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## Cockle, pipi and tuatua: introduction into the QMS

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*Most commercial cockle and pipi stocks are already in the Quota Management System (QMS). All remaining stocks of cockle, pipi and tuatua are to be introduced in October 2005. This outline summarises the main issues that have arisen when setting catch limits for these stocks. There is an opportunity for people to comment on these issues and proposed options, including the commercial and non-commercial catch limits.*

- ❖ Cockle, pipi and tuatua are a significant non-commercial resource and are harvested extensively by customary and recreational fishers.
- ❖ Commercial fishing in recent years has only occurred at a small scale in Ohiwa Harbour for cockle and pipi (COC 1C, PPI 1C) and at a moderate scale in the Kaipara Harbour and other west coast beaches for tuatua (TUA 9).
- ❖ Information on the size of cockle, pipi and tuatua resources for any of the stocks is limited.
- ❖ Shellfish numbers can decline quite quickly at some beds. They are sensitive to environmental factors like flooding, habitat disturbance and pollution; and are extremely easy to harvest.
- ❖ Anecdotal information suggests that there is already significant non-commercial harvesting in many shellfish beds, particularly in the northern parts of the North Island.
- ❖ Concerns for sustainability have already resulted in a variety of management actions, such as temporary or permanent closed areas and reduced bag limits.
- ❖ In some areas, it is considered that current levels of harvest are already high enough, and Total Allowable Catches (TACs) based on these levels have been proposed. These TACs provide for existing recreational and customary catch, other sources of mortality due to illegal catch, and set Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) of zero.
- ❖ In other areas, two options have been proposed. Because of uncertainty in the status of stocks, a TAC option that reflects current catch is provided. These TACs include existing recreational and customary catch, provide for other sources of mortality due to illegal catch, and set TACCs according to recent commercial catch. An alternative option for these stocks has also been provided which allows for a small increase in TAC, to allow small-scale exploration of commercial fisheries.
- ❖ Information on the catch limit options proposed for each stock is provided overleaf.
- ❖ Please see the initial position papers for more information. If you have any questions or comments, contact MFish at one of their regional offices: Auckland (09) 820 1990; Dunedin (03) 474 0333; Nelson (03) 548 1069.

### Cockle Catch Limits (in tonnes)

Stock	CA*	RA*	Other*	TACC*
COC 1B	22	22	2	0
COC 1C	32	32	3	0 or 5
COC 2	2	2	1	0 or 2
COC 3B	27	27	3	0 or 2
COC 4	1	1	1	0 or 2
COC 5	2	2	1	0 or 2
COC 7C	3	3	1	0 or 2
COC 8	1	1	1	0 or 2
COC 9	6	6	1	0

### Pipi Catch Limits (in tonnes)

Stock	CA	RA	Other	TACC
PPI 1B	76	76	8	0
PPI 1C	115	115	10	0 or 3
PPI 2	3	3	1	0 or 2
PPI 3	9	9	1	0
PPI 4	1	1	1	0
PPI 5	1	1	1	0
PPI 7	1	1	1	0 or 2
PPI 8	1	1	1	0 or 2
PPI 9	10	10	1	0

### Tuatua Catch Limits (in tonnes)

Stock	CA	RA	Other	TACC
TUA 1A	40	40	4	0
TUA 1B	60	60	6	0
TUA 2	3	3	1	0 or 2
TUA 3	3	3	1	0
TUA 4	1	1	1	0
TUA 5	1	1	1	0
TUA 7	1	1	1	0
TUA 8	2	2	1	0 or 2
TUA 9	26	26	7	43

\*CA = Customary Allowance; RA = Recreational Allowance; Other = Other Sources of Mortality; TACC = Total Allowable Commercial Catch. Note that Total Allowable Catch is the sum of all allowances.

The areas covered by each stock (e.g. COC 1B) are shown in the maps on the first page of each initial position paper. Quota management areas are based on the areas shown below.

