

Fisheries Management

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Directory

Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee

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NZSFC Incorporated

Patron	John Chibnall
Executive	
President	Bob Gutsell
Vice Presidents	Peter Campbell & Ian Steele
Board members	Bob Gutsell Peter Campbell Ian Steele Pete Saul - Zone 1 Lewis Avenell - Zone 2 Warren Maher - Zone 3 Vance Fulton - Zone 4 Wayne Bicknell - Zone 5 Ken Barry - Zone 6 Mark Connor - Zone 7 Ross Lucas - Zone 8 Mark Hemmingway - IGFA/Life Members Phil Appleyard (Immediate Past President) Scott Macindoe - Co-opted Richard Baker - Co-opted Dirk Sieling - Co-opted

By the numbers	
Member clubs	55
Life members	8
Affiliated members	36,219
Zone Board representatives	8
IGFA members	10
Administration	
CEO	Steven Stanford
Admin Officer	Helen Pastor
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Report version: 1.2

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**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent
about the things that matter.” Martin Luther King**

Image credits: Mike Bhana, Si Yates, Guy Mac, Trish Rea, Digital Fish, Miah Dixon, Kaye van der Straten, Aaron Mclean.

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Attendees at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, hosted by Mana Cruising club, Wellington.
Image credit: Miah Dixon/NZ Fishing Media.

President's Report

"Bobby my boy, if things don't change, they'll stay as they are" are the words of an old workmate I'll never forget. In his own unique English way Dudley was telling me that I can either take or make what's coming.

As the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council changes we're making our own future, and that future is finding new ways to deliver value for our member clubs.

This year we have represented your fishing interests to the Government through 25 submissions covering more than 25 species and nine Fisheries Management areas.

We are also engaged in three Resource Management Act (RMA) processes. Since the Environment Court invoked what we now know as the "Motiti Lockout", this approach is spreading across NZ like its own virus, being pushed hard by Forest & Bird and various local groups with their own environmental agenda. We recently attended Court appointed mediation hearings for the Bay of Islands appeal. These hearings are confidential. We are attending these in full force with local club representatives and our own legal team led by Rowan Ashton and experienced advocates John Holdsworth, Barry Torkington and Vance Fulton.

The RMA coming into play is a direct result of a failed Quota Management System (QMS). With the precedent set by the Motiti decision, local groups are taking matters into their own hands and using the RMA to restrict fishing practices. Certainly not something the Act was designed for.

For quite some time we have been saying the QMS is a slow moving beast that has passed its use-by date. The Minister's recent decisions for tarakihi and crayfish, where the allocations for commercial and allowances for recreational interests were slashed, are due to the failure to act sooner. We know many other species are badly depleted yet are not being addressed by the QMS stock assessments. We are not alone, commercial and some officials are frustrated with the QMS too. We see numerous references from industry about their frustrations.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is proud to be at the forefront of the development of an alternative to the QMS, and delighted to see the launch of the Rescue Fish proposal and campaign.

We are the first organisation in NZ to stop moaning about the failed QMS and invest proactively in the next steps, that is to offer a solution that provides abundant fisheries through a more dynamic fisheries management system, better outcomes for the commercial fishers themselves and co-governance for mana whenua.

We are playing the long game here. Whilst we are the ones starting the conversation, it is only a matter of time before other stakeholders realise it is time to sit down and talk about a better future for NZ fisheries and all New Zealanders.

In summary, we have had a huge year despite numerous challenges. My heartfelt thanks to my fellow Board members. You have had a lot more work to do this year. The Standing Committees have not missed a beat and continue to develop first class process and governance procedures we can all be proud of.

Thanks in particular to Steven Stanford, Helen Pastor, John Holdsworth, Trish Rea, Barry Torkington, Glen Carbines, Jess Beetham, Sam Woolford, Piet Battaerd, Benn Winlove, Louise O'Sullivan, Simon Yates and Jack Dodson. Your tireless efforts see us deeply engaged and participating in so many aspects of fisheries management, marine protection and community initiatives. Thanks to our Partners, sponsors, funding organisations and LegaSea Legends. With your commitments we are poised to deliver remarkable outcomes with FishCare, Kai Ika and Rescue Fish!

We have worked hard this year to set up for our "New Normal," for the New Zealand that we want for ourselves, our children, our clubs, and our fishery. Plenty of things, people and crises will get in our way, but we can either be change takers or change makers. Let us be the latter.

Bob Gutsell

Chairman's Report Fisheries Management

It has been a testing year for the fisheries management team. Covid-19 has created some frustrations, but also given us an opportunity to regroup and upskill. Throughout all levels of the Council we have continued meetings through online mediums such as Zoom.

To better manage our resources in the future we have identified three NZSFC engagement types to participate in fisheries management, they are:

1. Short, sharp submissions on minor issues. "High Level/Low priority"
2. Comprehensive submissions on selected stocks.
3. Engagement in selected working groups.

The Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee (FMMP) will continue to deliver regular Quarterly Reports for club delegates and affiliated members. The feedback we receive is invaluable and fuels us. Thank you.

The NZSFC Fisheries Management Policy Document is growing, with pending additions of hāpuku, bronze whaler sharks and scallops at the 2020 AGM. It is these policies that give guidance and alignment for our team and contractors to write submissions on your behalf. This document can be updated and modified by a notice of motion at any AGM. If you or your zones have any requirements or additions please notify the FMMP committee or make notes in your Zone Minutes.

There have been interesting developments in fisheries management over the last year, all stem from the failure of the Fisheries Act and the Quota Management System to protect fish stocks, biodiversity and the environment. Since the Motiti environment court decision councils around the country have been scrambling to draw lines on maps to protect the biodiversity within their boundaries. This somehow must be done without initiating any fishing controls that would overlap with the Fisheries Act. Forest & Bird have taken the Minister of Fisheries to court over the Tarakihi 1, 2, 3 & 7 decision, we are monitoring the proceedings.

