative services to a small number of clients. Income earned in this manner offsets the amount required to be collected by way of the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy.

The NZ RLIC operational expenses for the period 1 October 2024 through to 30 September 2025, have been formulated to fund the capacity, services and activities needed to address risks and opportunities identified by the Board. Close financial management of expenditure and careful

prioritisation of available resources will continue with regular oversight from the Board. The NZ RLIC has a number of governance and accountability policies to ensure the organisation operates with appropriate procedures and controls.

The 2024/25 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$1,355,064.51. This budget takes into account the expanding scope and complexity of the policy and regulatory work programme and the need for fiscal constraint. The Board seeks to provide the resourcing needed to engage in the many policy and management issues that affect rock lobster fisheries, including those that threaten access. The total 2024/25 CRA TACC is 2,879.386 tonnes – the CRA Commodity Levy will be \$465.57 per tonne. The PHC TACC is 49.300 tonnes – the PHC Commodity Levy will be \$294.58 per tonne.

**The 2024/25 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$1,355,064.51.**

**The total 2024/25 CRA TACC is 2,879.386 tonnes – the CRA Commodity Levy will be \$465.57 per tonne.**

**The PHC TACC is 49.300 tonnes – the PHC Commodity Levy will be \$294.58 per tonne.**

THE SUM OF THE TACC FOR ALL SPINY AND PACKHORSE ROCK LOBSTER STOCKS FOR THE 2024/25 FISHING YEAR IS

**2,928.7**  
TONNES

**210**

**ROCK LOBSTER VESSELS** ARE DEPLOYED NATIONALLY, FISHING FROM THE THREE KINGS, MANAWHATĀWHI, ALL THE WAY TO STEWART ISLAND, RAKIURA, AND THE CHATHAMS, RĒKOHU/WHAREKAURI.

**\$392<sub>M</sub>**

EXPORT REVENUE (FOB) IN THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR.

**1800<sub>FTEs</sub>**

ARE EMPLOYED BY THE NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY.

**100**

THE ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY HAS AROUND  
**LANDING POINTS** ACROSS NZ AND A STRONG PRESENCE IN REGIONAL CENTRES.





# KEY COMPONENTS OF THE 2024/25 BUSINESS PLAN

The work undertaken by NZ RLIC under its Business Plan and resourced by the budget is divided into five categories.

In each of these categories, the outcomes sought and the steps that will be taken are outlined in the following sections.

1. Policy and management
2. Stock monitoring and research
3. Communications
4. Elective research and development
5. Product standards and certification



# 1. POLICY & MANAGEMENT

**NZ RLIC seeks to influence the development and implementation of policy, legislation, regulation and the performance of the fisheries management framework, nationally and regionally, to support environmentally sustainable, efficient, ethical and economically and socially optimal benefits from the use of the rock lobster resource.**

The security and confidence to invest in the resource and its future, and the incentives for stewardship, are underpinned by the rights and incentives inherent in the QMS and ongoing non-exclusive access to inshore fishing grounds. The range of access and allocation pressures will continue to be a primary focus along with progress in addressing actual risks to the health and productivity of the inshore marine environment.

The NZ RLIC's approach will always be underpinned by science and evidence and developed in collaboration with other representative bodies where appropriate so that integrated and cost-effective positions are developed through cost sharing and collaboration.

## 1. Enable responsive and equitable fisheries management

- Work with the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) and the Ministry in the annual review of rock lobster stocks, the TAC, TACC, allowances and regulatory controls.
- Support the development of new TAC decision rules (management procedures) and the associated mechanisms for responsive adjustment of management controls where practical for rock lobster stocks.
- Develop and work to achieve revised management targets for rock lobster stocks.
- Seek material improvements in the measurement and management of recreational fishing, and greater certainty about allocation of the TAC so as to create shared incentives for participants in rock lobster fisheries.

