

Legasea Accountability Report

DECEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024



Image: Stephanie Kirk

Introduction

The beginning of the year is always a crazily busy time for the Fisheries Management crew at LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

Twice a year, in April and October, our team dives into fish stock reviews. The April round kicks off in December, with submission deadlines looming in early February so the Minister can make decisions by April. So, as the new year begins, our dedicated Fisheries Management team is back in action, working diligently to craft numerous submissions before the month's end.

This is no easy task and the [April 2024 round](#) is a biggie. CRA 3 (Crayfish from East Cape to Mahia) and CRA 7 and 8 (bottom of South Island) are up for review. Also under review are Kaikōura pāua, southern bluefin tuna, silver warehou, gemfish and southern blue whiting.

Drafting a submission is a comprehensive process involving extensive research, engaging with stakeholders, and meticulous writing and editing. Without submissions pushing recreational fishers' views and a conservative approach to protecting our fisheries, excessive catch limits would remain and our marine environment would continue to degrade.

Our team has been writing submissions since the mid 2000s and you can read the whole lot [here](#). We wouldn't be able to do this continued work without your support.

Public Awareness

Campaigns

HAURAKI GULF ALLIANCE/BOTTOM TRAWLING

The future of the Hauraki Gulf continues to be a source of contention with many organisations and people talking about plans for change but with no real change happening.



The Environment Select Committee listened to oral submissions on the establishment of High Protection Areas in the Marine Park in March. Many different and opposing views were heard. In the end, the comment that best summed up the hearings and government's plans was "You're fiddling while Rome is burning!"

We still await the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries' decision on trawl corridors in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. It's looking very likely any decision from Shane Jones is not going to be a good one. Trawling will continue with few, if any, restrictions.

LegaSea will continue to work with its Hauraki Gulf Alliance partners to keep the pressure on the Minister to make a good decision.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Our FishCare Summer Photo competition kicked off in December and we saw over 250 incredible photo submissions come through from all our amazing followers and friends. With seven categories covering a huge range of imagery, we can safely say that our image repository is now stocked to the brim with incredible shots for the year to come.

We'd love to give a big shout out to Andy Belcher for his incredible underwater photo of a scorpion fish contrasted against the dark backdrop of the ocean at night. This photo took the overall winning spot and won Andy a year's subscription to NZ Fishing News and a spot in the magazine itself!

Massive congrats to our other winners too, and thank you to everyone who entered.



Landscapes winner – Sponsored by Tides Out Maps

Andy Belcher (above)

Underwater Category – Sponsored by NZ Underwater Association

Judy Ormondy

Marine Life in their Natural Environment – Sponsored by Marine Deals

Karena Kaihe-Woolston

Collecting and Catching Kaimoana – Sponsored by Okuma

Jack Lusk

Preparing, Cooking and Eating Kaimoana – Sponsored by Ironclad Pans

Irene Middleton

Things That Ain't Right in the Ocean – Sponsored by LegaSea

Chris Paulin

Kids Photo Category – Sponsored by Penn

Laura Elliot

THE KAI IKA PROJECT

January saw the end of spring fishing and a slowdown at Kai Ika Westhaven filleting as the city emptied for the summer break. A good run of weather was seen but tough fishing conditions prevailed. The cost of living crisis has meant that fewer fishers are heading out as often and fewer are using our Kai Ika filleting service. As a result, we have had to tighten our belt and a restructure was carried out with two of our fileters moving over to Scott Seafoods. This restructure should help us navigate winter in a stronger position.



Kai Ika Wellington has moved into the fishing event filleting space with multiple events over the summer, including the New Zealand spearfishing nationals.

CANS FOR KAI

The Cans for Kai initiative continues to be rolled out with additional infrastructure deployed around our inner city. Ports of Auckland have been added to the growing list of locations. Our new can crusher, Te Taniwha, debuted at the Auckland Onwater Boatshow, providing an interactive centrepiece for Cans for Kai.



FISH CARE

We now have 22 charter companies following our FishCare Charter Boat Code of Conduct. These charter companies are using our FishCare principles to help teach recreational fishers heading out on their boats to learn the best practices when it comes to looking after our marine environment.



Supporter Engagement

Volunteering

We have had a steady run of volunteer contribution over the past three months. Along with the nice weather we have had more opportunities to have volunteer support at the Kai Ika Project and LegaSea events.

Kai Ika has always been a magnet for regular volunteer effort and this has not swayed. Our Kai Ika crew have been grateful to have the extra help from our volunteers at the Westhaven filleting trailer and filleting events. So far this year, our volunteers have contributed 40-hours of volunteer time at the Kai Ika Project.

Thank you to the volunteers who supported the LegaSea team at the Auckland On-Water Boat Show. Volunteers at multi-day events help keep the stand feeling fresh. Across the 4-days at the event volunteers contributed 38-hours of effort.

Events

ON WATER BOATSHOW

We had a productive four days at the Auckland Boat Show from the 14th-17th of March. Throughout the event we spoke to a multitude of attendees, sparking meaningful conversations about the current state of fisheries management and encouraging everyone to participate in our show-wide “Fish Finder” challenge.

Our team at [The Kai Ika Project](#) delivered several fish filleting demonstrations showcasing their effective techniques for processing fish at home. These presentations aim to educate fishers about respectful and sustainable practices, such as using the entire fish.

