



Fisheries Management Annual Report

Year ending 30 June 2012



New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Directory

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NZSFC Incorporated

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Pete Saul

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Management Committee

13 members

Members of the International Game Fish Association.

Life Members

4

NZ IGFA representatives 10

Zone representatives

8

Annual General Meeting

September

National membership

57 clubs

Affiliated membership

33,000



Image credits: Grant Dixon. New Zealand Fishing News.

Contents

New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Directory.....	Page 2
President's Introduction.....	Page 5
Fisheries Management Committee Member's profiles.....	Page 6
Service Provider's profiles.....	Page 7
Fisheries Management Committee Report.....	Page 8
Summary of Activities.....	Page 8
Snapper 1 policy.....	Page 8
Marine Protection.....	Page 9
LegaSea launch.....	Page 9
Public awareness.....	Page 9
Advocacy.....	Page 10
Research.....	Page 10
Education.....	Page 10
Working Together.....	Page 10
Future Search.....	Page 10
Conclusion.....	Page 10
Schedule of Activities.....	Page 11
2011.....	Page 11
2012.....	Page 15



Attendees at the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, held at the New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club.



Your Sport Fishing Council promotes “more fish in the water” and improved fisheries management for non-commercial anglers.

The donors to the Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust are pleased to help resource this work and are committed to doing so in the future.

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President's Introduction

Mark Connor

It is my pleasure to introduce the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Fisheries Management Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2012.

After my inaugural year as President I can wholeheartedly appreciate the effort that goes into all aspects of the Council's activities. Advocating for our national and sometimes local interests in fisheries management, science, policy and environmental realms has been challenging over the past 12 months. More so as I seek to rebuild my life and home in the quake-ridden Canterbury region.

Thanks goes to the Council's Fisheries Management Committee. I am part of this group, along with John Chibnall, Wayne Bicknell and our Committee Chairman, Peter Campbell.

This Council is presenting high quality documents that each of our 57 member clubs and 33,000 affiliated members can be proud of. Admittedly, some of these submissions are lengthy due to the complex management applying in some fisheries. However, these documents are well worth reading as they are written to both advocate and educate.

Your affiliation fee and the portion spent on fisheries management is being well spent on delivering well-reasoned arguments designed to achieve "more fish in the water".

A summary of this year's submissions is now being maintained on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council website under 'Management – Submissions – 2012 Submissions. Of particular interest for many of you will be the separate section for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) species.

www.nzsportfishing.org.nz - Management – Submissions – 2012 Submissions – HMS Submissions 2012

LegaSea was officially launched on the 9th February this year. I was honoured to introduce our Council's latest initiative to around 90 people in Auckland. It was an exciting occasion and one where we learnt many lessons about fundraising, what collateral is most popular and how easy it is to work with groups like Greenpeace to achieve a positive outcome.

After learning our lessons we successfully launched LegaSea in Tutukaka, Northland at the end of March. The Council appreciates the hospitality of the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club, Craig Smith, Wendy Robbins, Sue Ellis, Pete Saul and John Holdsworth in particular.

This year there have been significant changes in the governance of our fisheries. The Ministry of Fisheries has been included in a 'super-Ministry – the Ministry for Primary Industries. David Carter is currently the Minister responsible for fisheries.

We had a very positive meeting with Mr. Carter in early September. We hope to have another meeting before the end of 2012, where we anticipate being able to discuss the Council's program of policy development for specific fish stocks.

More information relating to this and many other aspects of Council business will be discussed at the AGM on the 28th and 29th September. I hope to see you or your delegate in Tutukaka.

Tight lines
M Connor
President

Fisheries Management Committee

Member's profiles



Peter Campbell
Eastern Bay of Plenty

Peter is a highly respected member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's executive committee and was Vice President from 2001 to 2009. He is based in Tauranga and has been a Zone delegate to the Management Committee since 2000.

His input, experience and leadership skills were invaluable during the Council's 4-year Kahawai Legal Challenge, where he was at the forefront of the NZSFC's Bay of Plenty effort. Peter's no-nonsense style is an asset when it comes to managing the Fisheries Management team's busy schedule.



John Chibnall MNZM
Patron and IGFA representative

John is the Patron of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. His tenure on the Council executive stretches back to 1967, this includes a stint as President and Past President.

In 2010 he was awarded a Member of New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in recognition of his contribution to recreational fishing and marine research. He has also earned life membership of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. In 1983 John was appointed to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). Today he is one of 10 New Zealand representatives to the IGFA.

John's contribution to the Hokianga Accord, the mid north iwi fisheries forum is widely appreciated by both Maori and non-Maori interests.