## 2. Enhance performance of the marine management framework

- Develop industry submissions addressing spatial access loss through closures and restrictions, including their cumulative impact and the lack of integration between mechanisms.
- Work to ensure that proposals for finer-scale management and localised abundance are cognisant of information requirements, sustainability effects, cost and implications for access rights.
- Engage constructively in the recognition and provision for customary rights through customary marine title applications, settlement legislation and mechanisms under Part IX of the Fisheries Act, while ensuring there is appropriate consideration of the ability to utilise commercial entitlements.
- Engage in proposed new Marine Protected Areas and other spatial management initiatives to address any adverse effects of fishing while protect the integrity of the fisheries management regime and safeguarding fisheries access and utilisation.

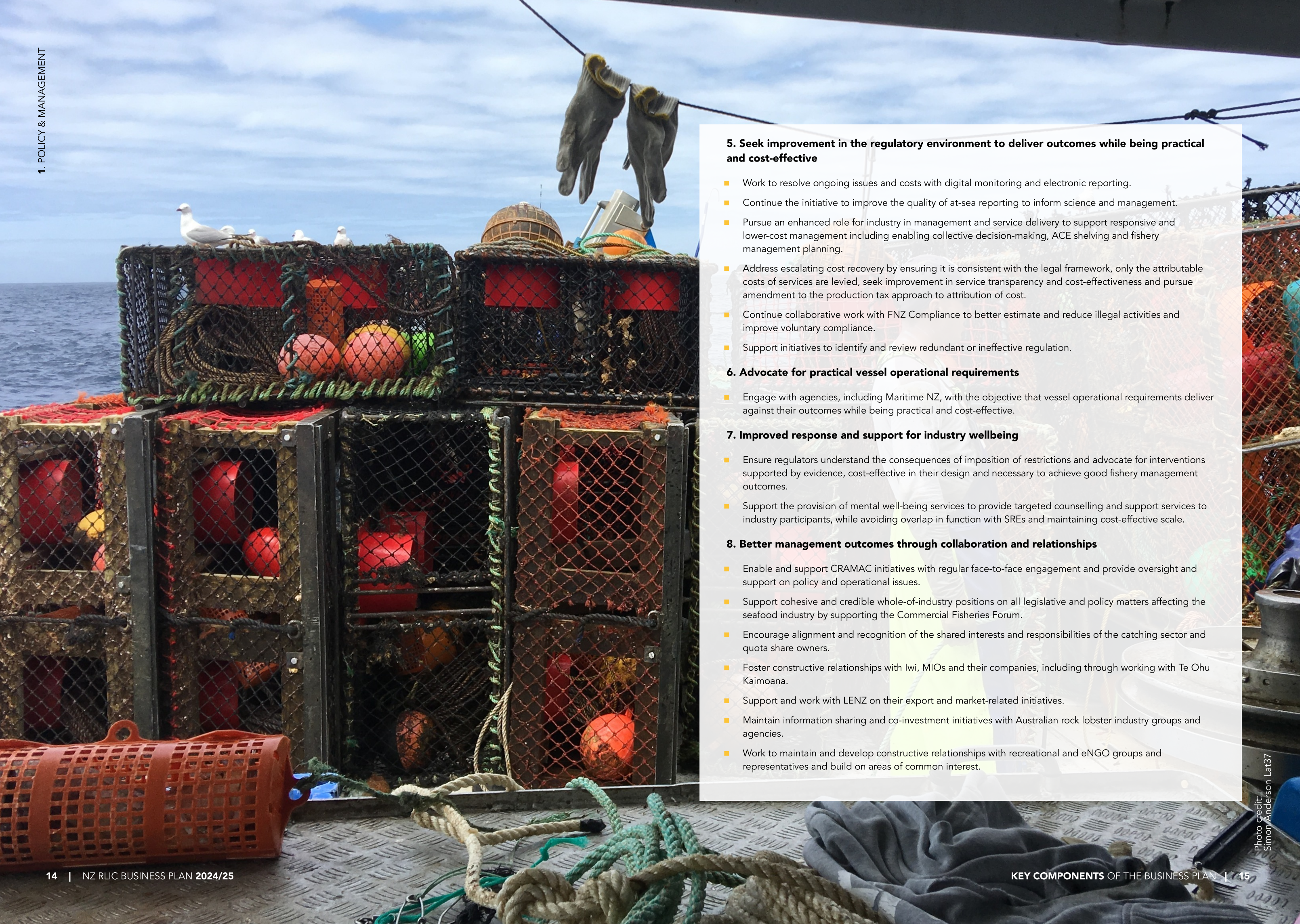
## 3. Legislative reform provides for confidence and sustainable development of the rock lobster sector

