

# LegaSea Accountability Report

---

December 2021





# LegaSea Accountability Report

## 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.













LegaSea's role is to engage the public and raise awareness of the issues affecting our coastal fisheries. We are striving to gain the confidence and support of organisations, brands and individuals throughout New Zealand.

## Supporter Engagement & Public Awareness

After years of inactivity and little in the way of conservative decision making, the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, David Parker announced several [conservative decisions](#) for the future management of some of our most iconic coastal fish species.

1. [Gurnard](#) catch limits for commercial fishers around the top half of the North Island have been reduced. The Minister is looking at splitting the massive management area in two so he can better manage the remaining populations after years of trawling.
2. In September the Minister decided that [west coast North Island snapper](#) commercial catch limits could sustain a 23% increase for the next three years. Considering we were facing the prospect of a 100% increase this is still remarkably conservative. Unfortunately, factions within the commercial industry immediately mounted a legal challenge against the decision. The good news, no changes to catch limits will apply until the legal process is completed and this could take some time.
3. There is still some way to go before we see meaningful management of [blue cod](#) on the east coast of the South Island. However, the Minister has signaled his appetite for a review of the unjust traffic light system that restricts recreational fishers to taking only 2 blue cod in some areas while trawling is still permitted in those same areas.
4. [Hāpuku and bass catch](#) limits have been reduced for all fishers around most of the North Island. To be effective, we still need some reef systems to be closed and improved monitoring as further catch reductions may be required to sustain these slow growing, long lived fish.

For more information on the full October round of sustainability measures, you can read the [Minister's decision letter](#) or visit the [New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's comprehensive record of each of the 2021 review processes](#).

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DECISIONS REVIEW				
For 1 October 2021				
FISHERY	MAP	OUR SUBMISSION	MINISTER'S DECISION	WHAT NEXT
 SNAPPER 8 (SNA8)		- 0 No commercial catch increase.	↑ 23% 300 tonne commercial catch increase.	Monitor the impact of increased trawling. A review within 3 years.
 GURNARD 1 (GUR1)		↓ 74% Reduce annual commercial catch limit to 600 tonnes.	↓ 65% Reduced uncatchable commercial catch limit to 800 tonnes.	Update science info and explore options to split the large management area to better manage local depletion issues.
 BLUE COD 3 (BCO3)		↓ 32% Reduce annual commercial catch limit by 32%.	↓ 20% Reduced commercial catch limit by 20%.	Address concerns about the unfair traffic light system applying around Canterbury.
 HĀPUKU-BASS 1 & 2 (HPB1 & 2)		Reduce all catches to bycatch only, close some areas.	↓ 70% Reduced uncatchable limits by around 70%, to bycatch levels.	Improve monitoring. Support trial reef closure in Hawke Bay.
 SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA 1 (SBT1)		↑ 70% Increase recreational allowance by 70%.	↑ 70% Increased recreational allowance by 70%.	Reasonable allowance required to avoid future allocation disputes.
 EAST COROMANDEL SCALLOP (RAHUI)		Support 2-year closure, commercial catch reduction and dredging ban.	Largest 2-year area closure. No change to commercial catch limit.	Monitor effects of displaced dredging on other Hauraki Gulf scallop beds.

*"Some of these fisheries, such as West Coast North Island snapper (SNA 8) and East Coast South Island blue cod (BCO 3), garnered strong public interest and more than 10,000 submissions were received across the round of proposals during public consultation. I would like to express my thanks to tangata whenua and the various organisations and members of the public who took time to provide feedback on these important fisheries."*

- Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, David Parker, 24/09/2021



## Rescue Fish project

The below community led initiatives are direct reactions of working within a failing fisheries quota management system.

### The Coromandel scallop restoration plan.

Hauraki Gulf communities are abuzz with the news that the Minister has given statutory approval to the rāhui initiated by Ngāti Hei. Scallops around the eastern Coromandel coast are now protected from all harvest for the next two years. No dredging or diving for scallops will help protect the seabed and restore depleted scallop stocks. [Click here for more.](#)

LegaSea is grateful to Hon. David Parker for making his decision in support of Ngāti Hei and the local community who have worked hard to gather widespread support for the initiative.

Work is now going into developing a pilot study that will support a project to reseed previously productive scallop areas within the rāhui closed area. Comprehensive monitoring will be required to understand how scallops can thrive while dredging is banned.

### Hauraki Gulf Alliance



LegaSea, the NZ Sport Fishing Council, NZ Underwater Association and NZ Angling & Casting Association have joined with conservation groups to call for an end to destructive mobile bottom contact fishing methods that destroy the seabed in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

A [letter](#) was sent on Friday 19th November to David Parker, the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries requesting he add the removal of these fishing practices to the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, scheduled for consultation in the new year.