Mark Connor
Council President, South Island

Mark is a long-term member of the Ashley Sport Fishing Club in North Canterbury. He is the South Island's representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council executive committee. Mark is also a member of the Ministry of Primary Industries' Southern regional recreational fisheries forum.

Although struck by rebuilding his home and life in quake-struck Canterbury, Mark is keen to continue to build on the work completed by previous Council advocates. He is also a walking crusader for LegaSea's vision of 'more fish in the water for future generations'. Long may that last!



Wayne Bicknell
Executive Committee, Lower North Island

Wayne is an active member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, at club, Zone and national level. He is also an IGFA representative for his region.

He contributes his time and energy to many regional and Ministry groups seeking to achieve abundant fisheries and a clean marine environment. He is also a founding member of the Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries.

Wayne and his Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club colleagues have spent hundreds of hours surveying fishermen's catch at local boat ramps. His overall contribution to fisheries management is immeasurable and gratefully received.

Service Providers

Profiles



John Holdsworth (BSc)

John is a director of Blue Water Marine Research, established in 1997 to conduct research including recreational harvest surveys and gamefish tagging projects. He has over 20 years experience in fisheries management and research.

John represent members' interests in the Ministry of Primary Industries' science, policy and Working Group processes. John's ability to translate complex issues into simple concepts makes him a valuable asset to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's fisheries management team.

Pete Saul



Pete is a fisheries researcher and charter operator with over 30 years experience. Based in Tutukaka, Northland, he owns and operates the vessel Lady Jess. Pete is a director of Blue Water Marine Research and is currently the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Records Officer.

He contributed to the development of the billfish moratorium, prohibiting commercial fishers from landing marlin in New Zealand waters. Pete is a columnist in several fishing related publications.



Barry Torkington

Barry has a background in commercial fishing and aquaculture. At one stage he was a director of the local commercial operation, Leigh Fisheries, and a lead developer of the Snapper 1 Management Plan, for New Zealand's largest snapper fishery.

Barry's key attributes are his clear thinking, his ability to analyse policy and management proposals and articulate the core issues. These skills are highly sought after and the Council's Fisheries Management Committee has appreciated his input and guidance on significant issues over the past six years.

Trish Rea



Trish has more than a decade of fisheries management and advocacy experience working with a variety of non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups. During this time Trish has developed a range of skills that enable her to make a valuable contribution to the Council's ongoing policy and management work.

These skills include advocating non-commercial interests, website development, public awareness, logistical and secretarial support for the Fisheries Management Committee.



Stuart Ryan

Stuart Ryan is a barrister with a specialist practice in public law and environmental law, and related areas. Stuart represented the (then) New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council, and other non-commercial interests, in the Kahawai Legal Challenge proceedings.

He has 20 years experience in advising public and private sector clients. Stuart has also built a strong relationship with many non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups. He enjoys boating and fishing, but like most of us, he doesn't get out as often as he would like.

Fisheries Management Committee Report

Peter Campbell, Chairman

As Chairman of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Fisheries Management Committee I would like to thank my Committee and Council colleagues for their efforts over the past twelve months. Committee members include John Chibnall, Mark Connor, Wayne Bicknell and myself.

A special thank you to Mark Hemingway, who has stepped down from the Fisheries Management Committee due to other commitments.

In July 2011 the Ministry of Fisheries merged with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. As of April 2012 this organisation has been renamed the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), whose objective is to grow New Zealand by, in part, maximising export opportunities.

Despite the changes, it is particularly pleasing for our members and supporters that this Council continues to develop submissions and messages based on Fisheries Act (1996) principles. There is a growing realisation that we need to maximise the benefits from the investment made in the Kahawai Legal Challenge, and subsequent Supreme Court ruling.

Also there has been a fundamental shift - from being mainly reactive, to taking a more proactive role through promoting policy and principles that seek to achieve 'more fish in the water'.

The Committee looks forward to discussing the first of those policies, for Snapper 1, at the Council's 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Summary of activities

A brief summary of Fisheries Management Committee activities for the year ending 30th June 2012:

- 16 submissions developed and tendered for review, in response to –
 - Fisheries management proposals;
 - Draft Fisheries Plans;
 - Foreign Charter Vessel Inquiry;
 - Draft Auckland Plan, by Auckland City Council;
 - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) proposals;
 - Local management initiatives; and
 - Draft Marine Protected Areas policy, by the Environmental Defence Society (EDS).
- Met and maintained correspondence with the Minister and senior Ministry for Primary Industries officials regarding management, policy and engagement issues.
- Attended at least 43 meetings and developed reports as required –
 - Attended or supported member's attendance at MPI regional recreational fisheries forum meetings.
 - Supported representatives at Wellington-based policy meetings and regional fisheries management meetings.
 - Regularly attended MPI Science Working Group meetings to keep up with the latest developments, like progress on the national recreational harvest survey and research on a variety of species including Highly Migratory Species (HMS), Blue Cod, Bluenose, Snapper, Kahawai, Tarakihi, Trevally, Gurnard, Kingfish, and baitfish like Jack Mackerel.
- Improved public awareness of Fisheries Management activities through regular publication of reports in print and online media.

