

# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

July 2016 to June 2017



# Directory

## Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Sub-committee

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## NZSFC Incorporated

<b>Patron</b>	JR Chibnall	<b>Administration</b>	13 Board members
<b>Executive</b>			5 Life members
President	Phil Appleyard		8 Zone representatives
Vice Presidents	Peter Campbell	National membership	56 clubs
	Bob Gutsell	Affiliated membership	34,000
Auditor	Tim England	Annual General Meeting	September
Records Officer	Pete Saul	NZ IGFA representatives	10
Administration Officer	Helen Pastor	Member of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA)	

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### Quote to think about

A couple of years ago I heard a European billionaire being interviewed. When the slightly irritable reporter asked “well, how much money do you want” the billionaire answered “just a wee bit more.” And it is the “wee bit more” that has done so much to damage our environment – just a few more cows per acre, just a wee bit more water for irrigation, just another water bore in case it doesn’t rain, just a wee bit more sewerage mixed with a wee bit more storm water, just a few more years raping our already depleted fish stocks.

Bruce Plested, Chairman’s Report, Mainfreight Annual Report 2017.

**Image credits:** Kaye van der Straten, Grant Dixon, Sam Wild, Scott Cushman, Matt Watson, Trish Rea, Si Yates, Wayne Bicknell.



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Attendees at the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, hosted by the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club, Whangamata, Coromandel.

## President's Report



As President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, I have the pleasure of introducing the Fisheries Management Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2017.

The year's challenges and opportunities were met by a dedicated Fisheries Management - Marine Protection team, ably led by Peter Campbell.

Peter continues to enjoy the support of his Sub-committee members, Mark Connor, Lewis Avenell, Wayne Bicknell, Richard Baker and Scott Macindoe. Together they have overseen and administered a prodigious amount of work, delivering outputs that all NZSFC affiliates can be proud of.

The level of respect earned and expressions of gratitude for the work this team does on behalf of the Council has helped to cement our place as the leading representative recreational fishing organisation in the country.

LegaSea continues to go from strength to strength and extend our reach through a wide variety of mediums. It is promising to see the support generated by their reliable and professional approach to spreading awareness of issues facing the marine environment.

Also pleasing is the success and growth of our Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing educational programme for primary and intermediate school age children. The Council appreciates the ongoing, strong support from funders, sponsors and clubs.

As the NZSFC message is further developed and broadcast we are seeing more support for our goals. This comes from both members of the public and organisations who share a passion for our oceans. Due to LegaSea's successful outreach we have established close relationships with a number of organisations including the next largest representative recreational fishing organisation, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association.

LegaSea has also helped us develop closer ties with the New Zealand Underwater Association, Yachting New Zealand and Kiwi's Against Seabed Mining. Through this meeting of minds and aspirations we hope to continue working together and further aligning our messages.

I look forward to meeting with you all at the upcoming AGM in Tauranga on 23rd September. Every year the AGM gets better and no doubt the Tauranga Sport Fishing Club will be seeking to outdo the efforts last year of the Whangamata crew.

I am expecting another exciting year at the helm and, with your support, we will go closer to achieving a more honest and effective management regime that will see our sacred inshore fish stocks restored to respectable levels and ensure future generations get a fair go.

Phil Appleyard, President.

**1957** founding year of the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council

**2009** Council changed its name to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council

**2009** Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing educational project is underway

**1100** schools have enjoyed the Hiwi the Kiwi award winning show

**1100** Kilwell fishing rods given to school aged children

**2000** annual subscriptions to NZ Fishing News magazines donated to Hiwi the Kiwi participants

**330000** students nationwide seen the Hiwi the Kiwi show



## Fisheries Management Chairman's Report

Peter Campbell

As Chairman, I am proud to say that the Fisheries Management - Marine Protection (FMMP) Sub-committee have continued to provide reliable, well researched submissions and reports on behalf of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

The wide skill-set of our FMMP Sub-committee and contractor team has allowed engagement in many of the current processes affecting our marine environment. There are meetings up and down the country so we are careful to manage our involvement to ensure we stay within budget. A positive outcome of all this engagement has been more opportunities to better serve our clubs and their affiliated members' fishing interests.

### Advocacy

In the face of increasing and sophisticated threats the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council continues to advocate for more fish in the water and a healthy marine ecosystem. This is because our clubs will not thrive if fisheries are depleted and participation in fishing declines. Ultimately, we are responsible users of the marine environment and we seek to enhance our fisheries for future generations.

After contributing substantial submissions to the Ministry's Fisheries System Review (December 2015) and the Future of Our Fisheries review (Dec 2016) we have to now acknowledge that our years of working within the prescribed system are not delivering adequate benefits for our membership. Clearly, a change of tack is required.

We need to firstly recognise there are inherent problems in the Quota Management System and fisheries management regime that cannot be resolved within the existing structure. We have now committed to working with our partner organisations to collectively call for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Quota Management System and fisheries management. This will be our focus for the next few months.

### Research - Economic study

In March 2016, the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation published a 12-page economic report: *Recreational Fishing in New Zealand. A Billion Dollar Industry*. With the assistance from the The Council and LegaSea this report was distributed to politicians, local body representatives, hundreds of partners and Key Opinion Leaders.

