

# Science for Sustainable Fisheries

## Speaker's Science Forum

### *SPEAKERS:*

**Assoc. Professor Maren Wellenreuther**, Plant and Food Research, University of Auckland

**Dr Chris Cornelisen**, Cawthron Institute

### *INVITED GUESTS*

**Peter van As**, Manager Business Development, APAC Genomics

**Professor Juliet Gerrard**, Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor

**Dr Marc Lubbers**, Operational Manager, Plant & Food Research

**Dr Richard O'Driscoll**, Fisheries Chief Scientist, NIWA

**Dr George Slim**, Consultant, Office of the Prime Ministers Chief Science Advisor

### *FORUM PARTNERS*

Independent Research Association of New Zealand: **Dr Rob Whitney**, Executive Officer

Royal Society of New Zealand: **Paul Atkins**, CEO; **Ms Nancy de Bueger**, Senior Advisor; **Mrs Kahu Hotere**, Director; **Ms Tarah Nikora**, Director; **Dr Marc Rands**, Academy Executive Officer; **Dr Roger Ridley**, Director

Science New Zealand: **Mr Anthony Scott**, CEO

Universities New Zealand: **Dr Bronwen Kelly**, Deputy Chief Executive; **Guy Somerset**, Communications



# Science for Sustainable Fisheries

Assoc. Professor Maren  
Wellenreuther

Plant and Food Research & The University of Auckland

Dr Chris Cornelisen

Cawthron Institute

Speaker's Science Forum  
Aotearoa New Zealand



**Plant & Food™  
Research**  
Rangahau Ahumāra Kai

# How can fisheries management benefit from genomics? Key insights from New Zealand species

**Maren Wellenreuther**

**Science Group Leader, Plant & Food Research  
Associate Professor, The University of Auckland**



Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy



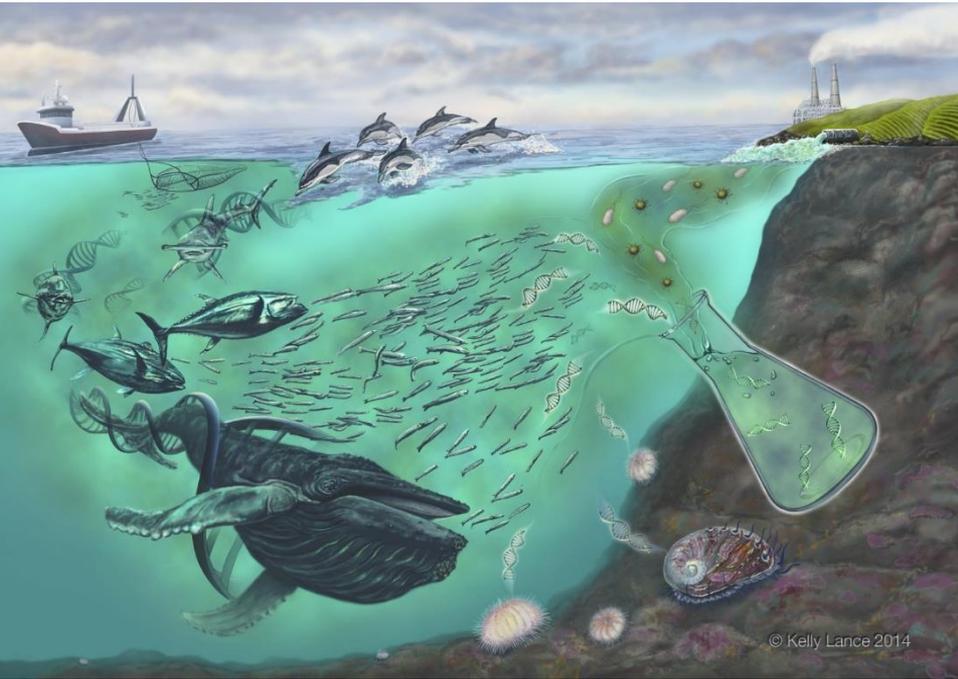
# Do we know what's under the surface?

- » 98 species are in the Quota Management System (QMS), divided into 642 fish stocks and geographic areas
- » We have limited information about the majority of species/stocks
- » Knowledge gaps mean some decisions are based on uncertain information

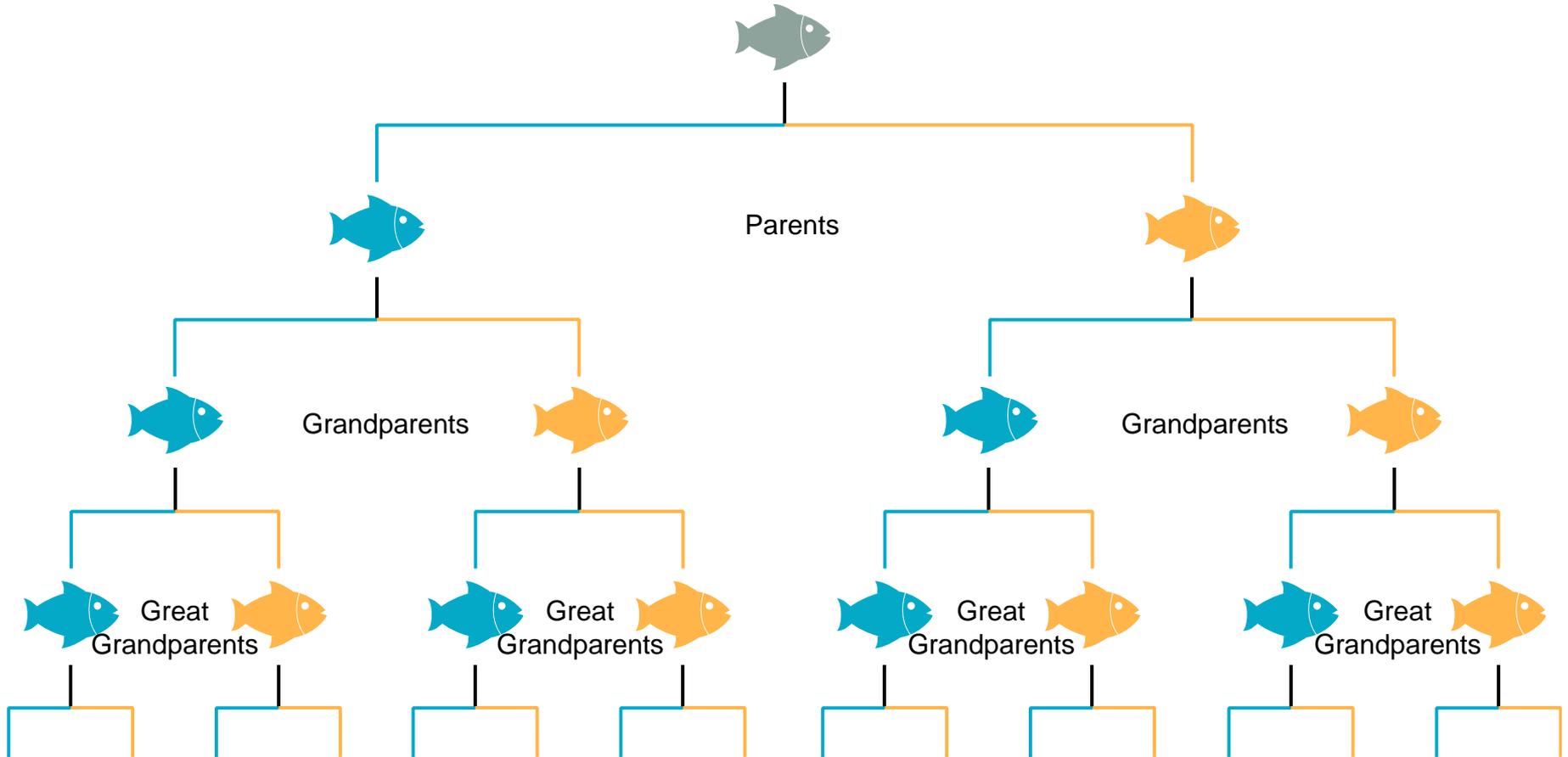


# DNA is an information treasure trove

- » COVID sequencing has showed us the power of genetics
- » Genetic sequence data can reveal where you come from, and who you are related to
- » Similar to mouth swabs, you can take a non-lethal tissue sample of a fish and extract DNA from it