Snapper 1 policy

By all measures Snapper 1 (SNA1) is the largest recreational fishery in New Zealand. A management review of SNA1 is likely in 2013. The Council will need a clear and united position before engaging in the consultation process, so the Fisheries Management Committee has drafted a Snapper 1 policy. This will be considered and debated during the 2012 AGM.

If the policy is successfully adopted by Council we anticipate developing policies for other fish stocks. The Fisheries Management Committee welcomes your suggested priority stocks for consideration.

Marine protection

There is lobbying to have new legislation enacted that will encompass much broader aspects of marine protection than the now-stalled Marine Reserves Bill. The Fisheries Management Committee (FMC) will monitor progress with interest and advise when and if NZSFC participation is required.

In October 2011 Stuart Ryan issued a NZSFC submission on the Auckland Council's Draft Auckland Plan. Stuart and Scott Macindoe appeared for the NZSFC at the Auckland Council's November hearings.

Wide-ranging measures are also proposed in the draft Hauraki Gulf marine spatial plan. The FMC continues to actively participate in developments, as the Gulf is a significant area within Fisheries Management Area 1, and because of the clarifications of statutory duty to manage abundant fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf, as per the Kahawai proceedings.

LegaSea launch

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council officially launched LegaSea in February 2012. Around 90 people attended the day's events held at Oram's Marine & Conference Centre, in Auckland.

Approximately 70 people attended the Northland launch held at the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club, in Tutukaka, at the end of March.

LegaSea's vision is simple –

“more fish in the water for future generations’.

Its objective is to raise funds from the public to support the Council's work to protect and enhance our current and future fishing interests.

This will be achieved by directing funds to four workstreams:

- ADVOCACY
- RESEARCH
- EDUCATION
- working TOGETHER.

Public awareness

Public awareness is essential to LegaSea's success.

A website www.legasea.co.nz has been established, complimented by channels on Twitter, YouTube and an active Facebook presence www.facebook.com/LegaSea

As a Council we appreciate the hours of effort being made by a keen band of volunteers and we welcome Matt Watson's fulsome support for LegaSea. His promotion of LegaSea through online channels, media statements and television has brought much valued publicity to this initiative.

While progress was initially slower than expected there is now a steady stream of support and awareness.



Advocacy

In addition to the submissions, meeting attendances, public awareness initiatives and the quarterly FMC reports, the Fisheries Management Committee have overseen the development of the Promotional Packs - compiled to enhance your chance of success when seeking sponsorship.

In these Packs are 1-page, easy-to-read Fish Files covering a range of topics and Council achievements that you, as members, can rightly claim as your own. Moreover, they are a means to publicly recognise and celebrate the effort by past and present members to achieve reasonable access to abundant fisheries. www.nzsportfishing.org.nz - Management - Promotional-Pack.

Research

There is a new section on the NZSFC website. It is updated regularly to improve your access to reports and research papers. A Blue Water Marine Research Billfish tagging report was released in January 2012. Also online is the Kingfish Monitoring project report and the NZ Marine Research Foundation Yellowfin Tuna report. www.nzsportfishing.org.nz - Management - Research & science - Reports.

Education

In anticipation of the Animal Welfare Act review the NZSFC submitted and succeeded, in part, with a funding application for a research and education project 'Best Practice Fish Catching and Handling for Recreational Fishers'. The review is underway and a submission has been drafted.

Working Together

The advent of LegaSea has given the Fisheries Management Committee and its service providers more opportunity to work TOGETHER with organisations such as Greenpeace, to achieve common objectives. It was pleasing to have Greenpeace actively participating and presenting their material during the LegaSea launch in Auckland. In late March we were able to support the Greenpeace 'Save our Tuna' campaign, which successfully sought to put pressure on decision-makers to take a more precautionary approach when managing Pacific tuna stocks.

Future Search

There are varying degrees of understanding around the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council's Future Search initiative. The NZRFC's Strategic Plan outlines the process to establish a statutory body. A Future Search conference is being held in Nelson, in February 2013, to "collaboratively agree a vision for the future of recreational fishing in New Zealand and agree actions to make it real".

