

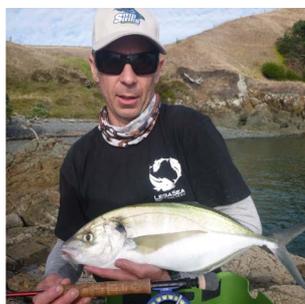
National survey of recreational harvest 2011-12

Summary 2014

New Zealand recreational fishers caught and kept 4,553,000 snapper, 1,170,000 kahawai and 682,500 blue cod in 2011-12.

These harvest estimates and those for many other species, along with methods used and the number of fishing trips, have been detailed in a report published by Ministry for Primary Industries in November 2014.

This is the most comprehensive survey of recreational harvest undertaken to date in New Zealand. The National Research Bureau used a door to door survey of 30,390 homes to recruit over 7,000 fishers. Data was collected using a carefully worded phone interview of all fishers at regular intervals from October 2011 to September 2012. It was important that fishers only reported what they personally caught, or their share of the catch if fishing as a group using a longline or set net.



This catch was scaled up to estimate total catch by New Zealand residents aged 15 years and older.

The National Panel Survey, as it is called, has been reviewed and approved by international experts and will be repeated in 2016-17.

A New Zealand Sport Fishing Council science representative has attended all 18 of the MPI working group meetings and one Ministerial meeting over the last 5 years of planning, implementation and review.

A boat ramp survey run concurrently provided data on the average weight of many of the common species. For snapper in area 1 (SNA1) the average weight of fish kept was 1.06 kg, giving a total harvest that year of 3,980 tonnes ($\pm 7\%$).

This compared to the independent NIWA estimate of 3,754 tonnes ($\pm 6\%$) for the same area and year using spotter planes to count the number of boats and ramp interviews to collect harvest information.

The results of these two surveys have already been used in the 2013 stock assessment for SNA1 and the management review which led to changes in the size limit and bag limit for recreational fishers. At the same time the Minister also increased the recreational allowance for that area by 500 tonnes (20%).

It seems that 2010-11 and 2011-12 were very good years for snapper catch in the Hauraki Gulf, the largest component of the recreational fishery. Total harvest has declined since then, probably due to a lack of available fish in close.

Kahawai was the second most popular species harvested.

Kahawai catch was more widely spread around the country than snapper, with a third being taken by land based fishers. On average these fish weighed 1.53 kg, giving a national harvest of 1,785 tonnes ($\pm 5\%$).



In 2011-12 recreational fishers harvested 4.5m snapper, 1.1m kahawai and 682,500 blue cod.



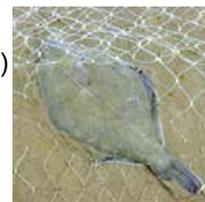
Blue cod catch was highest in the South Island (75%).



Almost all catch was taken from boats using rod and line methods.

The average weight nationally was 0.5 kg, giving a harvest of 333 tonnes ($\pm 10\%$).

Following the top three, the next most popular species harvested (by number) were gurnard (430,500), tarakihi (361,000), trevally (174,000), sea perch (160,000), flounder and other flat fish (144,000).



Kingfish were 12th on the list by number (64,700) but had an average weight of over 10 kg for kept fish. This put them at number three in the national harvest, by weight, with 662 tonnes ($\pm 11\%$).

Most were caught by rod and line from boats, but land based and spearfishing methods also feature.

No other recreational harvest survey can provide national coverage of all fishing methods. This new method is expensive but based on a sound statistical design and large sample size. It is likely to be repeated at 5-yearly intervals to meet the demand for recreational harvest information. <http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=113&dk=23718>

www.legasea.co.nz/research.php

