

NEW ZEALAND **ROCK LOBSTER** INDUSTRY COUNCIL

2025 / 26 BUSINESS PLAN

Fishery first. From abundance, all benefits flow.



TĒNĀ KOUTOU CONTENTS

02

Executive summary

04

Our role, mission and vision

08

Funding overview

10

Components of the
2025/2026 business plan

22

Organisation and staff

24

Commodity Levy and budget

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council (NZ RLIC) supports the operation of the commercial rock lobster sector in a challenging and dynamic environment.

We work to maintain the necessary access to inshore fishing grounds, minimise imposed costs and achieve a rational regulatory framework to enable the industry's success.

NZ RLIC engages constructively and in a professional manner with central and regional government agencies and Ministers to influence policy and regulation. Our focus is on achieving ecologically sustainable fishing, cost effective and responsive management and enabling the industry's strong contribution to export revenue, employment and regional economic activity.

This Business Plan acknowledges the ongoing uncertainty and rapid pace of change in our operating environment including this government's ambitious legislative and regulatory reform agenda. These reforms present both issues to address, and opportunities such as the intent to enable industry management and the commitment to an export led economy.

NZ RLIC supports the incorporation of ecosystem considerations into fisheries management and seeks a more comprehensive understanding of the role of rock lobsters in the marine ecosystem, 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 management and environmental performance informed by industry initiated and/or directly funded stock monitoring and research.

The work programme outlined in this Business Plan will pursue an improved regulatory environment for the rock lobster industry, including to:

- Enable responsive adjustments to management of rock lobster stocks taking into account environmental factors
- Apply a science and evidence-based, best practice approach to resource sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Minimise restrictions on fishing and seek to address the underlying issues that lead to such proposals
- Confront the cumulative impact of spatial access loss from different mechanisms whose effects are not integrated
- Advocate for actions to 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 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to create shared incentives
- Work with government to review electronic reporting to reduce complexity and restore the key relative abundance index.

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

NZ RLIC's function is supported by engaged participation from its ten-person Board. The nine directors, each appointed by their respective CRAMACs¹, have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to improved fisheries management and environmental performance.

The CRAMACs, our regional representative organisations, include the full spectrum of New Zealand's rock lobster sector – QSOs, Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) fishers, processors, individual vessel operators and exporters. The efforts of individual vessel operators – who contribute their time and effort to provide logbook coverage and enable observer catch sampling and the tag and recapture programme – is fundamental to the management of the lobster fishery. Strong relationships between the catching sector and QSOs, processors and exporters are essential for the rock lobster industry. The CRAMAC operating model provides for NZ RLIC's engagement with operators and QSOs "on the ground" and NZ RLIC's working relationship with lobster exporting companies links us to the international market.

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 Māori 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.

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 other 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 non-Governmental Organisations (eNGOs) and recreational fishers.

The current international geopolitical and economic environment is turbulent and poses risk to market access and returns. While diversification to alternative markets would be desirable, efforts by our exporters

have yet to identify viable alternatives to China that can absorb the volume, or provide the return needed, commensurate with current production costs. NZ RLIC is working with government to implement a legislative carry-forward mechanism specific to lobster. This mechanism would be triggered by a supermajority of QSOs (75%) for a rock lobster stock and activate carry-forward for that stock in the upcoming year, in the absence of any sustainability concerns. This would mitigate the consequences of loss of market access or inability to obtain a viable economic return.

NZ RLIC seeks to improve understanding and appreciation among the public and the media of what the rock lobster industry delivers to our nation, while addressing the myths and misconceptions that surround commercial fishing and improve our fishers' licence to operate in the long run. The industry's efforts in responsible resource stewardship which underpins future benefits for the industry, and for non-commercial customary and recreational fishers, need acknowledgement.

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.

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. We look forward to working with you to address these issues and ensure a sustainable future for the industry and the fishery, now and for the future.

Mark Edwards
Chief Executive Officer



KAIPUKAHU ABUNDANCE

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

OUR ROLE



The 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 local and central government, tangata whenua, environmental groups and other marine stakeholders to address common challenges and advance the interests of the fishery.

OUR MISSION



The NZ RLIC is committed to fostering a cohesive, 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 develop responsible management initiatives, to support and initiate research needed to inform management, and be acknowledged, both locally and abroad, as a leader in the sustainable and innovative management of rock lobster fisheries.



INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

210

Rock lobster vessels are deployed nationally. Fishing from Three Kings, Manawhatawhi, all the way to Stewart Island, Rakiura and the Chathams, Rēkohu Wharekauri

100

Landing points across New Zealand and a strong presence in regional centres

1800

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) workers are employed by the New Zealand rock lobster industry

2700T

The overall annual rock lobster TACC has remained steady at approximately 2700 tonnes since 1990

59%

Reduction in the number of rock lobster vessels since 1990

75%

Reduction in the number of pot lifts since 1990

380%

Increase in the catch per unit effort (CPUE) since 1990

420%

Increase in export revenue from rock lobster since 1990

FUNDING

The NZ RLIC has primary responsibility for the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy.

The levy was first implemented in 2013 and renewed in 2018 and 2023 for spiny rock lobster (CRA) and packhorse rock lobster (PHC). The levy is charged per tonne of CRA or PHC quota weight and funds the range of activities and services set out in this business plan.

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

NZ RLIC has a separate income stream from the operation of the rock lobster stock monitoring contract with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

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.

NZ RLIC operational expenses for the period 1 October 2025 through to 30 September 2026 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.

NZ RLIC has a number of governance and accountability policies to ensure the organisation operates with appropriate procedures and controls.

The 2025/26 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$1,516,560.

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 2025/26 CRA TACC is 2,879.386 tonnes. The CRA Commodity Levy will be \$519.39 per tonne.

The PHC TACC is 49.300 tonnes. The PHC Commodity Levy will be \$427.82 per tonne.



\$350m

Export revenue (FOB)
generated by the rock lobster
industry in 2024

\$1,516,560

Is set to be recovered by
the 2025/26 Rock Lobster
Commodity Levy

2879.386 tonnes

The total CRA TACC for 2025/26.
The CRA Commodity Levy will be
\$519.39 per tonne

49.300 tonnes

The total PHC TACC for 2025/26.
The PHC Commodity Levy will be
\$427.82 per tonne

2928.686 tonnes

The sum of the TACCs for all spiny
and packhorse rock lobster stocks
for the 2025/26 fishing year

2025 / 26 BUSINESS PLAN

The work undertaken by NZ RLIC under its Business Plan and resourced by the budget is divided into five categories. The outcomes sought and the steps that will be taken are outlined in the subsequent sections.

1

POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Enable responsive management, improve the performance of the legislative and regulatory framework, work to maintain access and reduce the uncertainty and cost in the operating environment.

2

STOCK MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Invest in scientific research and monitoring to inform evidence-based decisions and adaptive management of lobster stocks, taking into account their relationship with the marine ecosystem.

3

ELECTIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Pursue innovative research and development opportunities to improve industry practices, enable adaptation and respond to emerging risks.

4

PRODUCT STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION

Support the industry in navigating changes to export standards and requirements. This includes commissioning elective research, exploring certification and mitigating risk of market disruption.

5

COMMUNICATIONS

Promote awareness among government officials and the public about the sector's vital role in maintaining stock sustainability, driving regional economic activity and boosting export returns. Internal communications will foster an understanding of our responsibilities and reinforce a collective sense of purpose.





The 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 impacts on the health and productivity of the inshore marine environment.

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 Advisory Group (NRLAG) and the Ministry in the annual review of rock lobster stocks, the TAC, Total Allowable Commercial Catch (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 for rock lobster stocks.
- Develop and work to establish 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, to create shared incentives for participants in rock lobster fisheries.

2. Improve performance of the marine management framework

- Develop industry submissions addressing spatial access loss through closures and restrictions, including their cumulative impact, displacement effects 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 ongoing ability to utilise commercial entitlements.

- Engage in proposed new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other spatial management initiatives to address any adverse effects of fishing while protecting 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 specific carry-forward provision for rock lobster fisheries.
- Engage with government on the reform of the Resource Management Act (RMA) and seek to address the overlap in function with the Fisheries Act and recognition of fisheries rights.
- Engage in government's reform of legislation providing for customary marine title to provide that impacts on commercial entitlements and the Fisheries Settlement are taken into account.
- Work with agencies on other reforms with potential to impact rock lobster fisheries, including through access loss, such as marine conservation statutes, new developments in the coastal marine area and regional initiatives.
- Promote policies and plans that support industry's adaptation to climate change.

4. Regional coastal plans and policies address threats to coastal marine ecosystems and provide access and utilisation 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 including to address threats to utilisation or access.

