

LegaSea Quarterly Report

November 2018



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Introduction

It is not very often we get to celebrate good news in fisheries management but it's worth popping the corks for this conservation initiative. In September the 34,000 strong New Zealand Sport Fishing Council announced it was promoting a voluntary reduction of the recreational crayfish bag limit in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty. The New Zealand Underwater Association and Spearfishing New Zealand are supporting this effort on behalf of their members.

LegaSea's task now is to promote this voluntary reduction of catch, from the maximum daily limit from six to three crayfish per person, per day, until the expected regulation changes are implemented in mid-2019.

LegaSea is supporting these organisations in asking fishers not to wait. We're encouraging everyone who gathers crayfish between Waipu in the north, the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty to assist with the early stages of rebuilding CRA 2 now.

Red rock lobsters in CRA 2 have been depleted to an all-time low level. This is a consequence of overfishing and poor management. As many of you have told us, your access to reasonable numbers and size crays has diminished over time. 42% of respondents in our last poll supported a total closure of CRA 2 for a time, to enable the fishery to recover. Instead, the Minister Stuart Nash decided in April this year to reduce the Total Allowable Commercial Catch from 200 to 80 tonnes per year.

Reducing the amateur bag limit now will help the rebuild leading up to the next spawning season and show a willingness by recreational fishers to leave crayfish in the water. It will also enable more people to share the benefits of a rapid stock rebuild, while maintaining a conservative total catch.

It has been years since we enjoyed an abundant crayfish stock in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty, and we can contribute to its rebuild. We need to make maximum use of the fish we harvest and enjoy the benefits of sharing our catch with the special people in our lives.

We are grateful for your ongoing support which is enabling LegaSea to achieve some important milestones. Kia kaha team.

A happy festive season to you all.

The LegaSea Crew

"Without LegaSea's initiatives and continual commitment to this cause there is no chance for our future generations."

Antonio Guzzo, MD, Marine Deals

Supporter Engagement and Public Awareness

1. Events

a. Public events

LegaSea presented at 12 events over the past quarter. Significant effort went into engaging people at the Gisborne and Hawke's Bay A & P shows, in October. In total, we estimate our crews directly engaged with around 6,800 people at various events between Whangarei and Napier. Our objective when attending events is to help people understand the issues facing our inshore fisheries and highlighting what they can do to minimise their impact on the marine environment.

There is a growing awareness of the work that LegaSea is doing, due in part to the ongoing relationships we have with you, our Partner base, and aligned organisations.

b. Special events

Earlier in the year the Kai Ika project was nominated as a finalist in the NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards 2018 - Transforming Food category. This is New Zealand's top sustainability awards. The awards were presented at a special black tie ceremony on Auckland's waterfront, on Thursday 22nd November.

There were remarkable projects nominated alongside Kai Ika and on the night it was announced that our joint food project won a Commendation. The judges were impressed with the collective effort that sees fish heads and frames from Central Auckland's Outboard Boating Club recreational fishermen being contributed to the Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae Healthy Food Programme in Mangere, South Auckland.



L-R Mark Malone, OBC Vice Commodore, Lionel Hotene, Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae, presenter NZI Sustainable Business Network.

2. Projects

a. The Kai Ika Project

The Kai Ika project is a partnership between the Outboard Boating Club (OBC) of central Auckland, LegaSea, and the Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae in Mangere, South Auckland. Since the project's introduction in 2016 the club's specially constructed fish filleting facility has provided the means for members to process their fish and reduce their waste while maximising the utilisation of every fish caught and kept.

The unwanted fish parts are refrigerated for collection by marae volunteers. The fish heads are considered a delicacy by Maori and Pasifika people and referred to as 'Rangatira Kai', chiefly food, in Te Reo. The fish frames are used for making fish stock or smoked prior to distribution to the community and the offal is used as organic fertiliser in the marae's community gardens.

Since the summer of 2016, the OBC has provided over 22,000 kilos of fish heads, fish frames and offal to the marae for its Healthy Food programme. These parts were previously going to waste, being transported in skips to local landfill. With Kai Ika and the energy put in by OBC members, LegaSea and marae volunteers, hundreds of South Auckland families are now enjoying nutrient-rich food that they could not previously afford.