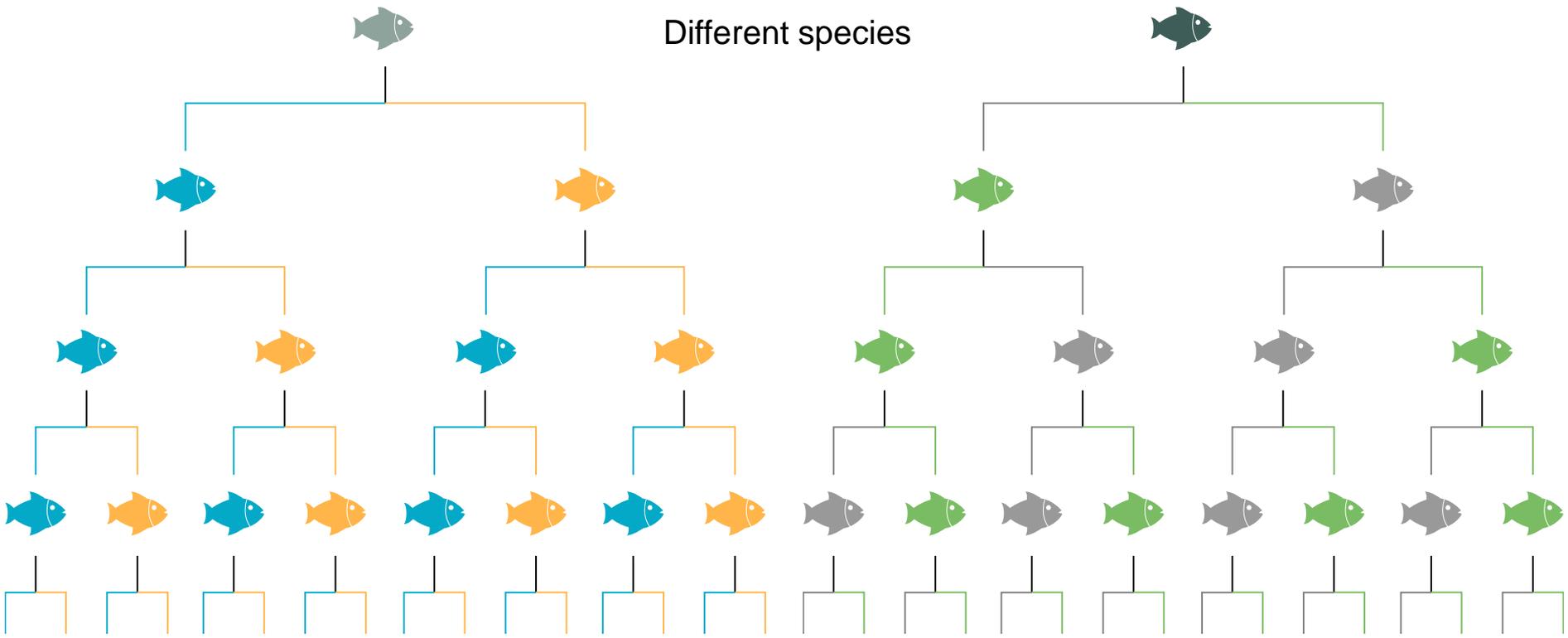
# DNA has a time travelling ability



# Different family trees - different species



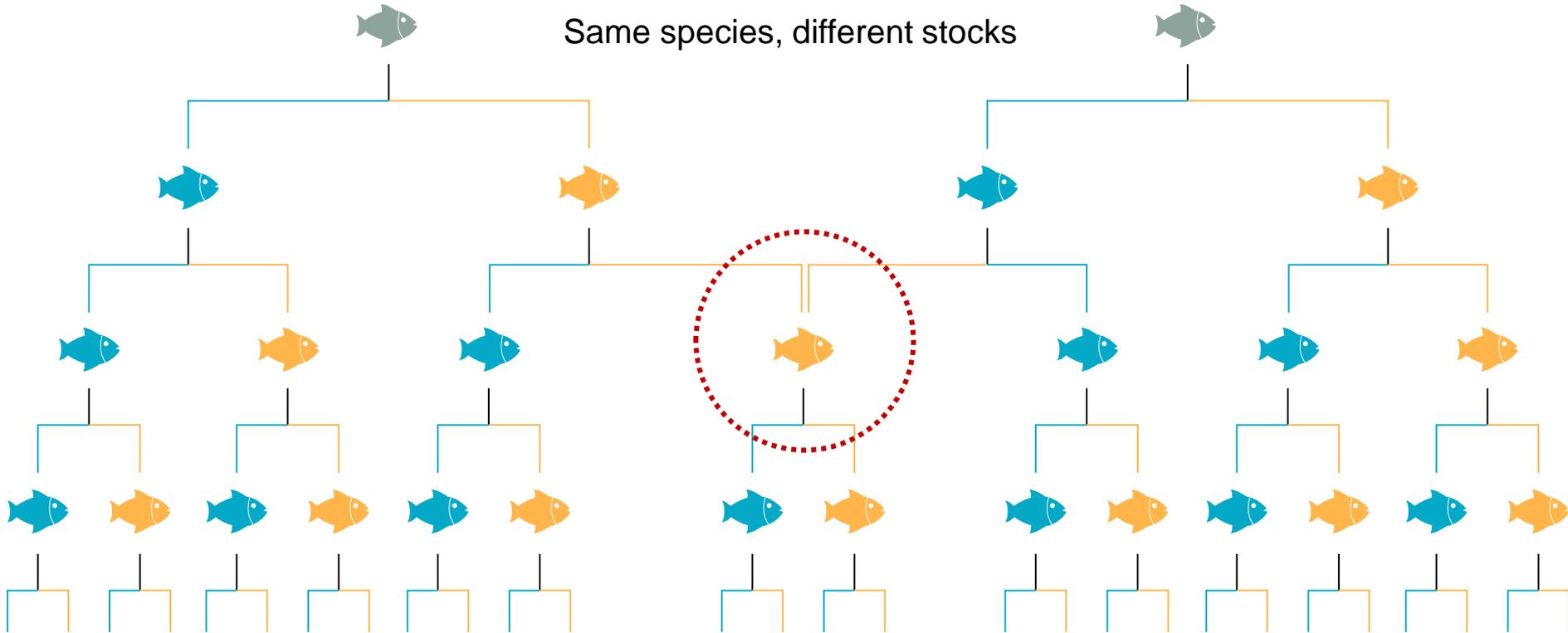
Different species



# Shared family trees-substructure within a species



Same species, different stocks



Three examples

Genomics can inform...



### 1. Cryptic species identification

Tarakihi (*Nemadactylus macropterus*)

### 2. Stock structure

Hoki (*Macruronus novaezelandiae*)

### 3. Seafood traceability

Snapper/tāmure (*Chrysophrys auratus*)

## Cryptic species identification

- » Tarakihi vs King tarakihi: different species but very similar morphology
- » King tarakihi is reported and managed as part of tarakihi to avoid erroneous catch reports



## Managed as one fishery

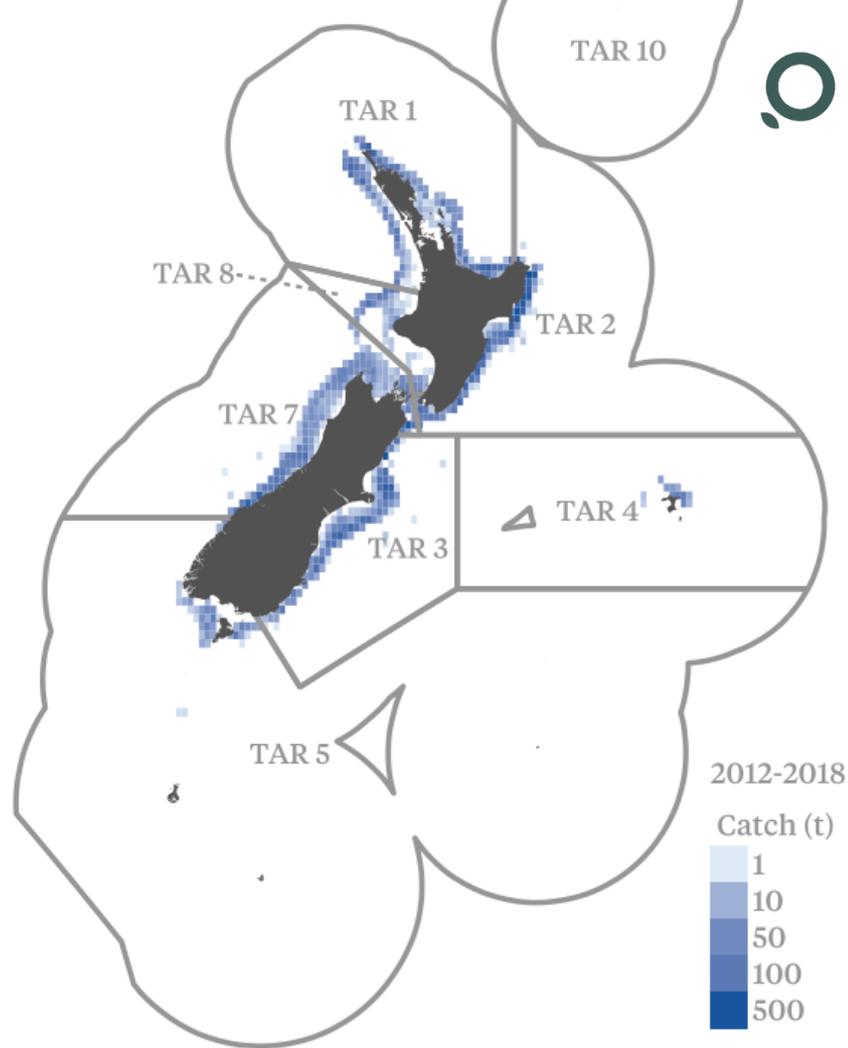
- » Overlap is strongest in TAR1
- » Estimated to make up a ~2% proportion of tarakihi catches in TAR1 (~30 tons/year)
- » 18 sampling sites, 188 individuals



Tarakihi  
(*Nemadactylus  
macropterus*)