My deepest thanks to the dedicated FMMP team of Bob Gutsell, Peter Campbell, Mark Connor, Ken Barry, Scott Macindoe, Wayne Bicknell, Richard Baker, Dirk Sieling, Jim

Yeoman, Andy Stewart and all our contractors. Without you all we would not be in the position we are now.

Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata. (If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive)

Lewis Avenell
NZSFC FMMP Chair



1402

anglers from around NZ fished the 2020 Nationals

4

Quarterly reports outlining activity, submissions and meetings

10

People on the Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee

50%

of the unfished stock size is the management target to deliver abundance.

Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee Report

Introduction

The Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee continually seeks to improve how it delivers value to clubs and affiliated members. The past year has been one of our biggest yet in terms of output. We hit a new high in providing 25 well researched responses to management reviews, marine protection proposals and policy development processes.

In summary we report the following achievements over the past 12 months -

- Participation in 60 forums, working group meetings and hui.
- 25 substantial submissions completed.
- Comprehensive Quarterly reports distributed.
- Signed an MoU with the New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA).
- Succeeded in having NZSFC and NZUA representatives appointed to the National Rock Lobster Management Group.
- Overseen the launch of Rescue Fish in May 2020.

Gamefish update

It is unfortunate that the 2019-20 gamefish fishing year will most likely be remembered for the Covid-19 pandemic interruptions rather than a spectacular 12 months of catches. The good news is that over the last 10 years 7,890 striped marlin have been tagged and released in New Zealand. Most of this tagging is due to New Zealand Sport Fishing Council members' commitment to conservation.

A recent Fisheries New Zealand report summarising a decade of tagging shows that striped marlin recaptures can vary between years. The highest return was in 2015-16 when seven tagged marlin were recaptured. Over the 10 years there have been 26 striped marlin, 5 swordfish and one blue marlin recaptured and reported.

In an exciting development this year there were two stripeys tagged with the latest Pop-off Satellite Archival Tags by members of the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club. Both fish survived and their tags are due to report in October 2020. There are 10 more satellite tags ready to be deployed from New Plymouth and the Bay of Islands, in conjunction with the IGFA Great Marlin Race

and local sponsors including the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation.

More good news, work we have been requesting for some time is now underway. Fisheries New Zealand is due to report by the end of the year on commercial catch rates (CPUE) of swordfish, and the capture of striped marlin by commercial fishers.

In our most recent kingfish submission we continued advocacy for an abundant fishery to protect the marine ecosystem, by-catch only for commercial methods and to provide for high quality recreational fishing experiences. There are no quantitative assessments for kingfish stocks and there are remaining problems with both historic under-reporting by commercial fishers and high proportions of immature fish in their catch.

There is evidence of good recruitment of kingfish into the fishery, particularly on the west coast of the North Island and the upper half of the South Island. The Council will support future catch reviews where appropriate and we will continue to insist on conservative catch levels that support the release of live kingfish by commercial fishers under Schedule 6 of the Fisheries Act.

On the tuna front, the numbers of yellowfin appearing earlier in the year was encouraging. However, it is far too early to make any assumptions about the long-term prospects of their availability in New Zealand waters. It has also been a good year for southern bluefin tuna off the east coast of the North Island, with lots of big fish within range of recreational anglers. Fishers were able to use the boat ramp at Waihou Bay, but if Covid-19 returns then access may be restricted and NZSFC and other fishers must respect this. It will be interesting to see if there are any moves to review recreational catch levels after this season's catches have been collated.

Fisheries Management team

Our efforts this past year have been enhanced with the addition of Ken Barry and Andy Stewart to the Committee, and Dr Glen Carbines as a contractor. They join Jim Yeoman who continues to add value as a co-opted Committee member.

Ken is the Zone 6, North Island west coast, delegate to the Board. He brings that typical westie clarity and offers a valuable club perspective to the discussions.

Andy Stewart has been co-opted to the team and adds value given his vast experience in diving and as a Board member of the New Zealand Underwater Association. Andy has been instrumental in driving through the successful completion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the NZUA, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea.

Dr Glen Carbines is a part-time contractor with decades of fisheries research experience, in the Ministry, NIWA and as an independent contractor. Despite his expertise, his humble approach and willingness to get stuck into whatever is required is a tribute to his commitment to our kaupapa, our work.

We have been blessed to have another year of Jim Yeoman, President of the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association. Jim has been co-opted to the Committee for several years and brings an array of skills and a grassroots perspective. Jim is also an integral member of LegaSea Hawke's Bay, working alongside John Stewart and David Scott in the Napier Port Fisheries Liaison Group.

South Island engagement

The Committee appreciates the effort that Josh Barclay, Mark Connor, Scott Macindoe, Glen Carbines and Steve Stanford are making to maintain healthy relationships with South Island clubs and organisations. These relationships have proven their worth during the past year as we have developed a number of submissions. There are ongoing issues with the Minister's approval of the Blue Cod Strategy, affecting fishers returning from offshore. A last minute change to the new regulations was contrary to what had been agreed at the earlier stakeholder meetings. There are now different daily bag limits for offshore and inshore fishing around Christchurch. The new rules prevent offshore fishers transiting and landing their offshore daily bag limit in the only safe access points available. Clarification is being sought from the Minister.

The South Island engagement schedule 2011-20 has also been updated to include recent submissions in response to fisheries management reviews, area controls, marine protection, management and policy reforms.

