

LegaSea Accountability Report

March 2022



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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.

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

Ngāti Manuhiri scallop rāhui

On the 6th February Ngāti Manuhiri laid a rāhui on scallops around Te Hauturu-o-Toi [Little Barrier], Kawau Island, Omaha, Mahurangi and Aotea [Great Barrier]. This intervention was strongly supported by locals including the Warkworth Gamefish Club, Kawau Boating Club, Yachting New Zealand, New Zealand Underwater Association, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, and Omaha Beach Community and retailers including NZ Diving and Wettie.

At this point the rāhui is voluntary and locals are asking everyone (commercial, recreational and customary fishers) to respect the need to give scallop beds a break. 'Every spawning scallop counts right now'. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

This is the third rāhui to be laid in the Hauraki Gulf in the last 18 months. To validate concerns, NIWA has presented its most comprehensive scallop survey in the past decade. The key points:

1. Hauraki Gulf scallop biomass has fallen to an estimated **52 tonnes**. In 2012, it was 776 tonnes.
2. The area from the north of Pakiri to Tauranga has seen the overall scallop biomass decrease by **77%**. Today it is estimated to be 249 tonnes. But in 2012, it was 1088 tonnes.
3. The East Coast of Northland overall scallop biomass estimates **decreased 63%** between 2007 and 2021 from 172 tonnes to 64 tonnes. This includes Bream Bay.

RĀHUI TAPŪ. NO DIVING OR DREDGING OF SCALLOPS / TIPĀ

A voluntary 2 year ban on taking scallops in Te Rohe ō Ngāti Manuhiri (see map)



Tiaki i te Moana - protect the ocean. Voluntary ban applies to recreational and commercial scalloping. The Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust will not issue permits for the customary harvest of tipā while the Rāhui is in place. Mauri ora!



Please respect this rāhui

This rāhui was initiated by the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and is supported by New Zealand Underwater Association, Yachting New Zealand, The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Omaha Beach Community Inc, Kawau Boating Club, Wettie NZ, NZ Diving Ltd, Spearfishing NZ, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea.

4. Scallops have all but disappeared from Spirits & Tom Bowling Bay. Populations have collapsed from **29 tonnes down to 1 tonne**. Dredging has been a major concern here since before the year 2000.

Now, after years of inaction, it is highly likely that Fisheries NZ will close both scallop fisheries for a period of two or three years.

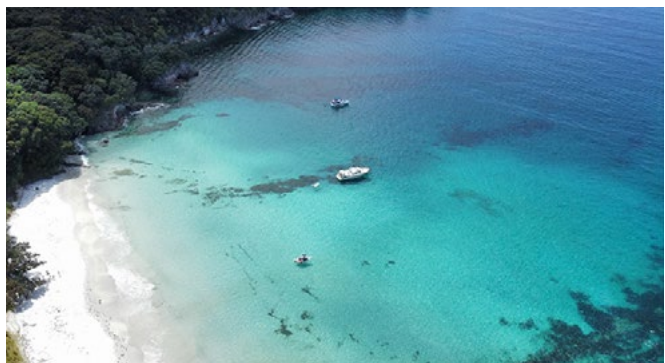
Clearly action was necessary. We're so proud to stand alongside courageous community groups, hapū and national representative organisations who felt strongly enough to lay and support these rāhui.

The NIWA report has highlighted that this is not an isolated issue. We now need to look to the future and ensure that when these rāhui are lifted we do not find ourselves repeating the same mistakes.

Summer photography competition

Our annual summer photography competition has just finished and we were astounded by the quantity and quality of the images we received from our supporters. Each year we run the competition to build up our photography library that we use in our communications and this summer we received 203 entries.

It made the job of choosing the winners too difficult for the team so professional photographer [Alex Wallace](#) stood up and made the choice for us (Thanks Alex!). You can see the winning pictures below and on the front cover.



Thanks to everyone that entered!



Winning photos from Bayley Sisson (top), Conor Meredith (bottom left), Paul Davies - overall winner (bottom right) and Ronin Webster (front cover).



Hauraki Gulf Alliance update

The next step will be to encourage all those who have been so supportive of these rahui to focus their efforts on the removal of destructive and indiscriminate fishing techniques (primarily mobile bottom contact methods such as trawling, Danish seining and dredging) from our coastal waters and see commercial limits established which actually constrain efforts. This will ensure a solid fisheries management foundation for the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.



We continue to grow the Alliance. [Live Ocean](#) are the latest organisation to throw their support behind the initiative.

The website and various campaign collaterals are well developed and we will continue to develop a more rounded and high impact campaign.

Hī ika cards

Recently we teamed up with the Turkish Bread company to raise awareness for our coastal fish populations. The Turkish Bread company took our Hī Ika [Go Fish] card game, converted them into a full colour collectable series and are distributing them free in their pizza base packs. These are available in most supermarkets nationwide.