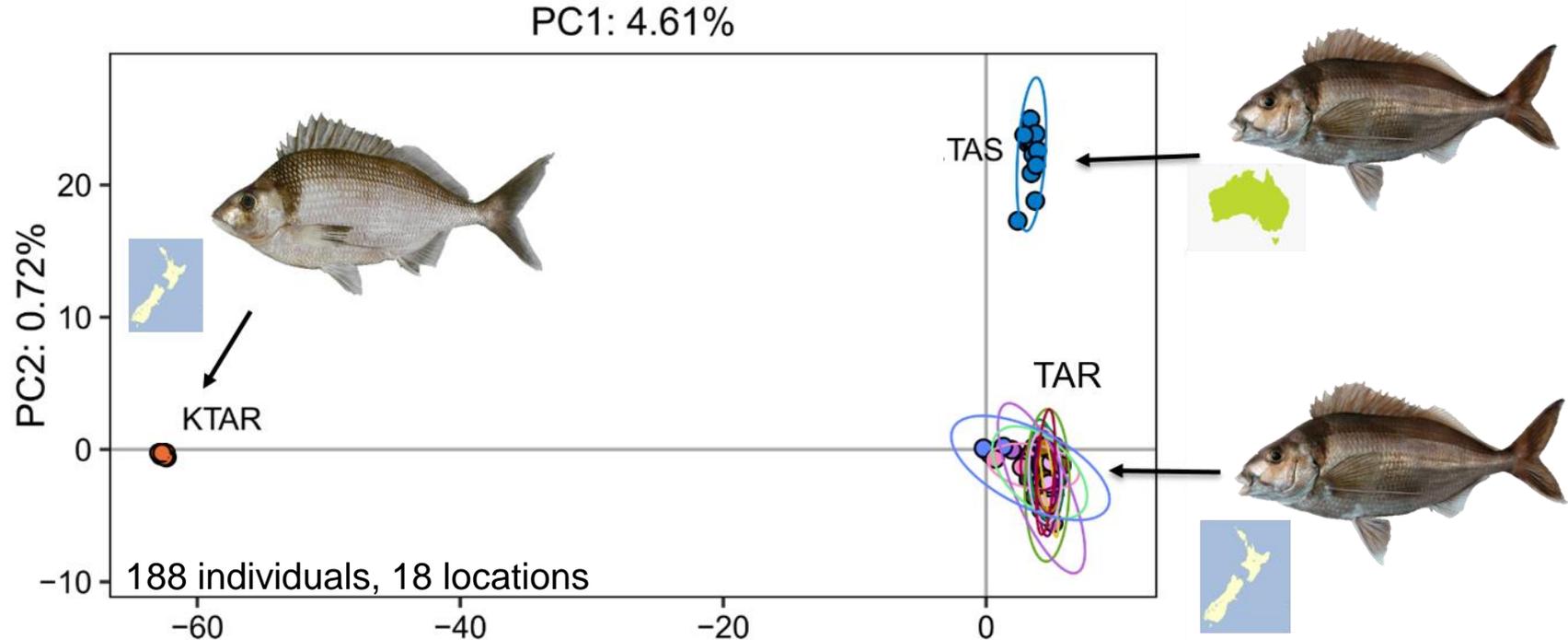
King tarakihi  
(*Nemadactylus  
n.sp.*)



# Can genetics be used to differentiate the species?



84,144 fixed differences between King tarakihi from NZ vs. tarakihi from NZ and AU



## Stock structure

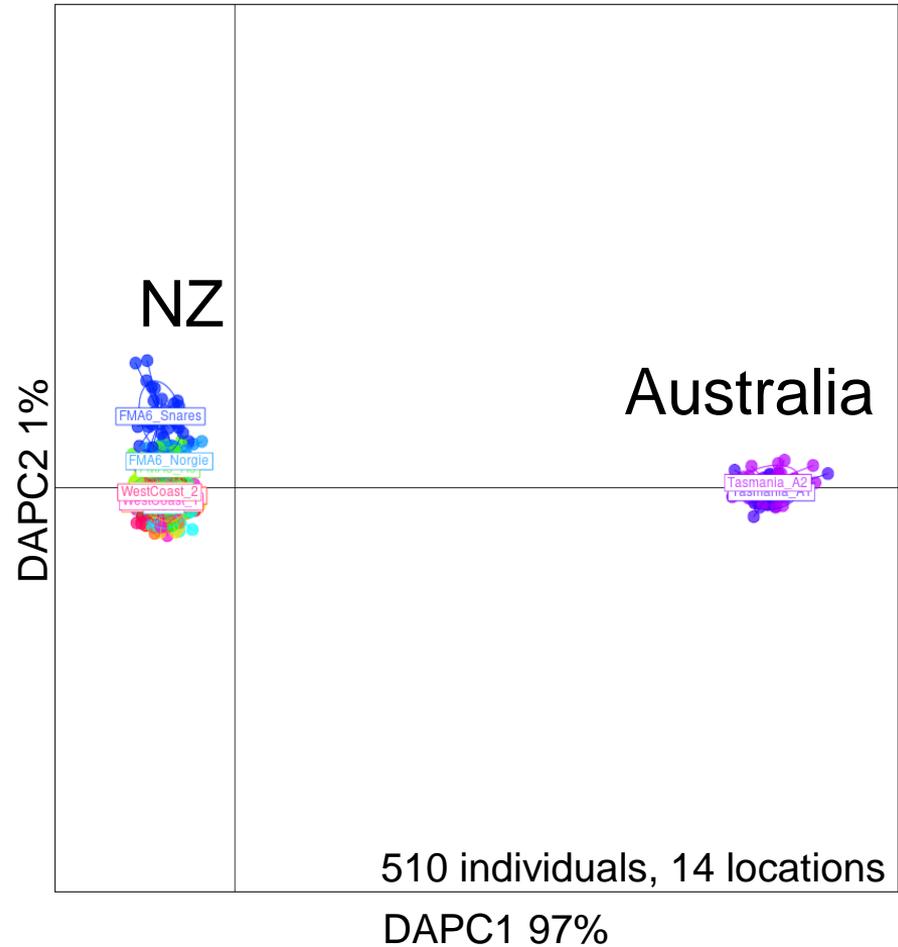
- » Currently managed as two stocks: one eastern and one western stock
- » Is this correct?
- » 12 sampling sites around NZ, and 2 in Tasmania, 510 individuals



