

Fisheries Management

Annual Report 2022-23



NZSFC Directory

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE (FMSC)

Mark Connor – Co-chair

mpconnor@xtra.co.nz | 027 432 7485

Wayne Bicknell – Co-chair

wayneos55@gmail.com | 027 521 1001

Peter Campbell – Board member

peter.campbell@kinect.co.nz | 027 497 6305

Ian Steele – Board member

steelykiwi@gmail.com | 027 688 1441

Vance Fulton – Board member

vance@bopnutrients.co.nz | 027 329 6328

Allan Davidson (NZUA) – Co-opted

allan@envirogroup.co.nz | 021 267 3508

Jim Yeoman (NZACA) – Co-opted

madaz2903@xtra.co.nz | 027 442 9628

Richard Baker – Co-opted

richard@thebakers.net.nz | 021 869 889

Scott Macindoe – Co-opted

scott@macindoe.co.nz | 021 622 463

NZSFC INCORPORATED

Patron – Pete Saul

President – Ian Steele

Vice Presidents – Warren Maher and
Andrew Johnson

ADMINISTRATION

Admin Officer – Helen Pastor

Auditor – PFK Kerikeri Chartered Accountants

Records Officer – Pete Saul

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tony Allan – Zone 1

Bill McGarry – Zone 2

Phil Keogh – Zone 3

Vance Fulton – Zone 4

Wayne Bicknell – Zone 5

Ian Steele – Zone 6

Mark Connor – Zone 7

Heyden Johnston – Zone 8

Mark Hemingway – IGFA and Life Member
Representative

Peter Campbell – LegaSea Representative

Richard Baker – Fisheries Management
Representative

BY THE NUMBERS

Member clubs – 53

Affiliated members – 36,700

Life members – 12

Zone Board representatives – 8

IGFA NZSFC Board representative – 1

CONTACT

Helen Pastor

secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz | 027 485 3600

New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Inc.

PO Box 54242, The Marina, Half Moon Bay,
Auckland 2144.

nzsportfishing.co.nz

Cover photo: Paul Jackson. Image credits: Sam Wild,
Lynda Forrest, Napier Port, Grant Dixon, Benn Winlove,
Chris Jupp.

“Only a crisis - actual or perceived - produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes the politically inevitable.”

Milton Friedman

Contents

NZSFC President's Report	1
Fisheries Management Chairman's Report	2
Fisheries Management Committee Report	4
Resource Management Act	8
Rescue Fish Project	9
NZSFC Fisheries Management Income and Expenditure	10
LegaSea Annual Report 2022-23	11
The Kai Ika Project	13
Working Together	14
LegaSea Hawkes Bay Report	15
LegaSea Income and Expenditure	17
Fisheries Management Standing Committee Profiles	18
Fisheries Management Service Providers Profiles	20
Friends and Partners	22
Platinum and Gold Partners	23



Attendees at the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea, hosted by the Maraetai Beach Boating Club, Auckland. Image: Grant Dixon, New Zealand Fishing Media.

President's Report

NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL



Ian Steele,
NZSFC President

What an incredible year. The scale and quantum of challenges that we face continues to grow. Almost daily we are seeing something arise that affects the future abundance of the marine environment – and our access to it.

There has been an increased number of rāhui and Section 186A closure applications by mana whenua – generally citing localised depletion of species in their rohe. When taken collectively, this leaves our coastline with a growing number of areas being closed for a period of time.

More broadly, we have seen an amazing result related to the challenge for CRA 1 (East Coast Northland Crayfish Management Area). A judicial review found that the Total Allowable Catch setting in 2021 and 2022 was unlawful and the Government was forced to remake the decision ASAP.

A key argument was that the health and abundance of the ecosystem must be considered as a whole when considering the possible tonnage when harvesting a given species - in this case crayfish. We were involved in this review all the way – investing significant effort. This is a notable precedent acknowledged by the Courts.

Of course, the big one was the Fisheries Amendment Bill – it was very close to including pre-set decision rules, which would have meant the public and the Fisheries Minister having little say in future decisions on the management of

fish stocks around NZ. This was only averted at the 11th hour by Minister Parker, who removed the contentious aspects of the Amendment Bill. We had direct input on this issue – without our influence pre-set decision rules would have been introduced.

Above is a snapshot of topics, and I haven't discussed many others such as the Caulerpa and the RMA reform, the Natural Built Environment Bill.

The only way we manage to influence outcomes is by committing effort and resources to the relevant issues.

Simply put, this takes money – NZSFC commits a portion of annual NZSFC affiliation moneys from club members to these efforts. This is, in turn, supercharged with contributions and donations from the public and key supporters – generally sourced via our public outreach arm, LegaSea – who are doing an amazing job.

Fisheries Management challenges continue – and ongoing support from NZSFC, LegaSea and supporters is essential to see future abundance and access of the marine environment. Without ongoing effort in this area, our way of life and relationship with the marine environment would quickly change for the worse.

A huge thanks to all those that make this possible – all clubs, club members, supporters, and the aligned public.

A special thanks to the dedicated team that relentlessly provide and deliver our informed 'voice of reason' – taking the sentiment of our NZSFC clubs and executing that into a potent influence. That team includes volunteers, specialist marine experts and supporters around the country.

Chairman's Report

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



Mark Connor,
NZSFC FMSC
Co-chair



Wayne Bicknell,
NZSFC FMSC
Co-chair

Having Mark Connor and Wayne Bicknell sharing the load by co-chairing the Fisheries Management Standing Committee has been a masterstroke by the NZSFC. So much is happening, too much for one person to do on their own. Between Mark, Wayne, and the Committee, we have made it work over the past year.

We say goodbye and thanks for your service to Ken Barry, who has reluctantly stepped down from representing Zone 6 on the NZSFC Board and our Committee. We already miss Ken's enthusiasm and the occasional west coast crayfish at our meetings.

We acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing commitment of Peter Campbell, Richard Baker, Vance Fulton, Warren Maher, Ian Steele, and co-opted members Dirk Sieling, Scott Macindoe, Allan Davidson, the Environmental Chair and Board member of New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA), and President of the New Zealand Angling & Casting Association and spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay, Jim Yeoman.

The input from our contractor team has been integral to our success. Lewis Avenell as our Official Information Act bloodhound. Barrister Stuart Ryan and RMA legal expert Rowan Ashton have provided invaluable service as has John Holdsworth, Barry Torkington, Trish Rea, Sam

Woolford, Momoko Burgess, Sydney Curtis and Katie Goodwin. Special thanks to Benn Winlove for coordinating the Hauraki Gulf Alliance and Marine Park Fisheries Plan response. We also want to acknowledge Sam Woolford and Dallas Abel for engaging and educating our Sponsors and Partners in fisheries matters.