- Support the resolution of landings and returns issues through the exemption process and adjustments to the settings for reporting and balancing against ACE.
- Work with government to enact a carry-forward provision for rock lobster fisheries.
- Engage with government on the amendment of the Resource Management Act, and in particular, seek to address the overlap in function with the Fisheries Act.
- Engage in government's reform of legislation providing for customary marine title to provide that impacts on commercial entitlements and the Settlement are taken into account.
- Work with agencies on other reforms with potential impacts on rock lobster fisheries, including marine conservation statutes and regional initiatives.
- Seek legislative amendment to provide ACE carry-forward mechanism that avoids risks to sustainability.
- Promote policies and plans that support adaptation of the industry to climate change.

## 4. Regional coastal plans and policies address threats to coastal marine ecosystems and provide certainty for the wild harvest sector

- Continue to engage and advocate in regional planning process including challenging encroachment in fisheries management and duplication of matters that are addressed through the Fisheries Act.
- Redirect regional coastal plans and policies to focus on addressing threats to the health and productivity of marine ecosystems.
- Encourage integrated monitoring and management of all activities across the coastal marine environment.
- Participate in upcoming coastal plan reviews.





### 5. Seek improvement in the regulatory environment to deliver outcomes while being practical and cost-effective

- Work to resolve ongoing issues and costs with digital monitoring and electronic reporting.
- Continue the initiative to improve the quality of at-sea reporting to inform science and management.
- Pursue an enhanced role for industry in management and service delivery to support responsive and lower-cost management including enabling collective decision-making, ACE shelving and fishery management planning.
- Address escalating cost recovery by ensuring it is consistent with the legal framework, only the attributable costs of services are levied, seek improvement in service transparency and cost-effectiveness and pursue amendment to the production tax approach to attribution of cost.
- Continue collaborative work with FNZ Compliance to better estimate and reduce illegal activities and improve voluntary compliance.
- Support initiatives to identify and review redundant or ineffective regulation.

### 6. Advocate for practical vessel operational requirements

- Engage with agencies, including Maritime NZ, with the objective that vessel operational requirements deliver against their outcomes while being practical and cost-effective.

### 7. Improved response and support for industry wellbeing

- Ensure regulators understand the consequences of imposition of restrictions and advocate for interventions supported by evidence, cost-effective in their design and necessary to achieve good fishery management outcomes.
- Support the provision of mental well-being services to provide targeted counselling and support services to industry participants, while avoiding overlap in function with SREs and maintaining cost-effective scale.

### 8. Better management outcomes through collaboration and relationships

- Enable and support CRAMAC initiatives with regular face-to-face engagement and provide oversight and support on policy and operational issues.
- Support cohesive and credible whole-of-industry positions on all legislative and policy matters affecting the seafood industry by supporting the Commercial Fisheries Forum.
- Encourage alignment and recognition of the shared interests and responsibilities of the catching sector and quota share owners.
- Foster constructive relationships with Iwi, MIOs and their companies, including through working with Te Ohu Kaimoana.
- Support and work with LENZ on their export and market-related initiatives.
- Maintain information sharing and co-investment initiatives with Australian rock lobster industry groups and agencies.
- Work to maintain and develop constructive relationships with recreational and eNGO groups and representatives and build on areas of common interest.



## 2. STOCK MONITORING & RESEARCH

To maintain sustainable levels of harvest and environmental performance, the NZ RLIC invests in world-leading and innovative stock monitoring and stock assessment.

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 and ecosystem relationships will inform responsive management and will support delivery of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management that is inherent in the Fisheries Act.