The 170-page Technical Report has been reviewed by the MPI Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group to rank the quality of research for use in fisheries management decisions. It was measured against the Ministry's Research Standards. After months of debate the Report was graded as 'Two – The research has some shortcomings, but is still useful for informing management decisions'. It is important to note that MPI's Standards were designed for stock assessment research, not economic studies.

It must also be noted that none of the MPI or commercial fishing industry economic reports have been reviewed or graded against this Standard. So, given these hurdles, the Council is pleased that the Report's lead author, Rob Southwick, was able to present a paper on research results to the 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference, in Canada, in July this year.

## Research - Crayfish survey

In March the Council and LegaSea conducted a survey of people who fish or dive for rock lobsters in CRA 2, from Pakiri to East Cape on the northeast coast of the North Island. The survey revealed an overall dissatisfaction for the quality and availability of rock lobsters in the area. Many respondents said they would support a seasonal or even complete closure of the fishery in order to see it restored to a more acceptable state. The survey results confirmed the need for urgent action in this area and prompted the launch of the “Crayfish Crisis” campaign.

This was a comprehensive survey and we are pleased that hundreds of people took the time to tell us their stories. This process has confirmed for us that no government agency or fisheries organisation has the ability to reach out to thousands of recreational fishers and canvass their views the way our Council can, and we will apply the lessons learnt in future campaigns.

## Education

Our latest educational programme, ‘FishCare - The school of best practice’ was launched in May. A special thanks goes to the Outboard Boating Club for hosting our team and providing their facilities so FishCare could get off to a glittering start.

FishCare has been developed to educate and encourage recreational fishers to do their part in protecting the marine environment. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the programme so far and we look forward to greater interest as we launch into the next summer, which is thankfully not far away.

## Alignment

The Council is continually looking for opportunities to align with like minded organisations so we can work together on improving our marine environment. There are many organisations throughout New Zealand who see the true value in having healthy marine ecosystems. As we build on these relationships we will combine our efforts to protect the marine environment from further degradation.

An example of such collaboration is our recent work with Kiwis Against Seabed Mining. Over the past year we have worked together to raise public awareness about the proposed application by a multi-national company to mine iron sands off the South Taranaki Bight. The government’s Environmental Protection Authority has been considering the proposal and subsequent re-application since 2014. In our considered view if the 35-year project goes ahead it would threaten the health of this valued area. The Council supported our Taranaki based team, KASM and Greenpeace in their efforts to protect the public’s wishes in protecting the environment for future generations.

The EPA has since approved the application “with conditions”. KASM and Greenpeace have initiated an appeal and we will continue to monitor the process to ensure our members’ interests are protected.

## Summary

The 2016-17 year has been encouraging and the team have really flourished. Please continue to read through our Fisheries Management Report to better understand our engagement and processes.

Further information is available for all of our submissions online. Any further questions or requests for supporting information can be directed to our Executive office at [secretary@nzsportfishing.co.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.co.nz).

# Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Report

## Sub-Committee

**5** policy planks to deliver abundant fisheries in Fisheries Manifesto

**35** year application by TTR to mine ironsand off Taranaki coastline

**40** percent of respondents rated the CRA 2 fishery as decimated

**840** people responded to CRA 2 survey in March 2017

**KASM** assisted Council in submitting on Taranaki ironsand mining application process

**ROYAL** Commission of Inquiry needed to resolve questions around fisheries management and the Quota Management System

## Introduction

The Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Sub-committee provided reliable and researched responses to many reviews and consultations throughout the 2016-17 year.

We are pleased to report the following was achieved over the past year -

- Participation at 54 meetings and working groups.
- Completed 18 submissions.
- Comprehensive quarterly reports.
- Ongoing involvement in the review of fisheries management, MPI’s Future of our Fisheries programme (FOOF).

## Billfish and tuna

### Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fisheries Plan

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council contributed to the Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Plan Annual Review by providing annual catches of billfish and tuna from Council clubs. In addition, our team attended meetings to finalise the Annual Operating Plan for 2017–18 and the draft HMS Fisheries Plan for 2017 to 2022.

There are proposals to promote the use of target reference points for highly migratory species in international forums and country allocations for tuna species along the lines of the catch limits set by the Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. These target reference points appear to be working. Attempts to establish country limits for South Pacific albacore are progressing but allocations claimed by countries far exceed current catch and sustainable yield.

### Yellowfin tuna

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is reviewing a new stock assessment for Yellowfin tuna. It shows that the stock is fully exploited with the stock estimated to be about 33% of the unfished biomass (B33). There has been an increase in recruitment (young fish entering the fishery) in recent years which is encouraging. This is most likely a result of beneficial environmental conditions rather than fisheries management measures.

Good spawning success in tropical waters north of New Zealand is probably why Yellowfin returned to our waters in 2015 and 2016.

### Striped marlin

Six Striped marlin were tagged with pop-up satellite tags during the April Zane Grey Tournament in the Bay of Islands. The tags were supplied as part of the IGFA Great Marlin Race where local sponsors buy the tags at cost (US\$4500) and tag marlin themselves. The winner of the “race” is the sponsor whose fish travels the furthest straight-line distance.