HOKI

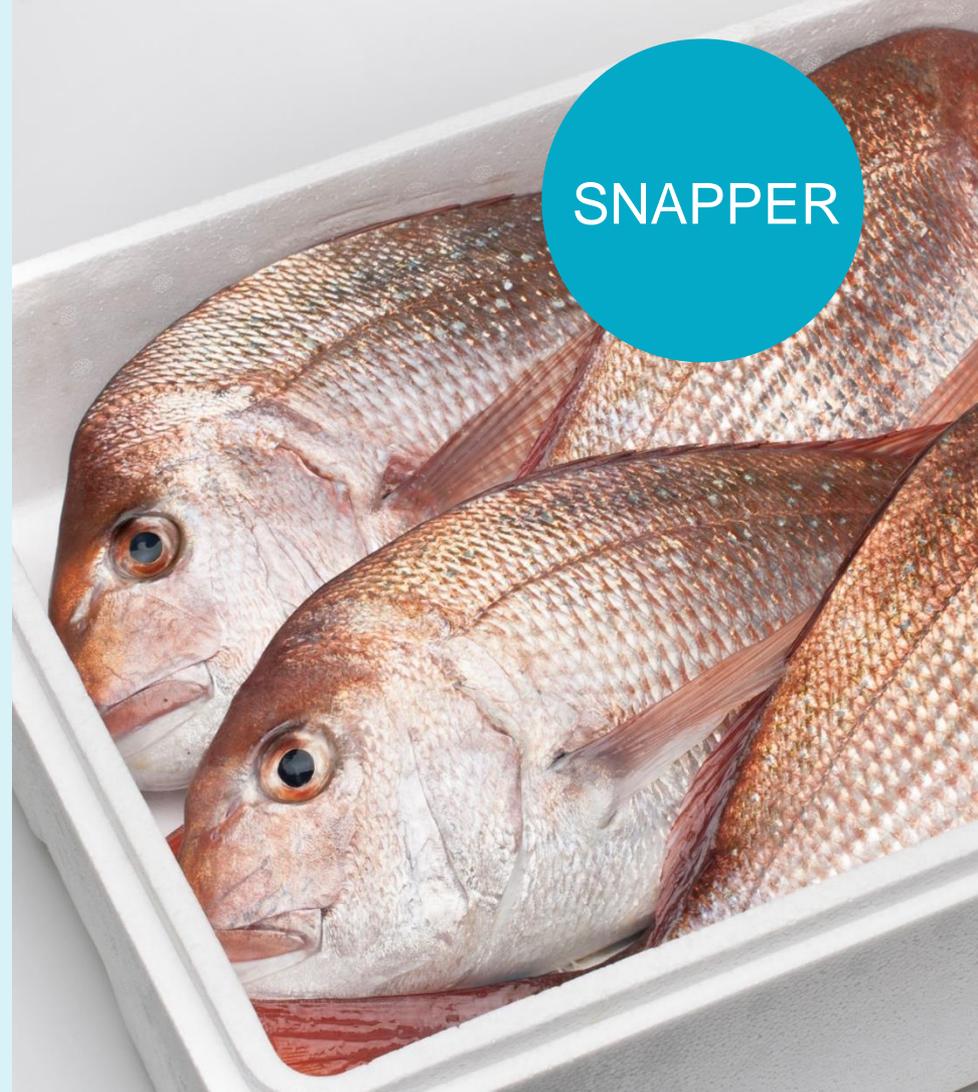
## NZ locations cluster

- » Indicates NZ hoki genetically mix-one stock

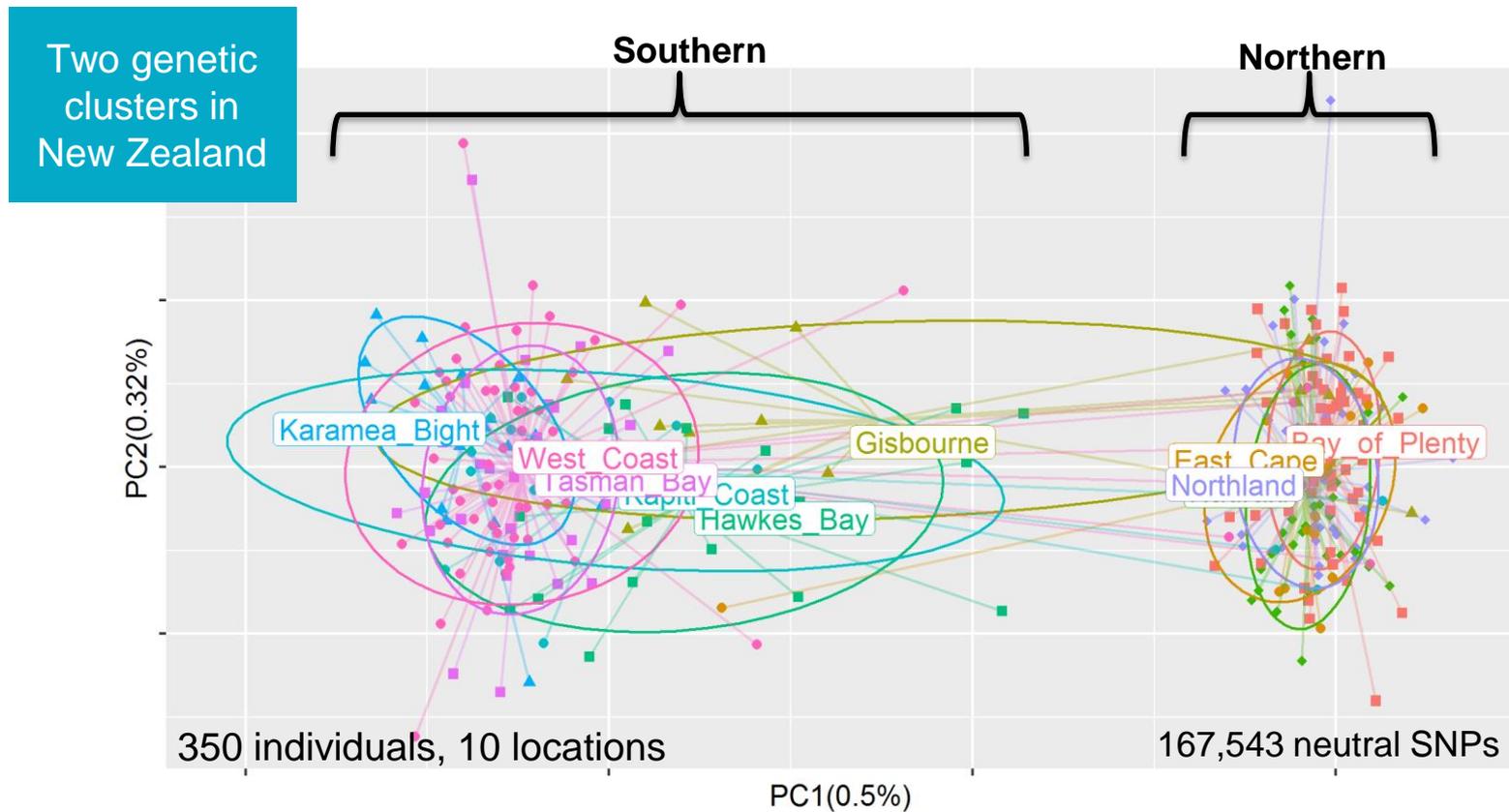


## Traceability

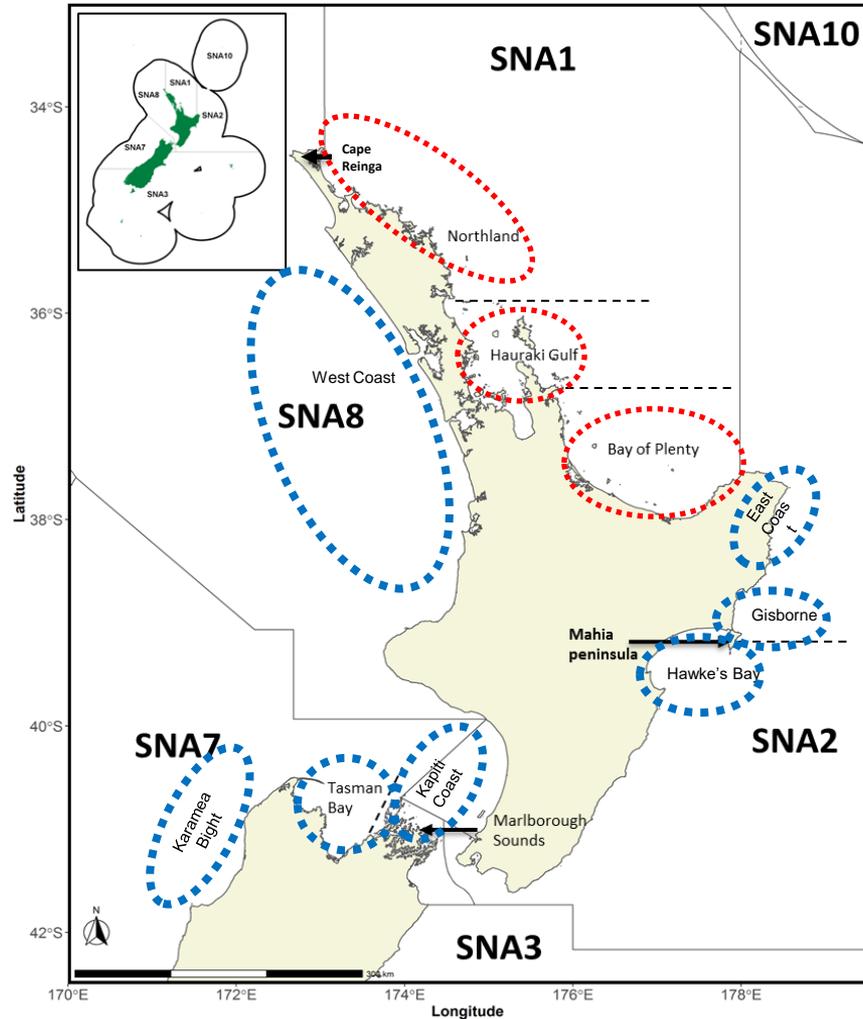
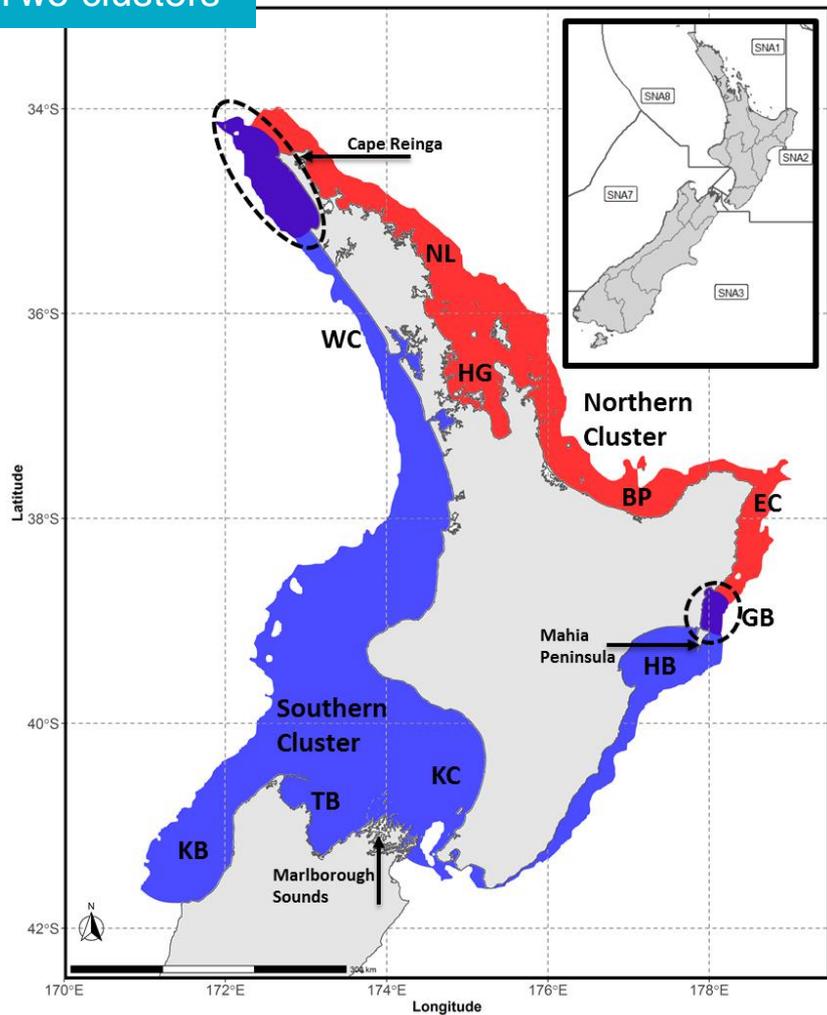
- » Some species are less mobile, e.g. compared to hoki
- » This can cause a reduction in genetic exchange
- » Over time, this leads to genetic structuring, and limited exchange between these areas
- » 10 sampling sites, 350 individuals



