

Fisheries Management

Annual Report 2023-24



NZSFC Directory

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NZSFC INCORPORATED

Patron – Pete Saul

President – Ian Steele

Vice Presidents – Warren Maher and Andrew Johnson

ADMINISTRATION

Admin Officer – Helen Pastor

Auditor – William Buck Accounting

Records Officer – Pete Saul

Communications and Operations Lead – Mike Plant

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tony Allan – Zone 1

Bill McGarry – Zone 2

Phil Keogh – Zone 3

Vance Fulton – Zone 4

Wayne Bicknell – Zone 5

Doug Taucher – Zone 6

Mark Connor – Zone 7

Heyden Johnston – Zone 8

Mark Hemingway – IGFA and Life Member Representative

Peter Campbell – LegaSea Representative

Richard Baker – Fisheries Management Representative

BY THE NUMBERS

Member clubs – 49

Affiliated members – 37,000

Life members – 14

Zone Board representatives – 8

IGFA NZSFC Board representative – 1

CONTACT

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”

Margaret Mead

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The Crew



Standing - (person in front first) - Tim Evans, Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club, Club President (and what a host); Tony Allan, Whangaroa Sport Fishing Club, Zone 1 Board representative; Justin Kernan, Houhora Big Game & Sport Fishing Club; Ross Lucas, Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club; Lee Drummond, New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club; Brian Cornish, Waikato Sport Fishing Club; Steve (Coxy) Cox, The Te Aroha Angling Club; Bill McGarry, Whakatakataka Bay Sport Fishing Club, Zone 2 Board representative; Warren Maher, Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club, Vice President; Jess Beetham, LegaSea fundraising lead; Vance Fulton, Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club, Zone 4 Board representative; Clyde Fraser, Waihou Bay; Mark Hemingway, Mt Maunganui, IGFA and Life Member Board representative, Greg (Shambles) Shanley, The Te Aroha Anglers Club; Dave Murie, Te Kaha Sport Fishing Club; Steven Harper, Counties Sports Fishing Club; Christine Elmiger, Waihou Bay; Phil (Nemo) Keogh, Whangamata Ocean Sports Club; Zone 3 Board representative; Helen Pastor, NZSFC Administration Officer; Nick Blasé, Clevedon Gamefishing Club; Allan Davidson, Mana Aquatic Divers Club, New Zealand Underwater Association Vice President; Ian Steele, New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club, NZSFC President; Bob Hilton, Counties Sports Fishing Club; Ken (KB) Barry, Raglan Sport Fishing Club; Matt Hassard, Raglan Sport Fishing Club; Tony Hill, IGFA; Hilton Webb, Gisborne Tapatouri Sports Fishing Club, Life Member; Russel Graham, Taupo Fishing Club; Milton Reynolds, Whakatane Sportfishing Club; John Holdsworth, Blue Water Marine Research, Life Member; Dirk Seiling, Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club; Daryl Bradley, Whangaroa Sport Fishing Club President; Ed Beetham, Wairarapa Sports Fishing Club; Cecil Hickman, Kawhia Boating & Angling Club; Sam Woolford, LegaSea lead; Robin Beales, Akitio Boating Club; Ben Muir, Waihou Bay Sports Fishing Club; Gordon McIvor, Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club; Kelvin Mowat, Whangaroa Sport Fishing Club; Bob Gutsell, Waikato Sport Fishing Club, Past President (2019/20/21/22); Marina Stewart, Hokianga Big Game & Sport Fishing Club; Pete

Saul, Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club, Records Officer, IGFA, Patron, Life Member; Brenda Saul, Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club; Linda Pattinson, Hokianga Big Game & Sport Fishing Club; Wayne (Waynos) Bicknell, Hawkes Bay Sport Fishing Club, Zone 5 Board representative, Life Member; Peter (Pistol) Stewart, Hauraki Gulf Sportfishing Club; Terry Creagh, Warkworth Gamefish Club, NZMRF Trustee; Heyden Johnston, Whakatane Sportfishing Club, Zone 8 Board representative; John (Baldy) Bruce, Ashley Sport Fishing Club; Mark James, Whangamata Ocean Sports Club; Jim Yeoman, New Zealand Angling and Casting Association; Mike Plant, NZSFC Operations and Communications Lead; Kevin Lynch, Whangamata Ocean Sports Club; Barney O'Neill, Whangamata Ocean Sports Club; Peter Campbell, LegaSea Director and NZSFC liaison Board representative, Life member; Jeff Romeril, Chairman New Zealand Marine Research Foundation, Past President (2000/01/02/03/04/05/06/07), Life member; Doug Taucher, Kawhia Boating & Angling Club, Zone 6 Board representative; Trish Rea, LegaSea and FMSC contractor, Life member;

Front row kneeling - Dennis Davey, Whakatane Sportfishing Club; Deryk Nielsen, Tauranga Sport Fishing Club; Sydney Curtis, LegaSea and FMSC contractor; Jennifer (Jen) Troup, Bay of Islands Swordfish Club; Katie Goodwin, LegaSea and FMSC contractor; Warren (Wazza) Harris, Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, Life Member; Pete (Sauce) Saunders, New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club, Life Member; Mark Connor, Ashley Sport Fishing Club, Zone 7 Board representative, Past president (2012/13/14), Life Member; Scott Macindoe, LegaSea support crew, Life Member; Sue Sinclair, Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club; Steve Clay, Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club; Andrew Johnson, Bay of Islands Swordfish Club, Vice President; Peter Stewart, Hauraki Gulf Sportfishing Club; Absent from photo - Graeme Ellis, Marsden Cove Fishing Club (Zoom); Jim Brennen, Hauraki Gulf Sportfishing Club; Benn Winlove, LegaSea digital comms lead (photographer).

President's Report



NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL



**Ian Steele,
NZSFC President**

Welcome to another year of reporting on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's activities in the fisheries management, advocacy, education and research space. It has been a privilege to serve our Council, member clubs and affiliates in such a meaningful manner.

We kicked off the year with a change in central government, meaning we were onto our fourth Minister of Oceans and Fisheries within 2023.

The politicians may have changed, but we have seen late into 2024 that there is little attempt from the Government to change from the status quo – sustained depletion of our marine environment.

Add to that, a lack of vision for the [Hauraki Gulf](#), the decision to oppressively manage [crayfish](#) and [pāua](#) on the east coast of the North Island – by halving recreational take – has shown the strong preference to reduce recreational fishing rights while maintaining commercial interests.

To cap it off, we had 20 fish stocks reviewed by MPI in one "sustainability" round – and only one month to submit on a plethora of fish stocks around NZ. [Submissions](#) were made by NZSFC on behalf of clubs and club members around NZ but it took an incredibly focused and significant effort from our team to counter the wave of intent by the Government to invariably increase commercial catches across the board.

We have seen an increase in the awareness and engagement by NZSFC clubs, club members and the general public, as they notice that the marine environment and fish within it are changing for the worse – they want to get involved and share their thoughts.

It's incredibly important that individually we make our thoughts known, and with the support of our team, we magnify and hone the collective message – we all want to see future abundance of our fish and marine environment.

It has been pleasing to see in the last year how our clubs are stepping up to local issues and trying their best to resolve them. Earlier in the year we had serious challenges to fishing competitions run by Zone 1 and 3 clubs. It was great to have Mike Plant's expertise in helping to develop appropriate responses that dampened down the localised concerns. Moreover, being involved in these issues enabled us to elevate public awareness of our efforts to conserve fish while enjoying time on the water with family and friends.

As a Council we can be proud of our collective efforts. Clubs put a lot of effort into encouraging tag and release events. The Youth Ocean Trust Ngā Tai Tamariki Ki Tē Moana embodies our commitment to cultivate a generation of ocean stewards. And, our FishCare programme is focused on delivering educational material to the wider public on how to minimise wastage and treat every fish with respect.

While we haven't had the capacity lately to develop new FishCare messaging, the team are looking forward to having more material available in time for the upcoming summer.

The breadth of the challenges facing our access to the marine environment, and also declining populations NZ fish stocks means that your voice is now more important than ever.

A huge thanks to everyone that makes this possible – all clubs, club members, supporters, and the aligned public. A special thanks to the dedicated team that relentlessly provide and deliver our informed 'voice of reason' – taking the sentiment of our NZSFC clubs and executing that into a potent influence, including the public outreach via [LegaSea](#). The team includes volunteers, specialist marine experts and passionate supporters around the country.

It has been an honour to serve as the President of this Council, overseeing this effort to hold the line and advocate for abundance and future generations' interests. Please read this report then share it with others so they can understand the effort involved and your contribution to making New Zealand great again.

