

NZSFC Hooked Up

Fisheries Management summary

February 2017

After a slow start to the game fishing season it is pleasing to hear reports of success from up and down the country, from west to east. Let's hope this is the beginning of a fruitful few months ahead.

Future of our Fisheries

In November 2016 the Ministry for Primary Industries released their fisheries system review proposals, the *Future of our Fisheries* (FOOF). Submissions were due by 23 December. The [NZSFC response to FOOF](#) was comprehensive and informative. If you only read important stuff, this is one submission you want to read. It will give you a clear picture of what we need to do to restore abundance, generate more value from harvesting our national fisheries resources, and why we need a new Allocation Principle in the Fisheries Act 1996 to guide Ministerial decisions based on [Moyle's Promise](#).

If you cannot get through the 31-page submission then this [one page summary](#) is just what you need to get understand the major points of concern and the solutions to rebuilding our inshore fisheries.

The Minister's FOOF Technical Advisory Group has invited NZSFC to a meeting on 1 March to discuss the next steps. The team will be attending and reporting after that meeting.

Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan

Since the release of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan in early December there has been a lot of online debate over the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's involvement in the discussions and outcomes. There is quite a lot of misunderstanding about the Plan, its status, the proposed marine reserves, and the role that both mana whenua (local iwi/hapu) and the public will have in future decision-making processes.

The team is developing a summary of the Plan and a raft of Frequently Asked Questions to help people better understand why the NZSFC supports both the establishment of a separate Fisheries Management area for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and banning trawling, Danish seining and dredging (commercial and non-commercial) from Park waters by 2025.

Snapper 1 Management Plan

No further progress on the Snapper 1 Management Plan. It is unclear if the Minister, Nathan Guy, will be progressing the Plan prior to the general election in September. If a SNA1 Advisory Group is established the NZSFC will need to consider who is our representative, and what level of involvement we have in the Group.

Submissions

Since December the NZSFC has tabled several submissions. One supporting our affiliate, Tautuku Fishing Club, in responding to marine protection proposals at 20 sites around the south and southeast coast of the South Island. Major effort went into developing a response to the fisheries system review, FOOF. Submissions were due on or of 23 December and both deadlines were met. The submission responding to the Ministry's crayfish proposals was submitted on time, on the 10th of February.

- a. [Proposed MPAs for NZ's southeast coast](#) - NZSFC submission made in conjunction with Tautuku Fishing Club. NZSFC submitted in support of 6 of the proposed Marine Protected Areas and opposed 14 proposed MPAs. The proposals demonstrate a lack of consideration for safety of small craft users. It is also clear that the proposals were deliberately tailored to protecting commercial interests, particularly trawl fishermen; the South-East Marine Protection Forum did not afford the same protection to recreational fishing interests.

- b. [Future of our Fisheries](#) – Joint submission by NZSFC and New Zealand Angling and Casting Association advocating for more abundant fisheries and an industrial-free fishing zone inshore. Managing for abundance is one of the two most pressing fisheries management reforms required in New Zealand. The other urgent reform is a new Allocation Principle, based on Moyle’s Promise, to guide Ministerial allocation decisions.

- c. [Crayfish 3, 4 and 7](#) – NZSFC submission supporting the proposed TAC reductions in CRA 3 and 4, and recommending a lower TACC in CRA 3. The NZSFC rejects the proposed TAC and TACC increase in CRA 7. The NZSFC has recommended the Minister revoke the concessions enabling the commercial harvest of crayfish smaller than the minimum legal size in CRA 3 and 7 (and 8). We also recommended the Minister discontinues the use of Management Procedures applying in these stocks due to the continued decline of abundance.