

Future season dates Consolidated industry feedback As at 24 September 2020

Dates	Pros	Cons	Comments
1 May – 30 April	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a reasonable catch period so offers security in catching quota. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would encourage people to fish the deep water whites pattern – taking pressure off the bigger crays. <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes away the 2 whites periods, which could then lean towards a better market price in the whites. Traditionally the market price and demand in May/June is better than July/August period. Full run at whites and CNY with associated market benefits. <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves the licensing away from the Fisheries closure period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March period soft crays – can sometimes run later in March Missing May Day demand period Season commences with 50% pot usage during whale migration and puts time pressure on temp transfers Similar cons to 1 April – 31 March option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One organisation noted this is a preferred option. Possible next season of 10 or 22 months
1 April – 31 March	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish season in high catch rate times Smooths peaks and troughs and flattens the catch all year Gives industry more opportunity to target white migrating lobsters which would in turn improve catch rates in the reds <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire fishery will have access to the edge run irrespective of when the edge run starts (thereby putting less pressure on resident lobsters). 	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't leave a lot of time to catch uncaught kgs from the previous season if we experience a bad edge/whites run Soft lobster in C Zone for start of season <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More resident reds caught which could jeopardise our breeding stock <p>Number of boats fishing / whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More people will fish in critical whale mitigation period April- June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two organisations noted this is their preferred option. One organisation noted this is the second preferred option. One organisation noted this is not a preferred option. One organisation recorded no support for this option. Possible next season of 9 or 21 months

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	<p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good strong finish into CNY regardless of when it falls • The season ends with the combination of Chinese New Year and high catch rates without the current artificial supply peak in January, which should help maximise value. • Expected to flatten the artificial supply peak in January and therefore creates a true supply and demand balance during the whites/Chinese New Year. <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season finishes on the last day of the month, making accounting easier. • Takes the transfer period away from the Christmas/New Year rush when DPIRD is closed • High catch rates at the start of the season, meaning good cash flow at the start of the season for those fishers that need it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gear modification and reduction has come into effect due to whale migration and may lead to 50% pot reduction at the start of the season. • Strong tides during this ending and starting months can take gear for lengthy periods – increases the risk to loss of quota. <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start season in lower price times and with increased volume price would be lower still • Start of season may clash with Easter in some years. • Dates would coincide with New Zealand season and associated market issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High and low catchability times definitely will affect how quota will be caught (80% of quota is caught at present in the months December through to end of June with only 20% July to November)
1 July - 30 June	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can fish through CNY and whites run without interruption. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More whites can be caught relieving pressure on residential stock particularly in C Zone. • The entire fishery will have access to the edge run irrespective of when the edge run starts (puts less pressure on the resident lobsters). <p>Number of boats fishing / whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely that the majority of the catch would be caught by April/May, which would give industry a break in lead-up to the start of the season. • Likely less fishing activity at the end of the whale season resulting in less whale interactions. • It is much easier to delay the start of catching if necessary or reduce pot numbers without impacting on fishermen's bottom line or concerns. 	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start/finish quota in lower catch rate times which may impact on cashflow for some operators. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase handling of spawners during September and October. <p>Number of boats fishing / whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely more fishing activity at the start of the whale season resulting in more whale interactions. • Possibly more fishing from July to October. • Starting the season in the whale season. • Starting a new season at 50% pot usage. • Finishing quota in the remaining (lower catch rate) months of the season could be problematic and result in an effective 10 month season due to fishers aiming to finish their quota well ahead of the end of the season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One organisation noted this was the preferred option. • One organisation noted this was the second preferred option. • One organisation recorded no support for this option, with the main reason being this is peak whale migration time. • Possible next season of 12 months • We are coming into a trial of financial year with TACC we would have been allocated. We can analyse data of what has changed and can analyse whether that is a winner.