HEAVY DUTY

The past year is best described as heavy duty. We've developed responses to proposals for [30 species and areas](#) between [Southland to North Cape](#). Given the threat posed by the [Fisheries Amendment Bill](#), we submitted comprehensive responses to the Primary Production Select Committee in mid-2022. The [Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Fisheries Plan](#) process drags on and the emergence of the [Fisheries Industry Transformation Plan](#) in late April 2023 presented our team with another opportunity to promote the benefits of a workable alternative to the Quota Management System (QMS), our [Rescue Fish policy](#).

MINISTERIAL REVOLVING DOOR

There has been a succession of Ministers appointed to Oceans and Fisheries during the past 12 months. We are most grateful to David Parker for his precautionary decisions applying to snapper, gurnard, hāpuku, crayfish, tarakihi and scallops. While we didn't always agree with the outcomes, most of his decisions reflected the need to take the wider ecosystem into account while considering single species management. The exit of David Parker as Minister in April this year is a major loss. We aim to build a mutually respectful relationship with the current Minister, Rachel Brooking.

PIVOTAL CRA 1 COURT DECISION

In November 2022 the High Court confirmed that the Minister must consider the long-term environmental effects of fishing on marine ecosystems and other species, before setting commercial catch limits. This [celebrated decision](#) relates to the Ministerial [review of the Northland rock lobster](#) fish stock (**CRA 1**) in early 2022.

Our enthusiasm was soon dampened by the [minimalist response](#) from Fisheries New Zealand (**FNZ**) officials in early 2023, offering only minor changes to future catch limits for CRA 1. In our [February submission](#) we urged the Minister to set precautionary catch limits to enable the rebuilding of recruited biomass to B50, half the estimated unfished stock size. Ultimately, the Minister followed the officials' advice, applying a modest cut to the commercial catch limit while halving the daily recreational bag limit for spiny rock lobster to 3 per person. We anticipate a continued focus on addressing ecosystem effects of fishing and another review of CRA 1 in 2024.

FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL

The Fisheries Amendment Bill's passage through Parliament during 2022 was highly unorthodox and left many people dissatisfied.

In November 2021 the Government [released the Bill](#) seeking legislative changes to enable the rollout of cameras aboard commercial fishing vessels. In our [2022 submission](#) we repeated our support for onboard cameras, but vehemently opposed officials' attempts to lock-in pre-set decision rules. That's because pre-set decision rules would limit Ministerial oversight and public input (including ours) into decision-making processes. Without applying Ministerial discretion, decision rules would facilitate maximum commercial catches while failing to protect vulnerable species.

Hats off to Minister David Parker who had the courage to delete pre-set decision rule provisions from the Bill before it was passed. The Bill took effect in November 2022.

Given the threats posed by the Bill, this is the most significant win for the NZSFC, recreational fishers, our fish and marine environment in 20 years.

This comes seven years after the [2015 review](#) of commercial fishing, a major scandal in 2016 exposing gross under-reporting of commercial catches, and nine years after a Ministerial decision to [install onboard cameras](#) to better protect vulnerable species and reduce wastage. After a decade of promises, it is pleasing the Minister has finally announced the camera roll-out. On 23 vessels, and up to 300 by 2025. Time will tell.

5,501

submissions in response to the proposed Fisheries Amendment Bill

2,700

submissions to Waikato Regional Council draft Coastal Plan

2,900

submissions to Fisheries Industry Transformation Plan

\$317,000

invested in advocacy, research, management and alignment

Committee Report

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023

It's been an engaging and sometimes frustrating year so we're pleased to report the Fisheries Management Standing Committee remains intact. Everyone is keen to continue contributing to the common goal of restored abundance and a fair go for future generations.

It has been pleasing to be of service to our affiliated clubs and members, with the team's effort spread between the North and South Islands. Matters addressed include fisheries management, policy, legislative and Resource Management Act processes.

Briefly, we report the following milestones over the past 12 months:

- Participation in 70 forums, working groups, and hui.
- 30 submissions completed.
- 4 quarterly meeting reports.
- Endorsement of the temporary closures at Te Māta, Tutukaka-Ngunguru, Maunganui Bay, Napier Reef, Umupuia and active involvement in Waimārama, Ngāti Hei, and Twofold Bay hui.
- Attended hearings and provided substantive evidence to Environment Court hearings on marine protection in the Northland region.
- NZSFC AGM 2022 adopted an amended policy for aquaculture, and policies regarding tarakihi, gurnard, forage fish, pāua, Māori customary fisheries management tools and Ahu Moana, local area community management.
- Various levels of input into Resource Management Act processes (see separate RMA report).
- Advocated for a review of the traffic light system restricting the recreational harvest of blue cod while trawling continues.
- Attended Select Committee hearings on proposed changes to fisheries legislation.

BOTTOM TRAWLING

Bottom trawling and other forms of mobile, bottom contact fishing methods have passed their use-by date. The public is strongly opposed to the ongoing destruction of the benthic environment and consequent loss of productivity.

In February we supported a proposal to prohibit ongoing [dredging for kina in the Tory Channel](#), Marlborough Sounds. An archaic practice that ought to have been banned years ago. A Ministerial decision is pending.

Despite years of discussions, plans and the agreed Sea Change report, the Government's [Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Fisheries Plan](#) permits the ongoing use of destructive bulk harvesting fishing methods. The Hauraki Gulf Alliance of 110 organisations continues to campaign for the removal of trawling, dredging and Danish seining from the Gulf. In June we delivered over 36,000 signatures in a petition to Parliament calling for the ban, backed up by another 7000 submissions in August.

We discussed the impacts of trawling extensively in our November 2022 submission to FNZ in response to their draft guidelines for identifying [habitats of particular significance](#) for fisheries management. We urged them to take ecosystem-based fisheries management seriously.

In the November 2022 [CRA 1 decision](#), the High Court identified the statutory requirement on the Minister to consider "any effects of fishing on any stock and the aquatic environment". A clear signal that the Minister, when making decisions for a single species, must safeguard the wider marine ecosystem.

Collectively, we must do more to protect productivity of the marine environment from the risks associated with climate change, land run-

off, nutrient loading, and nearshore depletion. An effective defence against these threats is to rebuild fish stocks to a minimum target biomass of 50% of their estimated original, unfished size (B50), and apply a Type 2 Seafloor Protection Area to enable the Minister to ban all mobile bottom contact fishing methods from the Territorial Sea, within 12nm of the coastline. The Minister is then empowered to only permit low impact fishing techniques within these waters.

INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION PLAN (ITP)

When Fisheries New Zealand issued their [Industry Transformation Plan](#) in April we were stunned. How could they expect us taxpayers to fork out over 40 million dollars to buy a fleet of new, more powerful fishing vessels, including trawlers, that would further deplete our fish stocks?

Under the Quota Management System quota owners collect rent from the people who are actively fishing. This flawed rent-collecting system skims off any capacity for the fisher to upgrade their vessel. It also drives fishers to use bulk harvesting methods to catch the most fish, at the least cost. FNZ's latest plan fails to change this paradigm.

Over time we've learned that our inshore fish stocks cannot survive the onslaught of industrial fishing. Increasing the size and catching capacity of trawlers, dredgers and seiners is not the solution to depletion.

Our [Rescue Fish policy](#) supports the seafood industry transitioning to low impact fishing by local operators who are committed to protecting the environment. It's a pathway to more jobs in the regions, secure income, and fresh fish for local supply. That's truly transformational.

MUSHY FLESH FISH

FNZ tests of mushy fish, mainly snapper, caught on the northeast coast show the fish are suffering from chronic malnutrition, a lack of food over a long period of time. We've been working with NIWA and found around [20% of the fish taken to the Westhaven](#) Kai Ika filleting station are affected. This is a worrying signal that we're losing biodiversity and that productivity is degrading.

INEQUITABLE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH

Despite our best efforts, there's still no satisfactory resolution to the unfair traffic light system restricting recreational catch of blue cod around the South Island. Meanwhile, trawling continues unabated with Ministerial approval given for increases to commercial catches for [snapper and gurnard](#) with little regard given to the [bycatch of blue cod](#).

The Fiordland Marine Guardians successfully convinced officials and the Minister to implement [new rules to limit recreational catches](#) in the Fiordland marine area. This decision was made despite our [September 2022 submission](#) when we urged the Minister to make a fair decision. Recreational fishers wanted the opportunity to enjoy a reasonable daily catch inside the fiords, without having to fish in unsafe waters further out to sea. FNZ is now consulting on boat limits for recreational catch.

Once again, recreational pāua fishers have borne the brunt of inequitable management decisions. [Around Kaikōura](#), commercial fishing is open for 12 months yet recreational fishers are constrained to a tight season and reduced daily bag limits. We continue to advocate for independent scientific surveys of recreational fishing harvest as superior to any flawed data collected by self-reporting schemes.

SEABIRD PROTECTIONS

The NZSFC continues input into discussions about seabird protections. Our [May submission](#) advocated for the mandatory use of three mitigation measures (tori lines, night setting, line weighting) on commercial surface longliners. When used together, all three measures are effective at mitigating seabird bycatch. We expect a Ministerial decision before the end of 2023.

SCALLOPS

After years of campaigning against the damage caused by dredging, we're celebrating the Minister's announced [closure of the Coromandel scallop fishery](#) in March. Section 11 of the Fisheries Act gives the Minister wide-ranging powers yet it is rarely used to protect the marine environment and fish stocks from depletion.

ONGOING THREATS REQUIRES VIGILANCE

We continue to successfully push back on attempts to unfairly limit recreational harvest and interests. Proportional allocation, constraining us to fixed allocations instead of allowances, pre-set decision rules, and [elimination of Ministerial discretion](#) have all been tried in the past 12 months. The use of clever wording to couch these threats in amongst seemingly benign proposals for commercial fish plans or regulatory changes means we must remain vigilant.

The Committee encourages you and your club to stay abreast of activities by reading the Fisheries Management Quarterly reports, available from the NZSFC Secretary, your club delegate or Zone representative.

GAMEFISH UPDATE

The 2022-23 season saw a repeat of the last two years, with periods of persistent easterlies and warm wet tropical lows limiting fishable days in the north. The South Island benefited from warm water and calm weather, with great summer bluefin tuna fishing and striped marlin caught as far south as Fiordland.

TAGGED MARLIN RECAPTURES

There have been four New Zealand tagged striped marlin recaptured this season. A fish tagged in January 2022, in the Bay of Islands, was recaptured by a Japanese longliner in the Coral Sea in July or August 2022. Another tagged off Te Kaha, East Cape, in February 2023 was recaptured north of the Poor Knights on 1 March 2023. Two other striped marlin were retagged and released without retrieving the existing tag.

A blue marlin tagged by Steve Campbell off Vava'u in July 2018 was recaptured off the Alderman Islands, Coromandel, in March 2023. It was estimated to weigh 140 kg and was retagged and released. The Australian tag had been attached for 4 years and 8 months (1700 days) with the fish travelling 1096 nautical miles. This is notable as it is the first tagged blue marlin recaptured and reported in New Zealand waters.

Marlin recaptures are an important component of the project's conservation and research objectives. If you see a tag, please make every effort to retrieve it before releasing the fish.