At our AGM in 2010 NZSFC members discussed the potential of an overarching body to represent non-commercial fishing interests. The AGM voted against the establishment of a statutory body and the inevitable licensing of recreational fishers. Further discussions have occurred since then.

Our Council is committed to a voluntary advocacy model and has initiated LegaSea to inspire public support for the work we do. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has had no involvement in the NZRFC's Future Search process and does not anticipate participating in the Nelson event.

Conclusion

There have been some exciting developments this year, including the launch of LegaSea and initiating projects such as the Snapper 1 policy. Fostering regular contact with the Minister for Primary Industries and senior officials will hopefully streamline our engagement and reap long-term benefits for our fisheries.

As the Fisheries Management Committee it is often challenging to achieve the desired outcomes, given the financial constraints and when working within the club, zone and management structure. However, it is because of this robust process that our Committee can confidently operate with external agencies and our service providers.

The Committee anticipates that you will be impressed with how your affiliation fees have been invested during the past year, the achievements and the positive direction being taken by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council to achieve 'more fish in the water'.

Schedule of Activities

2011 to 2012

A summary of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's activity and responses to fisheries management, policy development and environmental protection proposals for the year ending 30 June 2012.

Date	Description	Outcome
2011 14-Jun	MFish proposal to remove all Paua stocks from Schedule 5A of the Fisheries Act 1996. MFish IPP released 9 May. NZSFC submission 14 June.	NZSFC submit against allowing up to 10% of uncaught Paua quota to be carried forward to the following year. Minister's decision - amendment approved & applied from 1 Oct. Decision not released publicly until 25 November, no reason offered for the delayed notification.
29-Jul	MFish proposal to increase TACC in Kingfish 8 (KIN8). Mfish IPP released 30 June. NZSFC submission 29 July.	NZSFC submit that the principle of TACC increases made solely on the basis of commercial over-catch cannot be considered sound fisheries management. Minister's decision - follows MFish advice to increase the TAC & TACC by 9 tonne. No measures will be implemented to limit commercial over-catch or address concerns about inadequate observer coverage on chartered trawlers.
29-Jul	MFish proposal to review the TAC, TACC and allowances for Bluenose. Mfish IPP released 30 June. NZSFC submission 29 July.	NZSFC support significant cuts to the TACC & strongly reject any pre-determined reduction in recreational bag limits. Minister's decision - follows MFish recommendations. The recreational daily bag limit reduced to 5 per person. The TACC was decreased, but not enough to constrain actual commercial catch.
29-Jul	MFish proposal to add all Rig (SPO) stocks to the 6th Schedule of the Fisheries Act. Also propose to increase SPO2 TAC and TACC, and reduce the Maori customary allowance. Mfish IPP released 30 June. NZSFC submission 29 July.	NZSFC support retaining the status quo. Increasing mesh size ought to be mandatory. Adding Rig to the 6th Schedule will provide for legalised dumping of Rig - an unacceptable outcome for non-commercial interests. Minister's decision - follows MFish advice. All Rig stocks will be added to the 6th Schedule, by 1 May 2012. SPO2 - the TAC and TACC increased to cover excess commercial catch, and the Maori customary allowance reduced from 20 to 5 tonne.
29-Jul	MFish proposal to reduce the TACC and recreational bag limits applying in Blue Cod 8 (BCO8). Mfish IPP released 30 June. NZSFC submission 29 July.	NZSFC submit the BCO5 TACC be set at 25 tonnes, the current level of commercial catch. And that a monitoring program be established to measure relative abundance over time. Minister's decision - follows MFish advice, to reduce the TACC, but not enough to constrain actual commercial catch. Recreational bag limits reduced to constrain catch to current levels.
29-Jul	MFish proposal to reduce the TAC, TACC and recreational daily bag limits in Blue Cod 5 (BCO5). MFish IPP released 30 June. NZSFC submission 29 July.	NZSFC submit that the BCO5 TACC ought to be set at the 1986 level, and that adequate allowance must be made for environmental, recreational and customary non-commercial interests. Minister's decision - follows MFish advice. The TACC will be reduced, but not enough to limit actual catch. Daily bag limits reduced by 33% to constrain recreational catch.
Key:	MFish - Ministry of Fisheries TAC - Total Allowable Catch	IPP - Initial Position Paper TACC - Total Allowable Commercial Catch
		NZSFC - NZ Sport Fishing Council

