

LegaSea Accountability Report

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2023



Image: Peter Catley

Introduction

With the Coalition government decided Shane Jones has been appointed as Minister for Oceans and Fisheries. As a self-confessed “*apostle of industry*,” this raises concerns for us as non-commercial fishing and environmental interests. He does have “*respect for industries such as fishing, that produced income and jobs*,” so we hope to get a dialogue going with the Minister to present the potential for regional development in fishing tourism and small-scale commercial fishing under our reform proposal, [Rescue Fish Ika Rauora](#).

Public Awareness

Campaigns

HAURAKI GULF ALLIANCE/BOTTOM TRAWLING

Consultation has now ended for trawl corridors in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and we await the Minister’s decision with interest. With over 10,000 submissions made, we would expect this will take some time. But with the appointment of the new Ocean’s and Fisheries Minister, we won’t be holding our breath for a successful outcome!



Through the Hauraki Gulf Alliance website, 6368 submissions were made from members of the public. It’s pleasing to have so many people take the time to make a submission, but frustrating that it is not a lot more. We really needed some big numbers here to persuade the Minister to make the right decision.

There will be more action in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in 2024 as The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan management actions get decided and rolled out. This will be especially important for the future of scallop harvesting, bait and forage fish and the deep sea scampi fishery that is part of the Marine Park.

THE KAI IKA PROJECT

The Kai Ika Project continues to go from strength to strength. We are hoping for settled weather and a busy summer.

The satellite station in Wellington is well established and has distributed over 7,500kg. There is a growing interest from both Hawke’s Bay and Tauranga to do something similar.



To fund all this growth LegaSea has launched our latest fundraising initiative, Cans for Kai. We are collecting and recycling used aluminium cans. Our partner, Phoenix Metalman recycles the cans and contributes to Kai Ika. It’s a win-win. Currently, our collection stations are distributed through Westhaven Marina.

To oversee all this growth and the increasingly busy fishing competition season, we have appointed a new Project Lead, Matt Welch who we have confidence will make the most of these opportunities.

DUNCAN GARNER PODCAST

In November, LegaSea Project Lead Sam Woolford featured as a guest on the [Duncan Garner: Editor in Chief](#) podcast. Together they talked about the impacts of bottom trawling, Danish seining, dredging and the general state of our waters and marine life.

It was a powerful discussion around how we can continue to protect our marine environment. Sam spoke openly about how overfishing, land-based pollution, and destructive fishing methods are contributing to the decline in marine ecosystem health. And how this degradation may impact people who depend on the ocean to make a living. Have a listen [here!](#)



Duncan and Sam in the studio

Supporter Engagement

Events

BAYLEYS FISHING CLASSIC

The 11th Bayleys Fishing Classic was held in Auckland in mid-November. Building on the successful new snapper format from 2022. The team at Bayleys once again partnered with us to help raise awareness and vital funds.

With many of the same anglers registered for the 2023 tournament, the briefing was painless. Skipper packs were picked up from midday Thursday with around 40 teams back at Bayleys' HQ by 5pm Friday. With great prizes and important bragging rights on the line, tensions were high.

The team prizes were awarded with Marauder (218cm), Wilma (177.5cm) and 2XS (176.5cm) all taking home Barkers x LegaSea packs for the cumulative length of their top three snapper. Unsurprisingly, a Marauder angler, Brendan Graves, also took out the longest snapper and a \$5,000 cash prize. At 77cm, it beat Brendan's personal best by more than 30cm and ensured his name was etched on the Bayleys Fishing Classic trophy. He also gave \$1,000 back to LegaSea (legend).



Bayleys Fishing Classic

All anglers went home happy with the Kai Ika team filleting their catch, ensuring full utilisation with fish heads, frames and offal redistributed to families and community groups throughout Auckland. To round out the evening, Lloyd Budd presented the LegaSea team with a check for \$22,000!

ITM WHANGAREI FISHING COMPETITION

On Saturday 28th of October, we attended the inaugural ITM Whangarei fishing competition with our Kai Ika events trailer providing filleting services for the fishers, and the Barkers/LegaSea merchandise trailer for keen supporters.

The event began well with some good interactions with an 80 to 100+ crowd. Unfortunately, the weather came in and the prize-giving was taken inside. Despite the weather, Murray Batger and Katie Goodwin both gave a short speech to talk about the advocacy that LegaSea does for the inshore fisheries and regional efforts.

ECOLAB RAGLAN DAIRY FARMERS FISHING TOURNAMENT RAGLAN

The Kai Ika team took part in the Ecolab Dairy Farmers Tournament in Raglan in the last week of November. This was our first time filleting at this large event that saw over 350 fishers descend on Raglan. Lumpier-than-expected seas didn't deter the fishers from crossing the bar. The weigh-in at the Raglan Club saw good numbers of snapper landed, plenty of gurnard, and some good-sized kingfish.