The unprecedented alliance includes the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird), Greenpeace Aotearoa, WWF-NZ, Environmental Defence Society (EDS), the Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO), the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council (NZSFC), LegaSea, the New Zealand Underwater Association and the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association.

## Cameras on boats

Our NZ Sport Fishing Council fisheries team has provided feedback to the Minister and Fisheries NZ on the proposal to put cameras on commercial fishing vessels. FNZ proposes the cameras are only installed on certain vessels. Our team argued that [cameras ought to be on most commercial vessels](#) with few exceptions, such as small flounder and mullet boats. Cameras and digital monitoring are important tools in detecting unnecessary wastage, protecting vulnerable marine species such as dolphins and seabirds, and helping to account for all catch, comparing what is being caught to how much is being landed at the wharf.

## Projects

### The Kai Ika Project

The Kai Ika Project continues to gain support and momentum. Demand continues to exceed supply. Our commitment is to collect and share more kaimoana however more hands are required to help with distribution.

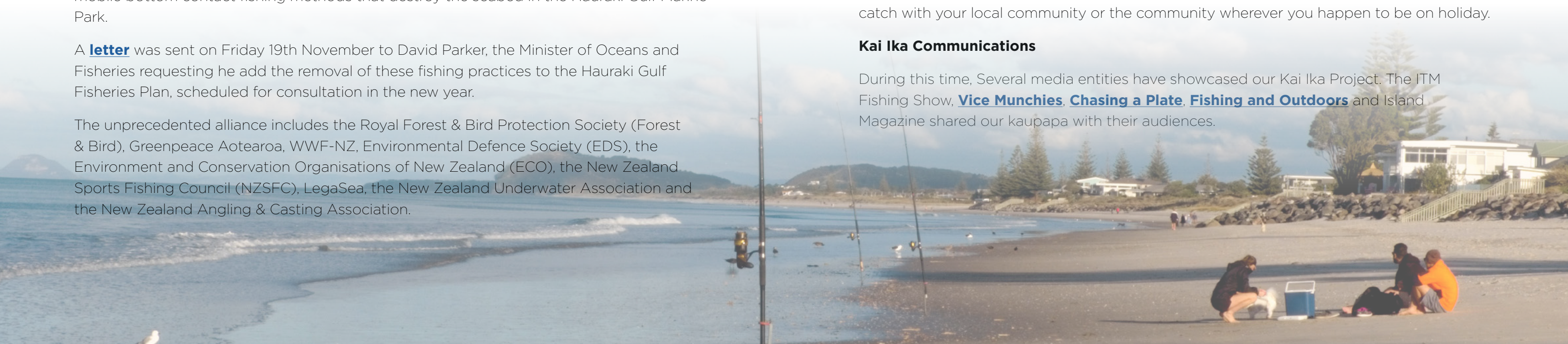
Since July, The Kai Ika Project has collected over 35,000 kg of kaimoana. We're so proud to have Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae as partners. Without volunteers, contractors or any real support the Hotene whanau (who run the marae) once again 'dug deep' and exceeded expectations. Over the most recent lockdown we teamed up with Kiwi Harvest and Everybody Eats to distribute not only kaimoana but staples like bread, butter and veges as well as delicious cooked meals. Most weeks we share over 4000kg of food. This remarkable increase was possible thanks to the Hotene whanau and the commitment of our partners who have reliably supplied us with quality kai during this challenging time.

All of this increased effort has come at a cost so as Covid-19 restrictions have eased it was a relief to be able to once again open our filleting stations at Westhaven and the Outboard Boating Club for summer. To meet the demand, we are now filleting full time 7 days a week at Westhaven Z pier.

If one of these locations is too far to travel make sure you register with [Free Fish Heads](#). With 16,000 registered users nationwide through this app you can share your unwanted catch with your local community or the community wherever you happen to be on holiday.

### Kai Ika Communications

During this time, Several media entities have showcased our Kai Ika Project. The ITM Fishing Show, [Vice Munchies](#), [Chasing a Plate](#), [Fishing and Outdoors](#) and Island Magazine shared our kaupapa with their audiences.



## Communications

**Social Media.** Our Facebook page continues to grow steadily, with almost 50,000 people now following the page. Our Instagram account has also grown to over 3300 followers.

