

Seasonal Fishing

Hui discussion

There was a brief discussion about the value of not fishing during spawning season. However there was insufficient time to discuss all aspects of the issue and it would be worthwhile waiting to have that discussion when more of our fisheries experts were available to contribute to the conversation.

From a commercial perspective a major difficulty for seasonal fishing is that most of the quota is held by larger companies or corporates. Individual fishers hold only around six percent of total quota, yet these are the people who would have the ability to manage their own affairs and determine when and where they fish.

Also, to be effective any seasonal fishing restriction would need to be supported by the community.

As mentioned earlier in the hui, the climate patterns are changing, and the start and end times for spawning for various species can no longer be reliably predicted.

There is a variety of factors that influence spawning times and these can vary from year to year and between months during the same year. So it was not just a matter of specifying a start and end date to the non-fishing period.

Any further discussion will require good understanding of all the issues. Seasonal fishing was a hot topic at many hui and the Accord needs to consider it being an agenda item at a future hui. Various people could be invited to contribute to that discussion before an agreed position can be reached.