

LegaSea Accountability Report

JANUARY – MARCH 2023



Introduction

LegaSea's vision is to restore our coastal fisheries to abundance. To do this we are striving to gain the confidence and support of organisations, brands and individuals throughout New Zealand.

A big part of this vision is to prevent further degradation of the marine environment. Before it is too late. Hauraki Gulf scallops being the latest example. It was clear that the population was at an all time low, yet we (the community) had to work remarkably hard to get the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries to close the remaining beds.

To add insult to injury, the parallel Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan run by Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) proposes to ban recreational scallop dredging due to negative environmental impacts yet commercial scallop dredging will immediately recommence if the scallop fishery reopens. The hypocrisy is not lost on us.

Furthermore, we recently registered our concerns that the Fisheries Minister must stop all commercial dredging for kina in the Tory Channel, Marlborough Sounds.

The science is unequivocal, dredging is bad for the marine ecosystem and harms biodiversity. Yet it seems like FNZ is trying the same thing and expecting a different outcome. Isn't that the definition of insanity?

Public Awareness

Campaigns

HAURAKI GULF ALLIANCE

On 17 January 2023, Fisheries New Zealand released the final draft of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan for public consultation.

The Fisheries Plan is supposed to be aimed at restoring the health of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park environment, yet Fisheries New Zealand are determined to allow destructive fishing techniques such as bottom trawling, commercial scallop dredging and Danish seining to continue. It's clear the objectives in the final draft of the plan do not align with restoration of the Gulf marine environment.

As the public consultation of the Fisheries Plan was continually delayed, we reinvigorated our campaign with more billboards and emails to our databases in February 2023, to align with the consultation period.

This time, we included a submission form in our campaigning to encourage public feedback on bottom trawling, scallop dredging and Danish seining in the Marine Park. Over 7000 individual submissions were sent directly to Fisheries New Zealand using our online template, the vast majority supporting the call to ban these fishing techniques from Park waters.





As an Alliance we have over 100 organisations, charities and businesses involved, together we have generated over 31,000 individual signatures supporting the ban. We continue to run the petition while we await further decisions.

Supporter Engagement

Volunteering

It has been a quiet summer for the LegaSea volunteer programme whilst we have been juggling the availability of our volunteers through cyclones, flooding and school holidays. However, we have been slowly working away at some of our projects that have needed the most attention including Kai Ika and the Hauraki Gulf Alliance campaign.

As the submission process for the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan has come to an end we have removed our Hauraki Gulf Alliance campaign stand from Kelly Tarltons and it will now be used as a pop-up at upcoming events.

A huge thank you to the team at Kelly Tarltons for their generosity and support. Their generous invitation allowed us to gather another 2500 signatures from Kiwis who are demanding the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries remove bottom trawling, Danish seine and dredging from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. An epic contribution.



The Hauraki Gulf Alliance stand at Kelly Tarltons

The 2023 LegaSea summer photo competition

Every year LegaSea runs a photo competition to highlight our coastal environment and get people engaged in interacting with the coast in different ways. Throughout the year we use these images in our online and print communications, with full credit to each photographer. This year the team was blown away at the calibre of all the entries and decided to hand off the judgment to our NZ Fishing News team. The winners were carefully chosen by their team and featured in the April edition, which is out now. The overall winning shot (below) was taken by Judy Ormandy. Congratulations Judy! Cover photo: Richard Merriman.



Initiatives

The Kai Ika Project

FISH FILLETING – ‘A CUT ABOVE THE REST’

The reputation of The Kai Ika Project continues to grow. On a hunch, we have always boasted we have the best filleters. But thanks to Sitiveni Kakala, our newest full time fish filleter, we can now substantiate the claim.

Sitiveni recently took out the ‘Golden Knife’ filleter of the year award at an event hosted by Seafood New Zealand. Not only did he beat everyone else on time, but he also had the best yield at 37%, which is above industry standard!



Sitiveni with his ‘Golden Knife’ trophy

It's great to see Sitivini being recognised for the skills he has taken years to master. We are proud to have him as part of our team.

