

# Recreational fishery performance in New Zealand

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# Overview

- **Our experience inside and outside the QMS**
- **Performance indicators in recreational fisheries**
- **Reflections**
- **Barriers and opportunities for change**

# Advantage of a long history and great reputation

Since the 1920's Tales of the Anglers Eldorado New Zealand. Zane Grey  
Large striped marlin, black marlin and mako sharks  
Worlds first 1000 lb fish on rod and reel



Zane Grey fishing the Bay of Islands

# More recently

**World record broadbill swordfish**

**World record Pacific bluefin tuna behind the hoki trawlers, South Island**

**Almost all line class records for the southern yellowtail kingfish**

**Salt water fly fishing for a range of inshore species including kahawai**

**A popular and productive snapper fishery**



# Marlin a non-commercial species

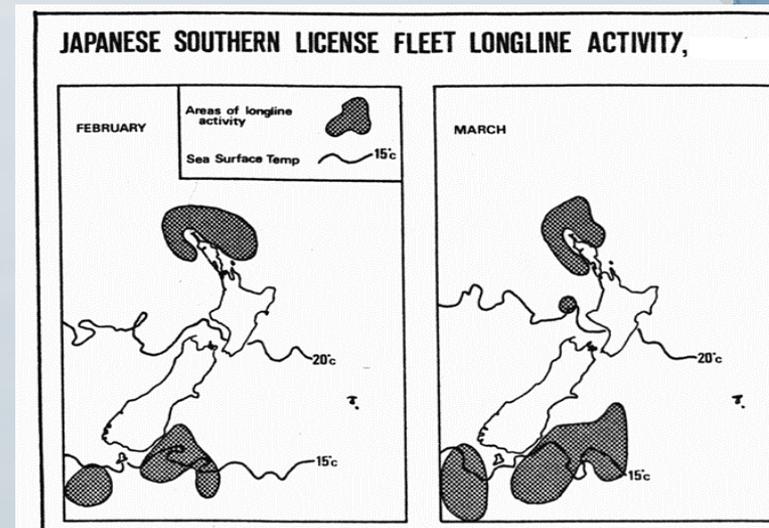
**Sport fishers concerned about the Japanese longline catch in NZ.  
Important elements in creating change**

- NZ Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) provided a united front
- Club catch records showed the sharp decline in mid 1980s
- Financial backing
- Political will

**Billfish Moratorium established 1987  
with annual review meetings**

**Sport fishers to tag and release 50%**

**Southern bluefin tuna fishery unchanged**



# **Billfish Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Annual meetings and a signed agreement between stakeholders  
Commercial and recreational fishers supported the “New Zealandization” of the tuna fishery**

