

NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 12

New Zealand Fishing News magazine, June 2012 edition

What a difference a month makes!

After last month's adverse decisions we have had some positive developments in public awareness, LegaSea enrolments and fisheries management.

Boatshow attendance

From May 17th to 20th the NZ Sport Fishing Council, through LegaSea, will be at the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show and we would love to see you there. Check us out on Stand 194, Hall 1, at the ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane, Auckland.

Many thanks to Mike Rose, Dave Gibbs and the show organisers for their generous support, enabling the Council to showcase LegaSea to the largest nationwide gathering of fishermen and saving us thousands of dollars in the process.

Kane and Gina of De Coro were keen to host LegaSea on their stand, but logistically this did not work out. Thanks team for this opportunity, maybe next year.

See us at the show or go online to www.LegaSea.co.nz. Anyone keen to know more or get involved is most welcome to call Trish Rea on 0800 LEGASEA (534 273).

LegaSea

LegaSea's Vision is 'more fish in the water & a healthy marine environment'.

LegaSea has been developed by the NZSFC to enable a broad range of Kiwis to enrol and contribute to improvements that will enhance the wellbeing that we derive from having access to healthy fish stocks and ecosystems.

Your contribution will support the four major work streams:

- ADVOCACY
- EDUCATION
- RESEARCH
- working TOGETHER

Unless we all stand up for ourselves and contribute we risk imposition of one of the alternative regimes currently being promoted. All have one theme in common: to completely privatise our fisheries and thereby constrain our future access to abundant fisheries through licensing and mandatory reporting.

The NZ Sport Fishing Council wants to remain positive about retaining our fisheries in public control, hence the concerted effort to initiate LegaSea.

LegaSea offers you and your family a variety of options to contribute money. A great range of tee shirts, hats, decals and information will be available at the show or online.

The Council's Management Committee has robust processes for managing incoming LegaSea funds. This 14-member board decides priorities, allocates funds as required and reports regularly to its members and supporters.

LegaSea is Bringing Back the Bite....to

ADVOCACY

NZSFC has been represented at six Inshore Fisheries Working Group meetings already this year. The main focus has been informing and reviewing the new stock assessment model for Snapper 1, which extends from North Cape to Cape Runaway. It is New Zealand's largest inshore fishery with a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 7550 tonnes, a third of that is estimated to be recreational catch.

Although catch rates have increased in recent years the model estimates that the snapper stock is still recovering slowly from an overfished state in the late 1980s.

It seems that growth rates have slowed and the stock is less productive than previously thought.

The new Ministry for Primary Industries will have to decide how to ensure the stock rebuilds. NZSFC is advocating for a target biomass of 40% of virgin biomass.

EDUCATION

No new projects will be initiated until more funds are available. The popular Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing programme continues to wend its way around the country, to the delight of thousands of primary school children.

RESEARCH

Work is underway by the NZSFC on a report about yellowfin tuna in New Zealand and commercial catch trends in our part of the Pacific, including the available management options.

working TOGETHER

NZSFC representatives have been working TOGETHER with the Environmental Defence Society on marine protection policy issues. We are optimistic that this early attempt at collaboration will be productive and positive.