Date	Description	Outcome
1-Aug	MFish proposal to increase the TAC and allowances for Pacific bluefin tuna (TOR). MFish IPP released 5 July. NZSFC submission 1 August.	NZSFC submit that the TAC, recreational allowance and mortality allowance ought to increase. The NZSFC promotes tag and release of TOR by recreational anglers, but if kept the NZSFC recommends the fish is kept chilled and fully utilised once landed. Minister's decision - agrees to increase the TAC and allowances.
15 -19 Aug	Regional recreational fisheries forum meetings.	MFish-led regional recreational fisheries forum meetings held nationally. Reports received from the FMA1 & FMA9 meetings, upper North Island east & west coast.
16-Aug	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 3.	Update 3 sent to online databases, summarising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZSFC sustainability submissions. • Marine protection discussions for the Hauraki Gulf. • The merits of voluntary or statutory body representation of recreational fishing interests.
19-20 Aug	NZSFC AGM New Plymouth, Taranaki.	NZSFC Management Committee meeting and AGM held in New Plymouth. Report distributed 31 August.
24 Aug	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting.	Verbal meeting report received from NZSFC representative.
5 Sept	Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act seminar, Auckland.	Implications of the Marine and Coastal Area Act include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing rights and access may be subject to wahi tapu conditions under ss78 & 79 of the Act. These conditions cannot prevent fishers from taking their lawful entitlement under current fisheries legislation. • Lack of public participation in some decision making processes. • Potential future conflicts in coastal areas that are subject to multiple interests ie. Maori, commercial, aquaculture, regional authorities, government priorities and local communities.
7 Sept	Meeting with the Minister, Ministry and recreational sector, Wellington.	Meeting - "to discuss options to enhance the recreational fishing experience". Meeting report distributed 12 October. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback was provided to the Minister, as requested, on 21 September 2011. • A brief response received from the Minister's office on 28 October 2011. • Ministry officials advise the Minister will be receiving a report within the next few weeks, 5 Sept 2012.
11 Sept	MFish proposal to remove or retain concessions in the Rock Lobster fisheries CRA 3, 7 & 8. MFish IPP released 5 August. NZSFC submission 11 September.	NZSFC submit that all Rock Lobster concessions, enabling commercial fishers to take smaller than legal size fish, ought to be removed immediately. The ongoing mismanagement of these important fisheries needed to be highlighted to the Minister. Minister's decision - agreed to retain all concessions.
15 Sept	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Wellington. (Report 20 Sept) Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Technical & Compliance Committee meeting, video conference.	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting report includes data on Gurnard 1 & 2, Trevally 7, Tarakihi 2 & 3, Kingfish 1. WCPFC7 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report delivered 28 Sept 2011. • Meeting with MFish to identify issues to take to WCPFC meeting the following week in Micronesia • New measures to constrain purse seining and use of FADs will be considered at the WCPFC meeting. • NZ keen to support management of bycatch in Pacific region. • Considering a management proposal for whitetip sharks, as there is a clear need for action • Compliance monitoring needs to be improved.

Date	Description	Outcome
16 Sept	NZSFC Fisheries Management contractor meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC Management and Fisheries Committee representatives meeting with service providers. Report distributed 3 October.
26 Sept	Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative, Scott Macindoe, attended and addressed the Hauraki Gulf Forum. Meeting report includes recommendations. NZSFC Management Committee will consider a response to the recommendations.
13 Oct	Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries meeting with the Minister of Fisheries, Napier.	Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries representatives, including NZSFC personnel, meeting with Minister, Phil Heatley. Discussion about - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poor state of Area 2 fisheries. • The tools and mechanisms available to implement local management initiatives. • A range of problems and solutions. Heatley committed to responding to the group by the end of October 2011. No feedback received.
25 Oct	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 4.	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #4 published in NZ Fishing News. Update summarised the submissions in response to MFish proposals for Kingfish 8, Blue Cod 5 and 8, Rig 2, all Bluenose stocks and Pacific Bluefin tuna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was concerning that there were unprincipled and random reductions in daily bag limits for Bluenose, in Blue Cod 5 and 8. • MFish are promoting reduced bag limits as a way of constraining recreational catch. • Uncaught portions of the allowances were reduced • Commercial catch limits were cut, but these did not reduce actual take. This is a dangerous development that will be closely monitored by NZSFC.
27 Oct	Submission to Foreign Charter Vessel Inquiry Panel sent 27 October. Original submission deadline was 7 Oct.	Public hearings were held in Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington and Auckland. Due to late submission no appearance by NZSFC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were important issues that needed to be raised, some had not been addressed by the other 70 submitters. • Inquiry Panel has reported back to Parliament. • Government has agreed to implement some of the Panel's findings. • There will be a 4-year phase-in period for significant changes, namely reflagging ships to NZ, to enable NZ laws to apply.
31 Oct	NZSFC submission to Draft Auckland Plan sent to Auckland City Council.	Submission drafted and distributed by NZSFC legal counsel, Stuart Ryan, prior to its finalisation. NZSFC asked for and was given time at the public hearing, on 22 Nov 2011. Stuart Ryan and Scott Macindoe appeared on behalf of NZSFC.
3 Nov	HMS Working Group meeting.	Highly Migratory Species Working Group meeting. Meeting report completed by NZSFC representative. Report distributed 8 November 2011. Meeting discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gamefish tagging programme. • Billfish logbook programme. • Updated reports and stock status to include in the Plenary report. • Consultation on Southern bluefin tuna management underway, only a two week submission period. • A submission in response was sent to MFish by their deadline of 11 Nov 2011.

