

Recommendation paper

Title: Extension to 'A' (Hake) licence fishing season

Date: 7th October 2021

Report of: Director of Natural Resources

1. Background:

- 1.1. Historically the fishing period for the 'A' licence has been for the whole year - the 1st January to 31st December but this changed in 2020 to reflect a shorter fishing season of 1st March to 15th October.
- 1.2. The other significant change for this licence type was to change the target species from Hake, Hoki, Blue Whiting, Red Cod, Kingclip and Rock cod to just being a Hake licence.
- 1.3. Changes in 1.1 and 1.2 above were agreed with industry in 2019 in order to avoid a reduction in vessel units, which had been the other possible alternative.

2. Presentation and consultations:

- 2.1. In October 2021, DONR was approached by a fishing company representative requesting that the season for vessels using the 'A' licence be extended.
- 2.2. The Senior Fisheries Scientist agreed that the season could be extended to the 31st October.
- 2.3. A subsequent request from industry to increase the catch entitlement to reflect the extended season was not approved as the vessel units are set at the start of the year and relate to the expected biomass.

3. Recommendation:

- 3.1. Due to the continued abundance of Hake in the fishing zones, it was agreed to extend the season to the 31st October 2021
- 3.2. The grid squares known as 'the hake box' will continue to be closed to vessels fishing on 'W' licences until the 31st October 2021.
- 3.3. The Scientific Fisheries Scientist to review the catches prior to the 29th October to circulate an update to industry at that time.



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Director of Natural Resources