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Co-chair's Report

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



Mark Connor,
NZSFC FMSC
Co-chair



Wayne Bicknell,
NZSFC FMSC
Co-chair

It has been a privilege as co-chairs to oversee the past year's activities of the Fisheries Management Standing Committee. And what a year it's been. We have completed 25 submissions, engaged in more than 120 science and advisory working group processes, presented to government committees on six occasions and met with Shane Jones, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, in April this year. Team work has been the key to our success.

We thank Lewis Avenell as he steps away from his role as our Official Information Act bloodhound. We miss you already. But as we know it's Hotel California around us, "You can check out anytime but you can never leave".

ALL HANDS ON DECK

We appreciate the ongoing commitment of all Standing Committee members. Peter Campbell, Richard Baker, Vance Fulton, Warren Maher and Ian Steele, and co-opted members Dirk Sieling, Scott Macindoe, Allan Davidson, New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA) Board member, and the Advocacy Officer of the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association and spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay, Jim Yeoman.

Special thanks also to Mike Plant, NZSFC Communications and Operations Manager, for his consistent effort to connect our clubs with each other, and to elevate the awareness and relevance of fisheries management to the wellbeing of all club members.

Our contractor team continues to serve the NZSFC in many realms. Barrister Stuart Ryan and RMA legal expert Rowan Ashton have provided invaluable service as has John Holdsworth, Barry Torkington, Trish Rea, Sam Woolford, Sydney Curtis and Katie Goodwin. We are grateful to Benn Winlove for coordinating the Hauraki Gulf Alliance of over 120 organisations. We also acknowledge Sam Woolford and Dallas Abel for engaging and educating our Sponsors and Partners in fisheries matters.

A MIXED YEAR OF SUCCESS

It's been a mixed bag of issues this past year, spanning the entire country from Fiordland to Northland. The ongoing battle for increased abundance and biodiversity is getting more complex now the Environment Court has ruled that, under the Resource Management Act (RMA), Regional Councils are responsible for protecting indigenous biodiversity within the Territorial Sea, within 12 nautical miles of the coastline.

The NZSFC continues to advocate that biodiversity loss and depletion must be addressed using Fisheries Act (FA) tools. We don't want or need duplication. This whole RMA v FA is just another signal that the Quota Management System (QMS) is failing us all.

To mitigate environmental changes in Northland, we have in the past 12 months worked on changes to [kina management](#) and dealt with the spread of the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa*, from the Hauraki Gulf to east Northland waters. The [Northland](#) and [Coromandel scallop](#) fisheries remain closed to recreational and commercial harvest.

In January this year we were pleased the Minister approved the 2-year temporary closure of [Tutukaka Harbour](#) and surrounding rivers to the harvest of some species. Widespread depletion of shellfish across the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel prompted us to support iwi and hapū in establishing several other temporary [2-year closures](#).

It was a significant year for the Hauraki Gulf as we also submitted on the [trawl corridors](#) proposal and Hauraki Gulf [Marine Protection Bill](#). It was heartening to see NZSFC and club representatives Bill McGarry, Gordon McIvor, Phil Keogh, Scott Macindoe, Stephen Harper, Terry Creagh and Warren Maher presenting their collective views to the Environment Select Committee considering the Bill. To no avail, the Committee recommended the Bill be enacted.

A year on from Cyclone Gabrielle its impact on fish stocks and habitats along the Hawke's Bay and Gisborne coastlines are still unknown. This led us to urge the Minister to make precautionary decisions when setting commercial catch limits for [crayfish \(CRA 3\)](#), snapper, rig and [John dory](#) in these areas. Our submission and those from Gisborne Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club and Zone 5 clubs fell on deaf ears.

As inequitable management of [Kaikōura pāua](#) continues we take our hats off to Marty Sullivan and the Kaikōura Boating and Fishing Club for their unwavering advocacy for insisting on reasonable local [access to pāua](#). The Zone 7 South Island clubs continue their efforts to restore sensible rules applying to [blue cod](#) catches and [snapper](#) bag limits in the Marlborough Sounds.

Committee Report



1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024

The 200-year old saying attributed to Thomas Jefferson, 'The price of freedom is eternal vigilance' remains true today. Over the past 12 months the Fisheries Management Standing Committee has dealt with a ridiculous workload, had some wins and learned several hard lessons along the way.

We are always grateful for the ongoing support from our affiliated clubs and members. Without this backing we wouldn't be able to [engage in issues](#) that impact on our inshore marine environment and the wellbeing we derive from being at, on or beside the sea.

We are fortunate to retain the Standing Committee members from last year. Between us and our specialist contractors, we have used our collective experience to develop comprehensive submissions on a range of issues in the realms of fisheries management, policy, legal issues and now in the convoluted Resource Management Act.

RESCUE FISH IKA RAUORA

During the entire existence of the NZSFC it has never been more obvious that the Quota Management System (QMS) is dysfunctional and needs reform.

In 2018 the NZSFC published version 1 of the [Rescue Fish Ika Rauora](#) policy, with the intention of generating interest in a more equitable regime that provides for restored abundance and a fair go for Kiwis.

The policy needs a refresh however, the principles remain relevant to all of us: give effect to the purpose and principles of the Fisheries Act so we can restore abundance and diversity in our coastal waters for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

It is unfortunate that, despite our best efforts, currently there is no political will or fortitude on behalf of compliant officials to wrest back control of our marine environment from quota holders. It is these investors seeking to draw maximum rents from fishers on the water that are the roadblock. The QMS permits these quota holders to profit from renting access to our collective fish stocks, while passing on the environmental costs to us in the form of degraded marine ecosystems and depleted fish populations.

The nonsense has to stop and Rescue Fish is our alternative policy.

Rescue Fish is a holistic solution to remedy depleted fish stocks and address environmental damage. All while elevating small-scale fishing operations from being forced to rent catch entitlements from the big companies to a regionally-based industry that uses low impact fishing

techniques to deliver fresh fish to Kiwi families at a fair and reasonable price. Competition is good for all.

THE END GAME

Since July 2000 the NZSFC and other recreational fishing interest groups have strived to protect our collective interests in having reasonable access to our marine fish and coastline. We appreciate the consistent support and endorsement from the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association and New Zealand Underwater Association. Together we are the largest and most relevant mandated groups representing recreational marine fishing interests in Aotearoa.

To the best of our ability and with scarce available resources we have contributed to Ministry-led science working groups, fisheries planning, spatial plans, endless multi-stakeholder groups and processes. Our advocates are safe in promoting Council policies that seek more fish in the water and a vibrant marine environment.

Despite our best efforts, the end game is upon us.

Regulatory capture of officials is now in plain view. Officials have successfully tortured the [Hauraki Gulf Marine Park](#) Sea Change Marine Spatial Plan to serve commercial interests. Taking it from a unanimously [agreed vision](#) of no trawling and local management, to the current prospect of [trawl corridors](#) and [19 new marine protected areas](#) where Māori customary fishing can continue while recreational fishing is prohibited.

In 1997 the High Court was plain in its determination that proportional allocation of any fish stock was not legitimate. The recreational allowance set aside to provide for amateur fishing is not quota, it is an **allowance** that can change over time. Justice Tipping made a landmark statement in saying:

"If over time a greater recreational demand arises it would be strange if the Minister was precluded by some proportional rule from giving some extra allowance to cover it, subject always to his obligation carefully to weigh all the competing demands on the TAC [Total Allowable Catch] before deciding how much should be allocated to each interest group."

When referring to the Minister, he also said, "He must make such allowance as he thinks appropriate for the other interests before he fixes the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC). That is how the legislation is structured".

Notwithstanding the High Court (1997) and [Supreme Court's \(2009\) rulings](#), proportional allocation continues

Committee Report

to be a sought-after outcome. That's because it lets the Minister and officials off the hook in terms of expending energy and resources on determining a reasonable allowance that will provide for our social, economic and cultural wellbeings.

And, it upgrades the investment that quota holders have, from a percentage share of the TACC, to a proportion of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). So, instead of a percentage entitlement to a slice of the pie, proportional allocation means they have a share of the whole pie. Our pie.

With our sector being so under-resourced, this shift to making us minor quota holders in a commercially-driven system spells the end to recreational fishing as we know it.

We say that with confidence because the only way that we can fish to a fixed quota is to be licensed and have mandatory reporting of your daily catch. This will cost money and will need to be managed, so over time the licence fees will rise.

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS?