**Agreement on principles and voluntary measures based on trust and cooperation**

**NZSFC clubs introduced a 90 kg minimum size to achieve 50% tagged**

**Agreed to changes in regulations**

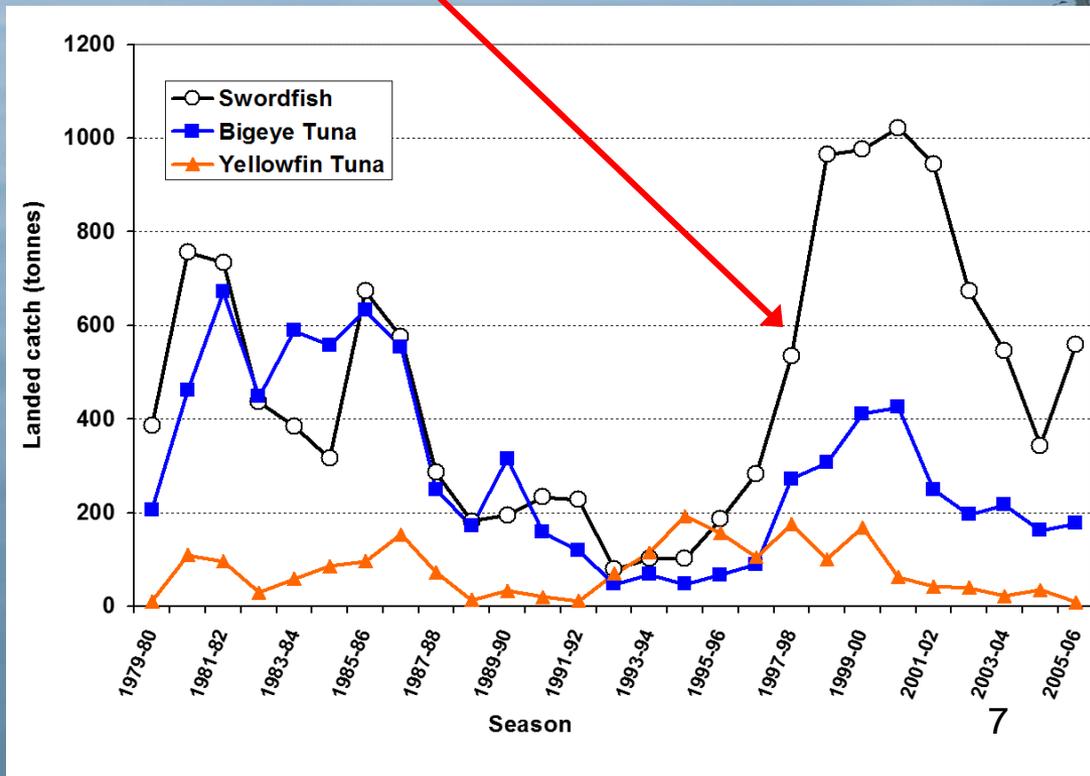
- **swordfish removed from the list of non-commercial billfish (allowed commercial bycatch)**
- **no landing of marlin on commercial vessels moved from moratorium to regulation**

# Expansion of the domestic fleet

Tuna fisheries remained open access, with a rush of new entrants

Few knew of the MOU or agreed with the terms

Swordfish catch was expanding rapidly



# **Memorandum of Understanding not renewed**

**The bycatch only MOU was not enforceable**

**Commercial fishers wanted access to striped marlin**

**The MOU broke down in 1997**

**Race to build catch history  
prior to QMS allocation**



# Lessons

**Structural change in fisheries management requires a combination of social, political and economic factors**

**Agreement between disparate groups is easier when there is a mutually beneficial goal**

**Many initiatives in the agreement could not have been addressed by the institutional structures available at the time**

**It is important to monitor the performance of the agreement and resolve disputes early**

**Rapid change in the fishery with many new entrants led to a breakdown of the trust and cooperation which had built up over time**