Rock lobster management

John Holdsworth and Andy Stewart have been appointed to the National Rock Lobster

Management Group as representatives of the NZSFC and New Zealand Underwater Association respectively. It has been a struggle over many years to gain an effective voice in this Group. Our team will enthusiastically contribute to the development of the new Terms of Reference and upcoming reviews of CRA 4 and CRA 5. Having Glen Carbines onboard will, in future, add another layer of expertise to our submissions.

We continue to advocate in support of our club members' interests, for a rebuild of our depleted crayfish stocks and the revocation of the commercial concessions in the Gisborne (CRA 3), Otago (CRA 7) and Southland (CRA 8) stocks.

Recreational harvest estimates

In August last year Fisheries New Zealand released the 2017-18 National Panel Survey estimates of recreational harvest. This is a repeat of the 2011-12 survey, so the results are directly comparable.

Of note -

1. Fisheries New Zealand estimate around 14% of New Zealanders over 15 years old went fishing at least once in 2017-18.
2. The most common landed catch is snapper, kahawai and blue cod.
3. In 2018 recreational fishers harvested around 7 million individual finfish and 3.9 million non-fish i.e. shellfish and crustaceans.
4. Total weight of the annual recreational harvest is estimated to be 10,000 tonnes.

Since 2012 -

1. There has been a 20% reduction in recreational fishing effort.
2. There are fewer people fishing recreationally.
3. Total number of fishing trips has reduced by 20%.
4. Of all fishing trips, 56% were in FMA 1 between North Cape and Cape Runaway.
5. FMA 5, Southland to Fiordland, is the only area where fisher numbers increased, up 14%.
6. Total finfish catch has reduced (in numbers) by 19%.
7. Total harvest of non-fish i.e. shellfish and crayfish has reduced (in numbers) by 41%.

The methodology used in these recreational harvest surveys has been internationally recognised as robust and reliable. In March 2018 a scientific paper describing the three concurrent 2012 surveys was published in the international peer-reviewed journal, Fisheries Research, recognising the high-quality survey work.

This peer reviewed science is helpful in dismissing any claims that 'we don't know what recreational fishers catch'.

While recognising that some discreet fisheries are difficult to measure, the results of the 2018 Panel Survey are the 'best available information' to inform management decisions.

RMA Issues

Potential closures of areas to fishing have been discussed elsewhere in this report. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is concerned that loopholes in the Resource Management

Act (RMA) and appeals to Regional Coastal Plans are being used to close areas to fishing without consultation or due process.

Due to the Motiti Environment Court outcome local groups are now seizing the opportunity to force regional councils into imposing fishing controls under the guise of protecting 'indigenous biodiversity'. Support for this RMA approach is being fueled by the prospect that bottom trawling may be banned from some inshore areas and large no-take areas will be established.

The development of the Rescue Fish package has clearly shown that protection is best achieved by a whole-system, holistic approach to ensure higher fish stock levels and low impact fishing methods under new fisheries legislation.

Our legal team continues to participate in these RMA proceedings to ensure provision for recreational fishing interests.

Submissions

1. National Rock Lobster Management Group membership review.
2. Animal welfare regulation review.
3. Hoki management review.
4. Red snapper management review.
5. South Island stock review: elephant fish, gurnard, john dory, rig.
6. Tarakihi management review.
7. Charter boat reporting review.
8. Maui-Hector's dolphin threat management plan review.
9. Omaui mataitai, Southland.
10. Te Mata Mataitai s186A closure, Thames.
11. RMA review, issues and options paper response.
12. Scallop 1 management review.
13. Crayfish 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8 management review.
14. Draft Inshore Finfish Fisheries Plan.
15. Crayfish ACE carry forward proposal.
16. Tautuku mataitai, Southland.
17. Government response strategy to Sea Change.
18. Maunganui Bay s186A closure, Bay of Islands.
19. Snapper 7 management review.
20. Gurnard 7 management review.
21. Kingfish 2, 3, 7 & 8 management review.
22. Porae 1 management review.
23. Paua 3 Quota Management Area sub-division.
24. South Is southeast coast trawl species: blue moki, leatherjacket, gurnard, rig.
25. Blue cod 5 management review.

Representation

Since July 2019 New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) representatives have attended the following Fisheries New Zealand Working Groups, technical forums and fisheries meetings -

1. Deep Sea Conservation Coalition meeting (4)
2. Napier Port Fisheries Liaison Group. (7)
3. Napier artificial reef meeting. (2)
4. Scallop 7 management meeting. (2)
5. Tarakihi management meeting with Minister.
6. Hawke Bay Marine Coastal Group meeting.
7. Revive our Gulf management group meeting.
8. Highly Migratory Species Southern bluefin tuna management meeting.
9. Southern Inshore Working Group.
10. International tuna commission pre-meeting.
11. Rock Lobster working group meeting. (8)
12. Northern inshore working group. (9)
13. Snapper/Flatfish 7 stakeholder meeting.
14. Rock lobster Plenary meeting CRA 1 & 3.
15. National Rock Lobster Management Group meeting. (4)
16. Highly Migratory Species working group.
17. Sea Change Government response Ministerial Advisory Committee meeting. (4)
18. Sea Change consultation with agency leads. (2)
19. Te Puna Mataitai Kaitiaki bylaws hui.
20. Hauraki Gulf Forum.
21. Marine amateur fisheries working group. (2)
22. Purse seine meeting.
23. Plenary meeting, Snapper 7.
24. Plenary meeting, Kingfish 1, 2, 7 & 8.
25. Plenary meeting, Snapper 8.
26. Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Plan meeting.
27. Select Committee - Use of boats to go fishing meeting.

