

Kaikoura Boating Club

Submission to the Te Korowai strategy.

November 9 2011

The Club:

The Kaikoura Boating Club is an incorporated society with objectives of providing facilities to members for boating and to maintain and enhance the recreational fishing opportunities to members.

The Kaikoura Boating Club owns and maintains 3 concrete access ramps on the Kaikoura coast. The largest is at South Bay, at a well-protected site, and is wide enough to accommodate 4 vehicles, and is thus able to support the launch and retrieval of over 100 vessels per hour. The other two ramps are single lane, and more exposed to rough sea conditions. One is opposite the Pier Hotel on the North side of the peninsula, and the other is at Ocean View (South of Kaikoura near Oaro).

The Kaikoura Boating Club has 415 active members. Membership benefits of the club extend to the immediate families of member living at the same place, and any member may also take out as many friends and relatives as they like.

Thus the club represents the interests of well over 1,000 individuals who actively use the waters of Kaikoura and the bounty they provide.

Club Views:

The committee of the club met on 7th November to discuss the Te Korowai Strategy document. All committee members had had copies of the document for at least a month prior.

All members of the committee acknowledge the huge amount of work that went into preparing the document, and there was general support for the strategy. That said, there were some specific areas of concern.

Access

There was some concern expressed about the possibility of restricted access to club facilities at some time in the future. As there is no explicit reference to this in the document, we would like to see an explicit expression that:

There will be no restriction on recreational access to and from club facilities due to any proposal contained in the strategy, nor to the right of free passage through any area. This includes (but is not restricted to) any mataitai, taia pure, rahui, marine reserve, marine mammal sanctuary, world heritage site, or any rule made under, pursuant to, or in conjunction with, any such area.

Fish Theft 3.4.1

Discussion resolved that we need more enforcement here in Kaikoura to prevent fish theft. Rules without enforcement achieve very little.

There was a suggestion of a fee that goes partly to enforcement and partly to local and national management eg the Recreational Fishing Council.

3.4.1.4 – There was strong and unanimous support for Telson clipping, as an effective mechanism to stop fish taken under recreational rules entering commercial distribution and sales chains.

3.4.2 – Local management.

Paua

There was support for a reduction in the number of Paua to 6 per person conditional on an increase in the amount that could be held, and there were also many reservations.

There was not general support for increasing the minimum size, and it was agreed to keep the size at 125mm for recreational fishing, and to encourage commercial fishers to keep their minimum to 127mm. It was felt that this would leave a few fish their for recreational fishers when commercial harvesters moved through an area and took out most of the sized fish.

The way we got agreement about reducing the daily bag to 6, was to increase the accumulation limit from two to 4 daily bags, giving a recreational amount allowed to be held in freezer of 24 paua per person.

Crayfish

There was not agreement with the 150 limit for crays.

There was strong support the telson clipping and an accumulation limit of 18.

We recommend a closed season for recreational fishing, with no potting between 15th August to 15th October, to protect females in berry (and invite commercial to join us).

We recommend that all pots have a trap door, so that they can be emptied into a bin, to reduce the rate of damage, this being an issue of good handling practice.

Blue cod

All agreed with the 330 size increase.

Lots of discussion around the 10 blue cod, and there are acknowledged that there are issues, and there was a majority to retain the 10 blue cod.

Perch

Most agreed with a bag limit of 20 perch, and some wanted to keep it at 30. It seems unlikely that recreational effort would be any significant threat to perch numbers, for most it was seen more as an issue of preventing waste, and it was acknowledged that some do use all they catch.

Want to investigate a size limit for perch but need more data on which to base it.

Bladder Kelp

We wished to prevent the large scale harvesting of live bladder kelp in the Kaikoura region. It was considered that the harvesting of small amounts for paua food for the hatchery and for scientific purposed would be fine.

Concern was also expressed that there be no commercial harvesting of beach cast seaweed, though use by individuals for garden compost was not an issue.

3.4.4 Shared Fisheries

We would like to see trawlers kept outside of 3 miles from the coast.

General

Concern was expressed and agreed that any suggestions around hook sizes should be recommendations only, and not a strict rule. Smaller hooks are required to catch Tarakihi and other species, and most members used mixed hook size rigs at some times.

Charter Fishing

There was considerable discussion of the difficulty of capping the number of charter boats in Kaikoura.

There was a clear agreement that we need blue cod on the charter boat catch reporting forms.

Recovery

There was a general agreement that recreational fishers are giving up a lot in terms of reduced bag limits.

As abundance increases, we would like to see that gift returned, both with a return of the older bag limits, and with the increased abundance delivering ease of reaching those bag limits.