Fish filleting service

As an addition to the Kai Ika initiative, LegaSea has worked with OBC and Papatuanuku to develop a fish filleting service. Club members donate \$2 or more per fish filleted onsite. This service was launched over Labour Weekend and it proved so popular it raised over \$1200 in the first few days. This service is ensuring a revenue stream, which in turn will facilitate the growth of the Kai Ika project.

Expansion

The charter fleet (Z Pier), at Westhaven Marina in Auckland, has committed to supplying the Kai Ika Project this summer. We estimate a four-fold increase in fish parts. Collections from Z Pier have already started.

b. FishCare - The school of best practice.

FishCare is an educational initiative to help people think about the way they fish and how we can all minimise our impact on the marine environment.

To understand people's recreational fishing practices a baseline survey was conducted in 2017. Repeating the survey in 2018 provided an indication of how the FishCare programme is shifting awareness and improving the practices of recreational fishers and those who interact with New Zealand's marine waters. LegaSea has completed the development of the Statement of Intent and FishCare Principles so all New Zealanders can contribute to reducing the impacts on our precious marine environment.



FishCare - Statement of Intent

Recreational fishers shall exercise a duty of Care to ensure our marine fisheries and environment are protected for future generations.

1. Fishers shall Care for their catch, whether released with minimal harm, or kept in good condition for maximum utilisation.
2. Fishers shall follow the rules and discourage others from breaking them. This includes Caring about the welfare of our protected species.
3. Fishers shall Care for the marine environment by minimising pollution and damage to sensitive habitats.
4. Fishers will Care for themselves and the safety of those around them.

FishCare - Principles

1. Reduce wastage by protecting small and juvenile fish from capture and incorrect handling.
2. Maximise the survival rate of fish released after capture.
3. Maximise the use of all fish caught and kept.
4. Minimise the impacts of fishing on marine life and the environment.
5. Return home safely. Maximise your safety while fishing on or near the water.

T H E
K A I I K A
P R O J E C T



3. General Communications

- a. **Print publications.** Around 11 substantive updates, articles and opinion pieces have been written for a range of publications. Selected pieces are published on the [LegaSea website](#)
- b. **Media releases.** Our media releases were published 32 times in various publications including the New Zealand Herald, Voxy and regional publications.
- c. **Digital communications.** Three electronic updates were sent to our subscribers.
- d. **Website.** The LegaSea website is undergoing a rebuild. Go live has been delayed due to technical issues. Advocacy and fisheries management are complex realms. The objective - simplify navigation and provide improved connectivity with the new website of our parent body, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.
- e. **Social media.**
 - i. [Facebook](#) - We have recently reached 44,000 followers on our Facebook page and are engaging an average 17,000 - 18,000 people on a monthly basis.
 - ii. [Instagram](#) - Continues to build thanks in part to Dan Westerkamp. Dan is a keen volunteer and talented underwater photographer who is becoming more involved in administration of the LegaSea Instagram account.

4. Partners and Fundraising

- a. **Grant seeking.** The Bobby Stafford-Bush Foundation, a [Charitable Trust](#), has provided funding for the purchase a refrigerated truck to support the Kai Ika project. Their commitment represents a vote of confidence by the wider community for the Kai Ika project. We really appreciate their support, we will go far together. Kia kaha.
- b. We have also applied for grants from:
 - The Auckland City Council Waste Minimisation Fund; and
 - Ministry for Environment.
- c. **Partners**
 - i. **Moa Brewery.** LegaSea Lager is now in the market. With a percentage of every sale going to LegaSea it's a simple way for our Partners, fishing clubs, and individuals to support LegaSea financially. LegaSea Lager is available in outlets nationwide, a complete list of retailers can be found [here](#) or it can be bought online [here](#). If you wish to learn more please email us at support@legasea.co.nz.
 - ii. **Barkers Clothing.** This Christmas we will be offering an exciting new range of clothing. With a more diverse range available we hope to have something which will appeal to everyone this summer.
 - iii. **New Platinum Partner.** Extreme Outdoor Adventures has come aboard as our latest Platinum Partner. The partnership is to commence January 2019.
 - iv. **Partner renewals.** Yamaha and Brittain Wynyard have re-confirmed their support for the work we do.