Sitiveni's son, Tonga, is following in his dad's footsteps. Tonga is also the first person to go through the Kai Ika Development Programme. Having the capacity to develop talented individuals is a big step for us as we take aim at some audacious new milestones.

KAIMOANA DISTRIBUTION

Last month, The Kai Ika Project surpassed 300,000kg of repurposed fish heads and frames. An incredible feat!

This accomplishment is only possible thanks to the ongoing commitment from the Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae who continue to feed hundreds of families every week.

Card Sharks

Last year through the [Turkish Bread](#) Pizza base packs we distributed 1.5 million Hī Ika cards, generating 16,000 new subscribers.

Due to this success, we have decided to go again. This time the focus is on sharks and stingrays in a game called [Card Sharks](#). In conjunction with Turkish Bread, we are launching a competition to win \$20,000 worth of prizes kindly generated by Marine Deals.

A huge thank you to [Marine Deals](#) and Turkish Bread. Without your generosity and support educational initiatives such as this would not be possible. It's truly remarkable what can be achieved when the community works together.



Kaimoana distribution at Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae



LegaSea Hawkes Bay

Cyclone Gabrielle

Sadly the Hawke's Bay region has taken a major hit and the full consequences are yet to be quantified, but they are huge both in terms of financial loss and personal well-being. More than 500mls of rain fell overnight in most of the catchments of the Bay's five major river systems, taking outbridges and literally everything in its journey to the sea. Stopbanks

failed to cope with the deluge, resulting in unbelievable flooding and widespread destruction of properties and loss of lives.

The effect on the marine environment has yet to be assessed, but the level of siltation is immense and the quantity of logs/slash beyond comprehension. To make things worse, the Napier Sewage Treatment plant at Awatoto was damaged and is still not functioning. Six weeks after the event raw sewage is still being pumped out into the Bay – just tragic.

Rāhui – Artificial Reef (LegaSea Reef)

Thanks everyone for your input into the submission supporting the application by mana whenua Hapu Trust for a 2 year closure to allow biogenic habitat to flourish without extended pressure. Such unity and support from LegaSea National, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, New Zealand Angling & Casting Association and New Zealand Underwater is really appreciated.

We are excited to be working with mana whenua and Napier Port in this project over the next couple of years which will lead to a significant enhancement of the reef through seeding and will include extensive monitoring. This is such a great success story of collaboration, which we are proud of.

Te Whanga o Ruawharo rāhui

As a consequence of Cyclone Gabrielle a rāhui was placed on Te Whanga o Ruawharo (Hawke's Bay). LegaSea Hawkes Bay, through Wayne Bicknell, played an important and pivotal role in ensuring the recreational voice was heard and understood by mana whenua and MPI.

At times recreational considerations were overlooked and Wayne wearing a number of his hats was able, through a series of meetings and discussions with Mana Ahuriri Trust and MPI, to advance the recreational perspective not only pertaining to this rāhui, but also to restate the support shown by LHB for closures at Waimārama (pāua) and the Napier Artificial Reef and Bylaws for the Te Hoe Mataitai Reserve at Mahia.

Wayne's input on behalf of LHB has been well received and being invited to the rāhui uplifting ceremony at Westshore Beach was an honour. This bodes well for our continuing relationships with Mana Whenua.

Waimārama pāua

The rāhui for the gathering of pāua at Waimārama has been extended for a further 2 years to give the stock more time to rejuvenate and repopulate. We continue to work with Ngāti Kahungunu to ensure substantive monitoring is carried out during the closure.

The Kai Ika Project

LegaSea Hawkes Bay is working with the Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club on a trial Kai Ika project. Fifteen bins of fish heads and frames were collected from a fishing contest held on November 5th and 6th. These parts were distributed to those in need in the community. Subsequent adverse weather events have forced the cancellation of many Club fishing competitions, which has limited the supply of fish parts. When possible, some collections and distributions have continued. There are two upcoming fishing competitions that may provide further fish meals for Hawke's Bay families.

Twofold Bay

LegaSea Hawkes Bay has been given a redundant fishing trawler, the Twofold Bay, to scuttle in Hawke Bay waters for the purpose of creating an artificial reef and potentially a mecca for diving.