There has been growing evidence of proportional creep in proposals from officials, Ministerial decisions and various fisheries plans. However, because the evidence has been so scattered it has been hard to nail down the broader implications of individual decisions.

The landscape has changed and we need to mobilise against this creeping theft of public interests.

If we don't, we will continue to suffer the consequences of reduced daily bag limits and areas closed to recreational fishing while Māori customary and commercial continue unabated. This is not the future we want for our kids.

A recent example of creeping change is the Minister's decision in August 2023 to set the TAC for the first time in [Pāua 2](#), an important fishery for commercial and non-commercial interests around the central and lower North Island.

In order to protect the commercial allocation from reduction, the Minister only set aside an allowance for recreational interests that was about 60 percent of estimated catch. And then, Rachel Brooking cut the daily bag limit in half, from 10 to 5 per person. Meanwhile the [TACC remained at 121 tonnes per annum](#).

In February we advocated that Minister Shane Jones needed to [reduce the TACC](#) for Gisborne crayfish by 40 percent, to help the stock rebuild. In March he chose to [reduce the TACC by only 20 percent](#) then cut the recreational daily bag limit in half.

In the South Island it doesn't get any better. [Blue cod fishing](#) by recreational fishers remains tightly constrained with bag limits ranging from 15 to two in some areas. Meanwhile, bottom trawling continues unabated despite the ongoing issues of misreporting, fish dumping and discards.

Kaikōura pāua fishers have suffered biased management for years. While the pāua fishery was closed due to the 2016 earthquakes the recreational allowance and the daily bag limit were reduced. Now recreational fishers are constrained to a [2-month season](#) with a daily bag limit of three per person, while Māori customary and commercial fishing continues year-round.

The most ominous change is the Minister's recent approval (August 2024) of the industry's [Pāua 2 fish plan](#). In condoning the plan Jones has [endorsed their wishlist](#) of more accurate and timely information on recreational harvest and more constraints on our activity.

Most importantly, the Minister has agreed to retain the current proportionality in the fishery. That is 63% to commercial interests and 25% for recreational interests. To meet this 25% proportion, the bag limit was halved from 10 to 5 per person.

This decision is contrary to earlier Court rulings that proportional allocation is not mandatory and recreational fishing interests are not part of the QMS.

We have no interest or legal ties to the dysfunctional QMS regime that purports to manage the commercial fishery and permits overfishing, destructive bulk harvesting fishing methods, and the decimation of our inshore waters. Recreational fishing is not managed by quota.

THE THIN BLUE LINE

In many of the meetings attended over the past year we are the only ones advocating for more precautionary management so low impact fishing can continue.

Our current reality is we are facing a future of ongoing excessive TACCs that fail to constrain commercial fishing coupled with increasing numbers of areas closed to recreational fishing. And in the areas that are open to us, our bag limits are being slashed. Not an attractive prospect.

There is strength in numbers and we are grateful to be working with the NZ Angling & Casting and NZ Underwater Associations to get our submissions over the line. We are fortunate also that <https://legasea.co.nz/> has successfully aligned with so many organisations so we can get our message out to a much wider audience. Together

we achieve much more than the sum of our parts, so kia kaha to everyone who has contributed over the past 12 months. Stay with us, because there are challenging times ahead.

MINISTER OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

In late 2023 Shane Jones was appointed as Minister for Oceans and Fisheries. As a self confessed “apostle of industry” keen on growing exports we know we have an uphill battle to continue in our quest to restore abundance and a fair go for all Kiwis. As a proactive move we sent the Minister a [briefing paper](#) and later met with the Minister in April. We maintain [Rescue Fish](#) is a solution to restoring biodiversity and abundance while ensuring all New Zealanders benefit from the conservation and use of our natural marine resources.

MARLIN FISHING

Between January and February 2024, record numbers of striped marlin were caught by club members fishing the east coast and as far south as Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa. Most of these fish were less than 90 kilos, and tagged and released. We’re hoping the beautiful stripies will return next year and stay longer. Noticeably, there were fewer blue marlin this year, and the marlin season tailed off earlier than usual.

TAGGED BILLFISH RECAPTURES

Four tagged striped marlin have been recaptured this season. The first marlin was tagged off Cape Kidnappers, Hawke’s Bay, in January 2024. This was later recaptured and tagged 33 days later off Whangaroa, 425 miles away.

Another marlin tagged in February off Tirua Point, south Waikato, was recaptured and tagged two days later further north, at Muriwai.

Two marlin were tagged off Cape Brett, with one recaptured 81 days later near Great Barrier Island and the other recaptured two months later near Cape Karikari, east Northland.

A broadbill swordfish was tagged east of Tairua, Coromandel, on 14 March 2024. It was recaptured 94 days later at the Barrier Banks, 106 nautical miles northeast of Tairua.

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

This year the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna noted that bluefin tuna stocks are continuing to improve from previously low levels. They agreed to increase the global quota by 3000 tonnes.

Consequently, New Zealand’s national allocation increased by 186 tonnes.

Following public consultation and submissions in February 2024, the allowance set aside to provide for recreational fishing was doubled to 69 tonnes, in line with the 2023 recreational harvest estimate.

New Zealand tuna longline operators are seeing low bluefin tuna prices on the Japanese market and companies are now looking for alternative markets.

SATELLITE TAGGING

There were four new pop-off satellite tags purchased by the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club and the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation for the 2024 marlin season, with support from the IGFA Great Marlin Race programme and Stanford University. Unfortunately, none of these were on boats when marlin were caught. These tags will be available to be used in 2025.

120

science and advisory working group processes attended and engaged in

600

hours spent engaging and participating in processes

25

submissions

\$300,000

invested in advocacy and research

Committee Report

POP-UP TAGS

There were six pop-up satellite tags deployed in 2023 between 19 February and 1 March 2023. Four tags produced good tracks as shown in the plot. Three of these fish left New Zealand waters in April.

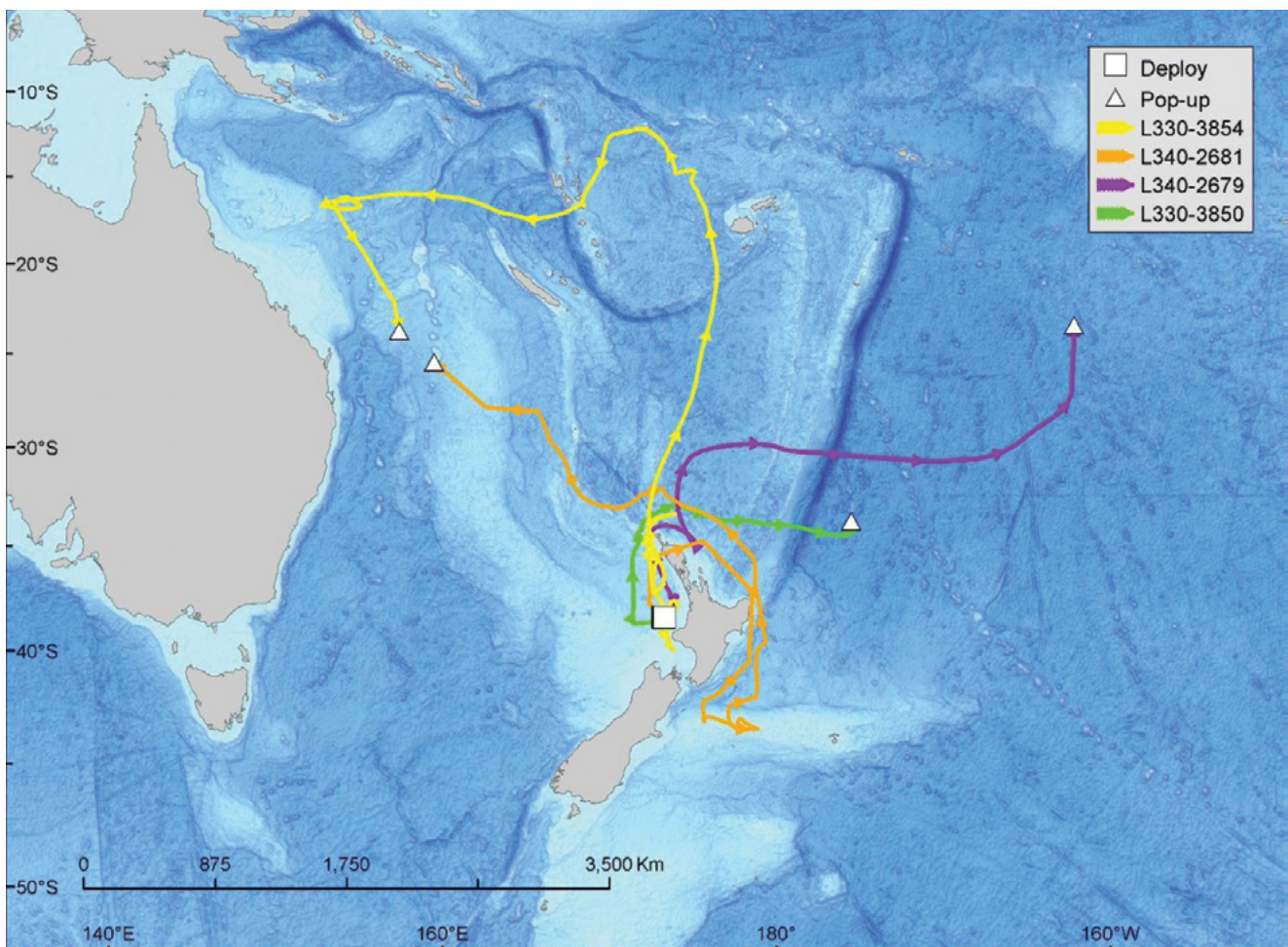
The green tag detached early, on 29 April. The purple tag reported on 16 May, travelling a straight line distance of 1545 nautical miles (nm) in 85 days. The orange fish spent time on the Chatham Rise in March before heading to the Coral Sea, it also reported on 16 March. It travelled a straight line distance of 1,046 nm in 84 days.