### 1. Invest in research to inform decisions on sustainable levels of harvest

- Fund research that assesses stock biomass relative to agreed management targets and limits
- Support research that seeks to understand the impact of environmental change on rock lobster abundance, and the relationship between rock lobster abundance and other components of marine ecosystems
- Support the peer review, transparency and publication processes that give government and the public confidence in the quality and integrity of the science that informs rock lobster management
- Participate in all relevant research processes including the Rock Lobster Fishery Assessment Working Group, the Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group, the Aquatic Environment Working Group etc
- Facilitate research planning that identifies priority areas to invest in new science and information
- Monitor developments in research and science in other jurisdictions to identify improvement opportunities

### 2. Coordinate collection of stock monitoring information that provides key data to inform stock assessment and assess impact of spatial exclusion

- Organise the collection of spatially and temporally representative fishery-dependent information including length frequency, sex and state from the voluntary vessel logbook programme augmented by observer catch sampling
- Implement tag release and recapture programmes to provide growth estimates and movement information to inform length-based population models
- Support revised approaches to collect information on strength of recruiting year classes.

### 3. Commission science that supports responsive management

- Support the development of new stock management targets and the formulation of a new generation of management procedures to provide clarity and responsive adjustments to the TAC as new information becomes available.



# 3. COMMUNICATIONS

**We will communicate the reputation of the New Zealand rock lobster as a premium value, healthy, sustainably and ethically harvested food with substantial export returns to the national economy, and a generator of significant economic activity in regional towns and communities.**

Developing a level of understanding and awareness among government and the public of the sector's positive contributions is central to the opportunity to engage in decision-making and influence processes to achieve our vision. We will maintain a calm, evidence-based and rational approach to our advocacy and maintain constructive relationships with government and all fisheries stakeholders. NZ RLIC's internal communications will endeavour to inform, coordinate and connect industry so there is commonality of purpose, and an understanding of our responsibilities and outcomes that are sought.

**1. There is consensus within industry about the outcomes we seek to achieve and the role components of industry play.**

- NZ RLIC will ensure there is regular engagement and discussion with the CRAMAC membership to ensure unity of purpose and understanding of our priorities and responsibilities.

**2. Increase community connection by improving public understanding of the rock lobster industry's environmental and sustainability credentials and its contributions to New Zealand's social and economic fabric.**

- Reinforce the image of the rock lobster sector as responsible, with a strong commitment to sustainable use of the fishery, including a long-standing record of constructive management and investment in the fishery through science and monitoring.

- Targeted communication addressing inaccurate and imbalanced information and providing factual information on the science and management principles behind the New Zealand fisheries management framework.

- Convey the value contributed by the industry to regional towns and communities including through associated servicing and support businesses and employment.

**3. Ensure NZ RLIC is using the most effective communication approach and tools.**

- Take steps to implement the communication strategy, in coordination with CRAMAC initiatives.
- Maintain and enhance the NZ RLIC website to ensure content is relevant, current, accurate and easily accessible by all, and encourage CRAMAC use of their sections of the site.



## 4. ELECTIVE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

**Sustainable use of a marine resource throws up constant challenges. We need to take proactive steps to address those issues including being 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.

### **1. Ensure responses to emerging risks and opportunities are informed through investment in science.**

- Monitor research on biotoxins in Australasia including their detection, testing mechanisms, accumulation and persistence in crustaceans
- Examine developments in the science related to crustacean welfare and support the development of standards that meet or exceed international best practice
- Scan for new or emerging threats, including biosecurity risks.

### **2. Reduce the risk of whale interactions and support positive outcomes to any entanglements.**

- Promote and disseminate the WhaleSafe Manual
- Implement a revised approach to disseminate information on cetacean sightings and movements
- Review best practice approaches and gear modifications that have reduced the incidence of entanglements in other jurisdictions
- Work with DoC to deploy the GPS location buoys purchased by the NZ RLIC to allow timely intervention in any entanglement incident.

### **3. Ensure vessel operators and catch sampling technicians have the equipment and support required.**

- Invest in maintaining and updating electronic vessel logbook platforms
- Ensure electronic data collection and data storage protocols meet or exceed the required standards
- Maintain the TagTracker database that provides key growth increment data and provides upgraded feedback reports to vessel operators who report rock lobster tag recaptures.