So far they have distributed 750,000 cards. In addition 11,000 posters will be given away with the April edition of the Fishing News. [Click here](#) to see the poster.



Special thanks to Ken and the team at Turkish Bread for this exciting opportunity. Also the Bobby Stafford Bush Foundation. They have provided seed funding for both the Kai Ika Project and now Hī Ika. Thanks again for your incredible visionary support.

“Your collectable series is one of the best I have seen in recent memory; the series offers more than meets the eye. At my school I have asked staff to start collecting them so we can use them in the year 9 and 10 ecology section of general science. I love that you have provided the information that you have and that it allows us to practise Te Reo.” Andrew Rogers, Secondary school science and chemistry teacher.



Projects

The Kai Ika Project

As COVID-19 continues to impact everyone's lives we continue to adapt and persevere. We are prepared for a range of scenarios. The health and safety of our team remains a priority.

We have managed to maintain daily operations and have now surpassed 200,000kg of fish parts which have been collected and shared with a growing number of families.

In addition to the [Papatānuku Kōkiri Marae](#) we now regularly share kaimoana with a variety of marae, faith-based groups and others.

We continue to receive expressions of interest from organisations keen to share kaimoana through their networks. To keep up with the community's insatiable appetite, we are focused on securing additional resourcing.

Kai Ika fileting services.

1. Our [Westhaven Z Pier](#) site is now operating 7 days a week (weather depending). This is crucial as it is our primary fundraising tool and serves to recover top quality kaimoana.
2. The Events Trailer is now complete and available to attend fishing competitions across the North Island. If you would like to book our filleting services for your event please contact Dallas Abel - dallas@legasea.co.nz.

[Eastwood Motor Group](#) in Masterton has generously supplied us with a new Isuzu D-Max ute to help with our distribution operations. We are currently in the process of sourcing funding to install a chiller unit on the tray as well as sign writing.

As we continue to develop, we recognise none of this would have been possible without the support of our partners. Your generosity is what's making this project succeed.

Pictured - ace Kai ika filleter Dave Ahoia in action

23,000

kg of kai moana utilised as food was distributed to the community via the Kai Ika Project over December to February.

The LegaSea website received over

12,500

visitors over the time period.

Volunteers donated

145

hours in various LegaSea kaupapa [projects].



Communications

Social Media. Our social media channels have remained strong with continued growth in all LegaSea and Kai ika channels. Over the summer break we ran a successful series of Fishcare articles and we are currently in a series of focusing on our different fish species that are featured in our Hi Ika cards.

Newsletters. We sent seven newsletters to our database with good engagement. We continue to experience steady growth in subscriber numbers. You can review all our newsletters all here on the [LegaSea website](#).

Website. The LegaSea website received over 12,500 visitors over the time period. We published 17 news articles on our website.

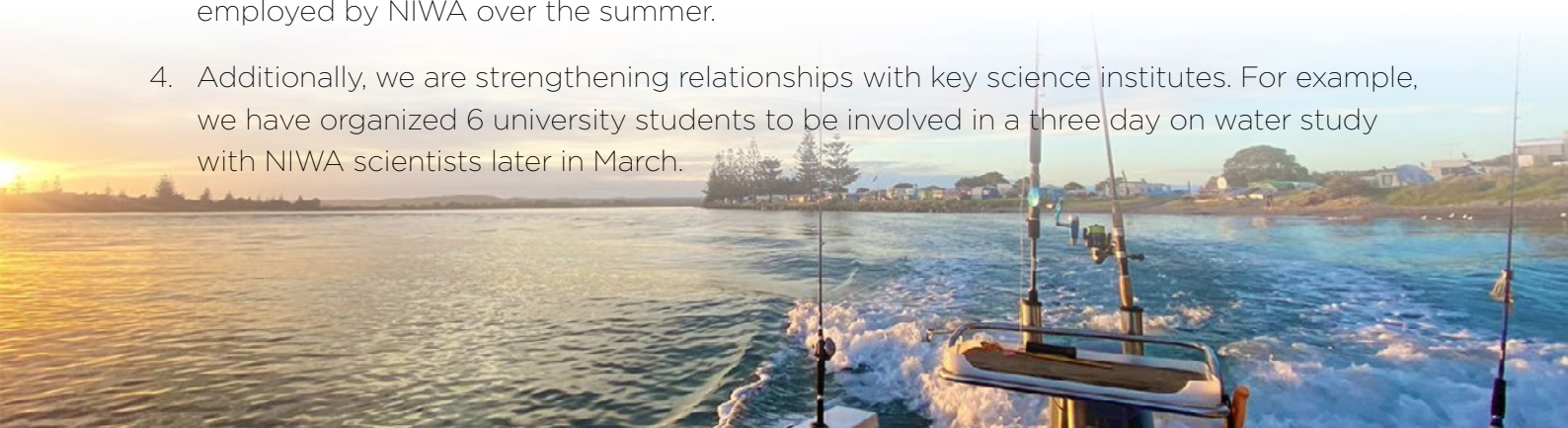
Print publications. It's a relatively quiet period with some of our print publications as the effects of COVID hurt. New Zealand Fishing News has continued its strong support with a LegaSea update each and every month. They have also started a Kai Ika section with news of the kaupapa and a Kai Ika recipe each month from a guest chef.