It was a nervous wait to see if the two remaining tags programmed to release would report after 8 months on their fish. One tag did not report. The track in yellow below was unique in a number of ways.

The yellow fish stayed off Taranaki in February and March, much longer than ever seen for a New Zealand marlin

track. It then headed north in April, looking like it would head east about the same time as the green and purple fish – but it turned around about 100 nm northeast of North Cape and went back down the North Island west coast for much of May. It then headed north and reached 25°C waters in early June, continuing north to about latitude 12°S before heading south, through Vanuatu in mid-August, and west into the Coral Sea. This fish had an estimated track length of 4,748 nm in 240 days and recorded a maximum depth of 333 metres.

The four successful deployments from the 2023 New Zealand IGFA Great Marlin Race programme accumulated 4,397 nm of straight line distance over 468 deployment days on striped marlin. The four fish tagged within two weeks in the North Taranaki Bight showed independent movement after being tagged but left New Zealand heading for separate spring spawning grounds, one in the Coral Sea off Queensland, the other in French Polynesia.



Resource Management Act

1 JULY 2023 - 30 JUNE 2024

Since the 2020 Environment Court decision that Regional Councils have a responsibility to protect indigenous biodiversity in the Territorial Sea, more of our resources have been dedicated to Resource Management Act (RMA) related initiatives. That's because this affects access to fishing in some areas within 12 nautical miles from the coast, areas popular and important to clubs' members and supporters.

The crossover between the RMA and Fisheries Act jurisdictions has become seriously blurred and the NZSFC continues to strongly advocate that fishing controls ought to remain under the Fisheries Act on the proviso that the Fisheries Act is applied in a proper and equitable manner, providing for the balanced restoration of fish stocks

Navigating these issues involves significant time and effort so we are grateful to have expert guidance from our legal team of Rowan Ashton and Stuart Ryan, barrister.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL COASTAL PLAN

In November 2023 the NZSFC submitted a response to the Waikato Regional Council [draft Coastal Plan](#) that described how the WRC would manage the east and west coasts within their territory. We agreed with the WRC that any new measures must avoid having an adverse effect on recreational fishing values.

In April 2024 the NZSFC submitted a supplementary submission reiterating the need to maintain public access to the coast and fish stocks. We have asked for a hearing with the WRC, likely to occur in late 2024.

2700

submissions on the draft coastal plan sent to the Waikato Regional Council



Scan here to read a digital copy of this report complete with hyperlinks to in-depth information

Opposite: Four striped marlin tracks from pop-off satellite tags deployed in 2023 by members of the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club.

FORESHORE ACCESS

In response to club members' concerns, the NZSFC wrote to Crown Law seeking clarification about the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. Concern is growing about the number of applications for Customary Marine Title, and whether successful wāhi tapu applications will restrict access to the coast for recreational fishing. The definition of wāhi tapu is currently being considered by the Court, on a case-by-case basis.

The Office for Māori Crown Relations has responded to our query about recreational fishing access under an amended section 58 of the Area Act.

"Amending section 58 of the Act is a priority for the government and work is underway to progress this coalition commitment. I would like to reiterate that the Act is explicit that recreational fishing activities and rights are recognised and protected".

NEW GOVERNMENT BILLS

In April our team submitted against the [Fast Track Approvals Bill](#) as it seeks to circumvent environmental protections which are in place for good reasons. The ethic of stewardship must remain at the heart of any fast track legislation, to ensure that we are protecting the environment for future generations.

In June, Ian Steele and Rowan Ashton attended the Bill hearings on behalf of the NZSFC. They made it clear that putting excessive power in the hands of development-focused Ministers is not in the best interests of the public.

Minister Shane Jones proposed a separate Bill seeking to extend existing marine farm permits for another 20 years. In June, Rowan Ashton (NZSFC) and NZUA representative Allan Davidson attended a hearing with the Primary Production Select Committee to discuss our submission opposing the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill.

SEABED MINING

The NZSFC has a history of advocating against seabed mining specifically around South Taranaki. After an inquiry was launched into seabed mining in New Zealand's waters, we took the opportunity last year to make a [submission](#) opposing seabed mining in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone due to the hefty risks to the marine environment. Last July President Ian Steele attended the Environment Select Committee seabed mining inquiry hearing for the NZSFC.

Resource Management Act

INSHORE DILEMMA

For years the NZSFC has held firm that the management of fishing activity must remain under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries Act 1996. However, given the laissez faire approach to management by fisheries officials, it's time for a rethink.

The delinquent management of inshore fish stocks under the Fisheries Act has impacted local communities hard. Localised depletion is evident along many parts of New Zealand's coastline. Despite this, we are continually assured by officials that the fish population, the overall stock size at least, is at a "sustainable" level.

Coastal communities have lost faith, as evidenced by the number and frequency of applications to apply Māori customary management tools to protect local fish or shellfish populations from ongoing depletion. The QMS and Fisheries Act are not delivering on the promised objectives of abundance and marine biodiversity. And

often the mere spectre of using a Māori customary tool to manage local fish populations generates fear and strong reactions.

Depletion happens locally long before it is recognised across a large management area. Moreover, decision-makers lack the agility to act quickly to make regulations to defend small areas suffering from increasing depletion, instead preferring lightly regulated huge management areas.

This perfect storm encourages, in fact, the delinquency of Fisheries New Zealand leaves the door wide open for action to be taken under the RMA. Not our preferred battleground but intervention is needed in many cases that are currently ignored by Fisheries New Zealand.

Until we reach agreement that the QMS in its current form is unsuitable for the inshore ecosystems it purports to manage, and our people, we are just putting band aids on a fatal wound.



Income and Expenditure



NZSFC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

	30/6/2021	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	30/6/2024	Notes
SOURCE OF FUNDS					
NZSFC affiliated club member levies	95,000	95,000	120,000	120,000	
LegaSea Legends, public, and unaffiliated clubs donations	141,391	132,354	135,636	108,085	
Grant income – Engagement & Participation	0	0	50,000	94,500	1
Grant income – Rescue Fish	0	0			
Sundry Fisheries Management income	9,130	3,275	9,703	2,400	
Total Fisheries Management Income	245,521	230,629	315,339	324,985	
EXPENDITURE					
Engagement and participation in fisheries management and marine protection processes					
Snapper	12,019	8,630	5,328	20,264	
Crayfish	1,911	17,829	49,077	42,759	2
Pelagics	4,520	1,247	4,328	4,415	
Other fisheries	33,625	31,811	22,197	13,682	
FNZ processes and political engagement	31,452	35,737	93,635	97,972	3
Marine Protection and RMA process	64,109	65,135	13,031	17,432	
Regional issues/support	23,594	3,236	68,206	13,066	
Planning, projects and team development					
Rescue Fish investment	62,148	0	5,035	8,570	
Standing Committee administration/training	10,860	8,862	27,054	44,598	4
Policy Development	8,965	1,743	5,763	3,125	
Grant seeking	0	105	3,510	1,954	
Reporting and public awareness	19,856	18,189	21,322	32,695	
Total expenditure	273,059	192,524	318,486	300,532	
Surplus/deficit	(27,538)	38,105	(3,147)	24,453	