### **4. Inform industry submissions on spatial access loss, re-allocation and other mechanisms impacting on economics of operation.**

- Improve the approach to analyse the impact of closure, restriction and increased cost including the collection of specific, credible economic data.

### **5. Inform response to our environmental footprint including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**

- Assess GHG emissions for the rock lobster industry and potential mitigation responses.





# 5. PRODUCT STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION



**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.**

Exporters face 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. NZ RLIC will support LENZ’s work to mitigate market-related risks and consider what steps the sector can take to develop resilience. There is also ongoing work needed to provide accessible and authoritative information to demonstrate the environmental sustainability of rock lobster fishing.

**1. Coordinate industry responses to issues that have implications for market access and food security including food safety, quality, animal welfare and environmental performance.**

- Commission elective research and undertake analysis to address risks and issues concerning food safety, biotoxins, biosecurity, product standards and animal welfare
- Implement the revised the National Marine Biotoxin Risk Management Plan to ensure readiness and response, and coordinate its implementation with the SSC<sup>5</sup> and CRAMACs
- Promote ethical treatment in handling, processing and distribution of lobsters.

**2. Support LENZ initiatives to examine market opportunities, and promote and enhance the reputation of rock lobster as a “beyond premium” product.**

- Facilitate work by LENZ to promote and market rock lobster, explore opportunities to diversify markets and address challenges including freight and logistic issues, including through seeking support from and advocacy with government agencies
- Monitor developments and the uptake of third-party certification, seafood labelling and traceability in the China market and coordinate

the development of appropriate responses

- Support the operation of the OpenSeas initiative, including using the revised risk assessment framework to certify rock lobster fisheries
- Encourage and facilitate use of environmentally friendly packaging.

**3. Support industry managing and adapting to market disruption and access issues.**

- In the event of market access issues, work urgently with government to develop and implement adjustment and mitigation approaches
- Where global or regional market disruptions such as pandemics emerge, work with the SSC to provide protocols, information and advice, including requirements to maintain and operate “essential service” status and protect health, safety and wellbeing.

**4. Mitigate the risk posed to CRAMACs by extended and severe biotoxin events**

- Establish a collective fund administered by NZ RLIC that will enable financial support for CRAMACs for the cost of biotoxin events, beyond the threshold levels of self-funding by CRAMACs.

<sup>5</sup> Seafood Standards Council



# ORGANISATION AND STAFF

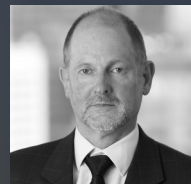
## THE TEAM

The NZ RLIC aims to operate with high standards of governance, prudent financial management and strict adherence to legislative and constitutional requirements, including those related to Health and Safety and an independently audited financial report.

The financial independence provided by the levies contributed by our members allows us to apply energetic focus and well-informed representation on the many policy, operational and administrative issues that confront the lobster industry. This Business Plan reflects the scope of work to be undertaken and the process of engaging with the industry on priorities.

The NZ RLIC team provides timely support and facilitation for the regional CRAMACs and for industry participants generally as requested. Every effort will be made to deliver the necessary submissions and manage programmes and deliverables outlined in this Business Plan to deadlines, and within budget. The reactive nature of the operating environment requires responsiveness and adaptation within the year and may lead to our team recommending adjustment of the programme to the NZ RLIC Board.

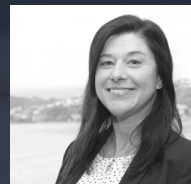
The NZ RLIC team comprises chief executive officer **Mark Edwards**, chief operating officer **James Robertson**, and marine technician **Angela Russell**. **Helen Regan** serves as the business manager and **Leigh Brown** is contracted to provide administrative support. **Daryl Sykes** holds a support and advisory role



Mark Edwards



James Robertson



Angela Russell



Helen Regan



Leigh Brown



Daryl Sykes



# OUR BOARD

NZ RLIC staff are guided and supported by the nine Board members nominated by each of the CRAMACs and the Chair.

We also work closely with the professionals appointed by most CRAMACs (Julie Hills for CRAMAC 1,2,3,4, Mitch Campbell for CRAMAC 5, Chanel Gardner for CRAMAC 7, Malcolm Lawson for CRAMAC 8 and Larnce Wichman for CRAMAC 9) and with the CRAMAC Chairs and their executive committees to address issues in their regions and improve coordination and communication.