Two potential sites have been identified. The preferred option is in approx. 20 metres of water at Tongoia, north of the Port of Napier and the other site is at Ocean Beach, just to the South of Cape Kidnappers.

The vessel is tied up in the Napier Inner Harbour and is currently being assessed to determine what work needs to be done to prepare it for its final journey. Having done that, costings for the entire project can be put together and funding sought.

A number of organisations including NIWA have been approached for bathymetry and hydrographic information/resources to help guide the environmental considerations.

Key to obtaining Resource Consent, will be selling the project to mana whenua and the wider Hawke's Bay community. With support from the Mothership, Craig Thorburn from Kelly Tarltons and Norm Greenhall a funding application/prospectus is being compiled to assist in the process. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Napier Harbourmaster and Commercial Fishers and they have no objections to the preferred option at Tongoia.

LegaSea Fundraising

Grants

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

1. Auckland Council Waste Minimisation Grant – \$25,000 towards The Kai Ika Project – Event attendance, miscellaneous items and operational costs.

GRANTS IN PROGRESS

1. Hawke's Bay – Reef establishment project.
2. Kai Ika Pilot for Wellington.

Donations

The steadily increasing cost of living is resulting in a slow decline in recurring public donations. Because of the impacts of the current financial crisis on people, we have refrained from running any LegaSea Legend recruitment campaigns recently.

As such, we expect lower than normal public donations this financial year. Consequently, distributions from LegaSea's public donations to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council will also be down from previous levels. The good news is, the team is committed to maintaining the four workstreams supported by these donations: Advocacy, Research, Education and Alignment.

Fisheries Management update

Submissions update

Working alongside the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, New Zealand Angling & Casting Association and the New Zealand Underwater Association, we have been busy making submissions on the following:

1. [Northland rock lobster](#) (CRA 1) – We submitted in support of a package including a 50% reduction to the commercial catch limit, effort controls on commercial potting, a reduced recreational daily bag limit and a split in the large management area.
2. [Coromandel scallops](#) (SCA CS) – we submitted in support of a full closure of the Coromandel scallop fishery under section 11 of the Fisheries Act. The Minister agreed with our submission and closed the fishery from 1 April 2023.
3. [Tory Channel kina dredging](#) – we submitted in support of a full ban on dredging in the Tory Channel. Scallop dredging is already prohibited.
4. [Te rāhui o Moremore](#) – with LegaSea Hawkes Bay we submitted in support of marine protection around a new, artificial reef off Napier Port. The 2-year temporary closure application is supported by the community and led by the Mana Whenua Hapū Trust.
5. [Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan](#) – Between January and March we worked on a submission opposing the draft Fisheries Plan, instead supporting more bold, time-bound actions to provide for meaningful change.

World Recreational Fishing Conference



Momoko Burgess (New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea), **Sydney Curtis** (New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, Bluewater Marine Research, LegaSea) and **John Holdsworth** (New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, Bluewater Marine Research) attended the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne from the 19th to 22nd February 2023.

The theme of the conference this year was 'Keeping Pace in a Dynamic and Challenging World with Changing Fisheries'. This is an ode to the fluid and rapidly changing landscape and acknowledges the challenges for researchers, managers and anglers involved in recreational fisheries.

There is a lot of diversity in who fishes and how they fish and manage fisheries, and it was good to see that diversity reflected in the 350 attendees at the conference.

There was particular interest in LegaSea from other NGOs. Despite countries or states having peak bodies and some government funding, a number of people working in the NGOs felt under-resourced and often ignored on issues important to them.

Our team benefited from the conference by learning from and enquiring further into particular areas of research and management. We are confident our learnings and connections made will be beneficial to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea. The team are grateful for the opportunity to present and attend.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation for funding this conference opportunity, and we also thank the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council for their support.

Partnerships

Partnerships update

Despite the cost of living crisis coupled with abnormal weather events, companies continue to show support for New Zealand's coastal marine environment through joining our Corporate Partnership Programme. Additionally, current LegaSea partners are re-committing to our cause to protect New Zealand's oceans and our fish.