New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Fisheries Management Standing Committee report.



LegaSea supporters contribute to funding advocacy, education and research initiatives. Much of that work is completed by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's fisheries management team. Over the years this team has earned a solid reputation for its consistent advocacy to protect the public's fishing interests, to eliminate wasteful and destructive fishing practices, and develop smarter behaviour by all fishers so we can all contribute to the rebuild of our depleted coastal fisheries.

In order to be more effective, LegaSea was established in 2012 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council. A not for profit organisation, LegaSea is focused on raising public awareness and fundraising to support the Council's advocacy, education, policy and research work. This high-powered work team is fully engaged in relevant Ministry-led science and fisheries management working groups, and a wide variety of strategic and policy processes.

Usually, there is no one else in the room representing public recreational fishing interests or promoting effective means to restore abundance and diversity in our coastal waters.

Collaboration and community involvement is critical. The focus of the Council and LegaSea is for an abundant fishery, a diverse marine ecosystem, and more fish in the water for future generations.

1. News

- a. The Council's Fisheries Management Annual Report incorporating LegaSea's Annual Report has been completed and distributed through a range of channels. You can [download the Annual Report here](#) or email us at support@legasea.co.nz.
- b. Consultation is currently underway on proposed measures to apply to the recreational harvest of red rock lobster in the area from Waipu in the north, through the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty. A submission is being developed and on completion will be sent to Fisheries New Zealand by their deadline of 19th of December. There will be no changes to the rules over summer, we expect any new changes to be implemented by mid-2019.
- c. In late July submissions were made in response to nine fisheries management proposals from Fisheries New Zealand. Due to the workload involved, some of the Ministry's other proposals were not addressed. The Minister has made decisions for all of those reviews and decisions were applicable as of the 1st of October, 2018.





2. Tarakihi management review

- In late July a joint submission from the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council-LegaSea and New Zealand Angling & Casting Association was made to Fisheries New Zealand. Together we urged the Minister to cut the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for east coast tarakihi stocks by 65%.
- Stuart Nash released his decision on the 19th of September. The Minister decided to reduce the TACC by 20% and signalled there will be further cuts in 2019 unless the commercial fishing industry can deliver a “plan to rebuild the stock within 10 years”.
- The 20% cut applied from the 1st of October.
- It is our strong view that it is the Minister’s job to rebuild depleted stocks.
- The Minister’s decision is disappointing given the level of support from you, our Partners, and the public, for a 65% TACC cut.

3. Gamefish update

- Southern Bluefin tuna.** In July the Council supported Fisheries New Zealand’s proposed 88 tonne increase to the Southern bluefin tuna Total Allowable Catch, as allowed for by the regional management Commission.
- In recognition that a new recreational fishery has emerged off northeastern NZ, the Council submitted the Minister must set aside 40 tonnes to allow the recreational fishery to develop responsibly.
- The Council also supported a 1-fish per person daily bag limit in the North Island fishery, and 2-fish per person, per day in the South Island, in recognition of the smaller fish in the south.
- The Council would also continue to promote the [tuna best practice guide](#), voluntary limits, and responsible fishing practices.
- The Minister has since decided to increase the Total Allowable Catch by 88 tonnes, from 1000 to 1088 tonnes. The Total Allowable Commercial Catch has increased by 75 tonnes, from 971 to 1046 tonnes. The allowance for fishing related mortality remains at 20 tonnes. The allowance for Maori customary interests has doubled, from 1 to 2 tonnes.
- It is disappointing the Minister has only set aside 20 tonnes for recreational interests. This could make future decision-making difficult for the Minister if we have bumper years like we enjoyed in 2017. Despite this short-term decision, we will continue to advocate for a responsible development of this fishery.

4. Concerns for Swordfish

- The New Zealand swordfish fishery remains a concern. The commercial catch has steadily declined for the last three years.
- In 2017-18 commercial catch was 475 tonnes, which was 48% of the available catch entitlement and well below the 885 tonne Total Allowable Commercial Catch.
- There are reports of commercial longliners targeting some of the most accessible swordfish areas for recreational fishers. The Council has raised sustainability concerns and spatial conflict with Fisheries New Zealand and will be following this up at upcoming stakeholder meetings.