A total of 587 fish were filleted on the day, with the heads and frames distributed to appreciative recipients from local iwi, Raglan food bank, and two Waikato marae.



The filleting team in action.

Partner Events

We had an absolute blast at the [Dysart ITM Golf Day](#) raising money for [LegaSea NZ](#).

The day saw over 100 golfers bring their clubs out to traverse the North Shore Golf Course and later get stuck into some good food and enjoy some great company.

With the help of Dysart ITM and all the other sponsors, we ended up raising over \$33,000 towards marine conservation. Absolutely incredible result!

We were situated at the LegaSea's Hole-in-One challenge on Hole 14, serving freshly smoked fish fillets, bluenose roe and wings. With \$10,000 up for grabs for a hole-in-one, we watched as many a golfer tackled the 158m drive with varying levels of expertise and unfortunately, nobody managed to slot it in one for the cash prize.



Matt Watson, The Fishing Guy

A very special thanks to [Dysart ITM](#) and our main man [Matt Watson](#) for MC'ing and running the drinks cart.

We had an absolute pearler of a day at the [New Zealand Certified Builders Association](#) Golf Day at the Akarana Golf Course in early November.

With a massive turnout of 104 golfers, all helping to make it a memorable day on the greens, we ended up raising a massive \$20,170 towards marine conservation. It's always nice to see such an engaged crowd come along to support our cause.



\$20,170 raised for marine conservation

A huge shout out to [Yamaha Marine New Zealand](#) for stepping up and providing a jaw-dropping \$35,000 jet ski for our hole-in-one challenge. While the jet ski remained unclaimed, it definitely added an extra layer of excitement to the day!

We were situated at the LegaSea's Longest Drive Team Challenge on Hole 18, serving freshly smoked fish fillets, bluenose roe and wings. The weather was amazing and the company was incredible, so really pleased to be out there amongst this generous crowd.

Initiatives

Kingi Boards



Interest in our latest product, the kingi chopping boards, has been unbelievable. As one frustrated would-be purchaser said, the kingi boards have been “...hotter than a Taylor Swift ticket”. After selling out of our initial stock of 300 boards within 4 days we finally received another batch which sold in 30 minutes. And, we have a decent database of people waiting to be notified when they are back in stock.

Fortunately, this will happen in the new year after the team from LegaSea Hawkes Bay managed to secure an ongoing supply of old bottom trawl nets that were destined for landfill. These will be ground up, mixed with every-day plastic waste, then heated and pressed into boards by our good friends at [CRITICAL](#).

LegaSea Fundraising

Grants

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

1. Lotteries National \$40,000 towards Kai Ika Operational costs
2. Lotteries COGS - \$1000 towards Kai Ika Operational costs

GRANTS IN PROGRESS

1. Auckland Council Waste Minimisation grant - \$50,000

Donations

Despite the rising cost of living, we remain optimistic about the future and the support we receive from the public. Although this may lead to lower-than-usual public donations this year, we are determined to continue our vital work. Rest assured, the four essential pillars of our organisation - Advocacy, Research, Education, and Alignment - will be upheld thanks to the unwavering commitment of our dedicated team.

We believe in the power of collective effort and remain grateful for the ongoing support of our generous donors. Together, we can make a lasting difference in our mission to restore marine abundance and secure a fair go for Kiwis, by supporting the advocacy work of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea's public fundraising.

Fisheries Management update

On 21 September the then Minister for Oceans and Fisheries Rachel Brooking released her decisions for a range of fish stocks and management controls to apply from 1 October 2023.

These decisions apply to proposals for stocks we submitted on in February, March and July this year. It was a mixed bag of decisions.

1. Trawling for kina is now banned in the [Tory Channel](#), Marlborough Sounds. Commercial hand gathering and diving are still permitted as these techniques have a lower environmental impact than dredging. This aligns with our submission.
2. For [kina on the northeast coast](#) of the North Island, the Minister approved a modest increase in the Hauraki Gulf – Bay of Plenty stock (SUR 1B) and a more precautionary increase for East Northland (SUR 1A). This aligns with our submission.
3. Increases in the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) limits for [trevally](#) around the bottom half of the North Island and [gurnard](#) on the east coast of the South Island. These decisions are contrary to our submissions.
4. The recreational [daily bag limit for paua](#) has been reduced from 10 to 5 per day, per person around the bottom half of the North Island. This decision does not align with our submission which supported more fine-scale management of all fishing.

Between September and December our LegaSea team worked alongside the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, and the New Zealand Underwater Association, to develop three new submissions on important issues.

