

LegaSea Accountability Report

July 2020



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Introduction

LegaSea was established by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in 2012. The Council is the largest representative organisation of recreational fishers in the country. Over the past eight years LegaSea has successfully raised public awareness of the issues affecting our coastal fisheries.

We are proud to have gained the confidence and support of many trusted organisations and brands in New Zealand.

On the 25 March New Zealand entered level 4 lockdown and our world changed as we know it. We saw a rapid rise in unemployment. Over one million New Zealanders either lost their jobs or some of their income due to Covid-19.

As the supermarket shelves were emptied community resilience and food security suddenly took on new relevance. It quickly became apparent that our Kai Ika Project was going to be important to supporting whanau [families] through this time. However, it was also a period when all non-commercial fishing was restricted. At the most crucial time we were unable to source any kaimoana [seafood].

Thankfully this impasse didn't last long. The community rallied, Moana New Zealand and, more recently, Sanford have donated large quantities of fish. Foundation North have also provided much needed emergency funding to assist with the rapid scaling up of the project. Together, we have distributed 7000kg of kaimoana in four weeks.

Covid-19 highlighted the daily struggle of many families to put food on the table. The unfortunate reality, food insecurity was an issue in New Zealand long before Covid and will remain long after.

This is part of the reason we made the decision to launch [Rescue Fish](#) now. Rescue Fish is a proposed alternative to the Quota Management System. It is intended to provide long term management, to allow the environment to regenerate and for New Zealanders to benefit from the resulting abundance.

Covid-19 provided us an opportunity to reflect and reevaluate priorities. We have an opportunity to ask, what does a post-Covid world look like? Our reality - as a country we are reliant on abundant coastal fisheries that will provide both economically and socially. For us to prosper we need to put the health of our marine environment first. This begins by removing the dysfunctional QMS.

Supporter Engagement & Public Awareness

Public Events

The changes demanded by Covid-19 meant public events including the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show and Fieldays were cancelled. The crew have immediately adopted online events and held four stakeholder webinars and a series of online interviews with well known personalities who all spoke about their experiences and watching fish populations decline over their lifetime. [Reel Questions](#) can be found here.

We have missed not being able to attend the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show and Fieldays but we will be there with bells on next year!

Crew

As the number of projects increases and existing ones grow so does the LegaSea crew. Most recently, Jack Dodson has joined our crew and will be responsible for coordinating the rapid expansion and development of the Kai Ika Project.

Projects

[Rescue Fish](#) - On May 28 we launched our most audacious project ever. Rescue Fish is an alternative to the Quota Management System. If you haven't had a chance, click [here](#) to watch the Rescue Fish overview video. Don't forget to sign the [petition](#)!

The [Rescue Fish](#) website is the hub for further information, a resource centre containing extensive background data and the petition. As part of the initial launch we have also had; two TV interviews, two extended radio interviews, 21 posts which have reached over 167,000 people since launch which has encouraged 8700 interactions.

This has seen growing support - over 7000 people have already signed the petition and we have enjoyed a steady stream of financial support.

The Kai Ika Project

In response to Covid-19 we scaled up rapidly. We have now surpassed 72,000kg of fish parts which have been collected and shared with whanau who revere them.

1. We were granted essential service status and are now a registered food bank.
2. Moana New Zealand and Sanfords donated kaimoana [seafood] for distribution.
3. Foundation North provided emergency stimulus funding.
4. Campbell Plumbing and KR Electric completed some much needed development work so the Royal Wolf Container was fully functional.

All this effort and support allowed us to expand distributions from 250 kgs of kaimoana per week to over 1250 kgs per week and collaborate with the following marae - Hoani Waititi, Manurewa, Papakura and Nga Hau e Wha Marae in Pukekohe.

With queues frequently over 400m long we proudly put the KFC drive through to shame. [Click here](#) to watch a short video of the team in action. Kia kaha guys.

General Communications

- 1. **Print publications.** Our print partners remain committed to growing public awareness of how our fisheries are being mismanaged. Without fail they make space for the LegaSea updates. Over this period we had 15 articles go to print, supporting our Rescue Fish message.
- 2. Anyone wanting material for their own newsletters/communications just need to contact Trish for a written piece. Trish@legasea.co.nz
- 3. **Digital communications.**
Sent eight newsletters and three press releases to our database.
- 4. **Website.** We redesigned our LegaSea homepage and had 8500 visitors over this period.
- 5. **Social Media.** During lockdown our social media platforms were our main way of engaging with people, we made 23 posts and reached 180,000 people.

Fundraising

Grant Seeking. Efforts over the past few months have been focused on the Kai Ika Project. Foundation North provided a \$20,000 quick response grant to support the extra work being conducted.

Partners - Many of our Partners have experienced tough times through this unprecedented period.

Despite this, our Partners have stuck with us and we have even been able to welcome two more Gold Partners on board. These are Withers Tsang, an accounting firm and rrr, a commercial property investment and services company who have supported LegaSea since 2012 and over the Covid-19 period decided to step up to Gold Partner status.

We would like to wish all our corporate partners and sponsors a speedy return to business as usual. Let us know if there is anything LegaSea can do to help you through this period. We are all in this together.

Public Donations - There has been a solid uptake in public donations with the launch of Rescue Fish. These donations are a good indicator of the widespread support and desire that New Zealanders have to support the development of a better management system.