Date	Description	Outcome
11 Nov	Proposed in-season TAC increase for Southern bluefin tuna.	NZSFC submitted it was irresponsible to increase the NZ catch limit by 374 tonne when the spawning stock was still declining. Three recommendations made, including that the existing 420 tonne TAC should be retained for the remainder of the 2011-12 fishing year. Minister's decision - to allow a 90% increase in the Southern Bluefin tuna commercial catch level for the 2011-12 fishing year.
16 Nov	HMS Fisheries Plan meeting	MFish meeting to discuss the Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Plan. NZSFC representative attended and reported on the meeting.
18 Nov	MFish briefing on Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	MFish briefing on the recent Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
18 Nov	HMS Working Group meeting.	MFish Highly Migratory Species Working Group meeting. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
23 Nov	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting. NZSFC representative attended & reported on this meeting.
25 Nov	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 5. 'Will foreign charters prevail?'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #5 published in NZ Fishing News. Update discusses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NZSFC submission supporting bare boat charters for foreign vessels fishing in NZ waters. The limited Inquiry Terms of Reference constrain conversation away from the root issue - the Quota Management System is designed for maximum economic efficiency and rent-seeking behaviour. If maintained as is there will eventually be no NZ fishermen or processors. Cheapest labour will prevail.
28 Nov - 9 Dec	MFish regional recreational fisheries forum meetings.	Reports of FMA 1 & 9 regional recreational fisheries forum meetings distributed to NZSFC Management Committee. Reports noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial decision on retaining or removing commercial concessions in CRA 3, 7 & 8 expected soon. Consultation on CRA 3, 4, 7 & 9 likely over Xmas through to Feb 2012. Likely TACC increase in CRA3 would be a controversial outcome. It is unclear what criteria MFish are using to prioritise fish stocks within the Fisheries Plan process. Concerns that species important to recreational interests will have limited research applied. It is difficult to know what impact these forums or other groups are having on management priorities, and how success is measured. To get any support from MFish the NZSFC will need to clearly articulate its management requirements through the Fisheries Plan process. Next forum meetings expected end March 2012.
29 Nov	NZ Marine Research Foundation meeting.	John Holdsworth attended meeting of the NZ Marine Research Foundation. Provided technical advice.
Key:	MFish - Ministry of Fisheries NZSFC - NZ Sport Fishing Council TAC - Total Allowable Catch HMS - Highly Migratory Species WCPFC - Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission FMA - Fisheries Management Area CRA - Crayfish or Rock Lobster fish stocks	
www.nzsportfishing.org.nz - Management – Submissions		

Date	Description	Outcome
1 Dec	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 7	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 7 sent to online databases.
5 Dec	NZSFC submission on Te Korowai Marine Strategy, a local management initiative for Kaikoura, South Island.	NZSFC support the locals trying to make a difference, but object to the concept of gifts and gains based on intangible elements. Suggest using Fisheries Plan process instead. 6 Aug 2012 - Te Korowai advise the final Strategy will be launched in October 2012.
12 Dec	Hauraki Gulf Forum (HGF) meeting, Auckland.	Meeting held at Sanford Ltd Auckland HQ. Meeting report filed 28 December. Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the NZSFC form strategic views on the HGF, and their role in fisheries management. • The NZSFC consider what outcomes it wants from the Hauraki Gulf Forum and then modify its engagement accordingly.
16 Dec	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting, Auckland.	MFish Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting. Main discussion around the national multi-species recreational harvest survey.
20 Dec	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 6 'Marlin management in the spotlight'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #6 published in the NZ Fishing News. Update discusses two contentious issues - marlin management and purse seine fishing for skipjack in the Bay of Plenty during gamefish tournaments.