Recently, [Burnsco](#) was acquired by Jaycar and there was some concern a change in ownership may cause a change in values. This was not the case. Chris Wilesmith, Group CEO and Managing Director of Jaycar was excited to renew Burnsco's LegaSea Platinum Partnership as he recognised the importance of protecting our coastal fisheries.

Other partner renewals were [Chesters](#) via their annual 'Fanatical Fisho's' fishing comp., [Kilwell](#), [IronClad](#), [Composite Developments \(Okuma\)](#), [Wettie](#), [Ultimate Charters](#) and [Better](#).

We are thrilled to enjoy the support of the following new Partners:

GOLD

[Bridgestone St Lukes](#), [PENN](#) and [NZ Certified Builders](#).

Our Partners are our lifeblood

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

PLATINUM



GOLD





LEGASEA SPONSOR/ BUILDING LEGASEA

The building industry of New Zealand have a common passion for fishing and if any group of businesses are going to help us rebuild our fisheries then the construction industry should be at the forefront. Subsequently, we developed a category of sponsorship ideally suited to them. Priced at \$2000 plus GST per annum it enables sponsors to help build up LegaSea and rebuild our fish stocks.

Ziggy's Glass	DB & JF Holdings Ltd	Strait Construction Ltd
Waimea Orchard Ltd	Aotea Electric Auckland	Sansom Construction
Matakana Marine	Gateway Investments	Arthurs Emporium
Deejannie Ltd	Econode	Bayleaf Organics Ltd
Aqua designs	My Guy	Bowling Infrastructure Group
Busck Prestressed concrete	Centroform Ltd	Cert Systems Ltd
The Dream Trust	AJ Gidlow Engineering	Creative Landscaping
Pevats Builders	Synthetic Technologies	& Design
Blackdog cat	Development Construction	Firstflex Cables
Our Projects Renovations +	ALLTRANZ Ltd	Hubands Whangarei
New Builds	Buildit NZ	Northland Parkcare Ltd
Hayes Builders	Greenfingers Growing	Pan Pacific Auto Electronics
Martin & Riggall Engineering	Mixes Ltd	Waipukurau Construction
Apex Roof 'n' Clad Ltd	Vantage Windows	Warwick Fabrics
Blacklock Rose Ltd	North Shore	Wilco Precast
RCC Construction	Easy Energy Ltd	Orange Door Music Video Ltd



LEGASEA WORKS

LegaSea Works is our entry level business sponsorship allowing any business large or small to show their support and receive recognition. LegaSea Works is priced at \$500 plus GST per annum with an automatic renewal, it is a simple way for a business to invest in the future health of New Zealand's fisheries for the benefit of their customers and community.

Waipa Bricklayers	AT HEIGHT	Reel Kitchens Ltd
Whangarei Drycleaning	Blueprint Consulting	Work House Marketing Ltd
Company Ltd	Engineers	Peter Campbell
Waiheke Truck Services	GT Marine	A2Z Translate
Sulis Hot Tubs	Adtrailer	BBS Timbers Ltd
Rogers Boat shop	Narellan Pools	Consilium Residential
Planet Fun	Kerry & Carol Martin	Decoro Fishing Supplies
Liquorland Snells Beach	Exit Films	Davey Painters Ltd
LCP Management Services	Skye Carter Photography	Ecoefficient Solutions
Kitchen inspirations	Acquire	NZ Limited
Kahu Ridge	Pay Sauce	Fishing Boats NZ Ltd
John Peterson Northland	SBA Hibiscus Coast	Golden Mile Fruitpackers Ltd
Financial Holdings	Growth Strategies	Lambly Builders Whangarei
Intents outdoors	Consulting Ltd	Martin & Riggall Engineering
Height 4 Hire	Browne Engineering Ltd	Parkit Management
Coast residential – Tim Scott	Fiordland Charters	Sea Y Limited
Burkhart Farm Equipment	Okiwi Bay Holiday Park &	The Boat Shed & Autos
BRUCE HOWARD	Lodge	Tollesbury Enterprises Ltd
Carpentry Services	Topcat Bobcat Excavations	True Kit Inflatables