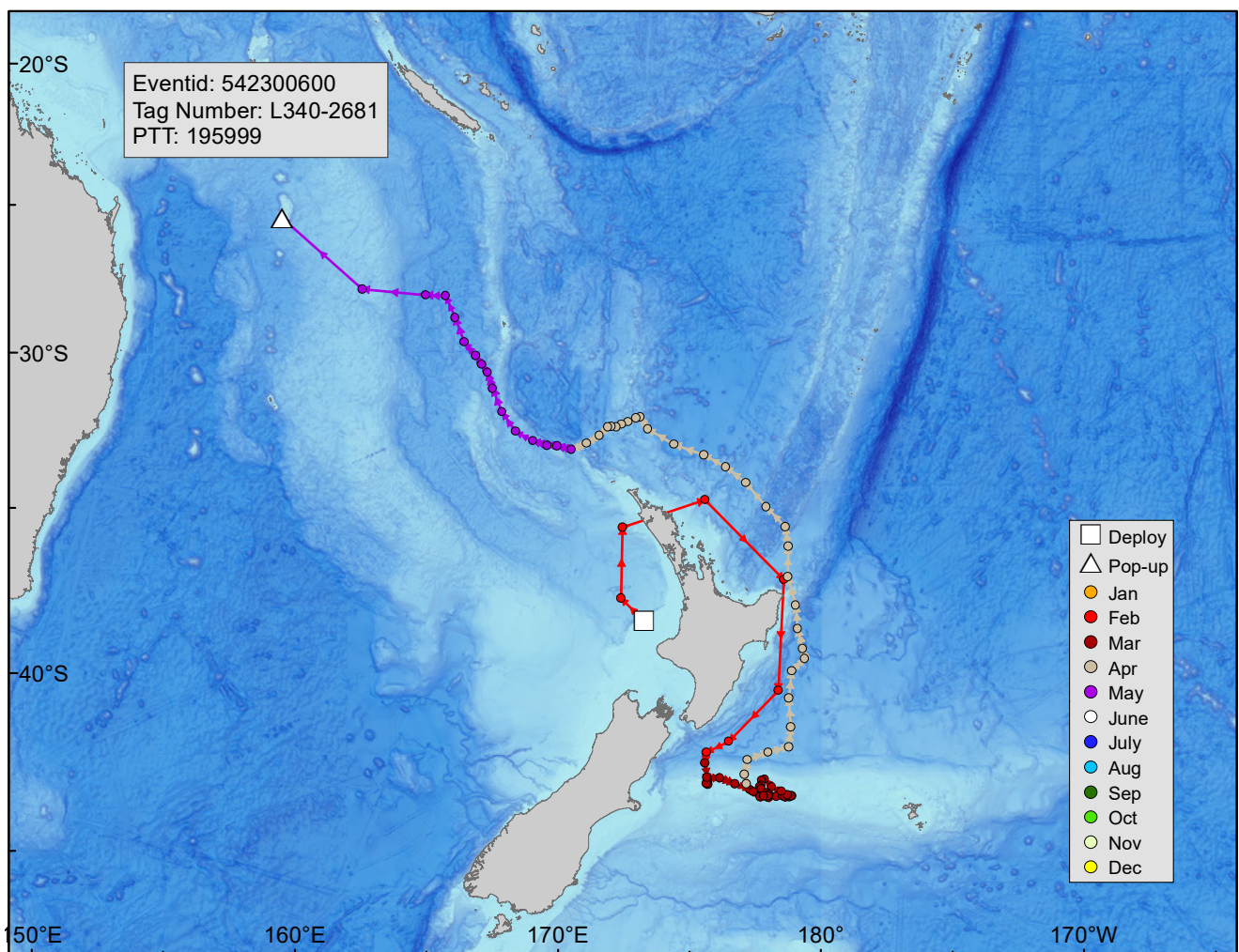
SATELLITE TAGGING RESULTS

Six pop-off satellite tags were deployed by the New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club in February and March this year. At last, we have detailed tracks from west coast tagged striped marlin thanks to ongoing support from the IGFA Great Marlin Race programme and the NZ Marine Research Foundation. Two long-term tags are due to pop-off and report in October.

Three tags have already produced results. The three fish spent February and March in New

Zealand waters and left during April. The first two tagged fish spent time off Taranaki or Waikato after being tagged, while the third fish did a rapid circuit of the North Island and appears to have spent most of March on the Chatham Rise. Warmer sea temperatures and La Niña weather events probably contributed to the expansion of this marlin's normal range. In late April and May this fish headed northwest across the top of the North Island and into the Coral Sea (white triangle).

Below: estimated track of a striped marlin tagged off Taranaki in February 2023 from electronic tagging data. Image: IGFA Great Marlin Race.



Resource Management Act

1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023

By necessity we're being drawn into Resource Management Act (RMA) discussions. It's a minefield to navigate. We're privileged to have the expert guidance of our legal team, Rowan Ashton and Stuart Ryan, whose generosity is much appreciated.

This ongoing and [resource-heavy engagement](#) has been triggered by the Mōtiti case. In our view, the need to resort to the RMA to try and protect marine ecosystems is another symptom of a failed Quota Management System (QMS). It also highlights the urgent need for comprehensive reform of fisheries management, including the QMS.

Throughout the Inquiry on the Natural and Built Environments Bill to replace the RMA, the NZSFC has maintained that legislators must avoid unnecessary duplication with the Fisheries Act. Regional councils lack the competency, capacity, and resources to administer fishing controls under the RMA. Biodiversity loss and depletion must be addressed using Fisheries Act tools, to ensure fish for future generations.

In 2021 Forest & Bird and others appealed the Northland Regional Council's Proposed Regional Plan because it did not ban a range of fishing methods to effectively protect marine biodiversity. In February 2023 the Environment Court agreed with most of the appeal, meaning selected areas on the northeast coast must be closed to fishing. The Regional Plan will need to be amended and then approved by the Environment Minister. There is no further opportunity to stop the closures or change the Plan until it is reviewed in a decade.

We have subsequently worked with Andrew Johnson, on behalf of the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club and other Zone 1 clubs, in responding to Fisheries NZ's [proposed area closures](#) to fishing on the northeast coast. This decision is pending.

Last July the NZSFC and Waikato-based fishing clubs submitted a response to the Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) [draft policy paper](#) discussing marine biodiversity protection. We advocated that any controls applying to the marine environment ought to be applied under the Fisheries Act, not the RMA. We expect the WRC to release a draft Coastal Plan for submissions before the end of 2023.

The Marlborough District Council's Environmental Plan identifies a number of ecologically significant marine sites in the Tory Channel. Their work triggered FNZ's [review of kina dredging](#) in the Tory Channel. Our [February submission](#) urged the Fisheries Minister to ban kina dredging.

Closures are in place around [Mōtiti and other islands](#) in the Bay of Plenty. The Regional Council's resources are stretched in trying to enforce the closures. The Council must now be held accountable for monitoring changes in and around the closed areas, to determine the effectiveness of the closures. This data needs to be made public, given the serious impact of the closures on local fishers and communities.

2700

submissions sent to the Waikato Regional Council (WRC)

\$250,000

of 'in kind' investment from experienced contributors

RESCUE FISH - IKA RAUORA

Rescue Fish - Ika Rauora is an ambitious yet achievable policy alternative to the Quota Management System (QMS). It's based on seven principles all geared towards restoring fish populations to more abundant levels, while ensuring all New Zealanders benefit from the utilisation of our national resource.

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, LegaSea and others have collaborated since 2018 to develop the policy, to ensure it is workable. It offers a [positive alternative](#) to everyone who has a commercial or non-commercial interest in the future abundance of our fisheries.

Rescue Fish is shaped by lessons learnt since the QMS was introduced in New Zealand in 1986, and from overseas experiences of rights-based systems. Some of the early research was captured in the documentary [The Price of Fish](#), which featured on national television in 2020.

Common to all right-based systems is the aggregation of quota. When perpetual rights to a natural resource are issued it's inevitable they will end up in the hands of those with the deepest pockets. In Aotearoa, quota shareholders now dominate important discussions. This adversely influences how the public's fish assets are managed, to the detriment of our social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-beings.

The QMS has become a rent-seeking institution that places all the incentives on short-term cash flow and actively hinders innovation or value creation. The outcome is the ongoing use of destructive, industrial fishing methods in inshore waters because many commercial fishers cannot afford to upgrade to modern techniques or, heaven forbid, innovate.