By the end of June three tags had started transmitting. The leading fish travelled 917 nautical miles from where it was released, transmitting 200 nautical miles east of Brisbane. All going well, the remaining tags will start transmitting in mid-November.

### Tissue sampling

Tissue samples from marlin and tuna were collected from NZSFC clubs at Tutukaka, Raglan and Houhora for the MPI project to look for chemical markers indicating where these fish had originated. The stable isotope analysis was carried out by NIWA and will contribute to a Pacific-wide study of highly migratory species and ocean food webs.

The researchers have found HMS tuna, shark and billfish caught in New Zealand were arriving throughout the summer season with a wider range of stable isotope values than seen in other regions. This indicates these species are coming from a variety of areas of the Pacific. This sampling technique shows good promise and we look forward to the published results.

### SeaChange

After three years of work by a range of stakeholders the SeaChange - Tai Timu, Tai Pari, Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan was released on 6th December 2016. The NZSFC has had input throughout the process. Initially Alan Proctor was on the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG). When Alan fell ill, he was replaced by Scott Macindoe. Dirk Sieling, Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Committee Member, served on the SWG from start to finish. His diligent, professional approach is much valued.

The process sought to “restore abundance and protect habitats within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park while providing for the many communities that surround the Gulf”. It was quickly identified that one of the major barriers to achieving this goal was the current levels of depletion.

The SWG spent considerable time working on fisheries management issues and settled on the following outcomes:

- Setting the entire Marine Park as a separate fisheries management area with its own quotas decided by a reconstituted Hauraki Gulf Forum.
- The removal of damaging fishing methods such as bottom trawling, Danish seining and dredging, in order to restore fragile benthic environments.
- Full reviews on a range of declining fish stocks within the Marine Park e.g. rock lobster and hapuku.
- A selection of new Marine Protected Areas to be sited in areas of high importance to protect particularly fragile ecosystems or to allow for high value recreational fishing.
- The designation of areas for environmentally responsible aquaculture.

Overall, these outcomes would be beneficial to the health of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and the enhancement of the recreational fishing experience. It is unfortunate that implementation of the Plan has faltered due to a lack of funding and varying levels of commitment from the Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council and Government.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is committed to the SeaChange - Tai Timu Tai Pari - Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan being implemented and stand by to support the Councils and the agencies involved.

### Future of our Fisheries

In December 2015, the NZSFC submitted to the Ministry for Primary Industries regarding their consultation on the Review of Fisheries Systems. The Minister's announcement and the Council's submission are available online at [www.nzsportfishing.co.nz](http://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz) - Fisheries - Fisheries System Review 2015.

**2** representatives attended the 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference in Canada in July 2017

**18** submissions responding to fisheries management, policy and area proposals

**31** pages in the Future of our Fisheries submission made in December 2016

**144** dedicated hours in MPI's Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group processes

**201** hours engaged in MPI's Northern Inshore Working Group processes

**715** hours dedicated to the Sea Change marine spatial planning process

There was no substantial feedback until November 2016 when MPI responded with their Future of our Fisheries initiative. Much of the substantive material we presented in the 2015 submission was ruled 'out of scope'. Despite this, we submitted again, in good faith.

Following the submission period a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was appointed by the Director General of MPI, including Graham Sinclair as the recreational fishing representative. We have made our views clear that this appointment is unsatisfactory.

In March this year the Council and other aligned representative organisations met with the TAG. Prior to the TAG meeting we received strong support from the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, New Zealand Underwater Association and Yachting New Zealand, so it was pleasing to have them alongside us at the meeting. A powerful letter of support was provided by Yachting New Zealand in lieu of their attendance at the TAG meeting.

The Minister has approved the Future of our Fisheries plan. Most of it applies to commercial fishing. Implementation of the electronic monitoring aspects is due in October 2017 although this date is currently under challenge from some commercial interests.

### Fisheries Manifesto

The Fisheries Manifesto explains five policies that will deliver abundant fisheries and a healthy marine environment in the future.

As we work towards the general election in September 2017 our team will be publicising the Manifesto and encouraging people to talk with their local MP about fisheries issues and why it is important to give effect to the five policies.

Specifically, we will be asking our political representatives to commit to the following five policies required to restore abundance and ensure future generations get a fair go:

1. Establish a Royal Commission of Inquiry into fisheries management and the Quota Management System.
2. Amend the Fisheries Act 1996 to include an Allocation Principle.
3. Remove industrial fishing methods such as trawling, seining and dredging from the inshore zone.
4. Establish a separate, well-resourced Ministry of Fisheries.
5. Amend section 13 of the Fisheries Act to replace the minimum stock target of BMSY with a minimum biomass target of B50, that is 50% of the unfished biomass, in line with international best practice.

Ideally, we have several (or all) political parties commit to reviewing fisheries management and the Quota Management System. The Sub-committee sees these steps as a pathway to more sustainable and productive fisheries for the benefit of all sectors.

### Royal Commission of Inquiry

After 30 years of the Quota Management System we still have depleted fisheries and trawling, seining and dredging occurring inshore, and no clear pathway to achieving abundance.