**Newsletters.** Between July and November we sent out 14 Electronic Direct Mail updates (eDMs) to the LegaSea database of 63,000 supporters. These dealt with issues such as the Snapper 8, Blue Cod and Daily Bag Limits reviews, Kai Ika news, partner promotions and the Coromandel Scallop rāhui. You can now read them on the [LegaSea website](#) if you missed them the first time round.

**Website.** [26 news articles](#) were published to the LegaSea website and we received 32,000 visitors - 23,000 more than the previous period. This was triggered by successful use by the public of the website forms to make submissions on the Snapper 8, Blue Cod 3 and Daily Bag limit reviews. More than 10,000 public submissions were made using this tool.

**Print publications.** We published 21 articles in publications such as New Zealand Fishing News, Bayfisher, Fishing in Godzone and Waterline. Anyone wanting material for their own newsletters/communications just need to contact Trish for a written piece.

[Trish@legasea.co.nz](mailto:Trish@legasea.co.nz)

**Public Awareness - Events.** Thankfully the Tairua Boatshow went off without a hitch just days before the latest August Covid-19 lockdown. It was a real pleasure to get out in the community and listen to people's concerns and meet with supporters.

## Volunteering

Over the lockdown in Auckland we have been focused on establishing a volunteer program. Volunteers have already invested 47 hours by:

1. Weaving hundreds of flax fish which with handwritten notes are given as tokens of appreciation.
2. Engaging with the fishers at our Kai Ika Stations and providing much needed support for our filleters.

We are even beginning to create employment opportunities for volunteers. For example, we have placed one of our marine science students in a summer job with NIWA as a boat surveyor in the Coromandel. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer get in touch with [sydney@legasea.co.nz](mailto:sydney@legasea.co.nz).

## Crew

With more and more people asking the question - What can I do to help? We have engaged Sydney Curtis as a Volunteer Coordinator. Sydney has already established a LegaSea Club at AUT and developed a strong connection with the University of Auckland Dive Club.

## Fundraising

Thank you to our newest partner [Victory Knives](#) who created the [Ultimate Fish Processing Knife Set](#) and then donated all the profits from the first 170 branded knife sets sold.

Victory Knives continues to thrive after so many years by maintaining the highest standards in manufacturing and materials, building its reputation for unsurpassed quality - at solid prices.

## Grant Seeking

Successful Grant Applications:

**Lotteries Community Fund** - \$50,000 to support the Kai Ika project to enable us with further distribution and continue our expansion of our services by constructing an events trailer.

**New Zealand Marine Research Foundation** - \$10,000 of co-funding alongside the Ministry for the Environment Waste Minimisation Fund.

**Tindall Foundation** reached out to us as they had recognised the latest round of lockdowns puts further pressure on the community and wanted to help. Their timely contribution of \$15,000 meant we were able to continue with distributions.

**Mt Wellington Trust** kindly granted \$5,000 towards the Kai Ika event filleting trailer which will allow for support of those in the Glen Innes, Mt Wellington and Panmure catchment.

**35,000**  
kg of kai moana utilised as food was distributed to the community via the Kai Ika Project over July to November.

**21**  
news articles published in the media and 14 newsletters sent to our growing database.

Our social media content received over

**1 million**  
impressions with a reach of 355,000 kiwis

**8**  
speaking engagements and/or radio interviews

**52**  
meetings and events. 212 hours we've invested working with MPI, Mana Whenua and the commercial sector and other stakeholders.





## Partners

The arrival of lockdown unfortunately occurred two days before we were due to have our Partners workshop. We had a gathering of 80 people confirmed and a real opportunity to put our heads together and do more as a team. During lockdown however we have had some Partner highlights.

Boating and Outdoors renewed their Platinum partnership. Barkers and Whitehaven have been equally active in launching or preparing to launch their new LegaSea range. Look out for them in stores or online this summer.

Most recently The Ironclad Pan Company have joined us as a Gold Partner. You all need to have one of their pans if you want to deliver stunningly cooked fish.

We couldn't do this alone. Thanks must go to all our Partners for sticking by us during these strange lockdown times when even fishing wasn't allowed for a period of time.

## Public Donations

We would like to thank the following groups, clubs and schools who have chosen to donate to LegaSea, it is through your direction that we are able to achieve positive outcomes for 'more fish in the water'.