NOTES

1. The Council appreciates the many donors to the Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust who make these invaluable grants possible.
2. We are fully engaged in the National Rock Lobster Management Group, the Rock Lobster Working Groups as well as multiple regional conversations. Our succession planning for this engagement is well developed this year.
3. Often the only seat at the table. Our engagement and participation in Ministry-led processes is essential. In the majority of these stakeholder meetings we are often alone in advocating for both restored abundance as well as the interests of the non commercial fishing public of New Zealand. However, it is more than just advocating – our presence in itself has the power to hold other sectors accountable. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) Fisheries Management Standing Committee (FMSC) members

- and contractors who take part in these processes are made safe by adhering to the Council's invaluable package of Fisheries Management and Marine Protection Policies which are only adopted after exhaustive, constitutionally driven process that distinguishes our Council.
4. We have made a considerable investment in succession planning this year. Finding good people, training, coaching and quite a bit of replication in our engagement and participation. Please note that almost all of the monies accounted for in this Income and Expenditure account have been invested in our team of contractors. Not accounted for is the 'in kind' contribution from our nine Standing Committee members all of whom are volunteers. They each have, on average, more than 15 years' experience in this arena and contribute more than 2000 hours per annum.

LegaSea Report

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Sam Woolford,
LegaSea project lead

Since our inception in 2012, LegaSea's mission has been to elevate the public's understanding of issues impacting our coastal fisheries. From attending events to collaborating on comprehensive submissions, we are constantly promoting the need for increased abundance and a fair go for all Kiwis.

Through it all it has become blatantly obvious that all roads lead back to a broken Quota Management System (QMS). And as long as the QMS is in place, LegaSea won't back down. That's because we're inspired by the support from our Governance committee, contractors, Partners and the [New Zealand Sport Fishing Council](#) (NZSFC).

GOVERNANCE

The LegaSea Governance Advisory Standing Committee includes both LegaSea Directors Mark Connor and Peter Campbell, and Dirk Sieling, Ian Steele, Richard Baker, Scott Macindoe and Wayne Bicknell. Thank you all for your ongoing guidance.

PEOPLE

Our crew work hard to keep the wheels turning. The team is growing and we appreciate everyone who has generously shared their expertise over the past year. This includes Dave Ahoia, Louise O'Sullivan, Trish Rea, Jess Beetham, Sydney Curtis, Benn Winlove, Katie Goodwin, Dallas Abel, Matt Welch, Josh Inger, Chris Scott, and the Hotene whānau from Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae who make The Kai Ika Project possible.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

This past year we have invested over \$319,000 into campaigns to generate public awareness.

- Co-ordinating the [Hauraki Gulf Alliance](#) has enabled us to promote an alternative management strategy for the Gulf. Option Zero is no bottom trawling, dredging or Danish seining in 100% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

More than 6,300 concerned New Zealanders used our online form to respond to Fisheries NZ's proposed trawl 'corridors'.

- The May Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show is one of the year's highlights. It's where we interact with supporters and educate the public about issues affecting inshore fisheries. Barkers work alongside us to sell LegaSea merchandise. At the Kai Ika stand we give people a tasty morsel of smoked fish heads and frames. We appreciate the generous team at [XPO Exhibitions](#) for donating a large stand and hosting a live auction with six items generously donated from our LegaSea Partners. Together we raised more than \$8,400.
- In March we attended the Auckland on Water Boat Show thanks to our Gold partner [NZ Marine Industry](#). Our new Platinum partners, [Auckland City Toyota](#), joined us in hosting a sausage sizzle. All the proceeds were put towards our mahi.

FINANCES

We have a [long-standing policy](#) that 100% of public and unaffiliated club donations to LegaSea are distributed to the NZSFC. These distributions are tagged specifically for investment in the Advocacy, Research, Education and Alignment work streams. As many Kiwis are feeling the squeeze on their finances, people are reluctantly withdrawing from their [LegaSea Legend](#) recurring payments. However, our subscriber database, social media followers and engagement is increasing, so we remain positive.

GRANT SEEKING

This year we secured more than \$216,000 thanks to our grant seeking legend Jessica Beetham. The increasing demand for fresh kai moana across Auckland and Wellington is stretching our resources, so this boost of funding is appreciated.

[The Kai Ika Project Wellington](#) was one of only two projects awarded \$25,000 from the Wellington Council Waste Minimisation Organics Diversion Fund. A pleasing outcome given it was our first application for this grant. The funds will support Chris Jupp and his team's efforts.

We also received the Woolworths '[Food for Good Fund](#)' worth \$20,000, recognising our newly established kai moana distribution relationship with Hilton Foods – supplier to Woolworths.

PLATINUM & GOLD PARTNERS

The support from our Partners is fundamental to our success. Their generosity never ceases to amaze us. In the past year 14 new Platinum and Gold partners have come onboard to support LegaSea's efforts, including:

- New Platinum Partner [ITM Dysart](#), and Gold Partner [NZ Certified Builders](#), hosted their annual Golf Days and raised a combined \$50,000.
- Whitehaven Wines, a LegaSea Platinum Partner since 2016, ran another successful [Kōparepare wine](#) campaign. 100% of purchases made during one week were donated to LegaSea. They raised \$22,000.
- With our new Gold Partner sustainable seafood restaurant [kingi](#), and friends at [Critical Design](#), we collaborated to recycle old trawl nets into [chopping boards](#). The *kingi* board has been in [hot demand](#), selling out multiple times. All profits were donated to LegaSea.

VOLUNTEER EFFORT

Every year more people voluntarily dedicate their time to LegaSea, to help restore our marine environment. The commitment of these volunteers is priceless. In the past year volunteers have invested more than 250 hours in various initiatives, including the annual Waiheke Marine Project Kōura survey, the Westhaven Kai Ika station, attending events, boat shows and the Whitianga Oceans Festival.

CAMPAIGNS

LegaSea remains committed to raising public awareness of issues that matter to the long-term health of our marine environment. Some days it seems like there are too many challenges and so little time, so it's important we celebrate the good news when it comes.

We take great heart from the November 2022 ruling of the High Court in regards to the future management of CRA 1, the crayfish stock around the top half of the North Island. The Court ultimately ruled that the previous Minister's decision for CRA 1 was unlawful. The Court directed the Minister to do [another review](#), which he did in January 2023.

In his judgment Justice Churchman turns the spotlight directly on the Minister's statutory duty, when making decisions, to **"ensure sustainability"**. Yes!

The pivotal judgment contains other worthwhile nuggets of wisdom and common sense in terms of how we ought to be managing all fish species while taking into account the environment in which they live.

It all starts when the Minister sets the Total Allowable Catch, the TAC, for a specific fish stock. The Court identified that the TAC is the Minister's primary tool for ensuring sustainability, describing the process as -

"When setting or varying [the] TAC the Minister must take into account any effects of fishing on any stock and the aquatic environment. 'Effect' means the direct or indirect effect of fishing, including any positive, adverse, temporary, permanent, past, present, future, and/or cumulative effect."

This is powerful stuff which we repeated as often as possible in our most recent submissions to Fisheries New Zealand. It's not just about crayfish, snapper or kingfish, it's about the impact that all fishing is having on the other lifeforms that swim or live alongside the target species.

We are grateful to the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) for having the courage to take the judicial review that led to this groundbreaking outcome.

No more excuses. We've been told loud and clear - a holistic approach is required when managing our fish stocks.

The High Court has given us all the confirmation required to continue our campaigns for more fish in the water and a fair go for us all.

"The ecosystem approach requires decision-makers to incorporate wider ecosystem effects into fisheries management, instead of considering sustainability with a single-species focus."

Justice Churchman, High Court. 2022.

\$319,000

invested towards campaigns

\$216,000

in grants received to support our work

'HE IKA HE TAONGA' – THE GIFT OF FISH

The Kai Ika Project is a collaboration between LegaSea, the Outboard Boating Club of Auckland (OBC), and Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae. Our shared mission is to educate fishers to improve their practices and reduce their impact on the marine environment, by using more of their catch.

To generate revenue, the [Kai Ika](#) crew offer a [fish filleting service](#) at [Auckland's Z Pier](#) and the [OBC](#). The unwanted fish parts, heads and frames, are then taken to [Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae](#) for distribution to needy families around Auckland.

The team who have put in the hard mahi over the past year include the Marae team Lionel Hotene, Valerie Teraitua and their whānau, filleter Dave Ahoia, contractors Chris Jupp, Josh Inger and Matt Welch, and all of our dedicated volunteers.