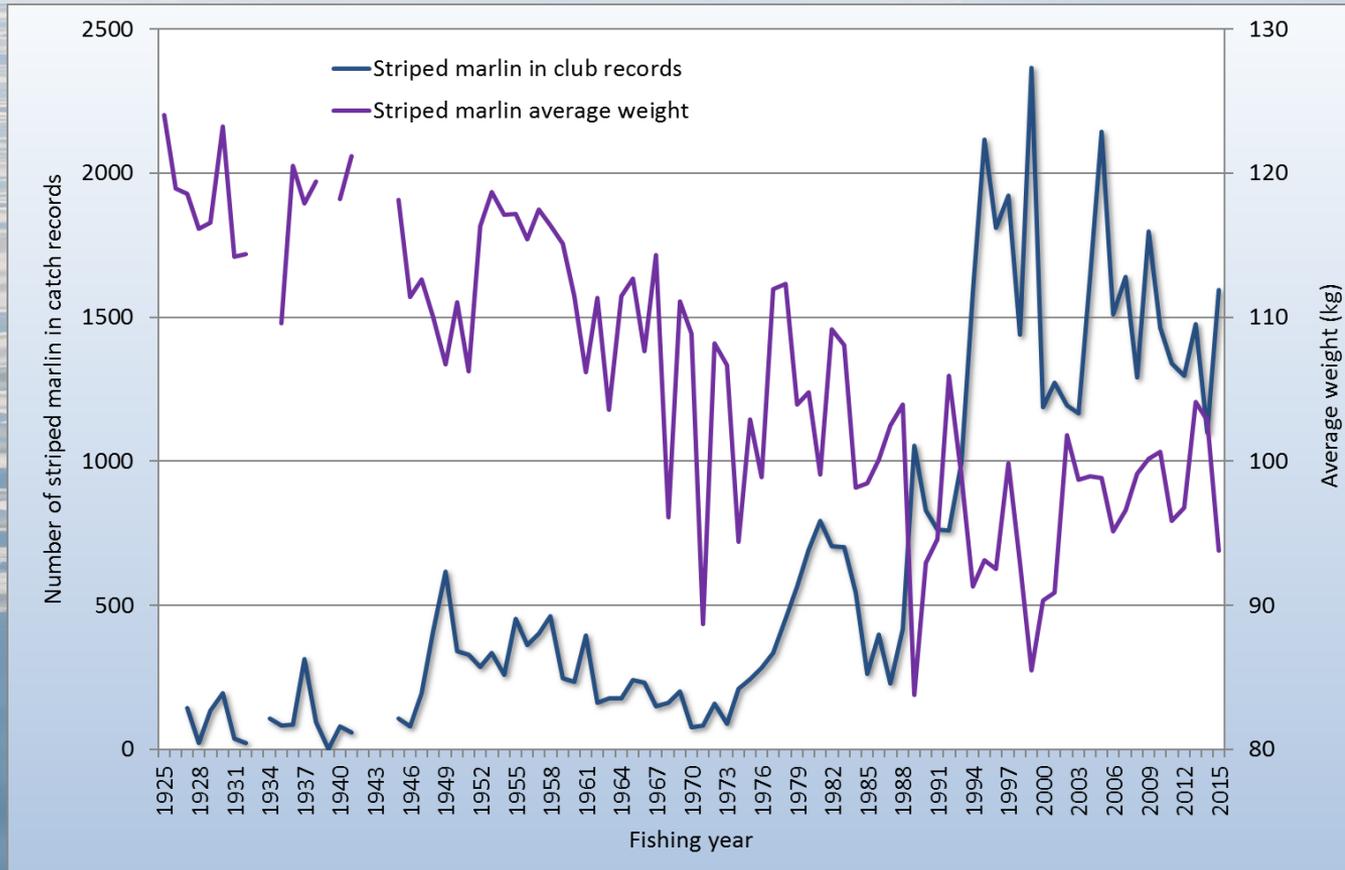
# Striped marlin fishery performance

NZSFC affiliated clubs have kept excellent records

Including individual weights

Hard to gauge increase in participation or total fishing effort

## Striped marlin catch per charter day and average weight

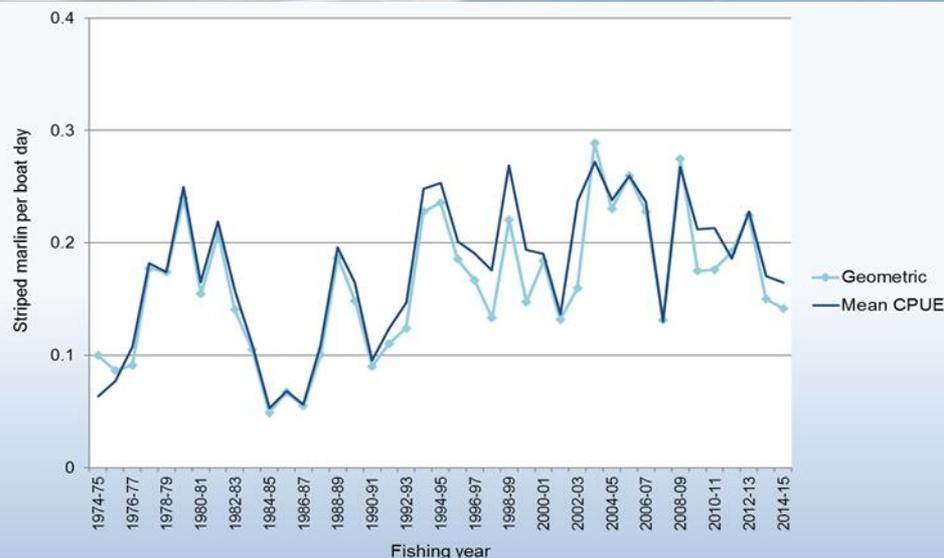


# Striped marlin in the QMS ?

Two years developing a Fisheries Plan for HMS complete in 2011  
Commercial fishers wanted to keep striped marlin dead on the line  
A separate review process in the plan for 2013

Officials proposed that if some commercial catch was allowed it would best be managed within the Quota Management System

The first email campaign by LegaSea led to a early decision in favour of the status quo



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**Congratulations NZ! - Our marlin are not for sale!**

A massive thank you to all the passionate people who joined with LegaSea to save our marlin from commercial exploitation. The government has just announced that marlin will not be entering the QMS!

Together we really can make a difference to our fishing future.

**Our Marlin are NOT For Sale! - ULTIMATE FISHING TV**

**CAMPAIGN STATS**

Messages Sent:	3288
Total cc's:	20204