Working Together



During the year the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council collaborated with member clubs, individual experts, and utilised the outreach of LegaSea to develop various outputs. Work included submissions, presentations, and support in response to fisheries management reviews, policy proposals, and environmental initiatives.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea are grateful for the support and cooperation of many individuals and organisations including the following -

- Auckland Council
- Blue Water Marine Research
- Coastguard
- Department of Conservation
- Environment and Conservation Organisation of Aotearoa New Zealand - ECO
- Greenpeace New Zealand
- Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust
- Hokianga Accord, mid north iwi fisheries forum
- KASM (Kiwi's Against Seabed Mining)
- Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association
- Massey University
- Fisheries New Zealand - Ministry for Primary Industries
- New Zealand Angling & Casting Association
- New Zealand Marine Research Foundation
- New Zealand Underwater Association
- NIWA
- Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
- Spearfishing NZ
- Sustainable Coastlines
- Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi
- University of Auckland
- Yachting New Zealand



New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Fisheries Management Income and Expenditure

	30/06/16	30/06/17	30/06/18	30/06/19	30/06/20	Notes
Source of funds	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Affiliated club member levies	65000	70000	70000	80000	95000	1
LegaSea donations - Budgeted	93000	100000	120000	140000	160000	
Grant income - Budgeted	80000	58000	0	10000	20000	
Fisheries Management Budget	238000	228000	190000	230000	275000	
LegaSea donations (under or over budget)	-2787	313	1379	5219	-26552	
Grant income - (under or over budget)	-15000	-53066	0	0	-20000	
Total Fisheries Management Income	220213	175247	191379	235219	228448	
Expenditure						
Sustainability and management processes						
Snapper	26177	18155	46	375	3243	
Crayfish	1531	19351	12905	12167	4931	
Pelagics	453	1510	6016	9995	3543	
Other fisheries	7763	5137	15799	18644	20132	
Total Sustainability and Management processes	35924	44153	34766	41181	31849	
FNZ processes and political engagement	54522	72390	74558	22780	25372	
Rescuing Fisheries	0	0	0	125169	104491	3
Policy development and Council attendance	6692	19720	21042	12541	9588	
Hokianga Accord/Symposium	59231	2579	4343	158	0	
Marine protection and spatial planning	20720	6864	4328	7111	30770	2
Regional issues	12008	6371	3019	7142	1439	
Reporting and public awareness	22617	35072	24708	18236	18090	
Total expenditure	211714	187149	166764	234318	221599	
Surplus/deficit	8499	-11902	24615	901	6849	

Notes

1. At the 2019 AGM an additional \$15,000 investment was unanimously approved to engage with Resource Management Act area management processes.
2. Council is now well involved with a number of Resource Management Act processes that have arisen since the Motiti Island judicial process outcomes have become clear.
3. The development of an alternative fisheries management system to the Quota Management System continues with full Council commitment alongside our public outreach brand LegaSea which has launched the public awareness campaign Rescue Fish.

FMMP Standing Committee members



LEWIS AVENELL

Lewis is an active member of the Clevedon Game Fishing Club and the Big Fish Fishing Club. In the past couple of years he has taken responsibility for acting as the Zone 2 (Auckland) representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council executive Board. Lewis is also the chair of the Fisheries Management Standing Committee and is enthusiastic about working alongside a dedicated team committed to an abundant fishery.



PETER CAMPBELL

Peter is based in Tauranga and has been a zone delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's executive Board for 20 years. He has been Vice President twice, from 2001 to 2009 and 2012 onwards. Peter is an active contributor to all aspects of fisheries and resource management, and marine protection activity.



MARK CONNOR

Mark is the South Island's representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council executive Board. Mark is a long standing member of the Ashley Sport Fishing Club in North Canterbury and remains actively involved in local and regional fisheries management processes.



RICHARD BAKER

Richard has been involved with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council for 30 years. Richard was Council President from 2008 to 2011, and is the Council's youngest ever life member. He is one of New Zealand's 10 IGFA representatives. Richard is the Council's spokesperson on fisheries management and public education issues.



SCOTT MACINDOE

Scott has been an active contributor to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in a management and public awareness capacity for more than a decade. He has been a member of the Warkworth Gamefish Club committee for nine years. Scott is LegaSea's spokesperson on fisheries policy and public awareness issues.



WAYNE BICKNELL

Wayne is a life member of the Hawke's Bay Sport Fishing Club and an IGFA representative. He is also a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council executive Board member. Wayne has years of experience in local and national issues and is a founding member and spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay.



BOB GUTSELL

Bob is President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, and is a past President of the Waikato Sport Fishing Club. He has been a member of the executive Board for eight years and now contributes his expertise to the Fisheries Management Marine Protection Standing Committee.



DIRK SIELING

Dirk represented recreational fishers in the Sea Change Stakeholder Working Group that amongst many other things recommended sweeping changes in the management of the greater Hauraki Gulf fisheries, the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. Dirk has served as a Councillor on the Thames Coromandel District Council. Dirk feels strongly about a more rational approach to fisheries management in New Zealand.



KEN BARRY

Like so many fishermen, Ken started off very young and was soon hooked on the thrill of fishing. He is now an active advocate for local, regional and national issues and is proud to stand with all zone representatives and LegaSea contractors to maintain abundance and enhance ethical fishing practices. Ken is the Zone 6, North Island west coast, delegate to the Council's executive Board.



JIM YEOMAN

Jim is the President of the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association (NZACA) and a spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay. He has represented the NZACA on our Council's Fisheries Management - Marine Protection Standing Committee for five generous and authentic years. He continues to advocate for local and regional interests in fisheries and the marine environment.



ANDY STEWART

Andy is a long-standing Executive Board Member of the New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA) and is a PADI Dive Instructor Trainer. This year he was appointed as a recreational representative on the National Rock Lobster Management Group. Andy is a co-opted member to the Standing Committee and contributes a valuable recreational diver's perspective to the fisheries management and marine protection discussions.

LegaSea Annual Report 2019-2020

Introduction

LegaSea was established by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in 2012. The Council is the largest representative organisation of recreational fishers in the country. Over the past five years we are proud to have gained the confidence and support of many trusted organisations.

