
Review of sustainability measures for kahawai



For kahawai stocks, MFish consulted on:

- ❖ the target stock size (whether kahawai should be managed *at* or *above* the biomass level that can produce the maximum sustainable yield); and
- ❖ the level of the TACs and allocations to the fishing sectors

MFish presented the Minister with options of either retaining the status quo TACs and allowances, or reducing the TACs and allowances by 10% across the board.

The Minister noted there was no agreement amongst stakeholders for a target level of biomass, but instead focussed on ensuring that kahawai stocks rebuild. To that end, he chose that the annual TAC of kahawai in all areas be reduced by 10%. The Minister noted that:

“Kahawai is important to our recreational and customary fishers; it is also a significant commercial species...I have been persuaded of the benefits of a faster and more certain rebuild of kahawai, and in having greater certainty that this species will not decline.”

Because there is no evidence that the recreational sector is catching the allowance assigned to it, there will be no change to the existing bag limit at present.