THE KAI IKA PROJECT – OUTREACH

The cost of living crisis has hit whānau hard over the past year. Across Auckland and Wellington we distributed more than 96,000 kilos of nutrient-rich fish parts and 7,300 kilos of bread offcuts to appreciative families.

Thanks to [XPO events](#), The Kai Ika Project had a dedicated stand at the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show in May. We gave away samples of smoked roe, wings and other fish parts. They were a hit.

Another highlight of the year was [Auckland City Toyota](#) donating a Hilux hybrid double-cab ute to Kai Ika. Their amazing generosity means we can continue to share kai moana with communities.



Koha Cafe's finest, Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae. From left to right: Kopu, Keisha, Shaiann, Maria, Sally, Metiana, Val, Ramadani, Leahana, Leonard, Betty, Puna

To help us reduce waste and single use plastic, [Sistema Plastics](#) donated thousands of reusable containers. These are used to return filleted fish to customers, keeping us bag-free and generating revenue through their sale.

We had another successful summer taking our [mobile filleting trailer](#) to various fishing competitions and NZSFC-affiliated club events across the North Island. Interest in this service is strong. We continue to explore how we might expand our revenue stream while supporting fishers to share their unwanted heads and frames.

WELLINGTON

[The Wellington Kai Ika Project](#) continues to expand under the guidance of Chris Jupp and a growing team of people, community groups and businesses backing the project. Local grant providers have already committed \$32,000.

Weekly distributions have extended to the outer suburbs of Wellington, including Porirua. There's also a network of people who re-distribute fish parts to their own communities – targeting households they know are doing it tough.

After learning that Chris Jupp was using his personal van for fish collections we successfully [crowdfunded](#) a refrigerated van for fish collections and distributions.

Since then, [Rutherford and Bond Toyota Wellington](#) have committed a brand new ute and chiller box as well as full signwriting for both. [Silk Events and Design](#) have provided LegaSea Gold partnership-level in-kind support through signwriting of the Wellington and Auckland vans, collateral printing and filleting signage.

The Kai Ika Project epitomises the philosophy – “many hands make light work”. We couldn't do this without all the support from the community. We've been carried here on the shoulders of giants. Team work. Ka pai.

430,000kgs

of fish parts distributed since 2016

Cans for Kai



KĒNE MŌ TE KAI

Since September 2016 [The Kai Ika Project](#) has repurposed 430,000 kilos of unwanted fish heads and frames and shared them with Auckland families and community groups.

Often, demand exceeds supply. This is due to funding issues.

[Cans for Kai](#) is a new partnership with the [Phoenix Recycling Group](#), together we generate revenue by collecting and recycling aluminium cans. Our goal for 2025 is to collect over 1,000 kilos of cans weekly to fund the Kai Ika Project.

So far, we have recycled over 2,500 kg of cans through partners such as Westhaven Marina, the Outboard Boating Club, and Ports of Auckland. This collection is expected to grow over the next year as we develop more relationships.

Can collection points are strategically placed. We have activated our community hubs at [Farro Fresh](#) stores, along with larger collections through [Urbanaut](#), [Big Fan](#) and the [Auckland Bowling Club](#).

Cans for Kai offers the community a convenient opportunity to reduce their environmental impact while helping The Kai Ika project provide nutritious meals to appreciative families.



Cans for Kai cages in the community.

Fish Care



[FishCare](#) – The school of best practice – works on the premise that small improvements, when adopted widely, can significantly enhance the health of our inshore fisheries. With almost 600,000 Kiwis fishing annually, FishCare promotes best practice techniques based on five key principles.

FISHCARE PRINCIPLES:

1. Reduce Wastage
2. Maximise Survival
3. Maximise Utilisation
4. Reduce your Impact
5. Personal Safety and Wellbeing

FISHCARE KAUPAPA

FishCare's kaupapa is to instil a sense of stewardship among fishers, encouraging fishing practices that reduce our impact on the marine environment, In the interests of future generations.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

- Certified Products: FishCare Certified Products established, ensuring high standards in fishing gear.
- Charter Boat Code of Conduct: Introduced with 28 charter operators committed to sustainable fishing and teaching their clients the school of best practice.
- Awareness: Social media updates have generated significant engagement, spreading the best practice message to over 300,000 people.

2025 TARGETS:

- Develop more best practice guides for more species including billfish.
- Promote tag and release techniques.
- Collaborate with Coastguard, Hutchwilco and Surf Lifesaving to enhance water safety among niche fishing audiences.
- Highlight the mental wellness benefits of fishing and being on the water.
- Rebuild the website to better serve our community.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay

INTRODUCTION

LegaSea Hawkes Bay (LHB) is a volunteer group established in 2015 to address declining fisheries in the Bay. Our team includes Wayne Bicknell, Jim Yeoman, Brian Firman, Alex Smith, David Cheetham, David Bicknell, David Scott, Carl Fairey, Brett Rigby and Peter Draper. Our Chairman is John Stewart.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay enjoys the support of LegaSea NZ and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

LHB continues to build strong relationships with mana whenua and local organisations that have an interest in the marine environment. We have established ourselves as the go-to organisation when it comes to matters affecting our fishery. We are represented on several working parties including Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Hawkes Bay Marine and Coast Group and Napier Port's Fisheries Liaison Group.

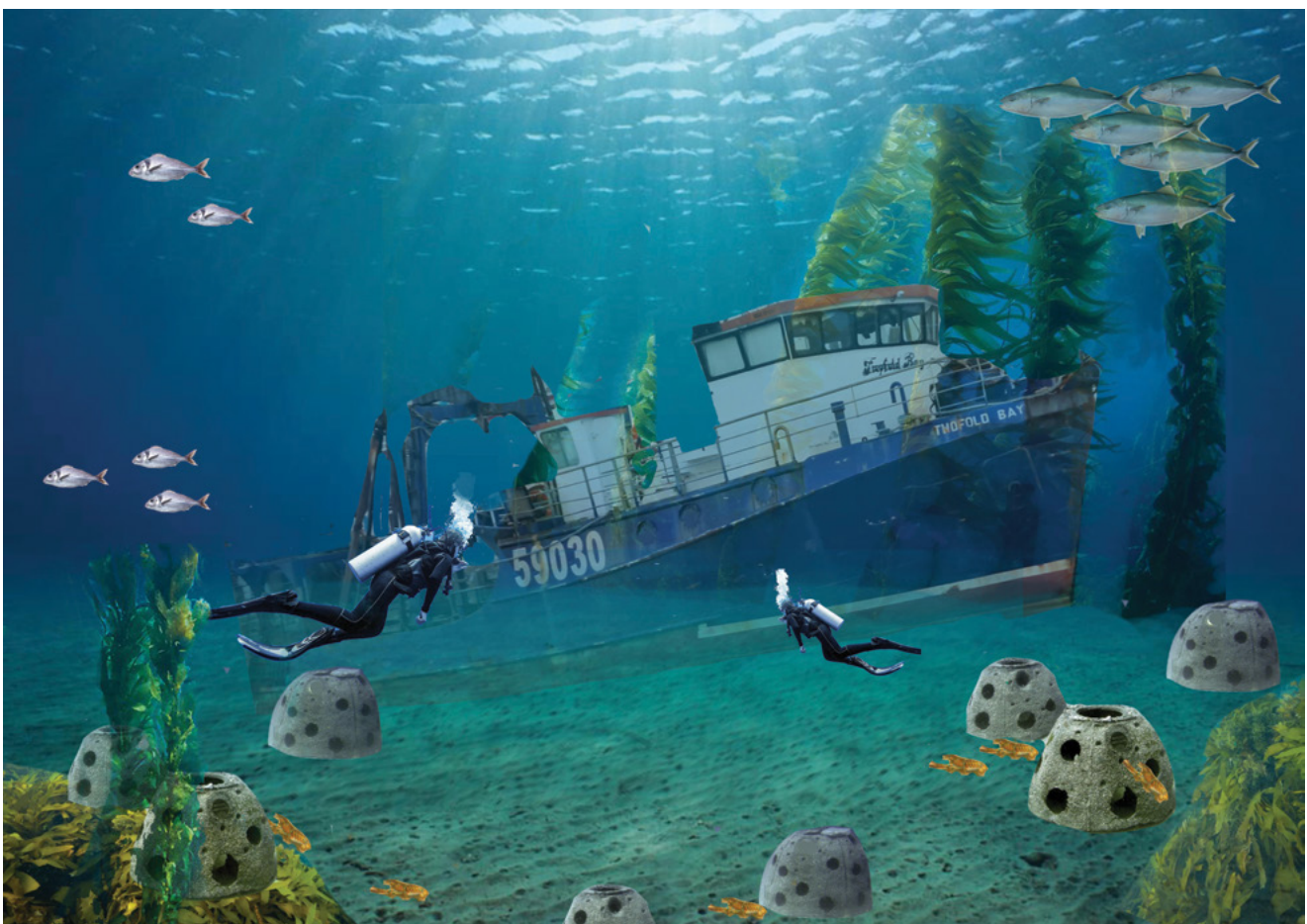
TWOFOLD BAY ARTIFICIAL REEF

The LHB team's focus this year has been the very exciting Twofold Bay project.