On the 25 March New Zealand our world changed as we know it. Covid-19 created a rapid rise in unemployment. This in turn highlighted the daily struggle of many families to put food on the table. In just a few months our Kai Ika project has taken on new relevance because the unfortunate reality is that food insecurity was an issue in New Zealand long before Covid-19 and it will remain long after.

This is part of the reason we made the decision to launch Rescue Fish. A proposed alternative to the Quota Management System. Rescue Fish is intended to create a strong governance structure to support sustainable management of our marine resources. Also to enable the environment to regenerate and for New Zealanders to benefit from the resulting abundance.

Our reality, as a country we are reliant on abundant coastal fisheries to provide for our social, economic and cultural wellbeing. For us to prosper we need to put the health of our marine environment first. This begins by removing the dysfunctional QMS.

Governance

The LegaSea Governance Advisory Standing Committee oversees operations. This Standing Committee includes both LegaSea Directors, Mark Connor and Peter Cambell, as well as NZSFC Board Members Richard Baker, Lewis Avenell, Scott Macindoe and Ross Lucas.

Our crew

As the number of projects increases and existing ones grow, so too does the LegaSea crew.

1. Jack Dodson recently joined the crew to take responsibility for coordinating the rapid expansion and development of the Kai Ika Project.
2. Jess Beetham has a background in grant seeking and administration. She has already made a notable impact with a series of successful grant applications.

Supporter Engagement & Public Awareness

Public Events

Unfortunately Covid-19 meant public events including the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show and Fielddays were cancelled this year. That said, we still:

1. Spent 41 days attending events.
2. Had an estimated 4900 one on one engagements.
3. Exhibited at events with a collective 102,970 attendees.

Over Covid-19 the crew immediately adopted online events, held four stakeholder webinars and conducted a series of online interviews with well known personalities.

Campaigns

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council completed its development of an alternative to the Quota Management System called Rescue Fish. On May 28 LegaSea took this audacious project and presented it to the world. As of July's end -

1. The campaign has motivated the New Zealand Underwater Association, the Mana Aquatic Divers and the New Zealand

Angling & Casting Association to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with LegaSea and New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. The focus is a commitment to work collectively and cohesively on promoting Rescue Fish.

2. Over 10,000 people have signed the Rescue Fish petition; and
3. We have enjoyed a steadily increasing stream of financial support.

General Communications

Print publications

Our print partners remain committed to growing public awareness. Without fail they make space for the LegaSea updates. Thanks to the support of NZ Fishing Media, NZ Bay Fisher and other outlets we published over 100 updates and articles.

Digital communications

Digital communications are critical. We sent 32 newsletters and issued 12 press releases as well as a steady stream of content to our social media channels. In addition to launching the Rescue Fish website, traffic to our LegaSea website also increased by 12%.

Finances

Grant Seeking - In addition to the seven successful grant applications, Foundation North provided a quick response grant during COVID-19 to support the rapid scale-up of the Kai Ika Project.

Partners - 2020 has already been a tumultuous year. Despite this, our Partners have stuck with us. Furthermore, we welcomed three more Gold Partners - Withers Tsang, Hammerhead and rrr. NZ Fishing Media were also elevated to Platinum Partner.

Public Donations - There has been a marked increase in public donations with the launch of Rescue Fish. These donations are an indicator of the widespread support for the development of an improved fisheries management system.

Our commitment to this necessary advocacy remains strong. 100% of public donations made via LegaSea are transferred to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council every month. These funds are invested in fisheries management and marine protection advocacy, education and research.

For the year ending June 2020 these monies totalled a healthy \$131,300.



LegaSea Projects

Rescue Fish

After two years of development Rescue Fish was successfully launched in May 2020. Rescue Fish is the public facing campaign designed in response to the members' commitment made at the NZSFC 2018 AGM: to support research and the study of fisheries management systems that will deliver abundant fish stocks and a diverse marine environment.

Rescue Fish is an alternative to the Quota Management System that seeks to better manage the inshore marine environment and fish stocks.

It is a policy reform package that has comprehensive solutions to many of the challenges we currently face, including addressing fish depletion and biodiversity loss.

Public engagement and support for Rescue Fish is being captured in an online petition and website. Excluding Covid-19 restrictions, the LegaSea team has been able to engage with people at public events and club premises. Clubs and members are encouraged to contact the Rescue Fish team for campaign material and requests for presentations.

What does Rescue Fish mean?

Radical changes are required. Firstly, the Quota Management System has to go and be replaced by a more agile regime that encourages artisanal fishing, regional jobs, economic growth and more fish in the water.

With the QMS gone small scale fishers will no longer have to pay rent to quota owners nor receive a fixed price for their catch. They will be empowered to innovate. Fishing permits will be priced so they can afford to find new, low impact ways to catch fish of the highest quality. They could even sell fish direct from their vessel, providing locals with the freshest catch. The possibilities are mouth-watering.

Another commitment is to ban industrial fishing methods from inshore waters. These include mobile, bottom contact bulk harvesting methods such as trawling and dredging, and purse seining. Inshore waters are those out to 12 nautical miles from the coast, or waters out to 200 metres deep, whichever is furthest from shore.

Change starts with the Government buying back at fair value all existing commercial quota shares in the inshore fishery. The estimated buyback cost is between \$0.76 and \$3.1 billion, with a mid-point of \$1.67 billion. This cost is recoverable from the future sale of commercial

fishing permits and will eventually provide an income stream to the Government for the benefit of all New Zealanders. Please, if you haven't already done so, go to rescuefish.co.nz and sign the petition for positive change.