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	<p>The end result would be less fishermen fishing in July through to October. This is the period when ALL fishermen, traditionally used to slip and refit their boats.</p> <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooths peaks and troughs and flattens the catch all year. • No large volume at start of the season – gradual finish and gradual start means the marketing would be more orderly than Jan 15/14. • Less opportunity for market speculation during high catch periods. <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes the transfer period away from the Christmas/New Year rush when DPIRD is closed • Season finishes on the last day of the month and aligns with the financial year, making accounting easier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased fishing effort in whale migration season due to need for cash flow. <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% pot usage so speed of transfers is critical. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low catch period June–December may affect cash flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High and low catchability times definitely will affect how quota will be caught (80% of quota is caught at present in the months December through to end of June with only 20% July to November)
15 January – 14 January	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows fisher to finish quota in high catch rate times. • Certainty in catching quota as it is the whites. • By decreasing whites catch that has been one of the reasons stock has recovered so well • Having whites at the end to finish quota is good. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More whites caught has helped the breeding stocks to increase greatly over the last six years or so <p>Number of boats fishing / whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer boats are fishing in the whites because more fishers fish their quota at the start of the season (less supply pressure in November/December). • Allows excellent catching post Chinese New Year. This then sets up excellent cash flow to finish the financial year and allows fishermen the 	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early deep-water run may cause shortage at Chinese New Year • Some zones disadvantaged by not being viable to catch whites in deep water • If deep water whites are not caught in B and C zone then there will be migration into A zone. • One reason given for the January 14/15 start and finish was to even out the catch at a time of high volume. This season showed the fallacy there, as Fishermen tried to catch as much as possible in the last few days to prevent loss of quota. It was a nightmare for fishermen and the “Fisheries Department”, trying to transfer Quota. Fisheye had a melt down and would not work. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is too much pressure being put on bigger crays as people are tending to fish the Bank area more and not follow the whites march to deep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two organisations noted that this was the most preferred option for next season. • One organisation noted this was the least preferred option for next season on the basis there is too much risk involved with an 18 month season with regards to planning quota spacing/fishing to price, lease pricing and market planning. • “I would like to STRONGLY recommend the quota season start dates remain on the 15th of January going forward. I was the architect for this and spent two years meeting fishermen in C zone convincing them to agree to move

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	<p>opportunity to stop fishing during winter being the whale period.</p> <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market demand is generally secure with the oncoming Chinese New Year. • By having the highest catching period at the beginning of the season lines up with the highest demand and quota available to be fished. This then helps all fisherman later achieve a better beach price as less product hits the market <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishermen have adapted their fishing practices to January to January and with the uncertainty that COVID19 has created they are keen to get back to some familiarity and stability. 	<p>water. This is doing damage to the stocks of larger crays. Need to go back to fishing this white's movement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By not following the whites march and taking those crays it is creating a peak in crays further north – who are then targeting these crays in large quantities which then makes the market price collapse. • Breeding period (spawners) in middle of the season <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go from no catch on the 14th to 40 tonne or more per day on the 15th which creates difficulty with marketing/price swings and destroys value due to artificial supply and demand pressures. • Large catch rates at start of season puts significant supply pressure on the supply chain in the early days of the season, affecting quality and creating price volatility. • Chinese New Year sometimes falls early in January, meaning some years it is not possible for fishers to properly capitalise on Chinese New Year at the start of the season. • It's been 5 years since we have seen a good price in the last 2 weeks of the season. • Chinese know that those kgs need to be caught so they pretty much hold our price to ransom. • Early edge run creates issues with supply – this year B & C zone edge finished prior to 15 January, which put extra pressure on beach price later in the season <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in unit transfers • Over the past few years Investors are taking longer and longer to settle on a lease price (this now taking up to February / March) to be announced to Lessee's. This then makes it impossible to make 	<p>to quota and a 15th of January start date.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible next season of 18 months • Three organisations noted that they did not support a 6.5 month season. • One organisation noted that, while it did not actually like the idea of a 6 month season, it was preferred over an 18 month season as it would bring the seasons back in to line with a January season.

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		<p>Business decisions on leasing / fishing quota. You are then stuck in a new season white's period with the Chinese New Year coming on and are in limbo as to what to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Season starts in the middle of the month which creates issues for accounting. 	
1 November – 31 October	<p>Catchability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fishermen start prior to a high catch period. Suits the biology of the animal by catching migrating crays at start of the season. <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces the need to fish hard during the breeding phase spawners. May help reduce fishing pressure during the reds. <p>Number of boats fishing / whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside whale migration period Maximum fishing days before whale mitigation measures commence, so potentially much less pots in the water in whale migration period <p>Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximises our ability to put maximum kg's into the Chinese New Year market <p>Transfers / admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pot transfers happen during low catch period <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not 50% pot usage, start on 100% usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't finish in a high catch period. Quota management and perhaps fishing restrictions during high price period. Highest risk of not achieving quota and price. Increase whites peak putting pressure on markets and supply chains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One organisation noted this was the second preferred option
22 January – 21 January			
20-24 December – 19-23 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works for the Chinese market and the high edge run. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfers could be achieved with a 1 month exemption as has been done in the past (this happened in 2013)

Other comments

“Can we have different season dates for different zones?”

“I urge the industry to leave the season as is for another 4 years or so. Get clear of Covid effected markets and have a couple of post Covid years fishing to allow fishermen to have a good evaluation over many years. Then if the feeling is to change, then go ahead and make the informed change. Fishermen have had their best years ever over the past six years or so since we went to quota with a 15 of January start. To make a change during these times I feel would be an ill informed and poor decision with possible unknown outcomes.”

4 factors affecting the start date are:

- (1) Beach price
- (2) Market demand Chinese New Year
- (3) Biology of the target spawners etc 20% caught in July to end November
- (4) Whale mitigation time frame 50% pot usage July