Fisheries Management

Rock lobster management

- 1. We remain disappointed at the Minister’s recent decisions for the crayfish stocks CRA 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8. Changes are effective from 1 April 2020.
 - A. CRA 1 (Northland), the Minister approved the proposed 16% TACC reduction in Northland. We supported this reduction as there was no other option, however further cuts will be required next year to allow the fishery to rebuild. On Northland’s east coast male crayfish abundance is below 10% of its original stock level.
 - B. For CRA 3 (Gisborne) We submitted that significant cuts were required to rebuild abundance within 5 years. The Minister retained the status quo on the basis that the TAC will be reviewed again from April 2021, and that the 2019-20 TACC will be under-caught due to the Covid-19 crisis.
- 2. The Minister has approved new rules affecting recreational catch of crayfish in CRA 2 (Hauraki Gulf-Bay of Plenty) and CRA 5 (Canterbury-Marlborough). The new rules will be effective from 1 July 2020. In:
 - A. CRA 2 the daily bag limit is reduced from 6 to 3. Telson clipping will be required for all kept crayfish. Our submission we supported the CRA 2 bag limit reduction. We considered telson clipping in CRA 2 ineffective and unnecessary.
 - B. CRA 5 an accumulation limit of 3 daily bag limits (18 max) will apply, all bagged and tagged. Telson clipping will be required for all kept crayfish.
- 3. We continue to advocate the Minister revoke the concessions applying in CRA 3, 7 & 8. The concession in CRA 3 is particularly unfair given the inequitable access to takeable rock lobster which is denying recreational fishers a reasonable chance of harvesting crayfish. The Minister continues to ignore our submissions and those from the Gisborne-Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club.
- 4. The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) has confirmed the appointment of representatives of NZSFC and NZ Underwater Association, John Holdsworth and Andy Stewart, as members for the first time.

Review of Northland scallops (SCA 1)

In February we submitted in support of the Minister reducing the TACC by 75% on the basis that commercial dredging in inshore waters is reviewed and that commercial hand gathering, and other low impact harvesting methods is permitted in selected areas.

In response to submissions the Minister has instructed Fisheries NZ to review the restriction on the use of underwater breathing apparatus (UBA) by commercial fishers to gather scallops. Nash has also instructed FNZ to work with all stakeholders to review alternative management measures.

Customary management areas

In March the NZSFC supported the proposed mātaimai reserve at Tautuku, Southland. We also supported the Tautuku Fishing Club’s involvement in the development and ongoing management of the mātaimai. [Submission](#).

The NZSFC and LegaSea appreciate being able to work alongside the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club, Spearfishing NZ and other community groups to support the new bylaw in the northern Bay of Islands. As of 23 March 2020 there is a ban on taking mussels from within Te Puna Mātaimai, around the Black Rocks and out to the Ninepin. The Kaitiaki of the Mātaimai widely consulted on the issue of mussel depletion and seek to give the mussel stocks a better chance of recovery.

In June we submitted in support of the request for a further temporary closure of Maunganui Bay in the Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources except kina. The NZSFC and Bay of Islands Swordfish Club have supported Te Kupenga o Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti and their requests for closure of this area since 2009. [Submission](#).

Engagement

On 21 May six of our team, participated in a 3-hour meeting with Agency leads to discuss the pending implementation of the Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan. There has been 7 years of meetings, planning and reports. It is time for action.

RMA issues

In May the NZSFC issued a media release raising strong objections to the pending closure of three large reef structures around Motiti Island in the Bay of Plenty. The Government must also take action to ensure that the Fisheries Act is adequately applied to better manage fisheries and protect the benthic environment; doing so would counteract the calls for setting aside no-take zones to restore abundance.

Discussions in Northland are ongoing. The Court has asked the appellants to supply more details of proposed closed areas. NZSFC is participating in these appeals in a representative role for the many recreational fishers who are potentially affected by any marine area closures.

“Families and communities across New Zealand rely on inshore areas to be abundant. Without initiatives like Rescue Fish and LegaSea’s continual commitment to this cause there is no chance for future generations”

Antonio Guzzo - Managing Director of Marine Deals.

180,000
reached via social media posts

15.7
tonnes of kaimoana utilised as food and distributed to community via the Kai Ika Project

15
articles published in media nationwide

5
webinars hosted since face to face events were cancelled



Our Partners are our lifeblood

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

Their commitment here demonstrates a real 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.

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PROUD
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PARTNER



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SURTEES
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The Fishing Website

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Ovlov Marine Ltd

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Sea Y Limited
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Reel Kitchens
Peter Campbell
Paul's Fishing Systems
Parkit Management
Orange Door Music Video
Marine North
John Hewinson Canvas
Jackson FRP
Industrial Refrigeration
Growth Strategies Consulting Ltd

Hikutaia Honey
Golden Mile Fruitpackers
Fishing Boats NZ
Davey Painters
Corporate Transport Services
Consilium Residential
BBS Timbers
The Boat Shed and Auto's
Black Steel Mobile
Moana Consultants
Stabicraft Marine
The Hunters Club
A2Z Translate
Whangamata Ocean Dental
Browne Engineering
Epic Adventures
Decoro Fishing Supplies

Awatoru Foods
Ecoefficient Solutions NZ
End 2 Pain
Fogden Builders
Intents Outdoors
Lambly Builders
Martin Riggall Engineering
RNR Charters
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Topcat Bobcat Excavations
Waiheke Truck Services
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Culham Engineering Co
GJ Gardner Homes Hawkes Bay
Hawkes Bay Marine
PSL Construction
Waipukurau Construction
Vantage Windows North Shore
Warwick Fabrics
Pan Pacific Auto Electronics
PSL Construction
Hubands Whangarei
Firmans Marine
Bowling Infrastructure Group
Beauchat
Bayleaf Organics
Northland Parkcare

Greenfingers Growing Mixes
Firstflex Cables
Wilco Precast
Arthurs Emporium
Just Another Fisherman
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RESCUE FISH

IKA RAUORA

**A pathway to fish abundance and
marine ecosystem recovery**

Sign the petition

RESCUEFISH.CO.NZ