The NZ RLIC team leases office space in NZ Post House in Wellington. The facilities are co-located with other seafood representative bodies, Te Ohu Kaimoana and Commercial Fisheries Services Ltd (FishServe). As it has done since 1996, the NZ RLIC will coordinate the delivery of a wide range of technical, science, legal and policy advice to CRAMACs and individual industry members. On request from the CRAMACs, financial administration of rock lobster Stock Specific Levy income is undertaken by the NZ RLIC.



**CRAMAC 1**  
Paul Knight



**CRAMAC 2**  
Dan McRae



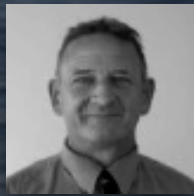
**CRAMAC 3**  
Salve Zame



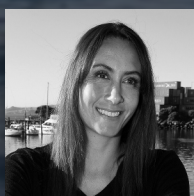
**CRAMAC 4**  
Mark Peychers



**CRAMAC 5**  
Mitch Campbell



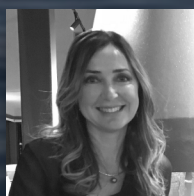
**CRAMAC 6**  
Terry Gittings



**CRAMAC 7**  
Chanel Gardner



**CRAMAC 8**  
Malcolm Lawson<sup>4</sup>



**CRAMAC 9**  
Sonya Tuerlings

<sup>4</sup> With Malcom Lawson stepping down from his role with CRAMAC 8 in 2024/25, he will be succeeded by Kathyryn Bell.

# SINCE 1990...

the overall  
annual rock lobster  
TACC has remained  
steady at  
**~2700 t**

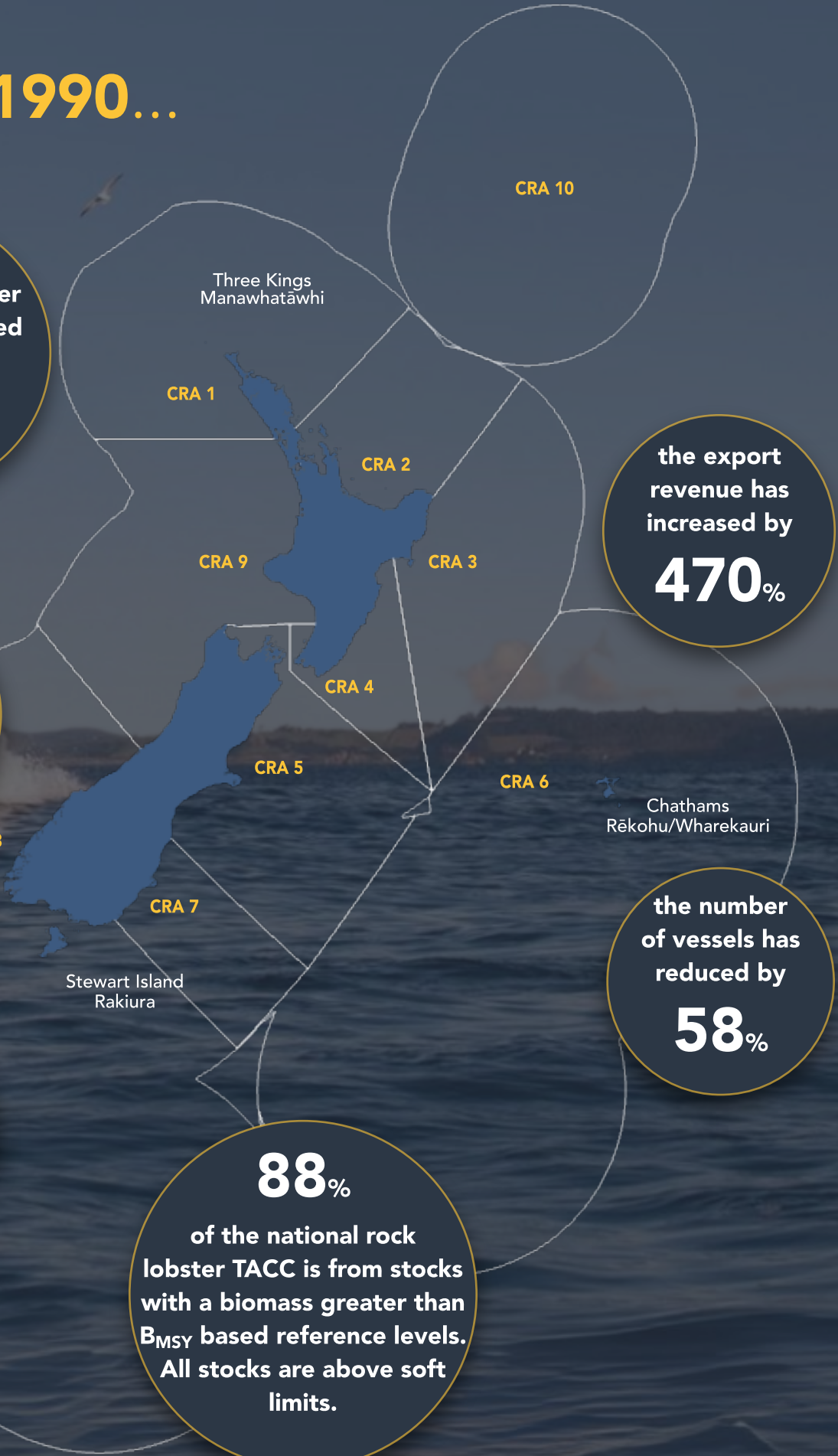
the catch  
rate (CPUE) has  
increased by over  
**420%**