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
 - ◊ Cost recovery is commensurate to improvement in service transparency and cost-effectiveness,
 - ◊ Amendment is made 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 that imposition of restrictions have on operations and fisher wellbeing. Advocate for interventions supported by evidence, that are 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 assistance 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 lobster exporters 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.

Continuous improvement is sought 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 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, including 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 Vscience 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 and the Aquatic Environment Working Group



Operators and independent technicians collect fisheries-dependent data to inform rock lobster stock assessments

- Facilitate research planning that identifies priority areas for investing 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.

88%

OF THE NZ ROCK LOBSTER TACC IS FROM STOCKS WITH A BIOMASS GREATER THAN THE BMSY-BASED REFERENCE LEVELS. ALL STOCKS ARE ABOVE SOFT LIMITS.





3 ELECTIVE RESEARCH + DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable use of a marine resource generates constant challenges. Proactive steps must be taken 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. Serious implications would follow a detection 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. 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
- Review best practice approaches and gear modifications that have reduced the incidence of entanglements in other jurisdictions
- Work with the Department of Conservation (DoC) to deploy the GPS location buoys purchased by the NZ RLIC to allow timely intervention should an entanglement incident occur.



The WhaleSafe Manual helps vessel operators ensure they are employing best practices on the water



Information on juvenile rock lobsters is an important input to stock assessments. A sampling programme to collect more data is being trialled through a special permit process

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.

4 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 consumer preferences in the market. NZ RLIC will continue to work closely with lobster exporters and the Seafood Standards Council (SSC) to navigate these shifts successfully.

NZ RLIC will support lobster exporters' work to mitigate market-related risks and consider what steps the sector can take to develop market resilience. Ongoing work is also 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 National Marine Biotoxin Risk Management Plan to ensure readiness and response. Coordinate its implementation with the Seafood Standards Council and CRAMACs
 - Promote ethical treatment in handling, processing and distribution of lobsters.
2. **Support lobster exporter initiatives that examine market opportunities and promote and enhance the reputation of rock lobster as a "beyond premium" product**
 - Facilitate work by exporters to promote and market rock lobster, explore opportunities to diversify markets and address challenges including freight and logistic issues, including

RMPs

ALL NEW ZEALAND BUSINESSES HARVESTING, PROCESSING OR EXPORTING ROCK LOBSTER OPERATE UNDER MPI-REGISTERED RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS (RMPs) AND APPLY THE HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) SYSTEM FOR FOOD SAFETY

through seeking support from and advocacy with government agencies

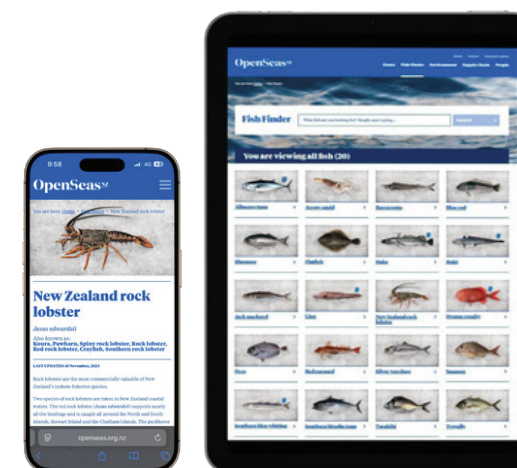
- Monitor developments and the uptake of third-party certification, seafood labelling and traceability in the Chinese market and coordinate the development of appropriate responses
- Support the operation of the OpenSeas initiative, including implementing the revised risk assessment framework to certify 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 Seafood Standards Council 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 severe and extended biotoxin events

- Maintain 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.



Building OpenSeas to contain comprehensive information on the environmental, social and production credentials of NZ seafood

5 COMMUNICATIONS



We will promote the New Zealand rock lobster as a premium value, healthy, sustainable and ethically harvested food choice. The lobster industry provides substantial export returns to the national economy and generates significant economic activity in regional towns and communities.

By sharing this information, we aim to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the rock lobster sector's value to New Zealand.

Raising the level of understanding and awareness among government and the public of the sector's positive contribution 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.