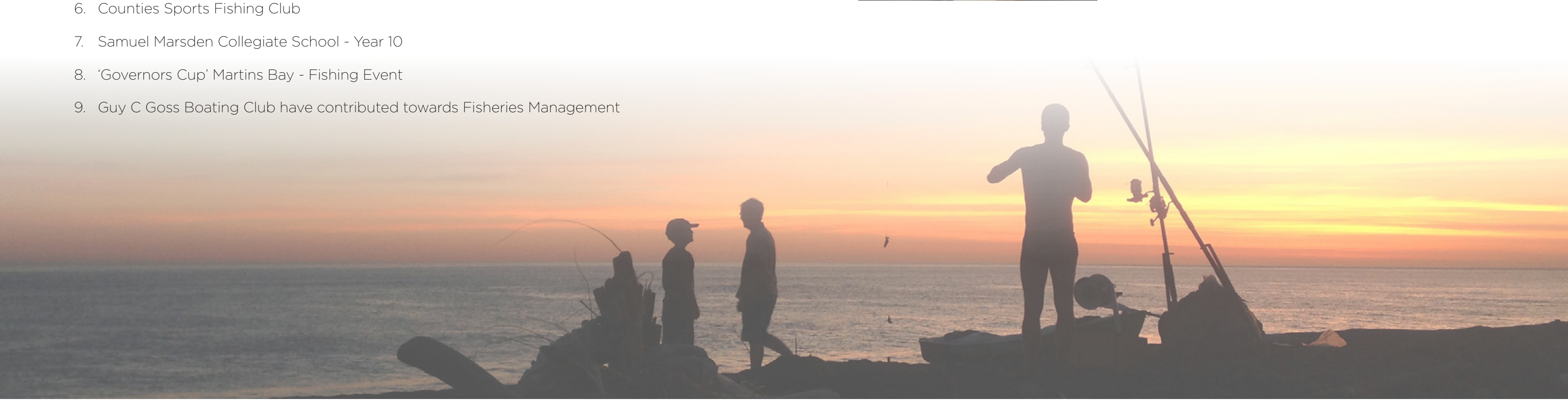
1. Waikawau Boat Ramp Society
2. Waihau Bay donate
3. Whangamata Ocean Sports
4. Warkworth Gamefish
5. Te Aroha Angling Club
6. Counties Sports Fishing Club
7. Samuel Marsden Collegiate School - Year 10
8. 'Governors Cup' Martins Bay - Fishing Event
9. Guy C Goss Boating Club have contributed towards Fisheries Management

## Fisheries Management update

It's been a whopper couple of months despite Covid interruptions. Since July our fisheries management, science, policy, legal and advocacy teams have attended 52 meetings, attended 15 days of Environment Court hearings and submitted 9 comprehensive submissions to officials. In amongst all that, LegaSea and the NZ Sport Fishing Council held their AGMs. Both AGMs were a mix of online participants and in-person attendance at the New Plymouth SportFishing and Underwater Club.

If you want to see how we have evolved over time, a record of past fisheries management, accountability and LegaSea financial reports are online [here](#).

You can read the 2020 -2021 newly published Fisheries Management report by [clicking here](#) or email [support@legasea.co.nz](mailto:support@legasea.co.nz) to order a printed copy.





# 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.



GJ Gardner Homes Hawkes Bay  
Hawkes Bay Marine  
PSL Construction  
Waipukurau Construction  
Vantage Windows North Shore  
Warwick Fabrics  
Pan Pacific Auto Electronics  
Hubands Whangarei  
Firmans Marine  
Bowling Infrastructure Group  
Beauchat  
Bayleaf Organics  
Northland Parkcare  
Greenfingers Growing Mixes  
Firstflex Cables

Wilco Precast  
Just Another Fisherman  
ALLTRANZ  
Aotea Electric Auckland  
Build-it NZ  
Cert Systems Ltd  
Culham Engineering Co  
Creative Landscaping and Design  
Development Construction  
Justworkout  
Sansom Construction  
Strait Construction  
Synthetic Technologies  
A J Gidlow Engineering

Thermosash Building  
Envelope Solutions  
DeeJanie Limited  
Gateway Investments  
Diamond Building Group  
Econode  
My Guy  
Centroform Ltd  
Aqua Design  
Diamond Building  
Gateway Investments

Whitinga Farm  
Warren Hay Marine  
True Kit Inflatables  
Tollesbury Enterprises  
Steve Burling Builders  
Stabicraft Marine  
Sea Y Limited  
Rothbury Insurance Brokers Nth  
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  
Stevos Fishing Charters  
Topcat Bobcat Excavations  
Waiheke Truck Services  
Workhouse Marketing  
SBA Accounting Hibiscus Coast  
Planet Fun  
Vigilant Yacht Charters  
Snells Beach Liquorland,  
Acquire





**RESCUE FISH**

**IKA RAUORA**

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

**Sign the petition**

**RESCUEFISH.CO.NZ**