

## **NZSFC Hooked Up**

### **Fisheries Management summary**

December 2016

#### **Pelagic fisheries update**

Club catch records have been compiled for the 2015-16 NZSFC Yearbook. This was a very good year for striped marlin with 900 fish landed and 1570 tagged and released. The west coast clubs did particularly well as they accounted for 30% of all the striped marlin caught. There were also over 550 yellowfin tuna club records, the highest tally for 11 years. We are looking forward to what the 2016-17 season will bring with a weak La Nina predicted. Thanks to all the club weighmasters and record keepers who collect this information. It really helps to strengthen the profile of gamefishing in New Zealand, here and internationally.

The Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Plan is six years old and due for an overhaul. MPI have prepared a draft Plan and NZSFC will be responding to that over the next couple of months. There needs to be ongoing recognition and support for maintaining our world class sport fisheries.

Management of highly migratory species needs to be international and NZSFC supports moves by New Zealand officials to introduce harvest strategies for tuna species and eventually billfish. These will include target biomass and limit reference points agreed to by members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. However, management by consensus at Commission meetings is laboriously slow.

#### **Snapper 1 Management Plan**

Preliminary results of the NZSFC online SNA1 survey were presented to the Snapper 1 Strategy Group meeting on 27 October 2016. The SNA1 Management Plan has been finalised. Group chair Sir Ian Barker presented the Plan to the Minister and MPI Director-General on 22 November. It is likely the Minister will seek to establish a SNA1 Advisory Group in the near future. The NZSFC need to consider potential involvement in this Group. There are ongoing technical and logistical issues holding up the next SNA1 tagging project, these may cause delays to the next stock assessment and ultimately fresh allocation decisions. Final results of our SNA1 survey have been published and are available online at <https://goo.gl/03MVxO>

#### **Fisheries Management Annual Report**

Hard copies of the Fisheries Management Annual Report 2015-16 are available from Dave, please email him [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz). It is also online at <https://goo.gl/zxoivx>.

Thanks to Scott Bradley and others for sending fishing pictures that we can use in future publications.

**Special request:** Please, we still want new images for our publications, including the Annual Report. We particularly need fishing pictures, children, adults, the fish, the cockpit, the scene. If taking photos of people and their fish, please remember NO SUNGLASSES, as they do not project a good image for the person or our publication. Highest resolution possible image. Please email or call Trish if you want to discuss this further. [trish@legasea.co.nz](mailto:trish@legasea.co.nz).

#### **Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan**

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan will be publicly released on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Auckland and Thames. This is the culmination of three years work by a mixed group of representatives, officials and mana whenua, including our own Scott Macindoe. After the Plan's release the NZSFC will have an opportunity to promote the Plan however, given the collaborative nature of the discussions there are some controversial elements to the Plan that will raise public interest, and potentially, opposition.

We have pushed hard for a separate Fisheries Management Area for the Hauraki Gulf and it will be interesting to see if the decision makers see merit in that approach. In our view this is the most effective way to achieve the necessary catch reductions to rebuild abundance and restore productivity to the marine environment in the Gulf. It is also likely that this release will prompt interest from other groups on the east coast to get underway with a similar initiative.

## Submissions

Since October the NZSFC tabled two fisheries management submissions. One supporting Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM) and opposing a seabed mining application in the South Taranaki Bight, the other repeating the call for the Minister to revoke the concession in CRA3 that allows for the commercial harvest of undersized crayfish. Both submissions are worth reading to better understand why the NZSFC is seeking to protect both our fisheries and the environment in which they live.

- a. **Seabed mining Taranaki** - NZSFC submission made in conjunction with Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM). NZSFC submitted the Environmental Protection Authority must decline the seabed mining application as we do not believe it meets the legal requirements of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012. <https://goo.gl/0BhmUv>
- b. **Crayfish 3** – Joint submission by NZSFC and Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club recommending the Minister revoke the commercial concession enabling the harvest of undersized crayfish. We also submitted that a full review of crayfish management in New Zealand is required. <https://goo.gl/PWnKkP>

## Consultations

Consultation is currently underway for two processes with differing emphasis, one on marine protection and the other on fisheries management. Both are receiving due consideration and will be responded to by their respective deadlines –

- a. **South-East MPAs** – The South-East Marine Protection Forum has proposed 20 sites for possible inclusion in a network of MPAs along the southeast coast of the South Island. A consultation document has been released. A series of drop-in meetings from Invercargill to Christchurch was held between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation document is currently being reviewed prior to submission. Submission deadline is 20 December 2016 <https://south-eastmarine.org.nz>
- b. **Fisheries system review** – On 11 November MPI released the next phase of the Fisheries system review – the Future of our Fisheries programme (FOOF). This programme incorporates three projects, two focused on commercial activities, and one focused on fisheries management information and decision-making. A series of hefty documents have been released and a summary will be circulated as soon as it is available. Submission deadline is 23 December 2016. <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legal-overviews/fisheries/fisheries-management-system-review/>