**THE ISSUE EXPLAINED**

Currently all Marlin caught commercially cannot be landed and are therefore returned to the sea dead or alive.

The government want to change this and will argue that they are trying to reduce waste.

Even with consideration for this argument, we know from past experience that if marlin are allowed to be commercially caught and sold it would become an intrinsic part of the commercial catch/benefit, and separating unintended and intended catch is impossible.

Read the 'Marlin not for sale' media statement and background information about marlin being a recreational-only fishery [here](#)...

Please consider [contributing to LegaSea by clicking here](#) - we need all the help we can get to fund the work we do for you.

Keep up to date with our latest news

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# Lessons



**Fisheries access or management measures are not all permanent  
Reviews will ensure a measure is relevant and fit for purpose**

**A time series of performance information is very helpful  
In the end economic and political arguments can hold sway**

# **Fantastic yellowtail kingfish**

**A species left out of the quota system in 1986**

**Large predator around coastal and offshore reefs**

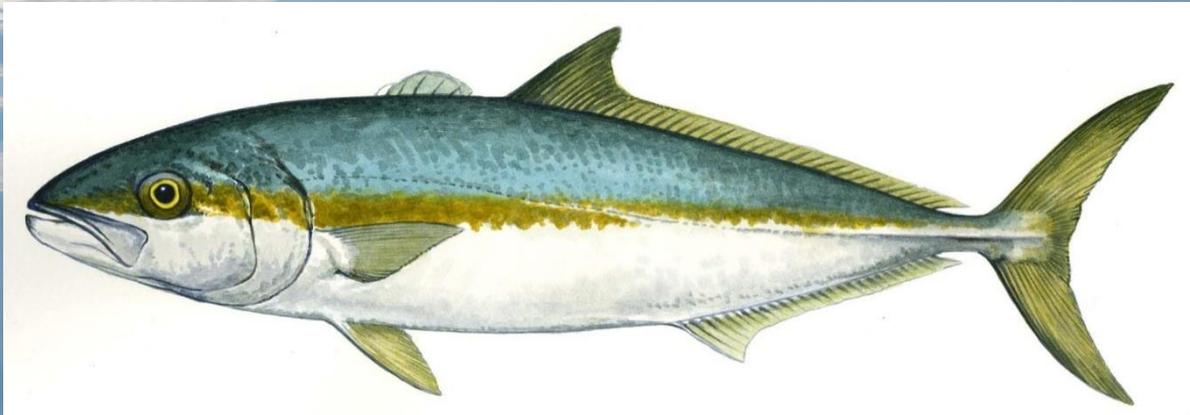
**Probably not a large stock or commercial target fishery**