FishCare - The school of best practice.

www.fishcare.co.nz

FishCare is an educational programme designed to help recreational fishers reduce their impact on the marine environment. The programme recognises that all fishers, commercial, customary and recreational, have a responsibility to look after our marine resources.

FishCare is centered around five core principles:

1. Fishing techniques. Use methods that target the fish you want and where possible avoid catching juvenile fish.
2. Fish handling and release methods. Handle fish appropriately to ensure maximum survival rates of fish returned to the water.
3. Maximum utilisation. Ensure you make the most of the fish you choose to keep or share unwanted parts with others.
4. Impact minimisation. Respect all marine life. Reduce your environmental impact and enjoy respectful interactions with birds and mammals.
5. Safety principles. Maximise personal safety while on the water.

Over the past year our team has not given the FishCare programme the same level of focus we had previously, that is because all effort has been channelled into Rescue Fish.

Given that Rescue Fish has the potential to rebuild fish populations, new material will need to be developed to educate the public on how to safely fish in an abundant fishery. We will use the next few months to improve existing material on fish handling, release techniques and utilisation, maximising the use of every fish we take home.



FishCare Ambassadors

Matt Watson, Tony Orton, Mandy Kupenga and Matt Von Sturmer are LegaSea's founding FishCare Ambassadors. All four have a well-established record of promoting ways that recreational fishers can minimise their impact on our marine environment. Over the past 12 months these Ambassadors have generously given us their time and shared their expertise with us. Kia kaha team.



The Kai Ika project

www.kaiika.co.nz

'He ika he taonga' - the gift of fish. Facilitated by LegaSea, the Outboard Boating Club of Auckland (OBC) and Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae have developed the Kai Ika Project.

This project utilises fish heads, frames and offal which were previously going to waste. For many, these fish parts are prized for their sweet flesh. Since November 2016, over 81,000 kilos of previously discarded fish parts have been collected from the OBC and redistributed to families around South Auckland.

As the supermarket shelves were emptied during the Covid-19 crisis community resilience and food security suddenly took on new relevance. It quickly became apparent that our Kai Ika Project was going to be important to supporting whanau through that time. However, it was also a period when all non-commercial fishing was restricted. At the most crucial time we were unable to source any fish.

Thankfully this impasse didn't last long. The community rallied:

1. Kai Ika was granted essential service status and it is now a registered food bank.
2. Moana New Zealand and later Sanford Ltd donated fish parts for distribution.
3. Foundation North provided emergency stimulus funding.
4. Campbell Plumbing and KR Electric completed some much needed development work so the Royal Wolf Container installed at the marae was fully functional.

This support allowed us to:

1. Expand distributions from 250 kgs of kaimoana per week to over 1250 kgs per week.
2. Collaborate with the following marae - Hoani Waititi (Glen Eden), Manurewa, Papakura and Nga Hau e Wha Marae (Pukekohe).

Jack Dodson has come on board to coordinate the Kai Ika effort. His input proved invaluable in this time of great community need. It also means Sam Woolford and the team can refocus their efforts on Rescue Fish.



Feeding communities with previously under utilised Kai Moana

81,000kg

Fish parts re purposed

630

Pickups

1700 hrs

volunteer work

31,000km

required to pickup & distribute fish parts



LegaSea Hawkes Bay Report 2019-2020

Introduction

LegaSea Hawkes Bay is a volunteer group set up in 2015 following the demise of the Hawkes Bay Guardians. The Guardians was a multi-sector group who struggled to get real traction in addressing the declining fisheries. LegaSea Hawkes Bay enjoys the support of LegaSea (national) and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

Establishing LegaSea Hawkes Bay was the catalyst to get mobilised and build links with other organisations and the public. It's an evolving process and now LegaSea Hawkes Bay is working closely with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Pan Pac, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council, Napier Port, commercial fishers and Iwi. The team is also actively involved in several working parties: the Hawkes Bay Regional Council's Coastal Review Committee, the Napier Port's Fishing Liaison Group and Pan Pac's stakeholders group.

When it comes to matters that affect recreational fishing interests and the marine environment, LegaSea Hawkes Bay has established itself as the local "Go To" organisation.

6 Wharf Project

The Napier Port 6 Wharf Project involves building a new 350 metre container wharf. This requires dredging then disposing of 3.2 million cubic metres of material at an offshore dump site. There are three significant reef systems in close proximity to the site and this posed major environmental challenges.

In 2016 LegaSea Hawkes Bay (LHB) initiated discussions with Napier Port to ensure stringent conditions were applied, to preserve the integrity of the reef systems and limit any impacts on the fishery. Resource consent for the project was granted in December 2018 and further assurances were negotiated in a Heads of Agreement with the Port. These related to water quality monitoring, LHB representation on the formation of the Fisheries Liaison Group, and the creation of an artificial reef using 20,000 cu/m of limestone rock from the existing revetment at the location of 6 Wharf that is unsuitable for reuse. Work on the project commenced in February 2020.

Artificial reefs

Potentially three artificial reefs will be created as a direct result of the 6 Wharf project. Resource consents are in place for a new reef east of Pania Reef and another in the Northern Springs area at the site of the sunken trawler, Gwen B. The bulk of the available limestone rock will be used to establish the new reef off Pania, and the balance deposited at Gwen B to enhance this site. The third area is at the 6 Wharf offshore dumping site where hard dredged material will be deposited in the northeast sector of the site to create a further reef type structure.

LHB Committee

John Stewart (Chairman)

Wayne Bicknell

Jim Yeoman

Brian Firman

Alex Smith

David Bicknell

Dave Cheetham

David Scott

Carl Fairey



LegaSea representatives, John Stewart (left) and Brian Firman (right), with Napier Port CEO Todd Dawson (centre) on a limestone rock wall to be used for reef construction. Image: Napier Port

Once established, the reefs will help boost recreational fishing and diving opportunities by providing structure and habitat for a wide variety of marine life.