# DNA reveals sub-structure within New Zealand



# Two clusters



# Genomic insights



**DNA**

**Ecosystem**

**Species**

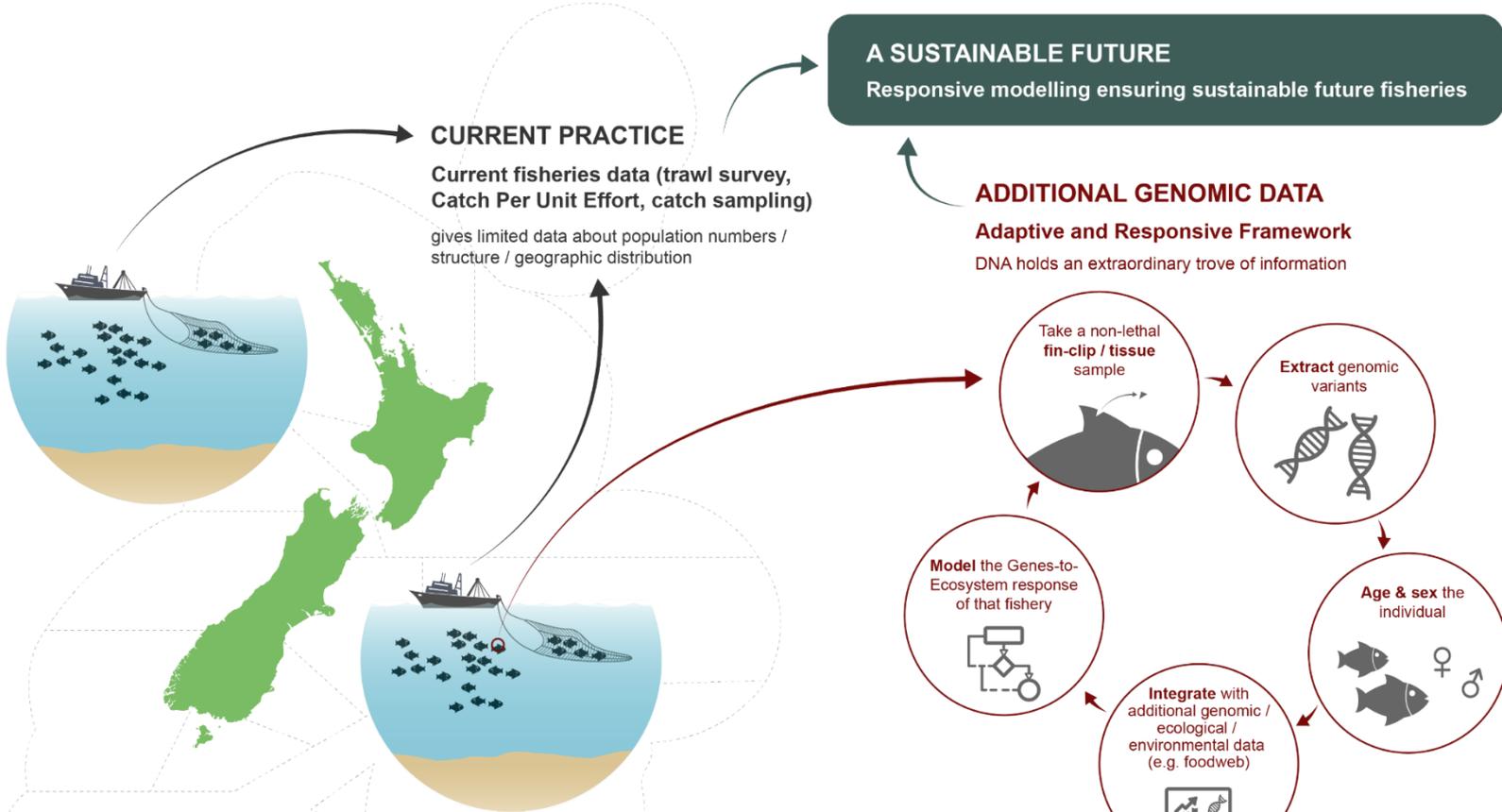
**Food webs**

**Stock  
structure**

**Traceability**



# What could a future look like?



# Acknowledgements

- » David Chagné – hoki (PFR)
- » Emily Koot – hoki (PFR)
- » Tom Oosting – snapper (VUW)
- » Yvan Papa – tarakihi (VUW)
- » Peter Ritchie (VUW)
- » Genomics Aotearoa
- » Te Ohu Kaimoana
- » Deepwater Group
- » Fishing 2040 Panel
- » Aotearoa Circle
- » Many more...



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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# World-class science for a better future.

- Healthy eco-systems
- Prosperous blue economy
- Thriving people and communities





# Science and technology for sustainable fisheries and a healthy ocean

Chris Cornelisen



## The Future of Commercial Fishing in Aotearoa New Zealand

A report from the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, *Kaitiakiwhiri Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia.*

Full Report



February 2021

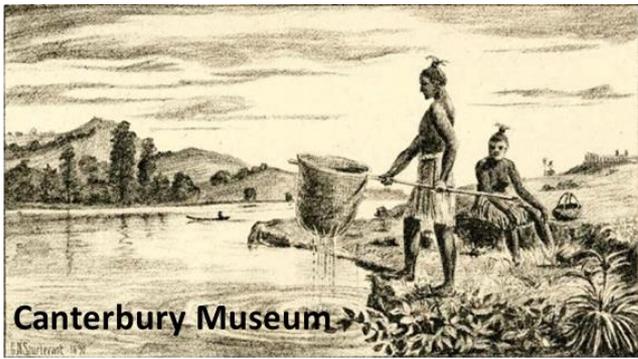


- Strengthened leadership
- Oceans Strategy
- Te ao Māori – connected worldview
- Refined set of regulatory tools
- Data platform that enables decision making
- Ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Maximise research and innovation

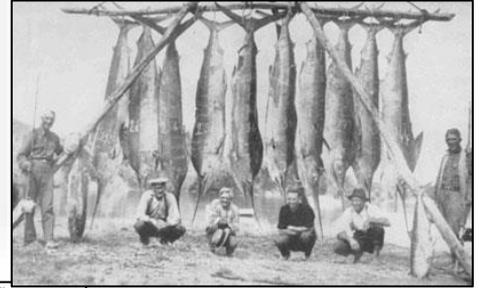
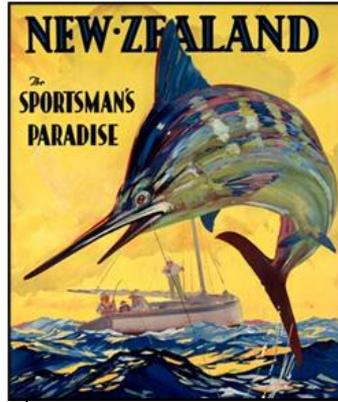








Canterbury Museum



NZ Geo



NZ Herald 1996





Crayfish



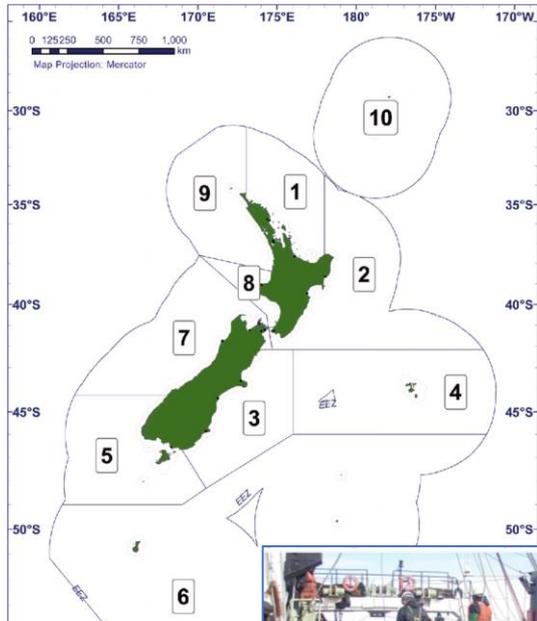
Snapper

c. 1974; Port Nelson



Scallops

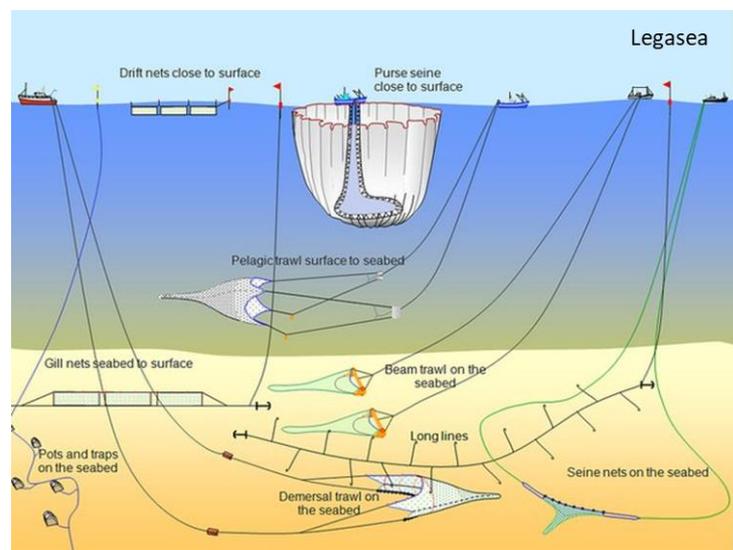
MARTIN DE RUYTER/STUFF



Māori Fisheries Settlement  
(Nat'l Library)