Moreover, management is so dysfunctional and the relationships between the Ministry for Primary Industries and commercial fishing industry so entwined that the Minister is hamstrung and prosecutions against lawbreakers are knowingly withheld. There is no way to unravel these structures without outside, independent intervention.

We have come to the conclusion that the only way to clean up the mess, find potential solutions, and restore public confidence is to have a Royal Commission of Inquiry into New Zealand's fisheries management and the Quota Management System.

Public support is growing for a Royal Commission of Inquiry. Our team is doing its utmost to ensure that whoever wins the electoral race on September 23rd follows up with a commitment to appoint a Royal Commission. Ultimately, all Kiwis would benefit from rebuilt fisheries, a more cohesive management structure, and a system that encourages innovation and husbandry of our marine resources. If the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is instrumental in achieving these outcomes then we will all have a bright and prosperous fishing future.

## Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Service Providers



### John Holdsworth (BSc)

John is a director of Blue Water Marine Research, established in 1997 to conduct research, including recreational harvest surveys and gamefish tagging projects. He has over 20 years experience in fisheries management and research. John is the ideal person to represent our club members' interests in the Ministry for Primary Industries' science, policy and Working Group processes.



### Pete Saul

Pete is a fisheries researcher and charter operator with over 30 years experience. He owns and operates the vessel *Lady Jess*. Pete is also a director of Blue Water Marine Research and is currently the Council's Records Officer. He contributed to the development of the moratorium on commercial billfish catch, which has been replaced by fisheries regulations prohibiting commercial fishers from landing marlin in New Zealand waters.



### Barry Torkington

Barry has a background in commercial fishing and aquaculture. At one stage he was a director of his local commercial fishing operation, Leigh Fisheries. Barry's key attributes are his clear thinking, his ability to analyse policy and management proposals and articulate the core issues. These skills are highly sought after and the Council has appreciated his input and guidance on significant issues over the years.



### Trish Rea

Trish has more than a decade of fisheries management and advocacy experience working with a variety of non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups. During this time Trish has developed a range of skills that enable her to make a valuable contribution to the Council's ongoing policy and management work.



### Josh Barclay

Josh has completed a Marine Science Degree at Victoria University and come aboard to help with research projects and represent the Council at the Ministry's Wellington-based Working Groups. Josh has spent time working as a research assistant designing a shark tagging system around Wellington's harbours. He is a regular diver at the National Aquarium of New Zealand.



### Stuart Ryan

Stuart is a barrister with a specialist practice in public law, and environmental law and related areas. Stuart represented the (then) NZ Big Game Fishing Council, and other non-commercial interests, in the Kahawai Legal Challenge proceedings. He has over 20 years experience in advising public and private sector clients. Over the years Stuart has built a strong relationship with many non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups.

## Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Sub-Committee

### Peter Campbell

Peter is a respected member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's executive and was Vice President from 2001 to 2009. He is based in Tauranga and has been a zone delegate to the NZSFC Board for 17 years. His distinctive leadership style ensures efficient development of fisheries management submissions and policy documents, and delivery of regular updates for members and supporters.



### Mark Connor

Mark is the Council's Immediate Past President. He is a long-term member of the Ashley Sport Fishing Club in North Canterbury. Mark is the South Island's representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Board. Mark is keen to continue working to ensure the next generation of New Zealanders enjoy quality fishing, a productive marine ecosystem and strong representation of amateur fishing interests.



### Richard Baker

Richard is a founding member of the NZ Land Based Game Fishing Club and has been involved with the Council for 27 years. Richard was President from 2008 to 2011, and is now the Council's youngest ever life member. He is one of New Zealand's IGFA representatives and a Trustee of the NZ Marine Research Foundation. Richard's experience is invaluable when he represents the Council as LegaSea's spokesperson on fisheries management, policy and public education issues.



### Scott Macindoe

Scott has been an active contributor to the Council in a management and public awareness capacity for more than a decade. He is the backbone of LegaSea, coordinating the team's activities and alignment programme, and helping others to understand why it is important that the next generation of New Zealanders enjoy a productive marine ecosystem and quality fishing.



### Wayne Bicknell

Wayne is a life member of the Hawke's Bay Sport Fishing Club and an IGFA representative. His years of experience, both in the Ministry's Area 2 Regional Recreational Fisheries Forum and as a founding member of LegaSea Hawkes Bay, means Wayne is a valuable asset to the Board. He has always been a passionate fisherman with a strong sense of commitment to leave the fishery in a better state for those who follow.



### Lewis Avenell

Lewis grew up fishing on the Kaipara Harbour. Later he joined the Big Fish Fishing Club. After moving to Taranaki and joining the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club he soon took up the role of club delegate to the Council. He is now the Waikato/Taranaki representative on the NZSFC Board. Lewis is an active contributor to the Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Sub-committee.





Let's rebuild our fisheries

**LEGASEA** is the public outreach initiative of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. Our objectives are to raise public awareness of the need to restore abundance in our coastal fisheries for the benefit of future generations, and to fundraise to support the Council's work in fisheries management, research and education.

It's been an exciting year of growth for LegaSea. To support this growth the LegaSea team has expanded. This year, Anna Willison and Jo Davis have joined the Supporter Engagement team. It is encouraging to have Yachting New Zealand and the New Zealand Underwater Association stepping up to support our work. We also launched two new projects, FishCare and Kai Ika.