**Deep water jigging a popular sport and charter fishery**

**Introduced to the QMS in 2003**

**Recreational and commercial catch had been declining**

**800 t fishery with 70% landed catch by sport fishers**



# Yellowtail kingfish

For the first time the Ministry proposed a utility option to reduce the commercial catch and increase the allowance for sport fishers  
*“ to favour allocations to those who value the resource most. As such it tends to have a focus on the future rather than the past.”*

In the end the Minister did not use the utility option but chose a 20% proportional reduction to current estimates of catch

The stated intention was to manage the stock above  $B_{MSY}$

Kingfish Total allowable commercial catch of 200 t for all NZ

Increase from 65 cm to 75 cm recreational minimum size  
gave a 20% reduction by weight, but 45% reduction by number

Recreational allowance set at 570 t for all NZ

# Performance indicators

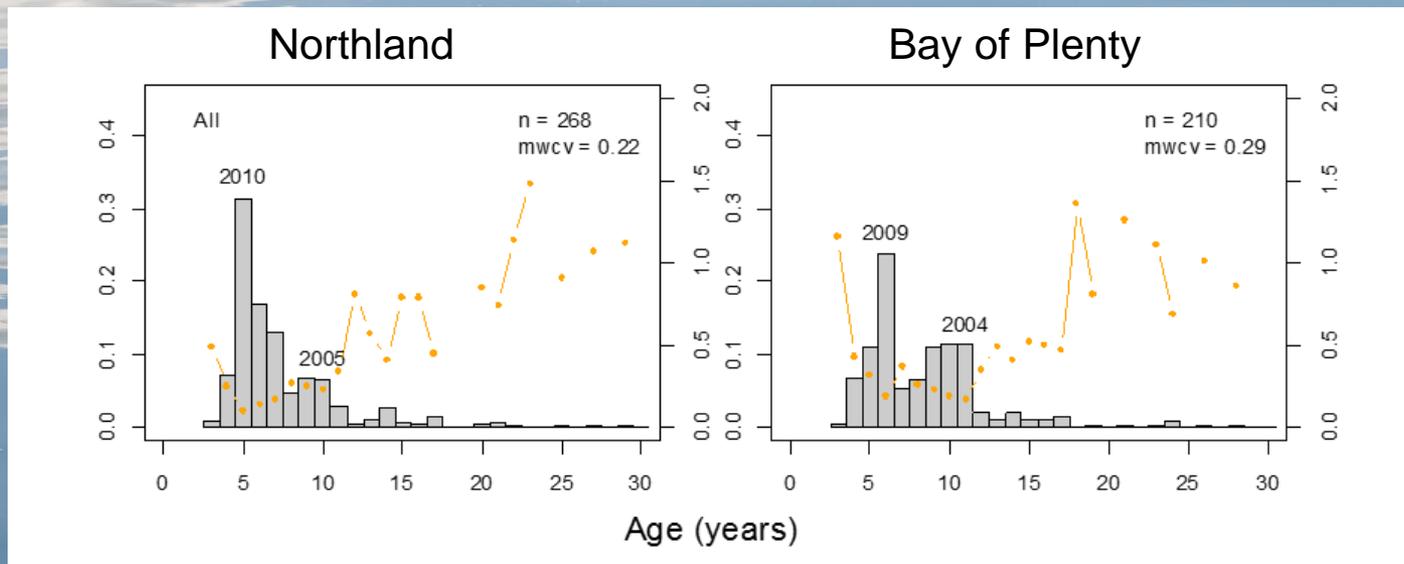
A high proportion of recreational kingfish catch is released  
Many charter boats have 1 fish per angler and 100 cm limits  
Landed catch and charter CPUE difficult to interpret