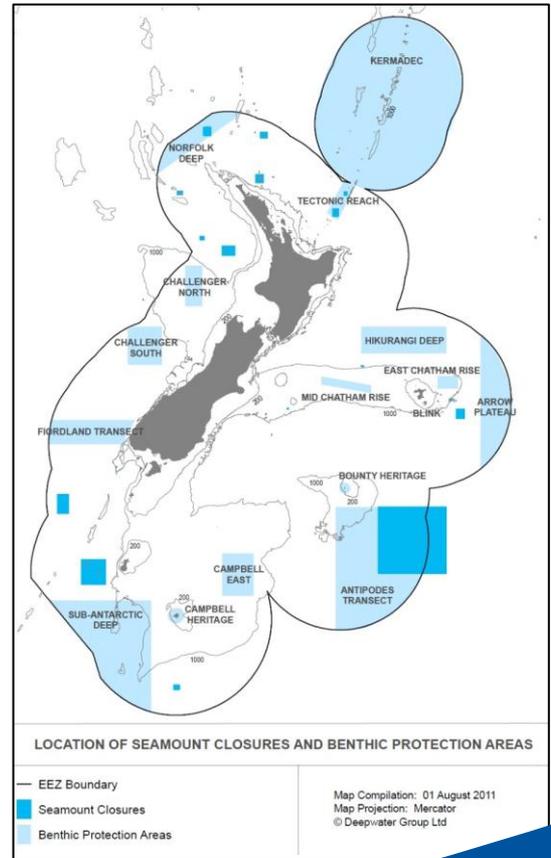
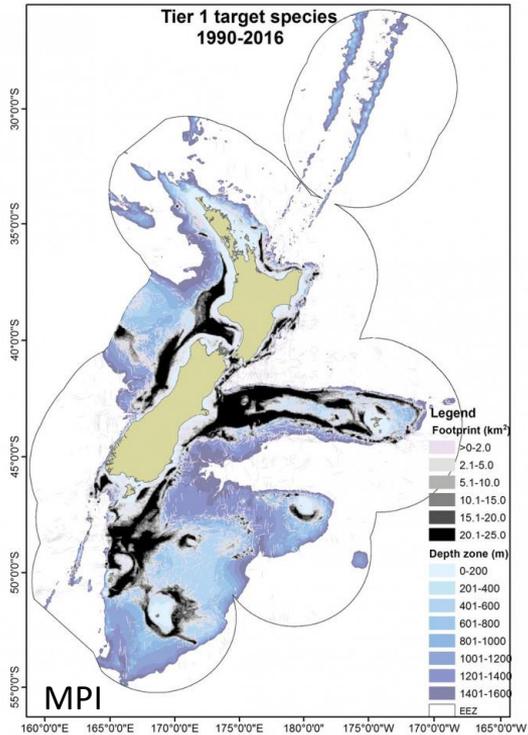
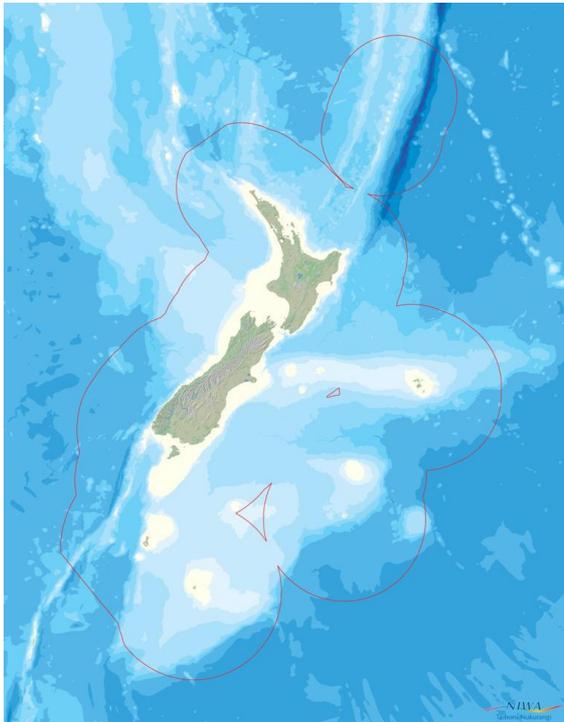
MPI

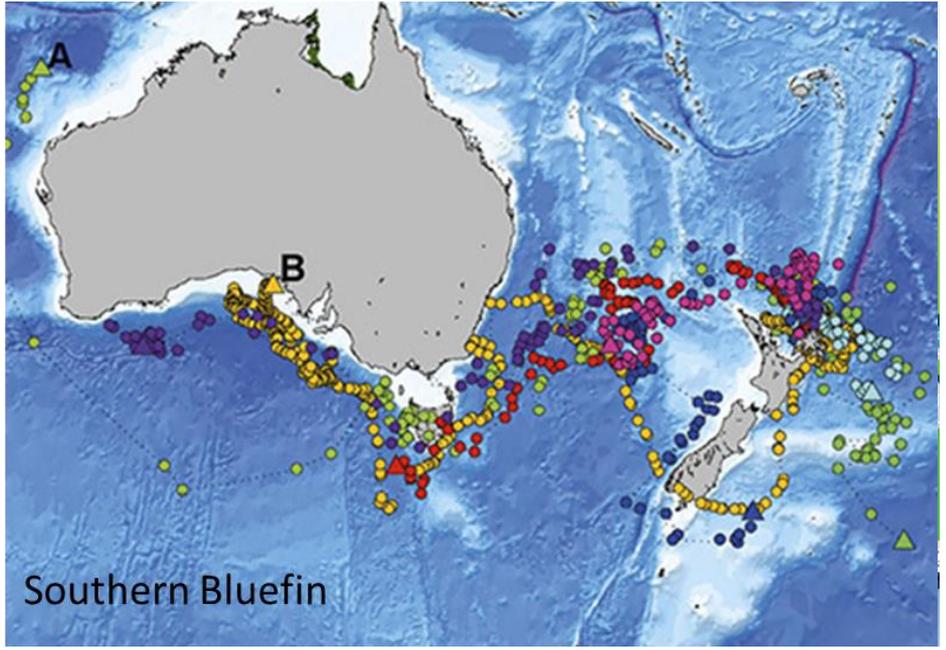
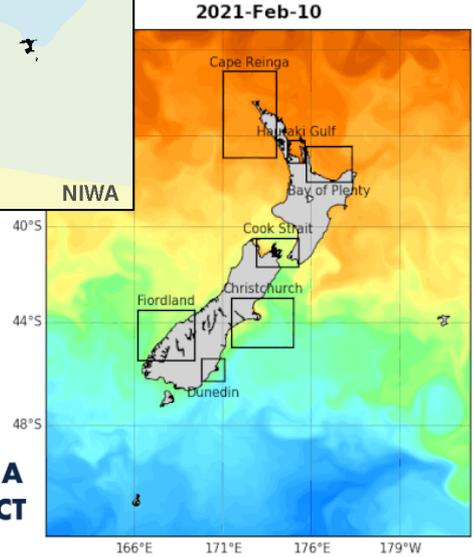
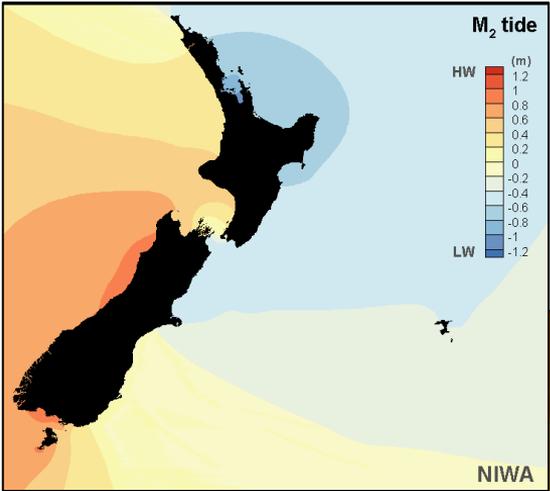


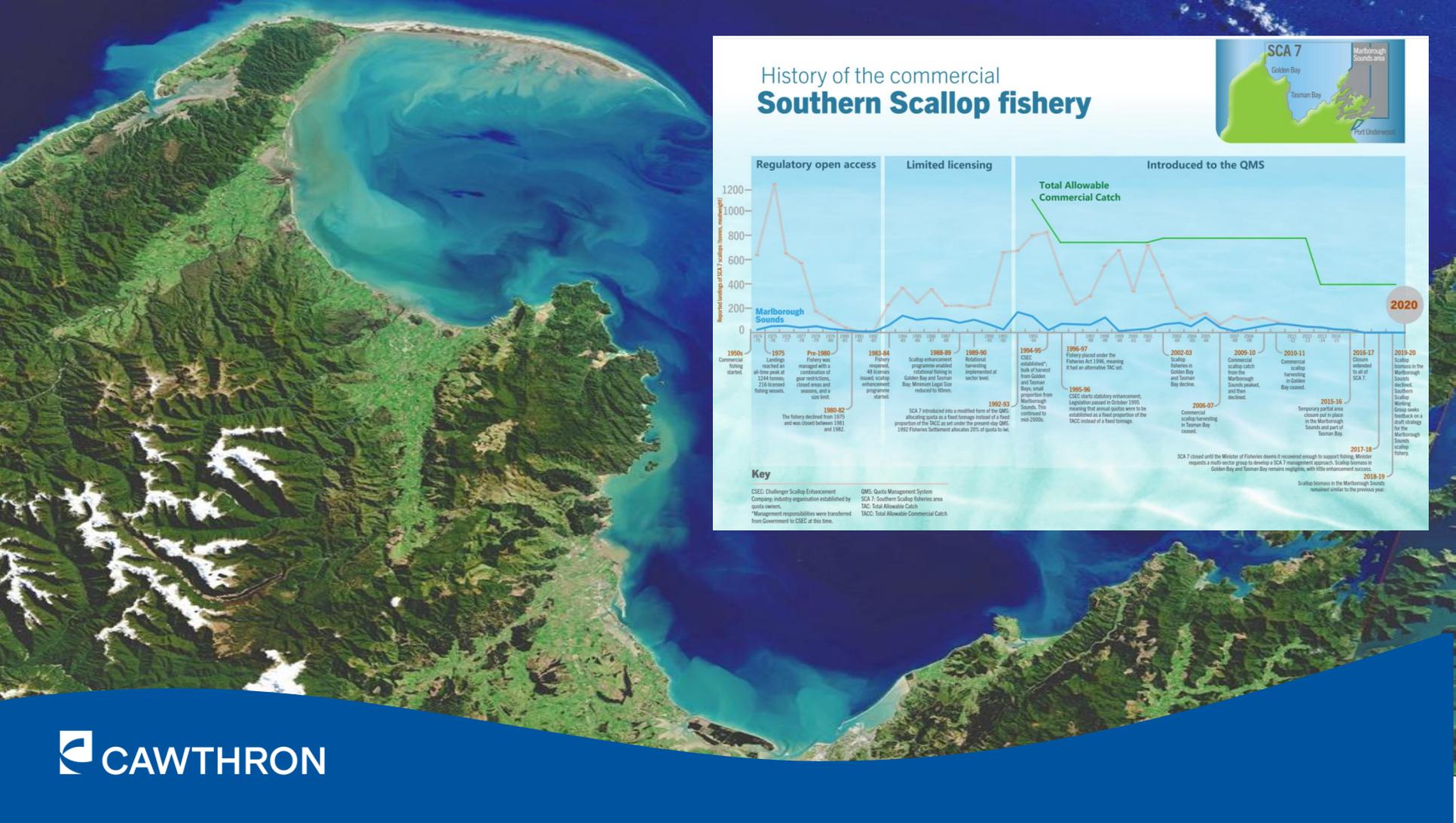
**NZ's most modern deep sea fishing vessel arrives**