Date	Description	Outcome
2012 21 Jan	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 8 'Morgan's book - a controversial stocking filler'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #8 published in NZ Fishing News magazine. Update comments on Gareth Morgan's recently released book 'Hook, Line and Blinkers'.
24 Jan	Northern Inshore Technical Working Group meeting, Wellington.	Meeting report filed 27 January. By May 2012 there will be a new stock assessment for Snapper 1 (SNA1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be some changes to the way the stock assessment is done • The last full stock assessment was 12 years ago. The NZSFC needs to continue to engage in research and management processes to ensure that the SNA1 stock is managed conservatively, and that non-commercial fishing interests are met.
3 Feb	Sustainability review of Rock Lobster fisheries CRA 4, 5, 7 & 8. MFish IPP released 19 December 2011. NZSFC submission 3 February 2012.	The NZSFC has serious concerns that not all of the Rock Lobster fish stocks are being managed in the long-term national interest - to provide for all New Zealanders' social, economic & cultural well-being. Instead, priority is being given to the short-term interests of a few investors in Crayfish quota. Minister's decision - TAC & TACC - increase in CRA4, remain same in CRA5, decrease in CRA7 & 8.
9 Feb	LegaSea launch, Auckland.	LegaSea launch, Oram's Conference Centre, Auckland. NZSFC Management and Fisheries Committee members involved in the two launch events held on 9th Feb. Good turn-out of public, industry & Council affiliates.
15 Feb	HMS Working Group meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative attended and reported on this Highly Migratory Species Working Group meeting.
21 Feb	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 9 'LegaSea - a fresh start to a brighter future'	NZSFC Update 9 published in NZ Fishing News magazine. Update discusses the official launch of LegaSea at Oram's Marine centre. Update published alongside a LegaSea advert and contribution coupon.

Date	Description	Outcome
22 Feb	NZSFC Meeting with Wayne McNee, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).	Two NZSFC representatives meet with MAF to discuss changes to the Ministry, and their relationship with NZSFC. Wayne will confirm within 3 months that satisfactory progress is being made in developing a more influential engagement model for NZSFC into MAF processes. Report filed and distributed to Management Committee 19 March 2012.
6 Mar	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
9 Mar	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting. Progress reports provided on the large-scale multi-species recreational harvest survey currently underway, and boat ramp survey updates.
16 Mar	NZSFC Funding application.	NZSFC submitted a funding application to the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation. This was for a project, 'Best Practice fish catching & handling for Recreational Fishers'. NZMRF approval given, in part. The expected review of the Animal Welfare Act is underway and a response submission will be developed.
21 Mar	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative attended & reported on this meeting. Discussion focused on the Snapper 1 stock assessment.
27 Mar	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 10. 'Will our Yellowfin Ever Come Back?'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #10 published in NZ Fishing News magazine. Update discusses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of tuna in the Pacific; • NZSFC support for Greenpeace's campaign to ban the use of FADs with purse seine fishing; and • The Minister's disappointing decision to increase the NZ TACC of Southern bluefin tuna by 374 tonne for the current fishing year.
28 Mar	Media release concerning the Minister's controversial management decisions for Rock Lobster, CRA3 in particular.	NZSFC media release 'Public robbed of crayfish through unfair practices' refers to the Minister's decision to increase the CRA3 TACC by 17%, by 29 tonne. Highly objectionable decision given the ongoing issues in CRA3.
29 Mar	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
31 Mar	LegaSea launch, Tutukaka, Northland.	Combined Zone 1 & 2 meeting WDSAC, Tutukaka, Northland. LegaSea launched to around 70 people. Coverage in LegaSea Update #3.
2 Apr	Kingfish project summary.	Yellowtail Kingfish Newsletter - an example of how recreational fishers have contributed to research and management objectives for an important inshore fishery.
3 Apr	MAF Regional recreational fisheries forum meetings, nationally.	Combined meeting of the FMA1 & 9 regional recreational fisheries forums. Discussion of fish plans. NZSFC representatives attended & reported on this combined meeting.
11 Apr	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting. Snapper 1 stock assessment discussed. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
12 Apr	Rock Lobster management meeting, Gisborne.	Gisborne-based NZSFC members organised this meeting to discuss the Minister's recent decision to increase the CRA3 TACC while retaining the controversial commercial concession. Report distributed to the Fisheries Management Committee, on 2 May 2012.
16 Apr	HMS Working Group meeting, Wellington. (Some Northern Inshore info provided).	An updated analysis of kahawai and trevally sighting rates from commercial spotter planes was presented to the meeting prior to the Highly Migratory Species Working Group meeting.