Localised depletion is now driving communities to reach for species harvesting closures and pockets of marine protected areas. While these actions may satisfy local calls for action, they fail to address the fundamental issues of why excessive catch limits exist, and why fish stocks are not being actively rebuilt to abundant levels despite intense involvement by NZSFC and others.

We figured having abundant fisheries and giving future generations a fair go was a reasonable and achievable goal that would appeal to most Kiwis. Not so.

Officials have dismissed Rescue Fish as unworkable and unaffordable. Māori are reluctant to let go of their hard-earned Treaty Settlement quota in exchange for a freehold stake in a rebounding fishery. Corporates, including Iwi, are busy clinging to their remaining quota even though the Minister can nullify its worth at any time. And industrial fishing is embedded in the QMS because it's all about low-value commodity production. This leaves most of the commercial fishers on the water so indebted to the quota owners that they can't afford to protest, renew their vessels or innovate.

It is blatantly obvious that reform of fisheries management is required. Rescue Fish seeks to break this stalemate. Meaningful policy change takes a long time and may never happen if there is no reasonable alternative available. We will continue to promote Rescue Fish - Ika Rauora as a viable alternative to the QMS, in the interests of our kids and theirs.

"Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining."

Teddy Roosevelt

Income and Expenditure



NZSFC

	30/6/2020	30/6/2021	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	Notes
SOURCE OF FUNDS					
NZSFC affiliated club member levies	95000	95000	95000	120000	
LegaSea Legends, public, and unaffiliated clubs donations	133448	141391	132354	135636	
Grant income – Engagement & Participation	0	9130	0	50000	1
Grant income – Rescue Fish	0	0	0		
Sundry Fisheries Management income	0	0	3275	9703	2
Total Fisheries Management Income	228448	245521	230629	315339	
EXPENDITURE					
Engagement and participation in fisheries management and marine protection processes					
Snapper	3243	12019	8630	5328	
Crayfish	4931	1911	17829	49077	3
Pelagics	3543	4520	1247	4328	
Other fisheries	20132	33625	31811	22197	
FNZ processes and political engagement	25372	31452	35737	93635	4
Marine Protection and RMA process	30770	64109	65135	13031	
Regional issues/support	1439	23594	3236	68206	5
Planning, projects and team development					
Rescue Fish investment	104491	62148	0	5035	
Standing Committee administration/training	9588	10860	8862	27054	6
Policy Development	0	8965	1743	5763	
Grant seeking	0	0	105	3510	
Reporting and public awareness	18090	19856	18189	21322	
Total expenditure	221599	273059	192524	318486	
Surplus/deficit	6849	-27538	38105	-3147	
Unspent LegaSea Contributions Reserve	34054	6516	44621	41474	

1. The Council appreciates all the donors to the Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust & the Trustees for making this invaluable grant possible.
2. Countrywide appreciation. Thank you to LegaSea Hawkes Bay and the Pegasus Bay Game Fishing Club for their most timely support.
3. The management of our precious kōura, rock lobster fisheries is hotly contested. The TACC shareholders spare no expense in their effort to influence all aspects of these fisheries management processes. We are fully engaged in the National Rock Lobster Management Group, the Rock Lobster Science and Plenary meetings, as well as a series of workshops on setting management targets and monitoring recreational catch in 2022-23 that could set precedents for other high value recreational fisheries. Our succession planning for this engagement is well developed this year.
4. Just over \$30,000 invested in the usual Ministry led processes, again with succession under way and thus some duplication of personnel. The balance, an unattractive \$60,000, was invested in responding to the offensive Fisheries Amendment Bill. A stressful and exhausting

process that ultimately saw the pre-set decision rules and subsequent loss of Ministerial discretion aspects of the Bill removed by the Minister, with a last minute Supplementary Order Paper. We thank you Minister David Parker for your courage under fire.

5. Despite our very best efforts, the remarkable Sea Change Spatial Plan for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (which had unanimous support from all stakeholders) has been trashed by the indifferent and commercially biased Government response known as Revitalise the Gulf. A lost opportunity that future generations will regret.
6. We have made a considerable investment in succession planning this year. Finding good people, training, coaching and quite a bit of replication in our engagement and participation. Please note that almost all of the monies accounted for in this Income and Expenditure account have been invested in our team of contractors. Not accounted for is the 'in kind' contribution from our nine Standing Committee members all of whom are volunteers. They each have, on average, more than 15 years' experience in this arena and contribute more than 2000 hours per annum.

LegaSea Report

ANNUAL REPORT



Sam Woolford,
LegaSea project lead

Since 2012 LegaSea has strived to enhance New Zealanders' understanding of the issues impacting our coastal fisheries. With that comes the responsibility to give people the opportunity to have their say. We strive to provide the tools and make sure your voice is heard. Fair to say, we are constantly learning and feedback is appreciated.

As the issues facing our coastal fisheries continue to mount and our projects become more popular, the demands on our crew continue to increase -

1. The Kai Ika Project has expanded to Wellington thanks to the commitment of Chris Jupp and his team of volunteers.
2. The Hauraki Gulf Alliance has enabled fishing and environmental advocates to collaborate on a goal of banning destructive fishing methods from inshore waters.
3. LegaSea Hawkes Bay continues to support its community through positive engagement, which is most welcome given the tough times in that region. (See separate reports).

We do this mahi with confidence, knowing we have the support of our parent organisation, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, their delegates, affiliated and non-affiliated clubs. They provide a solid platform that helps us maintain a strong presence advocating for restored abundance and a fair go for future generations.

GOVERNANCE

The LegaSea Governance Advisory Standing Committee (LGAS) includes both LegaSea Directors Mark Connor and Peter Campbell, and Dirk Sieling, Ian Steele, Richard Baker, Scott Macindoe and Wayne Bicknell. Their oversight and guidance is much appreciated by our team.

PEOPLE

With growth comes increased demand and engagement, requiring an expansion of the crew. This year we have welcomed the following people; Katie Goodwin - Supporter Engagement, Chris Scott - Digital Communications, Sitiveni Kakala - Full-time Filleter, Tonga Kakala - Apprentice Filleter.

Contractors who have generously shared their expertise over the past year include Simon Yates, Pieter Battaerd, Louise O'Sullivan, Jess Beetham, Sydney Curtis, Momoko Burgess, Ellie Martel, Benn Winlove, Katie Goodwin, Dallas Abel, Chris Scott, and Trish Rea.

We acknowledge the incredible time and effort Pieter Battaerd and Simon Yates contributed to LegaSea's cause. Pieter dedicated nine years attending countless boat shows and events as the representative for LegaSea. Simon spent ten years working as Corporate Relations and Funding Manager for LegaSea. He was the inspiration behind many of our campaigns, establishing foundational relationships with many of our partners who remain supporters to this day. We wish them well in the future.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

In generating public awareness of the many issues affecting our coastal fisheries we have invested over \$319,000 into our campaigns.

