

Blue grenadier New Zealand Eastern

Fishery:  New Zealand  New Zealand  Midwater trawls

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Macruronus novaezelandiae

SPECIES NAME(S)

Blue grenadier, hoki

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Macruronus novaezelandiae, the New Zealand hoki, is a deepwater species that is distributed throughout the New Zealand coast, usually found at depths of 200-600 m (*Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) 2019*). A separate population of this species also occurs off southern and southeast Australia (<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/species/blue-grenadier>). In New Zealand, the species is divided into two main biological stocks based on the two main spawning grounds: the eastern stock occurs off the East Coast of South Island, Mernoo Bank, Chatham Rise, Cook Strait and the East Coast of North Island up to North Cape and the western stock occurs to the west coast of the North and South Islands and the area south of New Zealand including Puysegur, Snares Shelf and the Southern Plateau (*Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) 2019*). However, there is still some uncertainty about the stock structure and this topic has been the subject of recent studies (Ballara and O'Driscoll, 2014).



RELATED LINKS:

- [New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries \(MPI\)](#)
- [New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries \(MPI\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Stock assessment, scientific advice, Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) setting, monitoring/control/surveillance/enforcement (MCSE) and compliance are all consistent with best practices. Collaborative management by Deepwater Group Limited (DWG) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) strengthens compliance.
- Exploitation remains low while both estimates of stock size rate hoki higher than reference points.
- Several closure areas are established to protect spawning grounds, juveniles (Hoki Management Areas) and vulnerable habitats (Benthic Protected Areas) from trawling.
- Incidental captures of endangered, threatened and protected species are identified and quantified. These are monitored, some in near-real time, and reported annually.
- Industry Operational Procedures for hoki trawling fisheries aim to protect smaller fish (<55 cm) and mitigate bycatch of marine mammals and seabirds.
- The fishery has been certified against the Marine Stewardship Council standard since 2001.

Weaknesses

- The current two stock model shows major uncertainties, with no one run able to provide adequate quantitative advice on stock status.
- The influence of climate and oceanographic conditions on recruitment patterns is not known.
- Despite the introduction of some successful mitigation measures, the capture of seabirds, including some "high risk" species, continues to occur.
- A new method for classifying New Zealand's marine habitat is being undertaken, and meanwhile, there is uncertainty as to how this will affect the classification of habitats identified as "high risk" under the previously used classification scheme (BOMEC), and whether the current BPA network sufficiently protects such areas.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 8	10	9.1

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
≥ 8	≥ 8

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- New Zealand hoki:
MSC Recertified
- New Zealand Deepwater Group hake, hoki, ling and southern blue whiting:
MSC Certified

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Monitor the fishery, management system, and operational and management decisions for responsiveness to the status of the stock and for any changes that could jeopardize MSC certification.
- Support ongoing efforts to further mitigate the incidental capture of seabirds and New Zealand fur seals.
- Ensure benthic protected area network coverage is representative of all types of habitat classes.