The Rodney Green Foundation has generously offered the redundant fishing trawler, Twofold Bay, to create a dive wreck. Over time we expect the wreck to enhance fishery habitats, and create a locally available and accessible recreational fishing area for boat fishing and diving. There could be other potential benefits for local tourism and cultural businesses.

The selected location is at a depth of 22 metres off Flat Rock, 17 km northeast of Napier's inner harbour. Plans are to deploy up to 50 concrete cones in a manner to protect the trawler from extreme weather events, and to create a more suitable habitat.

Following extensive research and consultation with mana whenua, Government agencies and other stakeholders, a Resource Consent application has been submitted to



the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. We are encouraged by the support and are grateful to the many individuals and organisations that have generously contributed their time, resources and expertise for the project.

A Charitable Trust is being formed specifically to champion the project. It is anticipated it will take 6-9 months to prepare the trawler to be safe and suitable to sink from the time the Resource Consent is approved.

The project is budgeted to cost \$200,000 and a fundraising campaign is proposed.

ARTIFICIAL REEF

The new artificial reef 1.4 km east of Pania Reef continues to flourish. Constructed in 2021 and 2022, the reef contains 24,000 tonnes of limestone boulders from a revetment wall at Napier Port that was removed to make way for the new 6 Wharf, Te Whiti.

The Te Kohanga programme, a joint mana whenua, LegaSea Hawkes Bay and Napier Port project, which is aimed at monitoring and enhancing the reef has had another milestone. In November 2023 two ti kouka spat ropes woven from cabbage tree leaves were suspended over the reef in order to attract kuku (green-lipped mussels) and other marine life. These spat ropes were woven at a series of workshops at Waiohiki Marae and involved mana whenua and members of the LegaSea Hawkes Bay team. Already the ropes are showing significant growth. A further two spat lines are proposed.

The reef is currently under a 2-year rāhui until June 2025. Discussions are underway with mana whenua to progress

Mataitai reserve status for the reef and to develop bylaws and formally give it a name. Unfavourable sea conditions following Cyclone Gabrielle has meant that regular dive surveys have not been possible for some time.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE

Gabrielle certainly left her mark on the whole of the East Coast. Despite the massive amount of silt, logs and other debris that was transported into Hawke Bay by the five major river systems, it has had little impact on the number of fish being caught. In fact, boat and onshore fishers have reported that fishing has been good lately. We anticipate the Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club's Colin Murray Ramp Survey graphs for the 2023/24 season to reflect any changes in catch rates for both snapper and gurnard when compared to previous years.

Notwithstanding the good results this season, questions remain as to the long term impacts of the cyclone on future fish stocks and spawning grounds.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

LegaSea Hawkes Bay thanks all our supporters for sharing the vision for a diverse marine environment and more fish in the water. Every contribution is appreciated and provides real encouragement for the team to achieve these lofty goals for the benefit of current and future generations. We look forward to your support when we launch our fundraising programme for the very exciting Twofold Bay project.



Top Row, left to right. Alex Smith, Peter Draper, Brian Firman, David Cheetham. Middle row, left to right. Jim Yeoman, Wayne Bicknell, Brett Rigby, David Scott, John Stewart, David Bicknell. Front Row, left to right. Paul Ratapu, Carl Fairey. Image: Lynda Forrest

Income and Expenditure



LEGASEA

	30/6/2021	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	30/6/2024	Notes
INCOME					
Donations from Legends, public & unaffiliated clubs	159213	135225	137848	110929	
Partner sponsorship programme	214154	240617	462511	450219	
Grants received	698314	668377	452286	216157	1
Merchandise income	15233	16205	19670	-4139	2
Other income	76728	8333	3072	1449	
Total income	1163642	1068757	1075387	774615	
EXPENDITURE					
Donations to NZSFC and LegaSea Hawkes Bay	159213	135225	137848	110929	
Public outreach	171884	226994	258953	287659	
Fundraising	68446	83326	170978	109163	
Governance, Strategy and planning	82317	99548	94021	94490	
Administration	104608	100930	121250	110418	
Campaigns	474917	353333	319039	384175	3
Total Expenditure	1061385	999356	1102089	1096834	
Surplus/Deficit	102257	69401	-26702	-322219	4

NOTES

1. This year Scott Macindoe has reduced his donations to the Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust, thus our Income from Grants is well down.
2. We have invested heavily in the kingy chopping board. This will result in a solid surplus next year.
3. Campaigns – FishCare, Kai Ika, Scallops, Hauraki Gulf Alliance, Cans for Kai, Industry Transformation Plan, Artificial reefs, mushy fleshed fish, Waikato Regional plan.
4. Scott Macindoe has loaned more money (\$295,000) to LegaSea Ltd, unsecured and interest free. This is how we have funded the deficit for the year.

Committee Profiles

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE



ALLAN DAVIDSON

Allan is a New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA) board member, a director and chair of Dive Pacific magazine, a keen diver, and past President of the Mana Aquatic Dive Club Inc, and former Mana Cruising Club Commodore. He has served as NZUA's representative on the National Rock Lobster Management Group and been co-opted onto the NZSFC Fisheries Management Standing Committee. Allan provides a useful interface with Wellington and Marlborough Sounds marine stakeholders.



MARK CONNOR

Mark is the South Island's representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board, and a Co-chair of the Fisheries Management Standing Committee. Mark is a long standing member of the [Ashley Sport Fishing Club](#) in north Canterbury, and is actively engaged in local and regional fisheries management processes. Mark was the President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council between 2012 and 2015, and was Vice President for two years. He has been a director of LegaSea since 2012. More recently Mark has represented the NZSFC in working groups discussing the future management of snapper around the South Island.



PETER CAMPBELL

Peter is based in Tauranga and has been a Zone delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board since 2000. He has been Vice President of the Board twice, from 2001 to 2009, and 2012 until 2021. Peter represents LegaSea on the NZSFC Board. He is an active contributor to all aspects of fisheries and resource management, and marine protection activity, he is also a LegaSea director. His distinctive leadership style ensures efficient development of policy documents and delivery of regular updates for members and supporters.



RICHARD BAKER

Richard has worked in a voluntary capacity for recreational fishing interests for decades. He was a foundation member of the New Zealand Land Based Game Fishing Club, and the Club's delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. Richard has been involved with the NZSFC for over 30 years. Richard served as Vice President of the Council for seven years. He was Council President from 2008 to 2011, and was the Council's youngest ever life member. Richard is the Council's spokesperson on fisheries management and public education issues. He also serves as a spokesperson for LegaSea.



SCOTT MACINDOE

Scott has been an active contributor to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in a management and public awareness capacity for many years. He has been co-opted to provide strategic advice to the Fisheries Management Standing Committee and LegaSea teams. Scott's ability to share his vision and entrepreneurial skills are appreciated by the Council. His networking ability is legendary. Scott's ongoing commitment to ensuring there are sufficient funds available to resource the advocacy is vital.

Committee Profiles



WAYNE BICKNELL

Wayne is a life member of the [Hawke's Bay Sport Fishing Club](#) and is a New Zealand representative to the International Game Fish Association. He is also a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board member as a representative for Zone 5. Wayne has recently stepped aside from this role to enable a younger person to take his place and advocate for local interests with his guidance. Wayne has years of experience in local and national issues. He is also a founding member and spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay.



IAN STEELE

Ian joined the [New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club](#) in the early 2000's and from there has worked his way from helping around the club, to NPSUC President. Ian has been the Club delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council since 2015. He has been President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council since 2022. Ian has a strong interest in sport fishing, including light tackle and also furthering the capability and coverage of sportfishing in New Zealand.