Our relentless campaigning since 2020 highlighting the depletion of Coromandel

scallops resulted in an emergency closure in December 2022. The Minister has since closed the fishery to commercial and recreational harvest.

The Hauraki Gulf Alliance saw us join forces with 110 organisations to fight against bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

One of the biggest events each year for LegaSea is the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show. This year we ran a visual “Where’s Johnny” campaign to raise awareness about the lack of diversity of fish species other than snapper in our waters. Over 3,000 fish were plastered on the wall as attendees guessed where Johnny the John dory and his friends were hiding in the Hauraki Gulf.

FINANCES

We have a long-standing policy that 100% of public and unaffiliated club donations to LegaSea are distributed to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. We have observed a decrease in recurring payments, attributed to the cost of living crisis and recession. We are still observing that Kiwis have a strong desire to see real change in fisheries management, with increased subscribers and social engagement.

GRANT SEEKING

In the last year we have secured over \$450,000 in grants. These were distributed to various LegaSea projects, including distributing kai moana, an artificial reef feasibility study, and the establishment of The Kai Ika Project in Wellington.

The New Zealand Marine Research Foundation granted \$12,500 for attendance at the World Recreational Fishing Conference in February 2023. Momoko Burgess attended and John Holdsworth and Sydney Curtis both made

presentations. We’re grateful to the Foundation and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council for their support in making this achievable.

PLATINUM AND GOLD PARTNERS

1. Turkish Bread distributed ‘Card Sharks’ among pizza packs in 2023. Each collector card features facts and statistics about species of sharks, rays, and skates found in New Zealand waters. Over 2 million cards were distributed along with \$20,000 worth of prizes thanks to a generous Gold Partner, Marine Deals. To date we have almost 20,000 entries.
2. Bayleys came onboard as a Platinum partner in late 2022 and hosted the Bayleys Fishing Classic in October, with \$60,000 generously donated to LegaSea. The participants enjoyed a fantastic couple days of fishing for a good cause.
3. Whitehaven Wines have been a dedicated Platinum partner since 2016. In June they launched a Kōparepare Wines promotion whereby 100% of purchases made during one week were donated to LegaSea. The result, 115 cases of wine sold and over \$30,000 raised.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

The unpredictable, extreme weather and flooding in Auckland stymied some of the planned volunteer events. We did not let the weather dampen our spirits. Our volunteers invested 390 hours in various projects including; Annual Waiheke Marine Project Kōura survey, dive and beach clean-ups with Sea Cleaners, Hauraki Gulf Alliance stand at Kelly Tarltons, NIWA snapper mortality survey, and assistance at the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show.

‘HE IKA HE TAONGA’ – THE GIFT OF FISH

The [Kai Ika Project](#) is a collaboration between LegaSea, the Outboard Boating Club of Auckland and Papatūānuku Kōkiri Marae of south Auckland. The Project's mission is to minimise our impact on the marine environment through improved practices, and using more of each fish harvested so no parts are wasted.

Since 2016 we have collected and distributed over 350,000 kilos of previously unwanted fish parts. These have been shared through various maraes, faith-based groups, and community centres Auckland-wide.

To maximise utilisation, non-edible parts are used as organic fertiliser in the Marae's community gardens.

Our success means we are helping to relieve stress in communities where food insecurity is a prominent issue.

And, our collective effort is driven by a sense of rangatiratanga, an aspiration to lead by example based on inherited knowledge.

KAI IKA WELLINGTON

With demand increasing we are continuing to grow. The Kai Ika Project Wellington has been launched. Chris Jupp and his team of committed volunteers are collecting and sharing fish offcuts with their local Porirua community. They have been delivering over 400 kilos to the community every week.

This is an outstanding effort thanks to Chris and his team. We are looking forward to expanding to other communities in the future when we have more resources.

Best of all, The Kai Ika Project is helping to change peoples' perceptions and behaviours around the maximum use of every fish taken.

FILLETING SUCCESS

Despite an excessively wet Auckland summer, we achieved a record-breaking season at our Westhaven filleting station.

Demand is so high that we have employed two full-time filleters, Dave Ahoia and Sitiveni Kakala, one part-time filleter, and trained a team of dedicated volunteers.

In January Sitiveni became New Zealand's fish filleting champion, winning the prestigious Golden Knife trophy for excellence in filleting.

Our new mobile filleting trailer has proven to be a hit, with the Kai Ika team attending multiple fishing competitions and events across the upper North Island. The fish offcuts are then distributed to local communities.

The Kai Ika Project has attracted support and financial assistance from a wide range of organisations and agencies. Their unwavering backing has played a major role in helping us succeed. Next, we hope to inspire more organisations to join our journey in minimising waste while supporting our communities through tough times.



Distribution of kai moana at The Kai Ika Project Wellington. Image: Chris Jupp

Working Together



HAURAKI GULF ALLIANCE

The Hauraki Gulf Alliance (HGA) was formed in 2021 with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and LegaSea joining forces with 110 member organisations, businesses and individuals. The most successful and active collaboration was working with Greenpeace NZ, Forest & Bird, WWF, and ECO.

The Alliance was formed to fight against the continuation of mobile bottom contact fishing methods, including bottom trawling, scallop dredging and Danish seining, as proposed in the Government's Revitalising the Gulf strategy (2021) and Fisheries New Zealand's draft Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Fisheries Plan (2022).

The Alliance has actively worked to raise public awareness about the mismanagement of the Marine Park and lobby the Minister for Ocean and Fisheries. This involved initiating a petition to demonstrate substantial public support for a ban on the use of mobile, bottom contact fishing methods.

In addition, the Alliance urged people to make submissions during the Fisheries Plan consultation period, which concluded on March 3rd, 2023.

Attention-catching billboards were strategically placed around Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau urging the public to submit, to voice their opinion on bottom trawling.

The petition successfully gathered over 36,000 signatures from the public opposing the continuation of bulk harvesting, destructive fishing methods. We also received copies of 7,700 submissions sent to Fisheries New Zealand via the Hauraki Gulf Alliance website responding to the Fisheries Plan.

LegaSea, along with fellow Alliance members Forest & Bird and Greenpeace, rallied at an on-the-water protest at Mission Bay in April. Over 60 vessels, including yachts, kayaks and

paddleboards, showed their support to ban bottom trawling in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Signatures were collected from multiple events throughout the past year including the Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show, on-water Boat Show and events organised by LegaSea partners. The Alliance established a stand at Kelly Tarltons during the summer school holidays where they collected around 2500 signatures. This successful outcome is a reflection of the effort LegaSea crew, volunteers, and Kelly Tarltons staff put into engaging and educating the general public.