Wednesday, 13 June 2018, 2:02 pm  
Press Release: [Sealord](#)







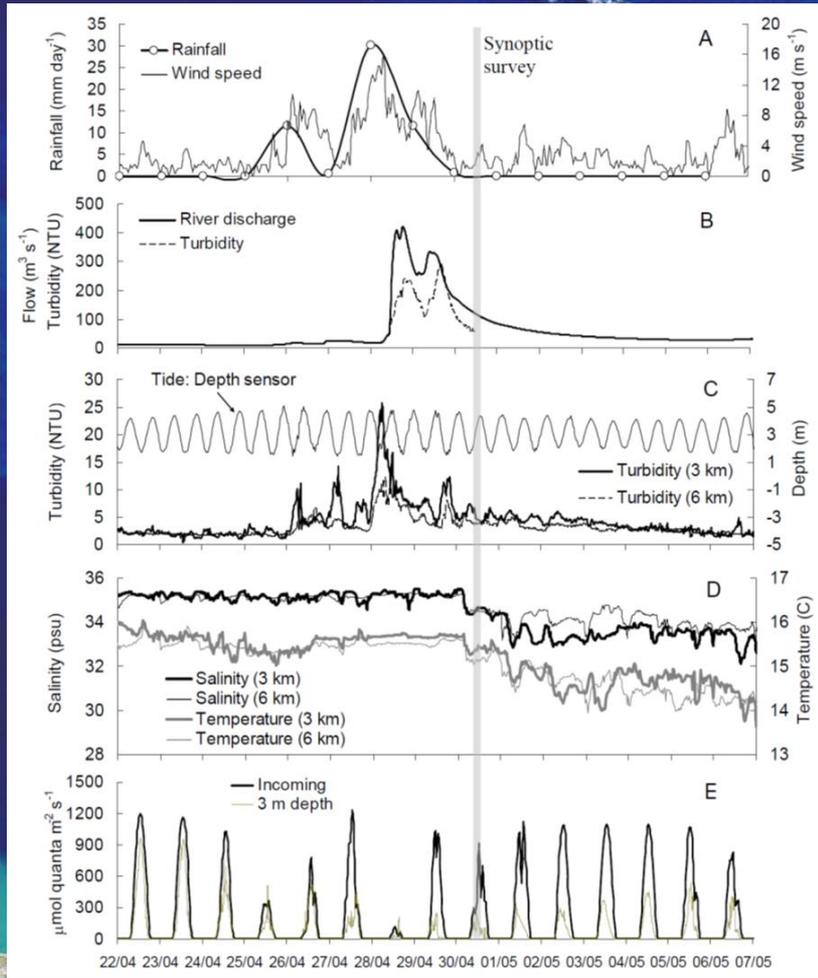
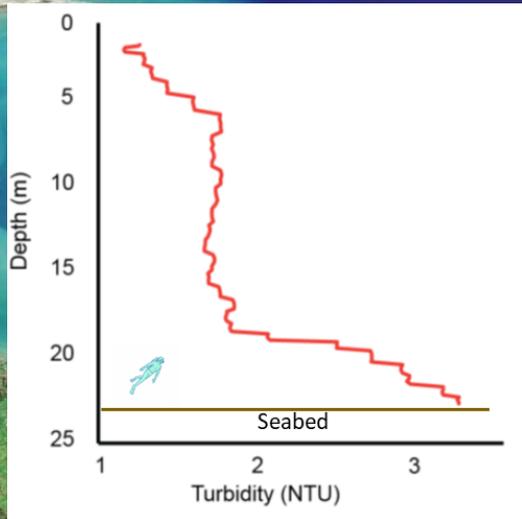
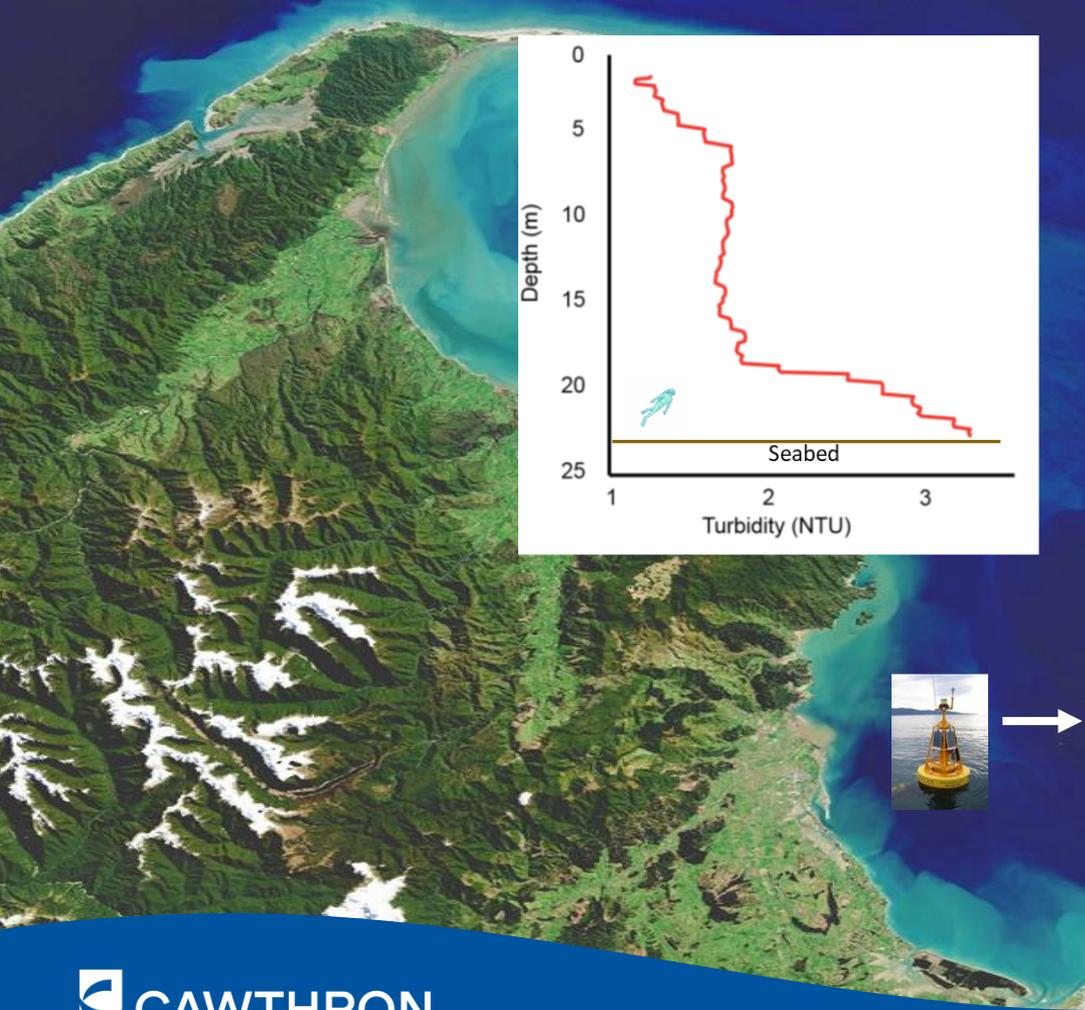


# History of the commercial Southern Scallop fishery



## Key

- CSCC: Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company; industry organisation established by quota owners.
- QMS: Quota Management System
- SCA 7: Southern Scallop fisheries area
- TACC: Total Allowable Catch
- \*Management responsibilities were transferred from Government to CSCC at this time.



National Science Challenges

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

**Fisheries: Tools, resources and research**

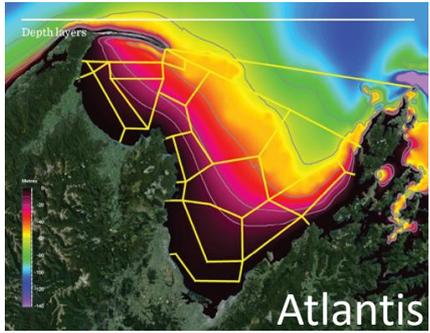
**SUSTAINABLE SEAS**

Ko ngā moana whakauka

The long-term economic use of our marine resources is dependent on healthy marine ecosystems. Fisheries (commercial, customary, and recreational) are significant marine resources for Aotearoa New Zealand. To ensure fishing remains a sustainable way of life for future generations, the Government has made progressing towards ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches a priority. Together with our Māori partners and stakeholders we are developing knowledge, tools and resources to support this.

This is a catalogue of our tools, resources and research projects that support an EBM approach to fisheries - some are available now to use or develop further, others are currently in development.