Monitored using catch-at-age from recreational fishery

Most recent survey shows low total mortality in areas monitored

Strong recruitment from 2004 and 2005 year classes

The kingfish stock has rebuilt over the last 10 years



# Lessons

**Initial allocations in the quota system are really important**

**The Minister can chose a conservative management strategy**

**For fish that can handle catch and release well, increasing the size limit helped rebuild the stock**

**Overall the kingfish population is doing well and spreading south**

**All groups expressed some concern about the utility option in 2003**



# **Kahawai – the peoples fish**

**Underrated (by many) as a food fish for many years**

**The last large-scale inshore stock to be targeted commercially**

**Purse seine fishery high volume, low value in 1980s and early 1990s**

**Left out of the QMS as not fully developed in 1986 but purse seine catch limits since the early 1990s**

**Introduction to the QMS based on catch history alone in 2004**

**The Kahawai Legal Challenge taken by NZSFC and NZRFC**

**Recreational fishers won the judicial review in the High Court**



# **Review upon review**

**The Minister reduced kahawai TACCs, recreational and customary allowances by 15% in 2005**

**Meanwhile, two large fishing companies took the judgement to the Court of Appeal and some of the key findings were overturned**

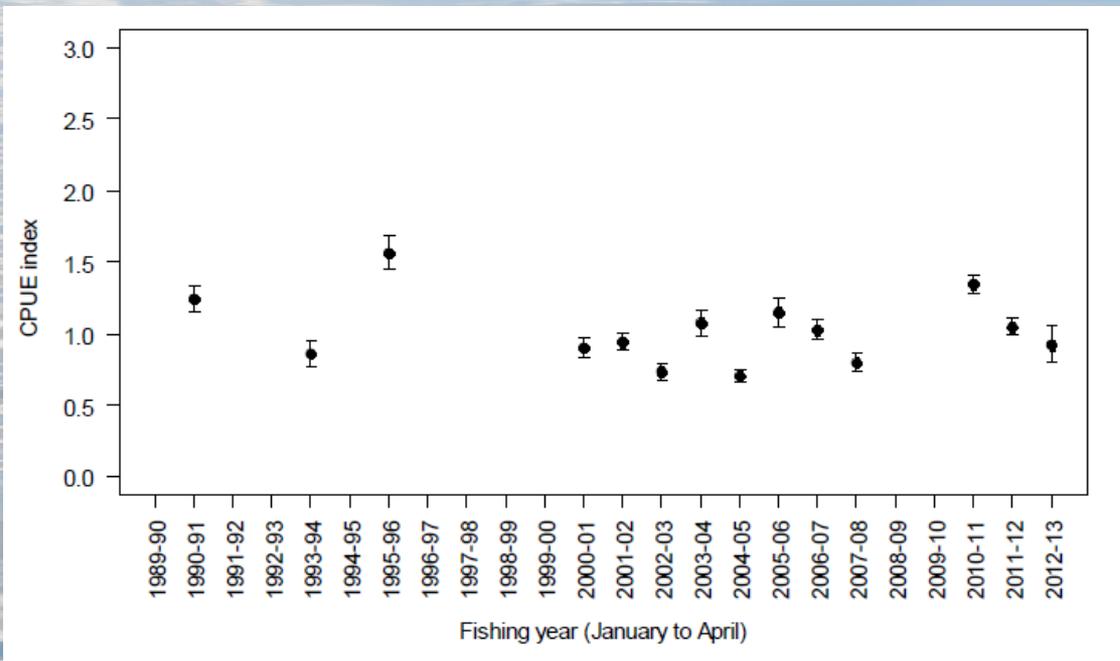
**Concerned about this ruling NZSFC appealed to the NZ Supreme Court  
While the appeal was lost by a majority decision some clarity was gained**

**A third consultation process resulted in the Minister reducing the kahawai TACC and allowances by a further 10% and set a biomass target of 50%  $B_0$**