There will be further opportunities to remove bottom trawling from the Gulf when the proposed trawl corridors are consulted on by Fisheries NZ. Currently, there is no public information on the size and location of these potential areas where trawling may be permitted in future.

The broad audience reached and positive feedback garnered can be attributed to the collective efforts of the 110 supporting organisations and concerned citizens who rallied behind the Hauraki Gulf Alliance's cause.

36,000

petition signatures

7,700

submissions

110

Alliance partners

LegaSea Hawkes Bay

INTRODUCTION

LegaSea Hawkes Bay (**LHB**) is a volunteer group established in 2015 to address declining fisheries in the Bay. Our team includes Wayne Bicknell, Jim Yeoman, Brian Firman, Alex Smith, David Cheetham, David Bicknell, David Scott, Carl Fairey, Brett Rigby, Peter Draper and Jamie Flett. Our Chairman is John Stewart.

LegaSea Hawkes Bay enjoys the support of LegaSea (national) and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

LHB continues to build strong relationships with mana whenua and local organisations that have an interest in the marine environment. We have established ourselves as the go-to organisation when it comes to matters affecting our fishery. We are represented on several working parties including Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Hawkes Bay Marine and Coast Group and Napier Port's Fisheries Liaison Group.

SUBMISSIONS

LegaSea Hawkes Bay has submitted in response to a range of fisheries related issues over the past year, including:

1. Supporting the proposed 2-year extension of a [rāhui at Waimārama](#), to protect blackfoot pāua from harvesting;
2. Supporting the placement of a 2-year rāhui on an [artificial reef](#) 1.4 kilometres northeast of Pania Reef, off Napier.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE

The Hawkes Bay region took a major hit as a result of February's Cyclone Gabrielle. The consequences of the cyclone are yet to be fully quantified, but they are huge in terms of financial loss and personal wellbeing. More than 500 millimetres of rain fell overnight in most of the catchments of the Bay's five major

river systems, taking out bridges and literally everything else in its journey to the ocean. Stop banks failed to cope with the deluge, resulting in unprecedented flooding and widespread destruction of properties and loss of lives.

The full effect of the cyclone and subsequent storms on the marine environment is still being assessed. However, the level of siltation is immense and the quantity of logs and slash is beyond comprehension. The cyclone has undoubtedly had a significant impact on the marine environment and an unknown impact on stock abundance. Those impacts are likely to be felt for several years. It's essential that there is ongoing monitoring of fish stocks and of the impacts of sediment influx.

ARTIFICIAL REEF RĀHUI

We're pleased the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries has approved a 2-year temporary closure to fishing around the new artificial reef off Napier. The closure, known as Te Rāhui o Moremore is in effect from 22 June 2023 until 2025.

Collaboration between mana whenua, LegaSea Hawkes Bay, Napier Port and the community resulted in the creation of the reef as part of the construction of Napier Port's new wharf, Te Whiti.



Image: Napier Port

The reef was constructed during 2021 and 2022 from limestone boulders taken from a revetment wall which was dismantled as part of the new wharf build. To construct the reef approximately 24,000 tonnes of limestone boulders were deposited in 20 metres of water 1.4 kilometres east of Pania Reef.

After only two years reef life is flourishing with a range of species, including crayfish, blue cod and various sponges. The rāhui will allow habitat growth while an ongoing reef monitoring and enhancement programme takes place.

This has been a collaborative effort and is a prime example of the Ahu Moana concept. That is, creating a positive environment where mana whenua, fishers, and the community work together to enable the restoration of the marine habitat and biodiversity. This is the community investing in the future and supporting more fish in the water.

ANOTHER ARTIFICIAL REEF

LegaSea Hawkes Bay has been offered a redundant fishing trawler to create another

artificial reef and dive site. This could provide a number of opportunities, such as tourism and education, as well as contributing to a more vibrant marine ecosystem.

The project is in its early stages, and consultation is underway with mana whenua and other interests. The preferred site is in 22 metres of water north of Ahuriri.

Detailed planning is continuing in relation to the technical and funding aspects of the project. We anticipate a resource consent application will be lodged with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council by October 2023.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

LegaSea Hawkes Bay thanks all our supporters for sharing the vision for a diverse marine environment 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.



Top Row, left to right. Alex Smith, Peter Draper, Brian Firman, David Cheetham. Middle row, left to right. Jim Yeoman, Wayne Bicknell, Brett Rigby, David Scott, John Stewart, David Bicknell. Front Row, left to right. Paul Ratapu, Carl Fairey.
 Image: Lynda Forrest

Income and Expenditure



LEGASEA

	30/6/2020	30/6/2021	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	Notes
INCOME					
Donations from Legends, public & unaffiliated clubs	137644	159213	135225	137848	1
Partner sponsorship programme	184061	181656	200441	462511	2
Grants received	559569	698314	668377	452286	3
Merchandise income	36457	15233	16205	19670	
Other income	13280	76728	8333	3072	
Total income	969528	1163642	1068757	1075387	
EXPENDITURE					
Donations to NZSFC and LegaSea Hawkes Bay	137644	159213	135225	137,848	1
Public outreach	182667	171884	226994	258,953	
Fundraising	95348	68446	83326	170,978	4
Governance, Strategy and planning	85351	82317	99548	94,021	
Administration	103110	104608	100930	121,250	
Campaigns	403065	474917	353333	319,039	5
Total Expenditure	1007185	1061385	999356	1,102,089	
Surplus/Deficit	-37657	102257	69401	-26702	6

1. LegaSea Legends are typically ordinary families putting their money where their hearts are. The cost of living crisis is impacting on these people and their ability to contribute. Some uplifting stories of sacrifice and commitment. Since 2014 the LegaSea '100% Commitment' policy means all of these monies are distributed to the NZSFC the month following receipt. The Council carefully administers and invests these funds in Advocacy, Research, Education and Alignment work. To date, this distribution from Legends and public donations amounts to \$1,074,875. The 'Unspent LegaSea Contribution Reserve' at Council now stands at \$41,614.
2. As the profile of LegaSea grows, coupled with a passionate sponsorship team, our recurring revenues support from Partners and Sponsors is growing. The Kai Ika Project is inspiring investors who are seeking established waste minimisation and sustainability organisations. Having an organisation committed to 'restoring abundance and securing a fair go for future generations' is gathering support and traction.
3. The many generous donors to the Guardians of the Sea Charitable Trust make the establishment and operation of LegaSea possible. We will be forever grateful. Thanks to the Ministry for the Environment, Lottery Community Auckland, Auckland Council Waste Minimisation and Puta Ora for their support of The Kai Ika

Project. The New Zealand Marine Research Foundation assistance to help scope the ground breaking work required for artificial reef establishment is deeply appreciated.