**Governance**

The LegaSea Governance Advisory Sub-committee oversee operations. This Sub-committee includes both LegaSea Directors, Mark Connor and Peter Campbell, and NZSFC Board members Richard Baker, Lewis Avenell, Scott Macindoe and Ross Lucas.

**Supporter Engagement**

In the past 12 months LegaSea was present at 76 events engaging with 32,000 people. LegaSea continues to present a professional face and meaningful message to a diverse range of Kiwis. Si Yates and Pieter Battaerd remain the driving force behind these events.

Key events include:

- The Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show. Once again LegaSea Gold Partners and event organisers donated stand space making it possible for LegaSea to showcase our work at one of New Zealand's prominent fishing events.
- New Zealand Agricultural Fieldays. ITM donated part of their stand to LegaSea. Their support provided a platform for us to present our messages to the 120,000 attendees. The event was so successful that ITM has already committed to a similar set up next year.

**Partners and Supporters**

Simon Yates' continued dedication has seen our Partner Programme grow. From small beginnings we now have four Platinum and over 40 Gold partner brands committed to LegaSea.

Jo Davis has come aboard to support Simon strengthen relationships and facilitate further growth. Her role is to focus on increasing the numbers of Building LegaSea and LegaSea Works supporters.

**Communications**  
Led by Trish Rea and Josh Barclay, LegaSea continues to produce columns, opinion pieces and updates for a variety of outlets. Over the past year LegaSea produced around 100 communication pieces. This work is contributing to our objective of increasing understanding and awareness of fisheries issues. Our digital reach also continues to grow through effective utilisation of a variety of social media channels.

**Projects**  
The Kai Ika Project is a pilot scheme involving the Outboard Boating Club of Auckland and Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae of Mangere. Instead of disposing of their unwanted fish heads, frames and offal, club members now sort and refrigerate these parts, ready for collection. In under twelve months the Marae has collected over 6000 kg of fish product. The food is distributed to an appreciative local community in need of high-quality nutrition. The offal is used to fertilise the Marae's community garden.

**FishCare** - The school of best practice is an educational programme showcasing ways recreational fishers can reduce their impact on the marine environment. Including ways to avoid catching small fish and releasing fish in good condition, while maximising the use of each fish landed. FishCare was launched in May and will be rolled out over the coming 36 months.

**4** Platinum Partners sharing our vision for more abundant fisheries

**40** Gold Partner brands committed to helping us restore our marine environment

**76** events attended in the past twelve months

**32000** people engaged at events nationwide during the past twelve months

**Campaigns**

Our most recent campaign 'The Crayfish Crisis' highlighted the mismanagement of crayfish between Pakiri and East Cape (CRA 2), on the northeast coast of the North Island.

An initial survey was conducted between January and March this year. The survey generated over 800 responses, a clear demonstration of the high level of public interest in the management of our crayfish. The results were overwhelming: 78% of respondents rated the size and availability of crayfish in CRA 2 at 1 or 2 out of 7, with 1 being decimated and 7 being best ever.

Of the survey respondents, 83% supported or strongly supported a seasonal closure to all harvest, to help the crayfish recover. CRA 2 is clearly a fishery close to the hearts of many.

A public awareness campaign was launched in July. As a result tens of thousands of people have viewed, commented, shared and reacted to the campaign messages. And hundreds of New Zealanders sent messages to Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industries, and their local MP's advising them of their concerns.

**Finances**

Since 2015 100% of public donations made via the LegaSea Legends programme have been transferred to the NZSFC. These funds are carefully administered and invested in fisheries management and marine protection advocacy, education and research. For the year ended June 2017, these monies totalled \$100,000. Kia kaha LegaSea Legends, your contribution is magnificent.

This is LegaSea's second year with the 30th June being the financial end of the year. Our accounts have been completed and filed with our Auditors.

**LegaSea Ltd**

Income and Expenditure	31/03/14	31/03/15	30/06/16	30/06/17
<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Donations from people and unaffiliated clubs	85184	73467	96014	104119
Donations from events and affiliated clubs	26231	11891	13638	12817
Donations for the establishment of LegaSea	60825	266520	68000	0
Partner sponsorships programme	130472	101529	124069	95500
Building LegaSea & LegaSea Works	0	61598	86023	12526
Grants and interest received	0	0	144476	366041
Merchandise (surplus/deficit)	-5650	-6571	-11628	-835
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>297062</b>	<b>508434</b>	<b>520592</b>	<b>590168</b>

Expenditure				
Donations to NZSFC	55074	59222	96014	104119
Fundraising	81435	216159	145584	99008
Communication and public awareness projects	83902	139854	186162	231832
Campaigns	60043	48361	14366	42481
Strategy and planning	10948	20646	24835	54431
Administration	18616	40235	56172	81514
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>310018</b>	<b>524477</b>	<b>523132</b>	<b>613385</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-12956</b>	<b>-16043</b>	<b>-2540</b>	<b>-23117</b>