This is a great example of what can be achieved by working collaboratively with others to successfully balance environmental, cultural and economic needs.

Fisheries Liaison Group

The Fisheries Liaison Group (FLG) was established in February 2019 as a condition of the 6 Wharf resource consent. The Group comprises three representatives from each sector, commercial fishing, LegaSea Hawkes Bay and Napier Port, with an independent Chair. Commercial fisherman Karl Warr and a

Hawkes Bay Regional Council representative have been co-opted onto the Group.

The FLG has an aspirational goal – to be a “world leader” in collaboration, participation and sharing of information associated with effects on fisheries during the development of 6 Wharf and throughout associated dredging and disposal activities.

To date the principal focus has been the development of detailed separate Management Plans for Dredging and Disposal, Water Quality, Fisheries Habitat, Avian, Marine Wildlife and Biosecurity. These Plans are in place and form part of the contractual documentation for the 6 Wharf project. This group has been an outstanding success.

Springs Box

Five years ago agreement was reached with the Napier Commercial Fisherman's Association and endorsed by Fisheries Inshore New Zealand, to voluntarily exclude bottom trawling from 237 square kilometres at the “Springs” area of Hawke Bay, from 1 December to 29 February every summer.

The Springs is a very popular area for recreational fishing over summer. The agreement is testament to the ongoing collaboration between the two sectors and has the common goal of improving local fish stocks. Efforts to improve data capture and monitoring of fish caught within the zone are ongoing. The results will be used to evaluate fish numbers and the effectiveness of the exclusion zone in creating an improved recreational experience.

Colin Murray ramp survey

In 2004 the public and members of the Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club started noticing a steady decline in the state of the Hawke Bay fishery. Even the most experienced anglers were struggling to get a reasonable catch. After much deliberation it was agreed that the Club would start recording what members were catching during their scheduled club competitions. Following peer review by marine scientist John Holdsworth, the catch survey began in 2006. It was aptly named after Club stalwart “Colin Murray”.

The ramp survey data and graphs have proven to be a powerful tool to support the assertions that the Hawke Bay fisheries were in trouble. Despite having this information belittled and referred to as “unscientific” and “anecdotal”, data collection continues.

Finally, MPI agreed to have two of their marine scientists look at the ramp survey data and meta-data to see what needed to be changed, if anything, to make the results more credible and “scientific”. After consultation and study the conclusion was to change nothing as the data had been collected with consistent methodology over a long period and provided meaningful results.

The study has now been extended to monitor catch rates from the Springs Box area.

The Colin Murray ramp survey is now in its 14th season and the graphs show that catch rates are slowly improving for some species. There will be many factors contributing to the improvement so it's important the team continues to monitor catch levels with the Colin Murray Ramp Survey method.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay appreciates the collective effort by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, and LegaSea teams, both national and local, in getting this far. LHB also values the communication with MPI and local commercial fishers. The team is encouraged that all the signs indicate the Hawke Bay fishery is improving.

Restoring the fishery to abundance is of utmost importance to the Hawke's Bay community. LegaSea Hawkes Bay thanks everyone involved for their continuing support.

Submissions

The Hastings District Council, Napier City Council and Pan Pac have permits to discharge treated wastewater via seabed pipelines into Hawke Bay. These entities are seeking a statutory protection zone around the pipelines. LegaSea Hawkes Bay has been consulted on the proposal, studied the draft application and held discussions with consultants acting on their behalf. LHB has not objected to the application because it's important these valuable assets are protected. LHB supports no anchoring by recreational vessels within the zones, but believes there ought to be no limitation to trolling or jigging.

Thanks to supporters

LegaSea Hawkes Bay thanks all their supporters for sharing the vision for an abundant fishery, a diverse marine ecosystem, and more fish in the water. Every contribution is appreciated and provides real encouragement for the team to work even harder to achieve these lofty goals for the benefit of current and future generations.

LegaSea Ltd Income and Expenditure

	30/06/19	30/06/20	
Income	Actual	Actual	notes
Donations from Legends, public & unaffiliated clubs	144900	137644	
Partner sponsorship programme	154657	184061	
Building LegaSea and LegaSea Works	31361	38517	
Grants received	438905	559569	
Merchandise income	44583	36457	
Other income	15032	13280	
Total Income	829438	969528	

Expenditure			
Donations to NZSFC and LegaSea Hawkes Bay	144900	137644	1
Public Outreach	198658	182667	
Fundraising	81565	95348	
Governance, Strategy and planning	58044	85351	
Administration	93649	103110	
Campaigns	346819	403065	2
Total Expenditure	923635	1007185	
Surplus / Deficit	-94197	-37657	3

Please refer to the www.legasea.co.nz website for copies of audited accounts.

Notes

1. Distributions of \$133448 to NZSFC to be administered and invested in Advocacy, Research and Education. \$4196 distributed to LegaSea Hawkes Bay to support their valuable work.
2. Campaigns. Rescue Fish, \$270906. Kai Ika, \$112038. FishCare, \$19533. Time out for Tarakihi, \$588.
3. This deficit has been funded by additional loans from Scott Macindoe, interest free, unsecured and repayable only from surpluses or funds earmarked for such repayment purposes.

Fisheries Management – Marine Protection Service Providers



JOHN HOLDSWORTH (BSC)

John is a director of Blue Water Marine Research, established in 1997 to conduct research including surveying recreational fishers and various tagging projects. He has over 20 years experience in fisheries research and management. John is the ideal person to represent our club members' interests in the science, policy and working group processes run by Fisheries New Zealand.



PETE SAUL

Pete is a fisheries researcher and retired charter operator with over 30 years experience. He owns and operates the vessel Lady Jess. Pete is a director of Blue Water Marine Research and is currently the Council's Records Officer. He contributed to the development of the moratorium on commercial billfish catch, which has been replaced by fisheries regulations prohibiting commercial fishers from landing marlin in New Zealand waters.