Public Awareness - Events. With the Omicron outbreak we have temporarily canceled attendance to all public events

Volunteering

Over the last few months our Volunteer Coordinator, Sydney Curtis focused on opportunities to engage with volunteers. While Omicron has hindered engagement, volunteers have donated their time allowing us to smoke larger quantities of kaimona and assist in busy shifts at the Kai Ika filleting stations.

1. We have seen volunteers invest 145 hours in various LegaSea kaupapa. If we apply a living wage hourly rate this has generated in excess of \$3000 of value.
2. Over 250 flax fish (pictured) have been constructed and gifted to contributors as tokens of appreciation.
3. We have placed four volunteers into paid positions after starting as a volunteer using LegaSea connections. This includes a student from Toi Ohomai Institute who was employed by NIWA over the summer.
4. Additionally, we are strengthening relationships with key science institutes. For example, we have organized 6 university students to be involved in a three day on water study with NIWA scientists later in March.



Know anyone who might be interested in some experience with a non profit organization focused on restoring our coastal fisheries? Encourage them to [click here](#) and fill out our volunteer form.

Crew

Louis Mulcare started as the Kai Ika Lead Hand. He is embracing the role and is responsible for coordinating our Westhaven and OBC sites.

Murray Batger has also rejoined the team in a Partner Development role. Many of you will remember Murray and we're stoked to have him back.

Photo of new Kai Ika leading hand - Louis Mulcare



Fundraising

Thank you to our newest partner Victory Knives who created the [Ultimate Fish Processing Knife Set](#) and then donated 100% of the profits from the first 270 knife sets sold.

Grant Seeking

Most funding organizations do not have funding rounds over the summer period. However the Activate Tāmaki Makaurau granted us \$4000 for public awareness of the Kai Ika Project.



Partners

Despite another particularly disruptive year our Partners have stuck with us. We entered 2022 with a surge in much needed Partner support.

Barkers and **Whitehaven** have been equally active in launching their new respective LegaSea ranges. These brands deliver a strong endorsement of LegaSea through their own focus on environmental well being and sustainability alignment. It's vital to continue to help Partners like these succeed as they deliver not just income but LegaSea brand and message growth.

New sponsors and renewals through the period include:

1. Platinum - **Boating and Outdoors** (renewal) **Victory Knives** (new) **Burnsco** (renewal)
2. New Gold partners - **Ironclad Pan Company**, **COBB Grill** (pictured - portable COBB grill in action)



With the issues facing our coastal fisheries increasing we have to say a massive THANK YOU to all our partners. We couldn't do this alone. Thanks for sticking by us during these strange lockdown times when even fishing wasn't allowed for a period of time.

Public Donations

We would also 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. **The Pukemanu Boating and Fishing Club** based in the South Wairarapa. Their substantial donation was made to support all the good work we do.
2. **Waihou Bay Sports Fishing club** continue to support LegaSea objectives with their monthly contribution.
3. **Ashley Sport Fishing Club** based in Canterbury. This club has a history of donations going back to 2015.



Fisheries Management update

Six submissions were sent to Fisheries New Zealand in December, January and February in response to proposals for [cameras on vessels](#), [crayfish in Northland, Otago and Southland-Fiordland](#) (CRA 1, 7 & 8), [hāpuku and bass around the top of the South Island and lower North Island](#) (HPB 7 & 8), [scallops in Northland and Coromandel](#) (SCA 1 & SCACS), and [underwater breathing apparatus](#).

A [submission](#) for proposed technical changes was submitted in response to proposals for packhorse rock lobster & rock lobster technical amendments, spearfishing, 'J' hooks, blue cod amendments, and quinnat salmon plus Chatham Islands (FMA 4) daily bag limits.

In December, LegaSea Hawke's Bay sent in a [submission](#) to Hawke's Bay Regional Council in response to Clive River RMA consent dredging proposal.

Engagement

John Holdsworth attended two National Rock Lobster Management Group meetings, rock lobster science working group meeting, a workshop on B zero And fisheries management reference points, and a Marine Amateur Fishers working meeting planning the next National Panel Survey of marine recreational catch.

John also attended the 1st two meetings held for the SNA 1 stock assessment and a Highly Migratory Species meeting on the recreational catch estimates for southern bluefin tuna

We strive to be transparent in everything we do. If you want to see a record of past fisheries management, accountability and our independently audited reports please [click here](#).



March 2021

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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IKA RAUORA

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

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