**NZSFC Fisheries Management  
Income and Expenditure**

	30/06/14	30/06/15	30/06/16	30/06/17
<b>Source of funds</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Affiliated club member levies	70000	65000	65000	70000
LegaSea donations - Budgeted	45000	65000	93000	100000
Grant income - Budgeted	0	0	80000	58000
<b>Fisheries Management budget</b>	<b>115000</b>	<b>130000</b>	<b>238000</b>	<b>228000</b>
LegaSea donations and shortfall	11683	-8582	-2787	313
Grant income - shortfall	0	0	-15000	-53066
<b>Total Fisheries Management Income</b>	<b>126683</b>	<b>121418</b>	<b>220213</b>	<b>175247</b>

Expenditure				
Sustainability and management processes				
Snapper	71303	40698	26177	18155
Crayfish	17481	10653	1531	19351
Pelagics	2858	1624	453	1510
Other fisheries	3899	3816	7763	5137
MPI and political engagement	11812	12797	54522	72390
Policy and Council attendance	15853	12254	6692	19720
Hokianga Accord/Symposium	0	4004	59231	2579
Marine protection and spatial planning	2605	11401	20720	6864
Regional issues	2886	1376	12008	6371
Reporting and public awareness	10958	14033	22617	35072
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>139655</b>	<b>112656</b>	<b>211714</b>	<b>187149</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-12972</b>	<b>8762</b>	<b>8499</b>	<b>-11902</b>

**Notes**

1. Unspent LegaSea Donations. LegaSea donations are monies received from LegaSea Legends and other public contributions. 100% of this income is transferred to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council to be carefully administered and invested in advocacy, research and education initiatives. We have carried forward \$13,591 from previous years. When we deduct this year's Fisheries Management deficit of \$11,902 this leaves us with a modest reserve of \$1,689 'Unspent LegaSea Donations' to carry forward to next year.
2. Grants received. We carried forward from last year Unspent Grant received for the Symposium of \$5,769. This year we spent \$2,453 on follow-up Symposium expenditure. We will return the balance of \$3,316 to the grant maker. We also received \$2,481 from the Waikato Regional Council for Sea Change stipends and travel allowances.

**Do you Care?**

FishCare promotes best practice techniques to help recreational fishers reduce their impact on our inshore fisheries.

Our vision is an abundant fishery enjoyed by today's and future generations.

**CARE**

**THE SCHOOL OF BEST PRACTICE**



# New Zealand Marine Research Foundation Report

Jeff Romeril, Chairman



## Schedule of Activities

July 2016 to June 2017

It is pleasing to finally have broad endorsement for the Foundation's latest research effort, to measure the contribution that recreational fishing makes to the New Zealand economy.

The public report, *Recreational Fishing in New Zealand. A Billion Dollar Industry*, was released in March 2016. It has taken until this year to receive confirmation for the Technical Report from the Ministry's multi-stakeholder Marine Amateur Working Group.

It took longer than expected to get this endorsement from the Working Group. The peer review is an important step in the process to get the work taken into account by the Minister when making management decisions.

When the report was first presented to MPI's Marine Amateur Working Group it met with some resistance. Commercial representatives of the Group attempted to undermine the survey and its results. This led to a decision by the Ministry's policy team to fund an independent peer review by the National Research Bureau (NRB) and former MPI fisheries chief economist Professor Ralph Townsend.

Following all the feedback a new section, 'The Context and Limitations of the Survey and Results', was added to the report.

Next MPI wanted to grade the Technical Report according to their Research and Science Information Standard for New Zealand Fisheries (RSIS). At the final review meeting the Technical Report was graded as Two - medium or mixed quality, for information that has been subjected to some peer review against the requirements of the science quality standard and has been subjected to some peer review and has been found to have some shortcomings with regards to the key principles for science information quality, but is still useful for informing management decisions.

It is worth noting that the RSIS is intended for reviewing stock monitoring and stock assessment reports, not economic studies, and this had a considerable effect on the grading. The Foundation and our research team are comfortable with the grade Two result.

There have been no MPI or fishing industry economic reports graded against this RSIS system. We would expect in future any similar economic reports to be graded a Two, at best, based on the processes we followed.

In July the economic research was presented at the 8th World Recreational Fisheries Conference in Canada by Rob Southwick, supported by John Holdsworth and Josh Barclay. This presentation was met with positive feedback. NZSFC members will be pleased to know that as part of the Conference proceedings, the report will be published in Fisheries Research, an international, peer reviewed journal.

The Foundation thanks the Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Sub-committee for their support throughout the peer review process. I look forward to future developments and finding ways to ensure that this valuable piece of work is put to good use and helps us to better understand and provide for recreational fishing.

### Export value of recreational harvest

As a second, follow-up project the Southwick team has been working to obtain an export value of total recreational harvest. That is, if recreational fishers were to leave the fish they would catch in the water, what those fish would be worth if they were caught commercially and exported at current average prices. This research is expected to be available and published before the end of 2017.

**OBC** Outboard Boating Club of Auckland hosted the May launch of FishCare-The school of best practice

**2** grading from MPI for the NZ Marine Research Foundation technical report of the economic study into recreational fishing in NZ

**3** pop up tags attached to marlin in April have already started transmitting data

**3** marlin pop up tags expected to transmit data from November 2017

**6000** kilos of fish heads and frames shared in the South Auckland community through the Kai Ika project

**100000** dollars raised & committed to advocacy, education and research projects

During the year the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council worked with member clubs, individual experts and a number of organisations to develop submissions, provide presentations and support in response to fisheries management and policy proposals, and environmental initiatives.

