

23 May 2015

Following the FMA-2 Zone meeting of Ministry for Primary Industries and Quota Holders, LegaSea Hawkes Bay met with the Ministry for Primary Industries on Sunday, 10 May 2015.

Present;

Representing MPI - Dave Turner, Steve Halley, Alicia McKinnon.

Representing LegaSea HB - Brian Firman, Wayne Bicknell, Alex Smith and Jim Yeoman.

The following points were noted:

- An update on the recent meeting between MPI and FMA-2 quota holders was discussed with limited fine details but assurance that “commercial fishers are committed to improving the recreational experience” said Dave Turner. There was acknowledgment of the decline that recreational fishers are currently experiencing with our graphs and data being shown, although not all commercial agree that the fish stocks are that bad.
- The quota holders also accepted that they may well be “part” of the cause of the fishery issues in Hawke Bay.
- MPI will again meet with quota holders to discuss more detailed information on the Hawkes Bay fishery and its issues in June this year. Following this will be the first time that LegaSea Hawkes Bay’s representatives will meet with a select group of quota holders and MPI to discuss the way forward in reducing pressure on our local fishery. This is scheduled for mid-July 2015.
- A discussion took place to inform Mr Turner and Mr Halley on exactly which areas recreational fishers frequent and what the areas of concern are with these fishing grounds, with those specific areas being highlighted on a marine chart. This covered grounds from well south of Cape Kidnappers to the north side of Mahia.
- Dave Turner indicated he was very keen to move quickly on these issues, which we were encouraged by.

- “The introduction of deck cameras and GPS position downloading (IEMRS; Integrated Electronic Monitoring & Reporting System) was still on target in approximately two years on all commercial fishing boats in New Zealand” said Mr Tuner, “with the commercial inshore fleet being the number one priority”.
- MPI are also in the process of setting up a “Recreational Fishing Committee” to work through and communicate all relevant issues through to the Minister.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay continues to make progress on the depleted fish stock issues in the Hawkes Bay area and has official support from the following groups;

Hawkes Bay Sport Fishing Club,  
Mahia Fishing Club,  
Gisbourne Tatapouri Fishing Club,  
Pania Surfcasting Club

These four clubs alone represent over 5400 members.

Letters confirming official club support are still being sort from Clifton, Waimarama, Karakau and the Napier Sailing club.

The New Zealand Government has a legal obligation to manage a “sustainable” fishery for future generations and clearly this is not happening in the Hawkes Bay area. We have the Ministry’s attention and desire to work with us at present and we hope that commercial operators will also be willing to play their part in allowing fish stocks to improve.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay wishes to thank all their supporters and backers, as without this support we would not be making progress on these issues. This is a big effort by some very dedicated people giving up their spare time so a big thank you to all involved.

Meeting concluded at 2:35pm