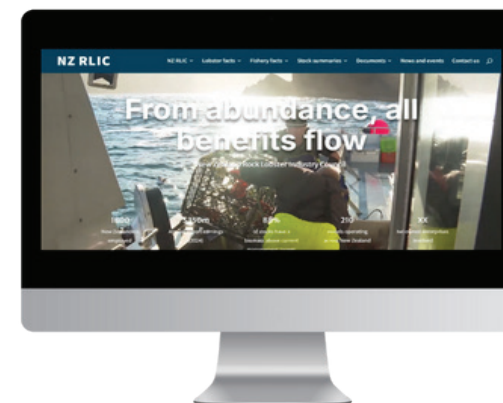
NZ RLIC's internal communications will endeavour to inform, coordinate and connect industry so there is commonality of purpose, and an understanding of our responsibilities and outcomes that are sought.

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 stock sustainability credentials and its contributions to the socio-economic fabric of New Zealand

- 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



Regular engagement and clear communication with our rock lobster fishers is critical to ensuring operational alignment, industry compliance, and continued support across the rock lobster sector

- 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 the rock lobster industry generates for regional towns and communities including through employment and associated servicing and support businesses.

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

- 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. Encourage use of the website by CRAMACs, members of the public and officials.

ORGANISATION AND STAFF

NZ RLIC strives to operate with high standards of governance, prudent financial management and strict adherence to legislative and constitutional requirements. This includes Health and Safety requirements and the need for 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.

NZ RLIC team provides timely support and facilitation for the regional CRAMACs and for industry participants generally as appropriate. 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.

OUR TEAM

The NZ RLIC team is comprised of 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.

NZ RLIC leases office space in the 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, 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.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mark Edwards



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
James Robertson



MARINE TECHNICIAN
Angela Russell



ADVISOR
Daryl Sykes



BUSINESS MANAGER
Helen Regan



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Leigh Brown



OUR BOARD

NZ RLIC staff are guided and supported by ten Board members, nominated by each of the CRAMACs and the Chair, Malcolm Lawson.



CHAIR
Malcom Lawson



CRA1
Paul Knight



CRA2
Dan McRae



CRA3
Salve Zame



CRA4
Mark Peychers



CRA5
Mitch Campbell



CRA6
Terry Gittings



CRA7
Chanel Gardner



CRA8
Kathryn Molloy



CRA9
Sonya Tuerlings

The CRAMAC Chairs and their executive committees are equally important, providing expertise and regional input to address fisheries management issues across their respective QMAs and improve coordination and communication within their areas. We also work closely with the professionals appointed by CRAMACs:

CRAMACs 1 - 4
Julie Hills

CRAMAC 5
Mitch Campbell

CRAMAC 6
Jeff Clark

CRAMAC 7
Chanel Gardner

CRAMAC 8
Kathryn Molloy

CRAMAC 9
Larnce Wichman

KAITIAKITANGA

GUARDIANSHIP
IS AT THE HEART OF NEW ZEALAND'S
ROCK LOBSTER FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT.

COMMODITY LEVY

NZ RLIC shareholders agreed that the 2025/26 Rock Lobster Commodity Levy will be set to recover \$1,516,560 to offset NZ RLIC operational expenses and support CRAMACs for the period 1 October 2025 through to 30 September 2026.

2879.386 T

The total CRA TACC
for 2025/26

\$519.39

CRA Commodity
Levy (per tonne)

49.300 T

The total PHC TACC
for 2025/26

\$427.82

PHC Commodity
Levy (per tonne)

2025 / 26 BUDGET

| | BUDGET 2023/24 | BUDGET 2024/25 | BUDGET 2025/26 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Commodity Levy | \$1,114,496 | \$1,355,065 | \$1,516,561 |
| External service provision | \$27,000 | \$26,000 | \$20,000 |
| MPI research contract | \$765,100 | \$653,822 | \$635,822 |
| Surplus carried forward | - | - | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$1,906,596 | \$2,034,887 | \$2,172,383 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Policy and management | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 |
| Communications | \$43,300 | \$57,580 | \$48,846 |
| Elective research | \$48,000 | \$106,800 | \$157,900 |
| Product standards | \$76,000 | \$125,000 | \$64,000 |
| Staff and resource | \$823,348 | \$867,902 | \$1,012,032 |
| MPI research contract | \$560,948 | \$577,105 | \$577,105 |
| Direct purchase research | \$80,000 | \$25,500 | \$37,500 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,906,596 | \$2,034,887 | \$2,172,383 |

Should you have any enquiries about the proposed 2025/26 NZ RLIC Business Plan and Budget, or about the Rock Lobster Commodity Levy, please contact the NZ RLIC office at your convenience.

Mark Edwards

Mark Edwards
Chief Executive Officer

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