the number  
of pot lifts  
has reduced by  
**76%**

**88%**  
of the national rock  
lobster TACC is from stocks  
with a biomass greater than  
B<sub>MSY</sub> based reference levels.  
All stocks are above soft  
limits.

the export  
revenue has  
increased by  
**470%**

the number  
of vessels has  
reduced by  
**58%**





# COMMODITY LEVY

The NZ RLIC shareholders agreed that the 2024/25 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$1,355,064.51 to offset NZ RLIC operational expenses and support CRAMACs for the period 1 October 2024 through to 30 September 2025.

TOTAL CRA TACC FOR 2024/25

**2879.386**  
TONNES

CRA COMMODITY LEVY

**\$465.57**  
PER TONNE

TOTAL PHC TACC FOR 2024/25

**49.300**  
TONNES

PHC COMMODITY LEVY

**\$294.58**  
PER TONNE

Should you have any enquiries about the proposed 2024/25 NZ RLIC Business Plan and Budget, or about the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy, please contact the NZ RLIC office at your convenience.

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd



**Mark Edwards**  
Chief Executive Officer  
cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz

# BUDGET 2024/25

	BUDGET 2022/23	BUDGET 2023/24	BUDGET 2024/25
INCOME			
Commodity Levy	\$1,279,743	\$1,114,496	\$1,355,065
External Service Provision	\$20,000	\$27,000	\$26,000
MPI Research Contract	\$623,700	\$765,100	\$653,822
Surplus Carried Forward			
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,928,443	\$1,906,596	\$2,034,887
EXPENSES			
Policy and Management	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$275,000
Communication	\$61,350	\$43,300	\$57,580
Elective Research	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$106,800
Product Standards	\$80,000	\$76,000	\$125,000
Staff and Resources	\$730,093	\$823,348	\$867,902
MPI Research Contract	\$559,000	\$560,948	\$577,105
Direct Purchase Research	\$175,000	\$80,000	\$25,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,928,443	\$1,906,596	\$2,034,887

NB: FIGURES ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR.





**KAITIAKITANGA**  
**GUARDIANSHIP**  
IS AT THE HEART OF  
NEW ZEALAND'S ROCK  
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MANAGEMENT

**NZ ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY COUNCIL LTD**

Level 12, 7 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea  
PO Box 947, Wellington 6011  
[cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz](mailto:cra@nzrocklobster.co.nz)  
[www.rocklobster.co.nz](http://www.rocklobster.co.nz)