Date	Description	Outcome
17 Apr	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	<p>Presentation of the Snapper 1 (SNA1) stock assessment model and initial results discussed. It seems that key assumptions in the new model lead to more conservative results than the last model for SNA1 completed in 2000. It seems that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new stock assessment model is suggesting that snapper in SNA1 is a low productivity stock. • The rapid rebuild predicted by the 12-year-old model has not occurred. • There has been a relative improvement from low points in the 1990s in all regions. • Anecdotal reports are that fishing has improved and some commercial fishers try to avoid snapper to conserve their available annual catch entitlement (Quota). • According to the model, the improvement has been most consistent in the Hauraki Gulf and least consistent in East Northland.
25 Apr	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 11. 'When money trumps environmental sense'.	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #11 published in NZFN magazine. There is disappointment with the Ministerial decision to increase the TACC in CRA3, and the lack of progress to protect tuna in the Pacific. NZSFC supporting Greenpeace's 'Save our Tuna' campaign, and the purchase of FAD-free tuna produced by Pams.
30 Apr	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Northern Inshore Working Group meeting. Snapper 1 stock assessment discussed. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
1-2 May	Plenary meetings, Wellington.	NZSFC representative attended two days of Plenary meetings in Wellington. Most input into the Tarakihi plenary report and updating the SNA1 model in the Snapper plenary report.
4 May	<p>NZSFC feedback on Environmental Defence Society draft MPA paper.</p> <p>Draft available 17 April</p> <p>NZSFC Submission 4 May</p>	<p>Environmental Defence Society (EDS) provided a draft Marine Protected Areas policy paper & asked for feedback. NZSFC highlighted the constraints of the quota system, fiscal limitations, Treaty of Waitangi obligations & legislative opportunities.</p> <p>EDS were encouraged to develop a single purpose statement for new legislation rather than aiming for an arbitrary 10% of marine reserves. Overall, an excellent opportunity to work together on draft MPA proposals.</p>
17-20 May	Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show, Auckland.	Fisheries Management Committee Chairman, Peter Campbell, spent several days on the LegaSea stand at the Hutchwilco Boat Show. A top effort from him and the volunteer team. Special thanks to Scott Macindoe for organising event attendance and logistics.
23 May	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Marine Amateur Fisheries Working Group received a progress report on the large-scale multi-species recreational harvest survey. Preliminary results suggest the survey is going well.
25 May	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 12. 'What a difference a month makes!'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #12 published in NZ Fishing News magazine. Update highlighted LegaSea's presence at the Hutchwilco NZ Boat Show and what LegaSea is all about.
Key:	CRA - Crayfish or Rock Lobster fish stocks MPA - Marine Protected Area NZSFC - NZ Sport Fishing Council	FAD - Fish Aggregating Device NZFN - New Zealand Fishing News magazine TACC - Total Allowable Commercial Catch
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Date	Description	Outcome
30 May	HMS Fisheries Plan meeting, Auckland.	Highly Migratory Species meeting to review progress on some issues in 2011-12 and discuss the Annual Operating Plan for HMS, for 2012-13. A summary of the previous season's fishing was presented. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting. Report includes 7 recommendations for consideration by the NZSFC.
31 May	Advisory received of Minister's Rock Lobster concession decision.	Ministry for Primary Industries advised the Minister has decided to retain all existing concessions in the Rock Lobster fisheries. Concessions apply in CRA 3, 7 & 8. A disappointing result for non-commercial interests and NZSFC colleagues in and around Gisborne.
5 June	Regional recreational fisheries forum meeting, Auckland.	Combined meeting of the FMA1 & 9 regional recreational fisheries forums. Meeting discussed the recent management decisions for Rock Lobster, the concessions in particular. Also discussed management of other inshore fish stocks. Two NZSFC representatives attended and reported on this meeting. Four recommendations provided to the NZSFC.
11 June	HMS Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Highly Migratory Species meeting discussed issues raised at earlier meetings - catch limits for sharks and albacore. Earlier recommendation made to support tougher restrictions on shark finning at sea and prepare for industry proposals to enable commercial fishers to retain dead marlin. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
25 June	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update 13. 'Recreational fishers are not a pushover'	NZSFC Fisheries Management Update #13 published in NZ Fishing News magazine. Update discusses the LegaSea stand at the Hutchwilco NZ Boat Show, proportional allocation and the benefits derived from the Kahawai Legal Challenge proceedings.
28 June	HMS Working Group meeting, Auckland.	Highly Migratory Species Working Group meeting. NZSFC representative attended and reported on this meeting.
30 June	LegaSea Strategy meeting, Kerikeri, Northland.	Overnight meeting to discuss marketing and public awareness of LegaSea. NZSFC and Fisheries Management Committee personnel participated in this meeting. Report distributed with assignments allocated to various parties. A successful event that is worth repeating. Getting face-to-face is invaluable to growing LegaSea and keeping the team energised.



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