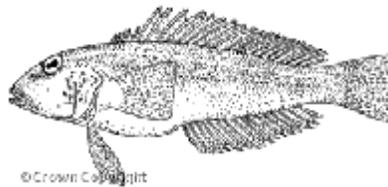




## Issue - Localised Blue Cod Depletion



### ***Issue Statement***

Stocks of blue cod (rāwaru, *Parapercis colias*) around Kaikoura are reported by local fishers to be depleted and Te Korowai has been asked to lead actions for their recovery.

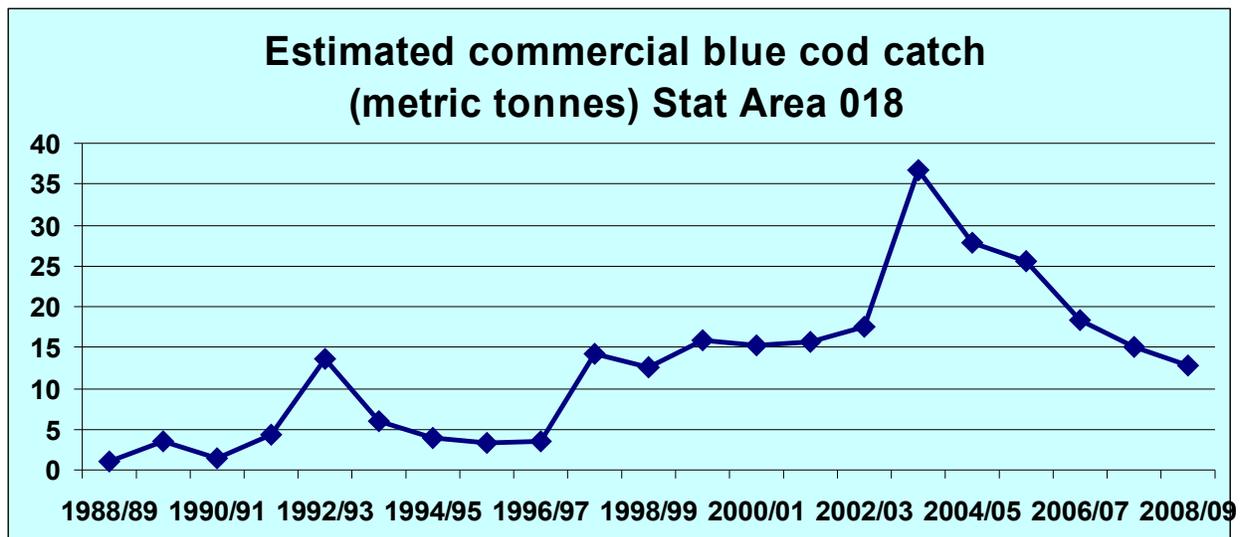
### ***Our Vision***

Our vision is a flourishing, rich and healthy environment, where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations. We want to see blue cod being sustained as key local fishery both recreationally and commercially. We believe the inshore depletion should be corrected and the offshore populations sustained. Ideally there would be more large fish in the population to contribute to breeding success and breed for better stock, and this would also enhance overall recreational fishing experiences.



## Current Knowledge

Blue cod has been reported to Te Korowai, largely through evidence gathered locally, as a species under pressure both commercially and recreationally. Those with a knowledge of fish abundance and past catch levels have indicated their concerns about the future of the stock, particularly given the sharp rise in popularity of Kaikoura as a recreational fishing destination and the introduction of commercial fish quota from outside the area, which is now being fished locally. A recent study by Dr Glen Carbines suggested that blue cod depletion around Kaikoura is limited to inshore areas with healthy population numbers at greater depths. He also concluded that blue cod is currently sustaining itself in the face of fishing pressure around Kaikoura.



Commercial catch from the Kaikoura region has varied significantly and is currently around 15 tonnes per year. Estimates for recreational catch are highly variable, but it seems that recreational catch is about the same as the commercial catch. Both science and anecdotal evidence show:

- the inshore fishery to be in a severely depleted state
- the mid-water fishery is depleted past the point that will produce maximum sustainable yield
- productivity of blue cod fisheries may be reduced by damage to firm grounds that can support horse mussel, coral, sponge and bryozoan beds
- decreased abundance of other stocks have forced a lot more recreational and subsistence effort onto blue cod and perch
- there was a noticeable improvement, particularly in the inshore in 2007

***For more detailed information on the status of blue cod see our background paper @ <http://teamkorowai.org.nz/>***

## ***Management Ideas - Your Feedback***

We want your opinion on the management ideas we have listed below. The final strategy could include a mix of these, or others that you tell us about. Tell us what you think, below and on the form over the page.

Our ideas	Your comments
<p><b><i>A. Do nothing</i></b>            Keep the status quo - risks accelerated decline of the fishery</p>	
<p><b><i>B. Reduce or control fishing effort</i></b>            Local recreational bag limit reduction for blue cod.            Voluntary commercial Annual Catch Entitlement reduction in the area. Charter vessel total daily blue cod catch limits. Introduce reduced local catch limits. (commercially and recreationally) in certain areas or zones. These zones could be defined by depth contour and or location e.g. North Ground, Peninsula, Goose Bay, Conway or Bushetts' Shoal. Reduce the impact of commercial fishing by restricting the ability to 'import' quota that has not been traditionally fished in this area. Combined local bag limit across a range of species. Improve compliance.</p>	
<p><b><i>C. Area or seasonal closures</i></b>            Voluntary exclusion area. Closed season through spawning period. Use rahui - a temporary closure under Section 186 of the Fisheries Act. Introduce voluntary closure zones for designated periods within the fishery            Temporary area closures. Long term closures e.g. Fisheries Act closures or marine reserves.</p>	
<p><b><i>D. Change fishing practices</i></b>            Institute a local code of practice. Require fish to be landed whole (head on gutted). Control high grading. All blue cod caught above minimum length to be retained. Increase in take size (length) for blue cod locally to 33cm. Set maximum size limit of 44cm for blue cod locally. Increase hook size locally for blue cod. Use of 6/0 fish hooks. One hook per line. Return-to-sea practices.</p>	
<p><b><i>E. Improve information</i></b>            Introduce catch reporting (number and size) by recreational fishers in order to monitor catch levels (already mandatory within commercial sector). Periodic reviews periods to gauge health of the species based on monitoring as recommended by Carbines. Establish a marine reserve or other local closure or control tool within the Te Korowai area to act as a bench mark of abundance.</p>	

## Te Korowai: Kaikoura Coastal Guardians - Feedback Form

<b>Issue: Localised Blue Cod Depletion</b>	
Your management ideas and reasons for them:	
Other comments:	
<b>Name of individual or group:</b>  I would/would not like (please delete as appropriate) to be kept informed of issues.  <b>The best way to communicate with me is (choose one or more):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Email and other electronic communications</li><li>◦ Newsletters</li><li>◦ Issues documents like this one</li><li>◦ Telephone</li><li>◦ Face to face meetings</li><li>◦ Other (specify)</li></ul>	<b>Please return by 1 March 2010 to:</b> Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura Email: <a href="mailto:teamkorowai@gmail.com">teamkorowai@gmail.com</a> Kaikoura Coastal Guardians Website: <a href="http://www.teamkorowai.org.nz">www.teamkorowai.org.nz</a> PO Box 121 Kaikoura New Zealand