This summary into selected activity and input into covers the year from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Utilising the outreach of LegaSea, the organisations that the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has worked with over the past year includes the following -

- Environment and Conservation Organisation of Aotearoa New Zealand - ECO
- Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
- Kiwis against Seabed Mining: KASM
- New Zealand Marine Research Foundation
- New Zealand Angling & Casting Association
- Hokianga Accord, mid north iwi fisheries forum
- Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association
- Te Kupenga o Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti
- Te Roopu Kaitiaki Whakature I Nga Taonga o Tangaroa
- New Zealand Underwater Association
- Southern Seabird Solutions Trust
- Nga Hapu o te Moutere o Motiti
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi
- Department of Conservation
- Greenpeace New Zealand
- Yachting New Zealand
- Paua Industry Council
- Southwick Associates
- Auckland Council



## Schedule of Activities

# 2016

### Southern Scallops (SCA 7)

**Our recommendation** Close the fishery to all fishing until abundance is restored.

**Outcome** Minister agrees to a partial closure of Scallop 7.

### Paua 7 (PAU 7)

**Our recommendation** Support MPI and Paua Industry's call for cuts to commercial harvesting to rebuild the stock, by way of a TACC cut, not shelving.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice and reduced the TACC by 50%, from 187 to 93 tonnes.

### Bluenose - national

**Our recommendation** Support MPI's Option 3, a 491 tonne TACC cut. The bluenose fish stocks must be rebuilt.

**Outcome** Minister agrees to a TACC reduction of 205 tonnes.

### John dory 7 (JDO 7)

**Our recommendation** Precautionary management is required, the proposed TACC increase goes against all reasonable expectations and environmental principles.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice and increased the TACC by 27%, from 150 to 190 tonnes.

### Southern Marine Protected Areas

**Our recommendation** Support 6 of 20 proposed MPAs around Dunedin's southeast coast.

**Outcome** Protection Forum still considering next steps.

### Future of our Fisheries

**Our recommendation** Improve abundance and diversity in the marine environment by putting more focus on recreational fishing opportunities which could generate up to 10 times the GDP of commercially caught fish. Unlimited growth potential from fishing tourists.

**Outcome** Joint delegation of non-commercial interests met with appointed Advisory Group to reinforce need to restore fisheries & maximise growth opportunities for New Zealand. MPI proceeding with planned changes for commercial fishing.

### Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands

**Our recommendation** Support extension of the temporary closure for another 2 years.

**Outcome** Minister extended the closure.

### Snapper 7 (SNA 7)

**Our recommendation** Minister must increase the TAC to cover existing use, with no TACC increase.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice and increased the TAC by 78%, the TACC by 25% and recreational allowance by 178%.

### Crayfish 3 (CRA 3)

**Our recommendation** Minister must remove the commercial concession.

**Outcome** Concession remains in place.

### Jack Mackerel 3 (JMA 3)

**Our recommendation** Reduce the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to cover existing use, by reducing the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) by half.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice to reduce the TAC & TACC.

### Seabed mining, Taranaki

**Our recommendation** EPA must decline 35-year mining licence application.

**Outcome** EPA upheld objections to mining application

# 2017

### Kaikoura emergency closure

**Our recommendation** Support proposed extension of the shellfish and seaweed emergency fishing closure of quake affected coastline.

**Outcome** Minister extended closure until November 2017. Subsequent decision to close coastline under s11 of the Fisheries Act.

### Selected Crayfish stocks (CRA 3, 4 & 7)

**Our recommendation** More precautionary management of all CRA stocks is required to restore abundance & diversity for future generations. Remove concessions.

**Outcome** Minister agrees to reduce the TAC & TACC in CRA 3 & 4, and increased the TAC & TACC in CRA 7. All concessions remain intact.

### Flatfish 3 (FLA 3)

**Our recommendation** Minister deny application for an in-season increase in the TAC for FLA 3. It's a low information stock requiring precautionary management.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice and increases the TAC as per the fishing industry's application.

### Red cod 2 (RCO 2)

**Our recommendation** Minister deny application for an in-season increase in the TAC for RCO 2. Precautionary management required.

**Outcome** Minister follows MPI advice and increases the TAC as per the fishing industry's application.

### Scallop 7 closure

**Our recommendation** Support MPI's proposal to close all of SCA 7 & Port Underwood to commercial & recreational fishing for 2017-18.

**Outcome** Minister agrees to close all of SCA 7 & Port Underwood to scallop fishing for 2017-18.

### Sea Change Marine Spatial Plan

**Our recommendation** Ensure precautionary management is applied before no-take marine protection.

**Outcome** Planning Group developed and embraced a raft of recommendations, now awaiting implementation.

We wouldn't be Hunting & Fishing without fishing. After 30 years of successful growth we must turn our minds to the next 30 years.

With a recreational fishery in decline it doesn't take much foresight to invest in the best organisations to be looking after our recreational fishing interests - LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

Without them the management of our fisheries would go unchallenged.