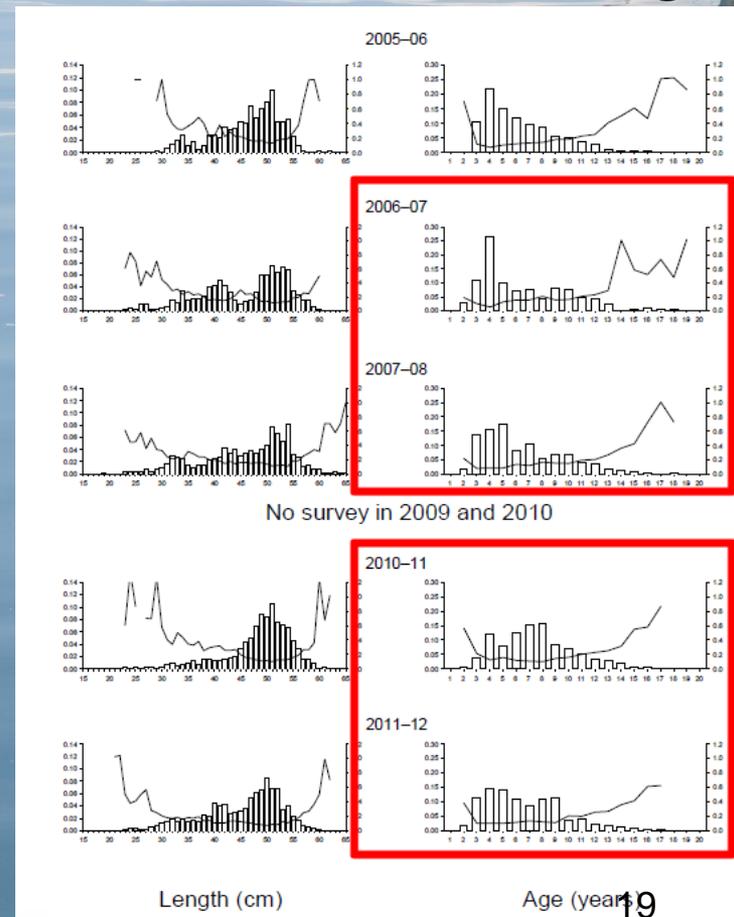
**Nationally, final kahawai TACCs were 2750 t, recreational allowance 2290 t, customary allowance 610 t**

# Performance indicators

## Focus on NE New Zealand KAH 1 Recreational Catch Per Unit Effort



## Recreational Catch-at-Age



# Lessons

**The default setting for QMS is to maintain the status quo  
A legal challenge is long, uncertain, and very expensive**

**The high utility value of the recreational fishery over the  
commercial fishery was important**

**While the science is useful, the Minister has the discretion to take  
account of all the social, economic and cultural issues**

**The legal challenge helped forge alliances between recreational  
fishers, Maori leaders and NGOs**

**The QMS is not good at spatial management issues or effort  
spreading as the Quota Management Areas are very large**

# Reflections on unresolved issues

Most inshore stocks have not been reviewed since entering the QMS  
trevally, gurnard, hapuku & bass, John dory, flounder

Trawl and set net CPUE does not track abundance well

Many stocks are in a state of sustainable depletion

Closer monitoring of commercial activity is welcome but overall they  
use the same methods, the same areas, and the same TACC

Some inevitable calls for closer monitoring of recreational harvest

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# **A climate for change in fisheries management in 2016**

## **Development of new legislation**

**Fisheries Act Review + Marine Protected Areas + Kermadec Sanctuary**

## **Plus the culmination of planning processes**

- **Snapper 1 Strategic Plan**
- **SeaChange Spatial Plan for the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park**
- **Hawkes Bay stakeholder plan**

## **Proposed political initiatives**

- **Recreational Fishing Parks in Hauraki Gulf and Marlborough Sounds**
- **Compensation for quota owners for loss of access to fishing parks**
- **Proposal for App based self-reporting of recreational catch**
- **100% camera or observer coverage on trawlers in FMA 1**
- **GPS tracking on most inshore commercial vessels**

# Huge opportunity in 2016

- **Develop near shore coastal zone where some activities are discretionary**
- **The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park could be the pilot for this within its own Quota Management Area**
- **A coordinated approach to MPAs to avoid the race for space**
- **We need to evolve new ways of reaching and educating within our sectors, but also communicating between sectors**
- **.....**