An enormous thank you to [NZ Marine Industry](#) and the other teams behind the Auckland On Water Boat Show for providing a platform to spread our message about removing destructive fishing techniques, rebuilding our fisheries and prioritising feeding Kiwis first.



Dave Ahoia in action

Partner Events

J.A. RUSSELL REEL OARSOME

JA Russell Reel Oarsome (Auckland) was held in February at Orakei Rugby Club on a stunning summer day. With over 250 participants out in the Hauraki Gulf 230 fish were weighed in.

The Kai Ika team took care of filleting under the LegaSea gazebo, interacting with competitors and taking donations. Kai Ika lead Matt Welch spoke to a lively prize-giving about our ongoing mahi (work).

Over 160 kgs of fish heads and frames were distributed to our friends in the Fijian community as well as some kindly donated food left over from the prizegiving.

Thanks to JA Russel for supporting LegaSea again.



The Kia Ika team on site at Reel Oarsome

CHESTERS FANATICAL FISHOS

In February LegaSea once again attended the annual [Chesters Plumbing & Bathroom](#), New Lynn, Fanatical Fishos competition. It was another successful event with an impressive amount of money raised for us and the Manukau Coastguard.

Chesters is one of our oldest and most faithful partners, supporting recreational fishing advocacy for over 30 years, starting with option4 from 2000, all through the Kahawai Legal Challenge (2004-09) and now LegaSea.



Fish filleting at Chesters Fanatical Fishos

We are forever grateful to Chesters for holding the line and leading by example. Their generosity is unparalleled, they catch the fish, they give them back to the cause and then pay through the nose to buy the fish back. All in the name of raising money for others.

Thank you Grant Chester and the entire Chesters team!

NZIOB/KALMAR FISHING COMPETITION

In Early March Kai Ika attended the NZIOB/Kalmar Fishing Competition at the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club. Good fishing conditions on a warm day saw mostly snapper in good condition weighed in.

Entrants and fish numbers were down on previous years but competitors enjoyed a great prize pool and some much-deserved refreshments back at the yacht club afterwards. Kai Ika lead Matt Welch spoke to the participants to outline the Kai Ika project and LegaSea.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay

COLIN MURRAY RAMP SURVEY

A draft application to the Marine Research Foundation for funding of costs associated with the Colin Murray Ramp Survey has been forwarded to the National Office. We have suggested applying for \$15,000 over a three-year period.

LegaSea Fundraising

Grants

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

Auckland Council Waste Minimisation grant – \$48,500 to support Cans for Kai and The Kai Ika Project.

Donations

Despite the rising cost of living, we remain optimistic about the future and the support we receive from the public. Although this crisis 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 Partners, supporters and dedicated team at LegaSea.

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. We do this by supporting the advocacy work of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea's public fundraising.

Fisheries Management update

On the 22nd of March, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Shane Jones, released his first round of decisions for a range of fish stocks across New Zealand.

These decisions apply to management proposals from Fisheries New Zealand, for stocks under review in early 2024. LegaSea worked with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, New Zealand Underwater and others to develop submissions on the proposals of most relevance to recreational and environmental interests. We were disappointed with the majority of the Minister's decisions as they favour exports over making fish available to feed our families.

1. For [East coast crayfish](#) between East Cape and south of the Wairoa River (CRA 3), the Minister announced a small 20% reduction in commercial crayfish harvest and a 50% cut in recreational daily bag limits. These decisions are contrary to our submission, we recommended a larger reduction in commercial crayfish harvest and retaining the daily bag limit.
2. Kaikōura locals are limited to a 2 month [recreational pāua season](#) this year from 22 April to 21 June, with a daily bag limit of three pāua, yet the commercial sector continues to enjoy year-round access. Our submission supported a 3-month open season with a long term goal of reopening the fishery to 9 months of the year.
3. Across Invercargill, Southland, and Fiordland (CRA 8), the Minister increased the [commercial harvest of crayfish](#) significantly. We supported the status quo, and a modest allowance increase of six tonnes to cover existing recreational catches.
4. In February we supported the Minister increasing the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for [Southern bluefin tuna](#) by 186 tonnes including an increase of 35 tonnes to the recreational allowance. The changes will apply from 1 April 2024.

5. We supported a landing exception for [Pacific bluefin tuna](#) that was approved by the Minister on the basis that they are caught by surface longline or troll gear and in good condition prior to release.

The Minister also approved the requested [two year temporary closure](#) at Tutukaka and Ngunguru Bay & River, Northland. The closure applies to the harvest of all shellfish (except kina), seahorses, and garfish/piper, as well as the use of scoop, gill, drag and set nets. We are pleased with the majority of this outcome, but are disappointed that set netting was not banned from the entire applicant area as originally requested, with Danish seine net and trawl net still permitted.

March was busy with the Environment Select Committee holding public hearings regarding the [Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill](#), which proposes 12 High Protection Areas, 5 seafloor protection areas, and 2 extensions to existing marine reserves. The concern that echoed throughout the hearings was that the proposed Bill does not go far enough. The entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park needs to be designated as a Type 2 Marine Protected Area, to prohibit destructive fishing methods such as bottom trawling, dredging, and Danish seining.

Partnerships

Partnerships update

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

NEW GOLD PARTNERS

[Wise Angler](#)

[NZ Marine](#)

PARTNERS RE-COMMITTED

[PENN](#), [Around Sheetmetals](#), [Sullivan Plumbing and Gas](#), [BETTER](#)

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.

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

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