Trent Smith - General Manager  
Hunting & Fishing



## The NZUA in 2016/17



### NZ Underwater Association Board

It's been a challenging but productive year for the New Zealand Underwater Association.

Tasked with reinvigorating the NZUA's relevance with the underwater community, the short-term focus has been to grow its engaged audience, while building new relationships with relevant environmental and industry stakeholders.

An early project was the new website, which went live in June and can be visited at [www.nzunderwater.org.nz](http://www.nzunderwater.org.nz). The primary role of the website is to provide a detailed overview of the Association and its activities while offering a hub for essential diver safety information. The not-for-profit organisation's marketing activities come online in the last quarter of 2017 and the site anchors that work.

The NZUA's primary activities are spread across three pillars – Safety, Participation and Environmental.

**Safety:** Safety remains the NZUA's top priority. In 2017, the organisation has been granted funding for two essential safety campaigns via Maritime New Zealand and Water Safety New Zealand.

The first will cover the use of dive flags, an issue that is consistently raised as problematic by Regional Councils and Government. The second gives coverage to the issue of men's health as they age and continue or return to diving.

The NZUA continues to manage the Diver Emergency Number – 0800 4 DES. It also supports its commercial sister company Air Purity's efforts to ensure clean air and tank-testing safety. A significant issue in 2017, resulted in Work Safe withdrawing support for an at-risk dive cylinder type in high use in NZ. Air Purity was a key advisor to Work Safety on that matter.

**Participation:** Underwater participation in all its forms including scuba, spearfishing, snorkelling, photography, freediving and underwater hockey has long been a significant NZUA driver.

**Environmental:** The NZUA's environmental focus is tightly tied to issues of pollution, marine biodiversity and fisheries issues when they directly apply to the underwater fraternity. Currently, the Association splits its limited environmental resources in three areas:

- Providing marketing and communications support for groups and clubs with organised events such as beach clean-ups.
- Providing marketing and communications support for groups on issues of environmental education.
- Providing underwater expertise and advice and communications support at the lobby group level.

**A new focus on membership:** For the first time in its history, the Association has launched membership types external to its affiliated dive clubs. These categories are Associate and Environmental Membership.

#### NZUA and LegaSea

2017 saw the strengthening of relationships between the two marine stakeholders.

It is viewed as a vital step by the NZUA, for although the Association currently lacks the resources to contribute at LegaSea's capacity, it does have a large and engaged audience interested in the activities of the fisheries lobby group and the NZSFC.

As such, the NZUA acknowledges and values LegaSea's support and horsepower and looks forward to contributing to a greater degree in 2018.

Let's be the first generation to give our kids a better fishery than the one we inherited.

Matt Watson - ITM Hook Me Up!



The New Zealand Angling and Casting Association and its members appreciate the effort put into raising public awareness around fisheries issues by LegaSea.

This effort is backed by the outstanding submissions and advocacy work from the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

The New Zealand Angling and Casting Association looks forward to growing our relationship with the Council and further supporting LegaSea in their endeavours.

Jim Yeoman - President  
New Zealand Angling and Casting Association.



Yachting New Zealand has established a warm and trusting relationship with New Zealand Sport Fishing Council representatives.

We appreciate the comprehensive nature of the submissions they make. Submissions of this calibre are only possible when written by professionals with many years of experience. Their submissions consistently represent the values and interests of so many of our members who enjoy fishing in the inshore waters of New Zealand.

David Abercrombie - Chief Executive  
Yachting New Zealand



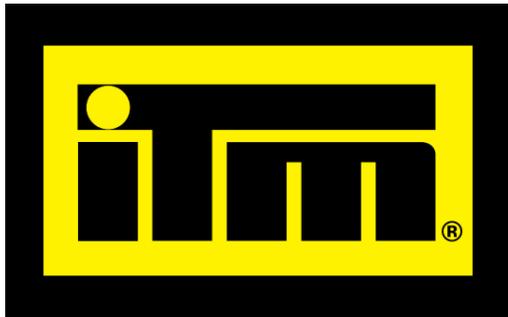
ITM has been a supporter of recreational fishing for many years, whether through the ITM Fishing Show and more recently the ITM Hook Me Up! with Matt Watson, or the various fishing events we host within our local communities. We recognise that the state of our fisheries requires immediate attention.

LegaSea has demonstrated dedication and professionalism in their vision to build our inshore fisheries back to a level of abundance.

ITM is on board with LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council to help make this vitally important building project a success.

Jerry Hirst - General Manager  
Sales & Marketing, ITM





Our Partners are our lifeblood. They help us with funding, communication, social engagement, materials support and motivation. Their commitment to support LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council demonstrates a commitment to the people of New Zealand, to ensure our lives are made richer through the health of our fisheries and the environment in which we live. Restoring our inshore fisheries to an abundant level is now a shared vision. Please contact us if you wish to join this list of outstanding contributors.



Our work would not be achieved without the generous support of many people and businesses. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea appreciate this ongoing trust and confidence in us to deliver the best outcomes for today's fishers and future generations of New Zealanders.



# LET'S REBUILD OUR FISHERY



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