

## A few simple rules

### DO

- ✓ Know the rules
- ✓ Measure and count shellfish as you collect them
- ✓ Count what you eat as part of your daily bag limit
- ✓ Be a responsible fisher and a safe diver
- ✓ Decide who you will take for safety people (max 2 per vessel) before you dive
- ✓ Ensure your safety people are able to respond to an emergency

### DON'T

- ✗ Take excessive amounts
- ✗ Take small shellfish
- ✗ Wait to get to the beach before measuring and sorting
- ✗ Land shucked shellfish
- ✗ Collect for all people on a boat

## Check the rules using our FREE services:

- **Download** our free NZ Fishing Rules app by texting the word 'app' to 9889 **OR** by **scanning the QR code**. The app works even when you have no coverage.
- **Free text** the name of the species you are fishing for (e.g. blue cod or paua) to **9889** and receive legal size and bag limit via return text.
- Visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/fishingrules](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishingrules)
- Email [recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz) to subscribe to fishing related updates in your



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Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

## Guidelines for gathering Scallops & Dredge Oysters



Want the rules on your phone?

We have a **FREE** text service and a **FREE** app.

Check the back for details.

Shared Sustainable Fisheries for the Future





Many of New Zealand's recreational fishers collect shellfish such as scallops and dredge oysters by diving. It is an enjoyable way to collect food while exploring underwater. It has minimal impact on the environment and there is very little wasted.

This brochure is a guide to gathering, it is not the full rules. When collecting shellfish, remember that there are rules that cover:

- maximum numbers (bag limits) and minimum sizes (size limits) for shellfish collected;
- when to sort and measure catch;
- shucking and eating scallops and dredge oysters on vessels;
- taking additional scallops and dredge oysters in certain circumstances for safety people on board a vessel.

Make sure you know what the bag and size limits are in your area. The limits vary throughout New Zealand and it is your responsibility to know what they are.

Remember, the rules change so regularly so you need to check them each time you go out. See back page for details.

## Things to remember

### Land catch in the shell

All shellfish to which a minimum size restriction applies (including paua, scallops and dredge oysters) must be landed in the shell and cannot be shucked or shelled seaward of the mean high-water mark. This includes transporting on the water.

### Count as you go

Count each shellfish as you place it in your catch bag.

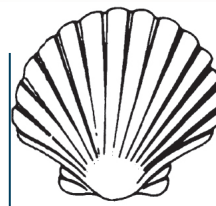
**Note:** If you are sharing a catch bag with another diver, you are responsible for counting your own bag limit and the other diver is responsible for counting their bag limit.

### Measure as you go

Measure your shellfish as you collect them and before you place them in your catch bag. A quick and easy way to do this is to mark your catch bag handle with the minimum legal size for the shellfish you are collecting.

**Scallops:** measure the greatest diameter of the shell.

**Dredge oysters:** must not pass through a rigid circular metal ring with an inside diameter of 58mm.



### Return undersize or excess shellfish immediately

Re-count and re-measure your catch as soon as possible after surfacing. If you have accidentally taken too many scallops, or undersized scallops, you must return them, unharmed, to the sea *immediately*.

Immediately is not after you have changed into dry clothes and you are comfortably relaxing with a cold drink and lunch, and it is not after you have picked up anchor and moved to a nicer spot!

Returned shellfish must be given the best opportunity to survive and be returned to the same place that they were taken from. Scallops and dredge oysters returned to different habitat types (e.g. rocky reefs, deep water) are not as likely to survive. Similarly, scallops and dredge oysters not returned immediately to the water may dehydrate, overheat or die.

## Eating scallops and dredge oysters at sea

People can shuck and eat scallops and dredge oysters onboard vessels. Any scallops or dredge oysters eaten form part of your daily limit. Any scallops or dredge oysters not eaten must be landed in the shell.

### The shellfish you eat count as part of your daily bag limit

Regulations to allow people to consume scallops and dredge oysters onboard were made to recognise that eating shellfish is an important part of the recreational experience. It is important that you respect the daily bag limit.

You're only entitled to one bag limit per day, whether you eat it onboard or not.

### Land scallops and dredge oysters in their shells

You can't land shucked shellfish. If you are uncertain about how many scallops or dredge oysters you are likely to consume while at sea, don't shuck all of them at once. That way you can still land some of your bag limit if you don't eat all of them.

## Diving Safety

When diving, be aware of tides, swell, visibility and weather. While many people find shellfish delicious, they are not worth risking your life for! If conditions are deteriorating, you might want to postpone your dive rather than collecting shellfish in a hurry.

### Diving and safety people

Within the strict limits described below, divers from a vessel are allowed to take scallops and dredge oysters for safety people on their boat. Scallops and dredge oysters are the only species to which this concession applies.

### Taking scallops/dredge oysters for (up to) two safety people

The regulations allow extra scallops and dredge oysters to be collected for up to two safety people. No more than two extra bag limits can be taken per vessel, regardless of how many people are diving. So, if you have one safety person on board your vessel, you may only collect one extra bag limit. If you have three safety people on board, you may only collect two extra bag limits, not three.

### Make sure your safety person can help in an emergency

The regulations are clear that a safety person must be able to act as a safety person.

This means they are able to assist a diver if something goes wrong, and even drive the boat if necessary. Use your common sense to guide you, but remember that children are unlikely to be considered safety people by a Fishery Officer. A friend who has had too many beers, or is asleep in the sun while you are diving will not be much help if something goes wrong.

### Plan who will collect the extra shellfish

If there is more than one person diving, it is important that you all decide who will be responsible for gathering extra shellfish for the safety person/people. If all divers decide to collect some extra shellfish, be clear about how many each of you will take, otherwise you may commit an offence.

**Note:** You cannot collect extra shellfish for safety people if you are diving from shore, regardless of the conditions. For your own safety, you should always dive in pairs. Also, let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

**Note:** Safety people are responsible for the shellfish that divers have caught for them. Safety people must satisfy themselves that this catch meets all size and bag limits that apply.