5. Hauraki Gulf [Marine Protection Bill](#) submission sent on 1 November. [Read here.](#)
6. Hauraki Gulf [Marine Park Trawl Corridors](#) submission sent on 6 November. [Read here.](#)
7. Proposed [Waikato Regional Coastal Plan](#) submission sent on 13 November. [Read here.](#)

Over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd September the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea held their AGMs in Tairua. This annual event is an important occasion as this is where the Council confirms its fisheries management policies, science, research and educational priorities. These are necessary to guide our contractors when attending various stakeholder working groups and meetings and advocating for our collective fishing and environmental interests. In the latter part of 2023 our team has attended 21 meetings and 16 Working Group meetings.

Partnerships

Our LegaSea partnerships play a pivotal role in the work we do, serving as a cornerstone for our mission of marine conservation. These partnerships are vital because they provide us with the means to extend our reach and make a significant impact on a larger scale. By collaborating with like-minded organisations, we can pool our resources, expertise, and knowledge to tackle the complex challenges facing our fisheries.

OCEANS FESTIVAL

Whitianga Oceans Festival was held with over 4000 people attending mainly from the surrounding Coromandel region. This wine and food festival was previously known as the Whitianga Scallop festival but now has more of a focus on sustainably sourced seafood.

Whitehaven were present and selling their Kōparepare wine range with 100% of sales on the day going directly to LegaSea. Great to be collaborating with Whitehaven at our first Oceans Festival together and over \$10,000 was raised for LegaSea.



Kōparepare supporting LegaSea

SPRING PROMO WINNERS FROM AUTO SUPER SHOPPE

LegaSea were involved with a Nationwide Auto Super Shoppe Promotion over the last few months.

There were 5 opportunities for shops around the regions to donate to three different causes. We were fortunate to have been chosen for 2 of the \$1500 shop donations.

Partnerships update

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

NEW GOLD PARTNERS

[Bowling Infrastructure](#) Group - After 10 years of being a loyal Building LegaSea supporter Bowling Infrastructure have stepped up to Gold Partner - we would like to thank Steve for being such a cornerstone to our work, its because of partners like you we can continue to advocate for the public.

[Salt Shark](#)

[Raizor Insurance](#)

PARTNERS RE-COMMITTED

[Yamaha](#), [Wettie](#), [Gerard Roofs](#), [Kilwell](#), [Daiwa](#) and [Jarvis Walker](#).

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the products and services of these outstanding companies and brands.

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.

AT HEIGHT
Ziggy's Glass
Waimea Orchard Ltd
Matakana Marine
Deejannie Ltd
Aqua designs
Busck Prestressed concrete
The Dream Trust
Pevats Builders
Blackdog cat
Our Projects Renovations +
New Builds
Hayes Builders
Martin & Riggall Engineering
Apex Roof 'n' Clad Ltd
Blacklock Rose Ltd
RCC Construction
DB & JF Holdings Ltd

Aotea Electric Auckland
Gateway Investments
Econode
My Guy
Centroform Ltd
AJ Gidlow Engineering
Synthetic Technologies
Development Construction
ALLTRANZ Ltd
Greenfingers Growing
Mixes Ltd
Vantage Windows
North Shore
Easy Energy Ltd
Strait Construction Ltd
Sansom Construction
Arthurs Emporium
Bayleaf Organics Ltd

Bowling Infrastructure Group
Cert Systems Ltd
Creative Landscaping
& Design
Firstflex Cables
Hubands Whangarei
Northland Parkcare Ltd
Pan Pacific Auto Electronics
Waipukurau Construction
Warwick Fabrics
Wilco Precast
Orange Door Music Video Ltd
Steve Bowling Contracting
SSP Engineering
NPM Remediation
NPM Construction
GHK Piling
Pole Structures



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.

Auto Super Shoppe Albany
Waipa Bricklayers
Whangarei Drycleaning
Company Ltd
Waiheke Truck Services
Sulis Hot Tubs
Rogers Boat shop
Planet Fun
Liquorland Snells Beach
LCP Management Services
Kitchen inspirations
Kahu Ridge
John Peterson Northland
Financial Holdings
Height 4 Hire
Coast residential – Tim Scott
Burkhart Farm Equipment
BRUCE HOWARD Carpentry

Services
Blueprint Consulting
Engineers
GT Marine
Adtrailer
Narellan Pools
Kerry & Carol Martin
Exit Films
Skye Carter Photography
Acquire
Pay Sauce
SBA Hibiscus Coast
Growth Strategies
Consulting Ltd
Browne Engineering Ltd
Fiordland Charters
Okiwi Bay Holiday Park
& Lodge

Topcat Bobcat Excavations
Reel Kitchens Ltd
Peter Campbell
A2Z Translate
BBS Timbers Ltd
Consilium Residential
Decoro Fishing Supplies
Davey Painters Ltd
Ecoefficient Solutions Nz
Limited
Fishing Boats NZ Ltd
Golden Mile Fruitpackers Ltd
Lambly Builders Whangarei
Martin & Riggall Engineering
Parkit Management
Sea Y Limited
The Boat Shed & Autos
True Kit Inflatables