JIM YEOMAN

Jim is the Advocacy Officer and Immediate Past President of the [New Zealand Angling & Casting Association \(NZACA\)](#). He is also a spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay. Jim has been co-opted onto the Fisheries Management Standing Committee to represent the NZACA's members' interests. His generous and authentic contribution to the Committee and the discussions over the past nine years is much appreciated.



WARREN MAHER

Warren is the President of the [Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club](#) and Vice President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. He is the Club delegate to the Council and is also the Zone 3 representative to the Executive Board. He successfully coordinated the citizen science survey of Opito Bay scallops in 2020 when Ngāti Hei laid a rāhui to protect the fishery. This effort led to a Ministerial decision to close the entire Coromandel scallop fishery in March 2023 due to widespread depletion. Warren believes the NZSFC and LegaSea are doing vital work in protecting the public's interests in having a vibrant marine environment and reasonable access to fishing opportunities.



VANCE FULTON

Vance first became a NZSFC Zone delegate for the [Mount Maunganui Sport Fishing Club](#) in 2004. He was the Vice President for a number of years. He has been the NZSFC Board representative for the Zone 4 (Central Bay of Plenty) clubs since 2019. Vance has a strong interest in the New Zealand Game Fishing Tagging Programme. Vance's background in science and his analytical skills makes him an asset on the Fisheries Management Standing Committee.

Contractor Profiles

SERVICE PROVIDERS



JOHN HOLDSWORTH (BSC)

John is a director of [Blue Water Marine Research](#), established in 1997 to conduct research, recreational fishers surveys, and tagging projects. With over 20 years experience in fisheries research and management, combined with his love for fishing, John provides a powerful scientific and topwater perspective. John is the ideal representative for our club members' interests in the science, policy and working group processes run by Fisheries New Zealand.



BARRY TORKINGTON

Barry Torkington has worked in the commercial fishing and aquaculture industry since the 1970s, as a fisherman, in marketing, and product innovation. He was a director of Leigh Fisheries for 10 years. Barry's particular interests over 40 years has been in policy development, the impacts of industrial fishing inshore, and innovative replacement technologies. Also productivity, in terms of yield per recruit and benthic protection. Barry has been a policy advisor to the NZ Sport Fishing Council since 2005.



TRISH REA

Trish has over 20 years experience in fisheries management and advocacy, driven by a passion to ensure everyone now, and in the future, can enjoy fishing and gathering kaimoana. A skilled communicator and coordinator, Trish has developed a variety of valuable skills that allows her to effortlessly pivot between working with organisations and communities, and working on policy and fisheries management issues on behalf of the Council.



STUART RYAN

Stuart is a barrister with specialist practice in public law, environmental law and related areas. He represented the (then) New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and other non-commercial interests in the [Kahawai Legal Challenge](#) proceedings from 2004 to 2009. Stuart has over 20 years experience in advising public and private sector clients. Over the years Stuart has built a strong relationship with many non-commercial environmental and fishing group interests.



SYDNEY CURTIS (BSC)

Sydney is one of our marine scientists sitting on the frontlines of Ministry-led science and management groups as a representative for the NZSFC. Her position in these meetings with John Holdsworth allows the NZSFC to have a deeper understanding of the science driving fisheries management. She also works with John at [Blue Water Marine Research](#) on recreational fisher projects including estimating the snapper release mortality and the Kaikōura amateur fisher pāua harvest estimate.

Contractor Profiles



KATIE GOODWIN (BSC)

Katie graduated from the University of Auckland majoring in Environmental and Marine Science. She is an advocate for inspiring change in fisheries management practices. Katie's experience includes facilitating research into 'milky flesh' fish and the effects of habitat availability on juvenile snapper recruitment. She contributes to NZSFC submissions and is developing her writing skills to elevate public awareness of the issues impacting our marine environment.



ROWAN ASHTON

Rowan is a senior associate with Brookfields Lawyers and specialises in the Resource Management Act (RMA), local government and public law. Rowan has experience in a diverse range of resource management matters. This experience has proven to be invaluable as he helps the Council respond to proposed RMA fishing controls due to the 2020 Mōtītī Environment Court decision impacting areas in the Marlborough Sounds, Northland, Hawke Bay, Taranaki and Waikato.



SAM WOOLFORD

Sam has been the LegaSea Project Lead since 2016. Over time his role has evolved, he is now well versed in both LegaSea leadership and fisheries management issues. His networking skills are sharp, enabling him to develop meaningful relationships with representatives from environmental, Māori, fisheries and science organisations. His ability to think strategically adds a valuable contribution to the fisheries management work programme.



BENN WINLOVE

Benn has coordinated the Hauraki Gulf Alliance since 2022. Over time he has developed a deeper understanding of the complexities associated with fisheries management and marine protection. Benn's ability to coordinate a disparate group of 120 organisations, businesses and individuals under the Alliance umbrella has been a major contributor to the ongoing advocacy for more fish in the water for future generations.



CHRIS JUPP

Chris is a Porirua local and has been a mad keen fisher since his Dad first got him hooked as a young lad. Over the years, being on or near the ocean has become a place of healing and restoration for him. Chris is passionate about the wellbeing of our people and the environment. He brings experience in fundraising, enterprise, and community engagement to his volunteer role leading The Kai Ika Project in Wellington. Chris has enhanced our relationships with local fishing clubs by offering filleting services for fishing tournaments.

Friends and Partners

NICK JONES – EDITOR NZ FISHING NEWS

We've supported LegaSea from day one because they align with our values of responsible fishing and safeguarding angling opportunities for future generations. Kiwis love recreational fishing, but because it's a means to disconnect from the stress of everyday life, few of us are willing to enter the fisheries management/advocacy fray. That's the role LegaSea plays – fighting the good fight on behalf of all anglers around the country.

LLOYD BUDD – CEO, BAYLEYS AUCKLAND

For us, a LegaSea Partnership is all about alignment to our Bayleys family values. We've been running for more than 50 years now and the ocean has always been a massive part of our family history. We love what LegaSea is doing to lead intergenerational efforts to make sure our ocean is protected for our children and future generations.

HILARY WEST-REEVE – PHOENIX METALMAN SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

Phoenix is proud to support our local communities through the Kai Ika Project and Cans for Kai initiatives. We're confident Cans for Kai will boost investment in the kaupapa; advocating and educating the consumer on the environmental value of recycling valuable resources within the waste stream. That's a win-win.

LEO VIEIRA – WISE ANGLER DIRECTOR

Our partnership with LegaSea embodies our founding principles and marks a significant step forward in our journey. By aligning with an organisation that shares our commitment to sustainable fishing practices, we are joining forces and amplifying our impact on marine conservation efforts. This partnership represents the solid foundation upon which Wise Angler was built – a dedication to preserving our oceans and marine life for generations.

DENIS KENDALL – CEO, HAINES HUNTER

Anyone that champions our fisheries and marine environment is a friend of Haines Hunter. That's why we support LegaSea. Their tireless work in protecting and restoring New Zealand's marine resources aligns perfectly with our values. Together, we're ensuring future generations can enjoy the same waters we cherish today.

TOM HISHON – KINGI

I strongly believe that we need to drastically change the way that we manage our oceans. That's why our partnership with Legasea is so important to myself and kingi.

How, what and where we harvest fish needs to be addressed in order for us to have an opportunity to pass this precious resource over to our mokopuna.

The work that Legasea is doing to create dialogue and challenge our current fisheries management act through informed submissions is crucial for all New Zealanders to be able to have a voice.

ALEX WALLACE – ALEX WALLACE PHOTOGRAPHY

Having lived in a country where the marine environment was largely neglected, I've witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences. This is why I wholeheartedly support Legasea's initiatives to protect New Zealand's oceans and preserve the Kiwi way of life and deep connection to the sea.

The task of overhauling an ineffective fisheries management system and challenging an industry with vast resources and significant political sway is monumental, but I'm eager to offer my support in any way I can.

Platinum and Gold Partners

PLATINUM



Our Partners are our lifeblood. They help with funding, communication, social engagement, brand enhancement and materials. Their support motivates the team and demonstrates a commitment to all New Zealanders, to ensure our lives are made richer through the health of our fisheries and the environment that surrounds us.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea gain confidence from having these Partners onboard the waka (canoe) seeking to rebuild our inshore fisheries to abundant levels. Our team strives to act in a fair and

professional manner, and our dedication to detail has given our Partners the confidence to stick with us. Rebuilding our inshore fishery to a level of abundance is now a shared vision.

We could not achieve our collective outcomes without the generous support of many people and businesses. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea appreciate this ongoing trust and confidence in us to deliver the best outcomes for today's fishers and future generations of New Zealanders.

GOLD