5. Kaipara scallop closure

- In July the Council supported the proposed closure of the Kaipara Harbour to all harvest of scallops, until abundance is restored. Degradation of the benthic (seabed) habitat has reduced the ability of scallops to reproduce and repopulate the area.
- Stuart Nash, the Minister of Fisheries, has decided to close the Harbour to the recreational harvest of scallops from the 23rd of October, 2018.
- Commercial scallop harvesting has been banned since 1986. Fisheries New Zealand has said they will work with Maori customary interests so they can consider how best to manage customary harvest.
- The Harbour will only be reopened for scallop harvesting when abundance is restored.

6. Area management issues

- Tauranga Bylaws.** In May, the Tauranga City Council proposed new bylaws that could impact on recreational fishing in the Bay of Plenty. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council submitted a response to the draft bylaws. The submission was made on behalf of the Council’s Bay of Plenty clubs and affiliated members who have regular access to Papamoa beach, and in the wider interests of maintaining fishing access to public spaces.
- On the 18th of September the Tauranga City Council announced its decision, effective 1st December, 2018. The Council agreed to most aspects of our submission with the exception of imposing daytime restrictions on the use of longlines or kontikis.
- Longlines or kontikis can still be used anywhere along the beach, except between 10am and 5pm from the 15th of December to the 15th of February the following year.



Our Partners are our lifeblood

You help us with funding, communication, social engagement, materials support and motivation.

Your commitment to LegaSea demonstrates a positive commitment to the people of New Zealand, Restoring our inshore fisheries to an abundant level is now a shared vision. Please [contact us](#) if you wish to join our growing list of outstanding contributors.

Platinum Partners



LegaSea Works



- Whitinga Farm
- Warren Hay Marine
- True Kit Inflatables
- Tollesbury Enterprises
- Tawapou Coastal Natives
- Stevos Fishing Charters
- Steve Burling Builders
- Stabicraft Marine
- Sea Y Limited
- Rothbury Insurance Brokers Northland
- Reel Kitchens
- Peter Campbell
- Paul's Fishing Systems
- Parkit Management
- Orange Door Music Video
- Marine North
- Marine & Watercraft
- John Hewinson Canvas
- Jackson FRP
- Industrial Refrigeration

- Hikutaia Honey
- Golden Mile Fruitpackers
- Fraser Carr Communications
- Fishing Boats NZ
- Davey Painters
- Corporate Transport Services
- Consilium Residential
- Complete Plumbing Services
- Colin Waite
- Classic Builders
- BBS Timbers
- Alliance Media
- The Boat Shed and Auto's
- Marsden Cove Fishing Club
- Yovich Hayward Pevats Johnston
- Black Steel Mobile
- Crystal Colour Graphics Edventure
- Tours
- Marlborough Marine
- Moana Consultants

- Mike Pero Real Estate
- Whangaparaoa
- Oceanblue Outriggers
- Renovation Warehouse
- Stabicraft Marine
- The Hunters Club
- Turangi Marine
- Red Spectre Lures
- Patterson Associates
- Johannink Property
- Lambie Builders
- Martin & Riggall Engineering

Gold Partners



Building LegaSea



- Avoca Lime Co
- B-Line Rigging & Scaffolding
- Bostik NZ
- Culham Engineering
- GJ Gardner Homes Hawkes Bay
- Hawkes Bay Marine
- Kalmar Construction
- Kerr Construction Whangarei
- PSL Construction
- Innovision Boats
- Waipukurau Construction
- Vantage Windows North Shore
- Warwick Fabrics

- Symonite Panels
- SkySolar
- Pan Pacific Auto Electronics
- PSL Construction
- Hubands Whangarei
- Firmans Marine
- Bowling Infrastructure Group
- Beauchat
- Bayleaf Organics
- Northland Parkcare
- Greenfingers Growing Mixes
- Nacsan Products
- Firstflex Cables

- Wilco Precast
- Novelli
- Arthurs Emporium
- Creative Landscaping & Design
- Patterson Associates
- Just Workout

Do You Care?



SCHOOL OF BEST PRACTICE



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.



Lou and Iris Fisher Charitable Trust



New Zealand Angling and Casting Association

