



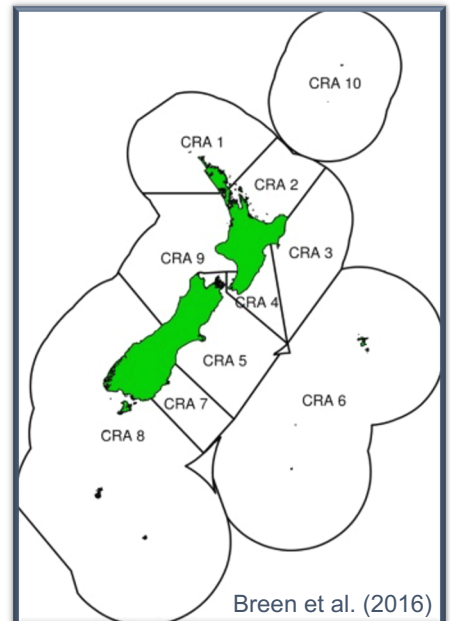
— Stakeholder management of —

# **New Zealand's red rock lobster fishery**

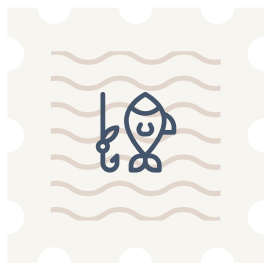


## Background information

- Red rock lobster are the main species caught in NZ
- Found in relatively shallow waters, found along the entire coastline
- Caught in traps known as “pots” by small commercial vessels (<10 m)
- 2800 t landed in 2013 – 2014, NZ \$1.3 billion in quota value → most valuable New Zealand fishery
- Lobster is a taonga (cultural treasure) for Maori people
  - First recorded sale in 1769 to James Cook by Tolga Bay Maori for a nail
- Also supports an important recreational fishery



# A brief timeline



## **Before 1979**

Essentially open-access, limited input controls. Peak vessel numbers in 1972.

## **1979 - 1989**

Strictly limited access. Limited entry  $\neq$  limited effort. Fishery fully exploited in 1985.

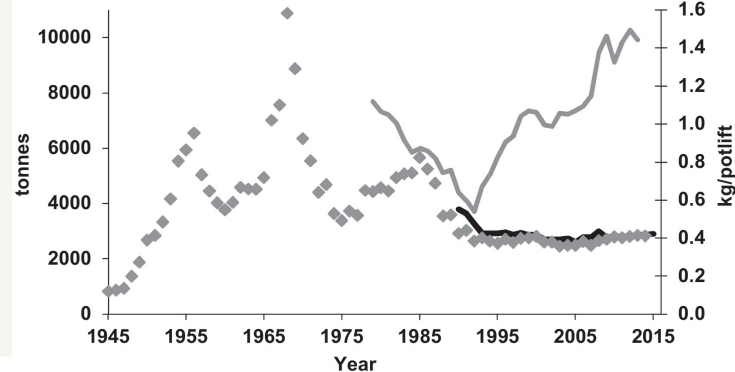
## **1990**

Quotas (ITQs, TACs, TACCs) were introduced to promote stock rebuilding.

## **1996**

Operational management procedures (MPs) developed & introduced.

# Conclusions



- Operational management procedures (PMs) are now a major part of rock lobster fishery management
  - ITQ management was insufficient to achieve and maintain rebuilt stocks
  - MPs provided a mechanism for rapid response to changes in stock abundance and were instrumental for rebuilding many stocks, allowing catches to be taken with much less effort, and increased economic returns
  - The choice of MPs should lie with stakeholders (industry, customary, recreational and environmental groups) as they are consulted early in the assessment and evaluation process
- Overall catch is similar to 1990 levels; however, catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has increased by 60% since the first MP was implemented
- Owners have proven to be conservative co-managers of their stocks by taking pre-emptive action, collecting data and engaging actively in research and management, and developing initiatives to protect their marine environment

# Sources



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