June 2021



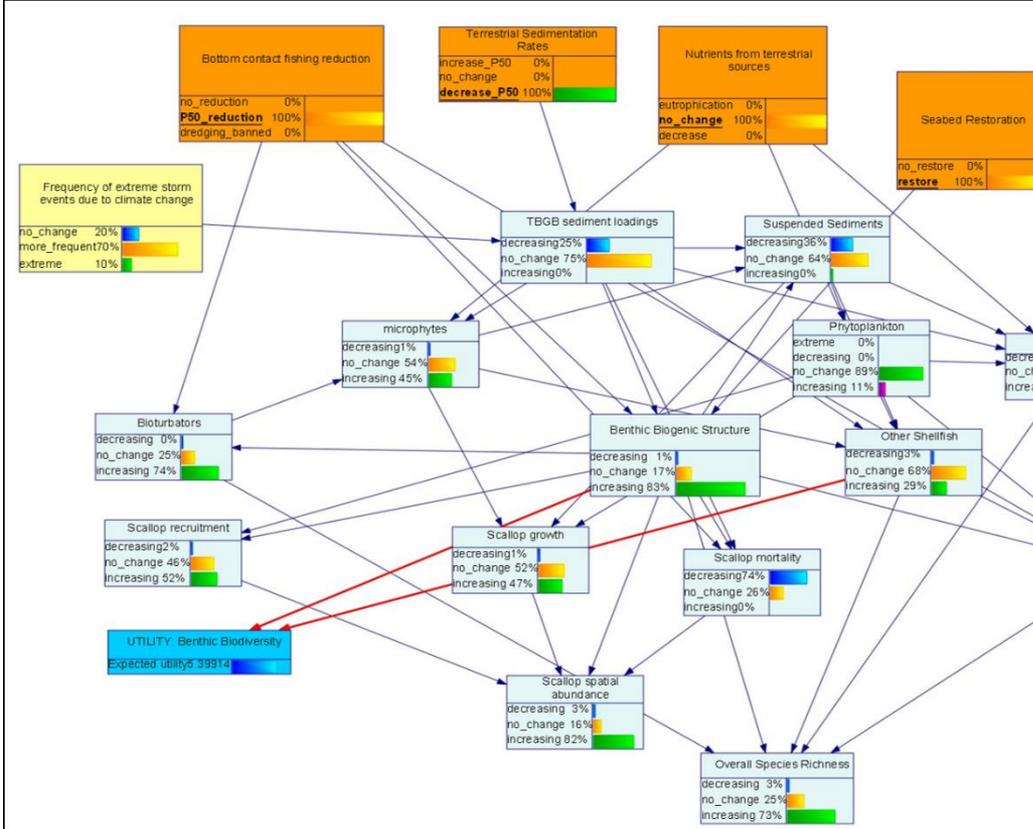
Understanding fisheries within ecosystems



Exploring disturbance and recovery under different scenarios



Participatory processes for decision making



DECISIONS SUMMARY	SCALLOP COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROFITABILITY	FINFISH FISHERY PROFITABILITY	RECREATIONAL SCALLOP MEAN SIZE AND ACCESSIBILITY	BENTHIC BIODIVERSITY	ECOSYSTEM HEALTH
< >	3.01	2.54	7.87	5.40	6.33
= >	-0.59	0.16	8.81	5.63	6.63
<< >	-0.78	-0.02	8.44	4.95	6.31
<< >	-1.64	-0.65	6.71	3.20	4.55
< =	-1.89	-1.03	6.22	1.99	3.50
= <	-0.38	-0.18	-1.98	-0.53	-0.65

# Technological Innovation



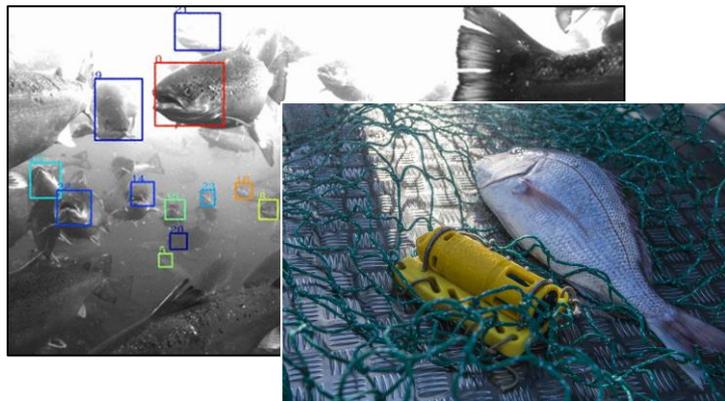
## INVESTIGATING MĀTAURANGA MĀORI APPROACHES TO ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIAL NZ FISHERIES



MAUI63

maui\_dolphin (65%)

maui\_dolphin (87%)



ZEBRATECH

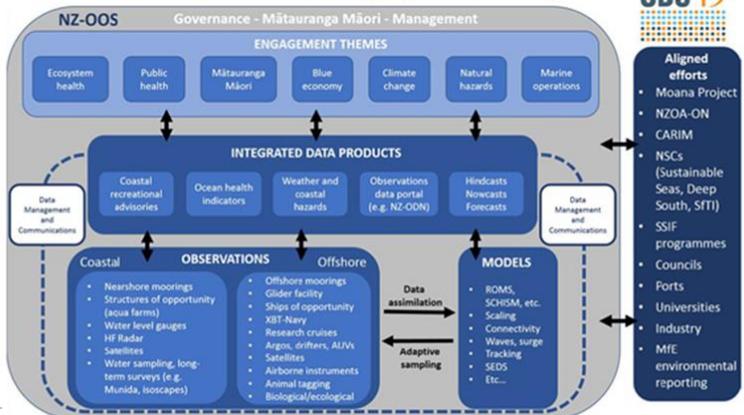


NIWA  
Tāhira Raukawa



SNAPIT™

### Aotearoa Moana Observing System (NZ-OOS)



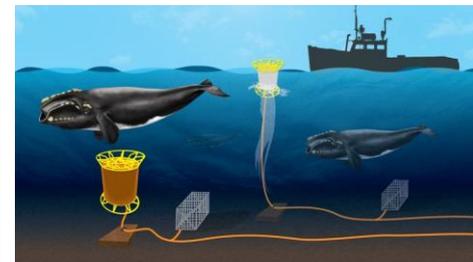
OCEAN OBS 19

NIWA  
Tāhira Raukawa

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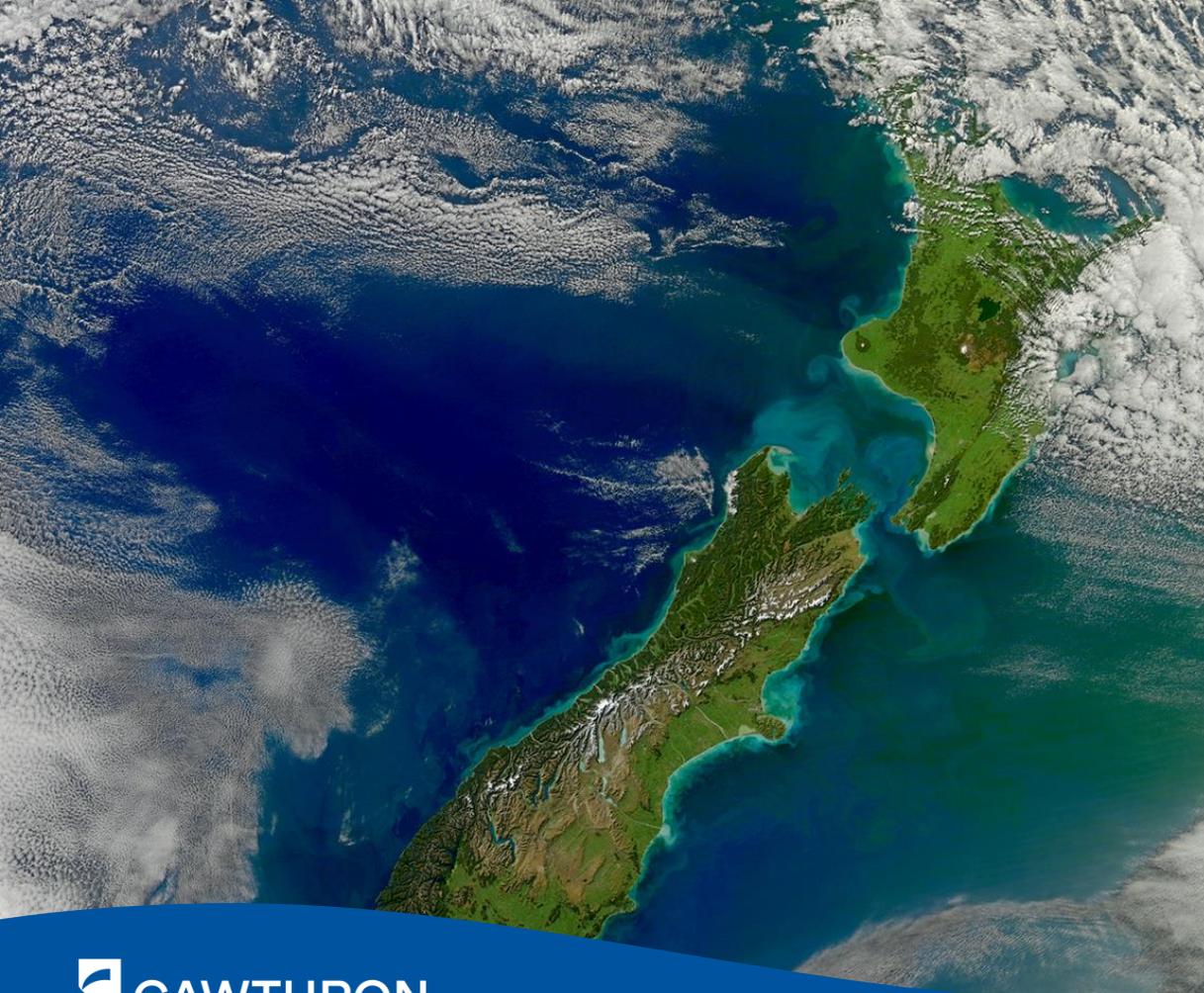
MetOcean  
SOLUTIONS

dta  
Data Technology Agency



WHOI

CAWTHRON



Thank you

Ko te kōunga o te pūtaiao te auahatanga  
ki te ao anamata.



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100

YEARS OF  
CAWTHRON  
1921-2021

[www.cawthron.org.nz](http://www.cawthron.org.nz)

Kia ora, thanks for attending!

# Speaker's Science Forum

Aotearoa New Zealand

Questions welcome.