BARRY TORKINGTON

Barry has a background in commercial fishing and aquaculture. At one stage he was a director of his local commercial fishing operation, Leigh Fisheries. 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 has appreciated his input and guidance on significant issues over the 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.



GLEN CARBINES (PHD)

Glen has more than 25 years of experience in fisheries research and management (MAF, NIWA, independent fisheries research provider) and has a real passion for the welfare of our marine environment. He completed his Masters degree in fish ecology at the University of Canterbury and his doctoral degree in fisheries biology and management at the University of Otago. Glen is a keen recreational fisherman and is committed to represent the interests and values of the Council.



STUART RYAN

Stuart is a barrister with specialist practice in public law, environmental law and related areas. He represented the (then) New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and other non-commercial interests in the Kahawai Legal Challenge proceedings. Stuart has over 20 years experience in advising public and private sector clients. Over the years Stuart has built a strong relationship with many non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups.

Testimonials

ANGELA CLIFFORD - EAT NEW ZEALAND. ON THE SUBJECT OF BUYING FISH.

"I think we've lost our way, with our connection to our kaimoana. I think a lot of this is because we no longer know our fishers."

KARL WARR - COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN. REFLECTING ON THE JOB.

"You forget about the cares of the world pretty quickly out on the water. I've always had a deep fascination for the magic of the ocean. Everything's working in 3D - birds above, fish underneath. With previous jobs, I always used to find myself watching the clock. With fishing, the day's gone past and the first thing you notice is that it's getting dark."

DARREN SHIELDS - SIX TIMES NEW ZEALAND SPEARFISHING CHAMPION. LOOKING AT THE FUTURE.

"If our population continues to grow and we don't make some major changes to our fisheries management my great-grandchildren will never see what I've seen."

GRANT DIXON - MANAGING EDITOR NEW ZEALAND FISHING NEWS. REFLECTING ON FISHING LIFE.

"There are several stages in a recreational fisher's life. First, you just want to catch any fish; then you want to catch lots of fish; followed by lots of big fish; and then you want to catch fish in a challenging, sporting way, using new methods, tackle and techniques - numbers are less important than the 'quality' of the catch and the experience."

MANDY KUPENGA - PRESENTER OF "GET YOUR FISH ON" FISHING SHOW. REFLECTING ON THE QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

"It's clearly time to evolve our fisheries management system because it's not serving the people of New Zealand. Over time it's morphed to serve corporates more than everyday Kiwis and the environment."

MIKE BHANA - WILD FILM "THE PRICE OF FISH" DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER - REFLECTING ON REALITY.

"It's important that people understand the bad state of our fishery because we're at a turning point. Some of our fish stocks are on the brink of collapse and once we go over that it's going to be incredibly hard for us to restore them."

MATT WATSON - THE ITM FISHING SHOW - GIVING US A CHALLENGE

"Let's be the first generation in history to leave our fishery in better shape than the one we inherited."

ANDY STEWART - BOARD MEMBER NEW ZEALAND UNDERWATER ASSOCIATION

"Rescue Fish has so much potential for restoring fish abundance and cleaning up our marine environment and that is why the New Zealand Underwater Association is keen to support this initiative."

Celebrations



CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Rescue Fish has been the catalyst for change in helping to formalise the working relationships between representative organisations with a keen interest in the marine environment.

This growing respect was evidenced in July 2020 when the New Zealand Underwater Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

This MoU represents a commitment to work together, to prioritise the health of the marine environment through effective reform of fisheries management.

NZUA Board Member Andy Stewart explains, "divers around the country have seen the degradation and damage to our marine environment for decades. It's time for us to get more involved and this partnership provides real opportunity for collective impact. We're excited".

In July Andy presented the Association's Leo Ducker Award to Scott Macindoe in recognition of his efforts to enhance New Zealand's marine environment by helping communities reconnect with each other and the sea. Previous recipients of this prestigious award include Wade Doak and Darren Shields.

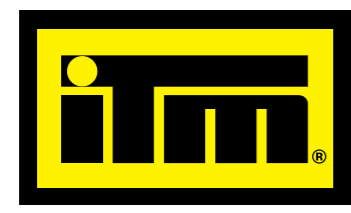
GROWING RESPECT

The New Zealand Underwater Association are now standing alongside the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea, the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association, Spearfishing NZ, the Mana Aquatic Divers, the Hokianga Accord, the mid north iwi fisheries forum, and LegaSea Hawkes Bay, in advocating for greater protection of our taonga, our marine environment.

The growing respect for each others' perspectives is reflected in the increasing number of joint submissions being made in response to a variety of management and policy proposals.



Scott Macindoe (L) receiving the Leo Ducker Award from Andy Stewart (R), New Zealand Underwater Association.



BARKERS'

Our Partners are our lifeblood. They help with funding, communication, social engagement and materials. Their support motivates the team and demonstrates a commitment to all New Zealanders, to ensure our lives are made richer through the health of our fisheries and the environment we all live in.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea gain confidence from having these Partners onboard the waka (canoe) seeking to rebuild our inshore fisheries to abundant levels. Our team strives to act in a fair and professional manner, and our dedication to detail has given our Partners the confidence to stick with us. Rebuilding our inshore fishery to a level of abundance is now a shared vision.

Our work would not be achieved without the generous support of many people and businesses. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea appreciate this ongoing trust and confidence in us to deliver the best outcomes for today's fishers and future generations of New Zealanders





RESCUE FISH

IKA RAUORA

**A pathway to fish abundance and
marine ecosystem recovery**

Sign the petition

RESCUEFISH.CO.NZ