



Spatial and Temporal Regulations and Restrictions

The introduction of electronic catch and position reporting has resulted in Fisheries New Zealand and MPI's Compliance Services Directorate having access to much more detailed and timely information on commercial fishing activity than was previously available. For this reason we wish to remind permit holders of the need to ensure that crews and fishers are aware of all spatial and temporal regulations and restrictions that are relevant to the fisheries they operate in.

As a responsible operator it is vital that you are aware of all requirements. We expect 100 percent compliance with the relevant legislation and will take appropriate action where a breach is detected.

Spatial regulations and restrictions

Fisheries legislation contains a large number of regulations and restrictions that have a spatial component. These range from relatively small-scale method restrictions in many harbours to large-scale restrictions in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the High Seas.

Examples of spatial restrictions relevant to inshore fisheries include:

- the prohibition on Danish seining within three nautical miles of the coast of the entire South Island;
- the prohibition on trawling and Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf;
- the prohibition on trawling within two nautical miles of much of the North Island west coast;
- the prohibition on set netting within four nautical miles of much of the South Island east and south coasts;

In the deepwater fisheries context, examples of spatial restrictions include:

- the restriction on trawl vessels >46m in overall length from operating in the territorial sea and selected areas outside the territorial sea;
- the prohibition on trawling on 17 seamounts distributed throughout the EEZ;
- the prohibition on bottom trawling in benthic protection areas;
- 60mm trawl mesh can only be used south of latitude 48°S in fisheries management area 5 (FMA5);
- the restriction on bottom long-lining by vessels >30m in overall length in the Solander Trench in Southland.

For those vessels operating under a High Seas fishing permit, spatial restrictions (open/closed/move on areas) are one of the key components of the SPRFMO (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) management regime.

Temporal regulations

Fisheries legislation also contains a number of regulations that have a temporal (time) component.

Examples of temporal regulations include:

- maximum soak times for set nets (different times apply in different parts of the country);
- closed seasons in some fisheries (scallops, Chatham Islands rock lobster, dredge oyster);
- the use of 60mm trawl mesh in parts of FMA5 is only permitted during the January-May period.

Further information

This fact sheet lists some examples of spatial and temporal regulations and restrictions; it is not an inclusive list of all relevant legislation.

More information on regulations is available on the government legislation website (www.legislation.govt.nz) or, alternatively, by contacting an MPI Fishery Officer.

All spatial management measures that apply to High Seas areas are set out in High Seas permit conditions.

High Seas permits are issued annually.

Disclaimer

Nothing in this fact sheet should be read to preclude obligations for all current requirements. The purpose of this fact sheet is to achieve informed and assisted compliance.