4. Our goal for year ending 30th June 2024 is to earn at least \$800,000 recurring revenues from Partners and Sponsors. To achieve this we have invested in an expanded fundraising team structure to make up for the loss of Simon Yates, who has retired this year - he has shown us the way and offered confidence and belief to so many. Thank you Si.
5. We include The Kai Ika Project in Campaigns. Please refer to the LegaSea website for full audited accounts and a detailed note of the Kai Ika Income and Expenditure - a deficit of \$194,269 for y/e 30/6/2023 which is a significant investment by our Partners and grant makers who have helped us to lay such a solid foundation. Other campaigns this year include the Scallop Campaign, Hauraki Gulf Alliance, Artificial Reefs and exposing the bizarre pre-set decision rules buried in the Fisheries Amendment Bill.
6. At LegaSea we pride ourselves on our transparency and accountability. Please reference our website, About Us and then the Financials tab for a complete, accurate and timely record of Audited Accounts, Accountability Reports and Fisheries Management Annual Reports published since our inception.

Committee Profiles

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE



ALLAN DAVIDSON

Allan is a New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA) board member, their Environmental Chair and a keen diver, current secretary & past President of the Mana Aquatic Dive Club Inc, and former Mana Cruising Club Commodore. He is NZUA's representative on the National Rock Lobster Management Group and co-opted onto the Fisheries Management Standing Committee. Allan provides a useful interface with Wellington and Marlborough Sounds marine stakeholders.



MARK CONNOR

Mark is the South Island's representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board, and the chair of the Fisheries Management Standing Committee. Mark is a long standing member of the [Ashley Sport Fishing Club](#) in north Canterbury, and is actively engaged in local and regional fisheries management processes. Mark was the President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council between 2012 and 2015, and has been a director of LegaSea since 2012.



PETER CAMPBELL

Peter is based in Tauranga and has been a Zone delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board since 2000. He has been Vice President of the Board twice, from 2001 to 2009, and 2012 until 2021. Peter is an active contributor to all aspects of fisheries and resource management, and marine protection activity, he is also a LegaSea director.



RICHARD BAKER

Richard has been involved with the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council for over 30 years. Richard served as Vice President of the Council for seven years. He was Council President from 2008 to 2011, and was the Council's youngest ever life member. Richard is the Council's spokesperson on fisheries management and public education issues. He also serves as a spokesperson for LegaSea.



SCOTT MACINDOE

Scott has been an active contributor to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in a management and public awareness capacity for many years. He provides strategic advice to the Fisheries Management Standing Committee and LegaSea teams. His ongoing commitment to ensuring there are sufficient funds available to resource the advocacy is vital.



WAYNE BICKNELL

Wayne is a life member of the [Hawke's Bay Sport Fishing Club](#) and is a New Zealand representative to the International Game Fish Association. He is also a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council's Executive Board member. Wayne has years of experience in local and national issues. He is also a founding member and spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay.



IAN STEELE

Ian joined the [New Plymouth Sportfishing & Underwater Club](#) in the early 2000's and from there has worked his way from helping around the club, to NPSUC President. He has been President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council since 2022. Ian has a strong interest in sport fishing, including light tackle and also furthering the capability and coverage of sportfishing in New Zealand.



JIM YEOMAN

Jim is the President of the [New Zealand Angling & Casting Association](#) (NZACA). He is also a spokesperson for LegaSea Hawkes Bay. Jim has been co-opted onto the Fisheries Management Standing Committee to represent the NZACA's members' interests. His generous and authentic contribution to the Committee and the discussions over the past eight years is much appreciated.



WARREN MAHER

Warren is the President of the [Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club](#) and Vice President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. He successfully coordinated the citizen science survey of Opito Bay scallops in 2020 when Ngāti Hei laid a rāhui to protect the fishery. This effort led to a Ministerial decision to close the entire Coromandel scallop fishery in March 2023 due to widespread depletion.



VANCE FULTON

Vance first became a NZSFC Zone delegate for the [Mount Maunganui Sport Fishing Club](#) in 2004. He was the Vice President for a number of years. He has been the NZSFC Board representative for the Zone 4 clubs since 2019. Vance's background in science and his analytical skills makes him an asset on the Fisheries Management Standing Committee.

Contractor Profiles

SERVICE PROVIDERS



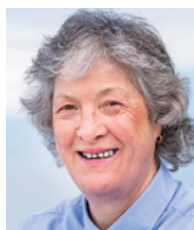
JOHN HOLDSWORTH (BSC)

John is a director of [Blue Water Marine Research](#), established in 1997 to conduct research including surveying recreational fishers and various tagging projects. With over 20 years experience in fisheries research and management, combined with his love for fishing, John provides a powerful scientific and topwater perspective. John is the ideal representative for our club members' interests in the science, policy and working group processes run by Fisheries New Zealand.



BARRY TORKINGTON

Barry Torkington has worked in the commercial fishing and aquaculture industry since the 1970s, as a fisherman and in marketing and product innovation. He was a director of Leigh Fisheries for 10 years. Barry's particular interests over 40 years of policy development is in the use of industrial fishing methods and their restrictions, also productivity, in terms of yield per recruit and benthic protection. Barry has been a policy advisor to the NZ Sport Fishing Council since 2005.



TRISH REA

Trish has over 20 years experience in fisheries management and advocacy, driven by a passion to ensure everyone now, and in the future, can enjoy fishing and gathering kaimoana. A skilled communicator and coordinator, Trish has developed a variety of valuable skills that allows her to effortlessly pivot between working with organisations and communities, and working on policy and fisheries management issues on behalf 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 from 2004 to 2009. 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 group interests.



SYDNEY CURTIS (BSC)

Sydney graduated with a BSc in environmental science and applied conservation from AUT in 2022. Sydney is a keen contributor alongside John at [Blue Water Marine Research](#) and working group processes. Her 2022 presentation to the World Recreational Fishing Conference, "A critical review of no-take Marine Protected Areas and implications for traditional fishing practice" is [available on YouTube](#) and will be published as a journal article in November 2024. We are excited to have Sydney on board.



KATIE GOODWIN (BSC)

Katie is a recent graduate from UoA majoring in Environmental and Marine Science and is an up and coming advocate for inspiring change in fisheries management practices. Katie's experience in facilitating research involved investigating 'milky flesh' fish at Kai Ika in early 2023, and the effects of habitat availability on juvenile snapper recruitment during her university research project. She will be contributing to New Zealand Sport Fishing Council submissions while getting her eye in on various projects.



ROWAN ASHTON

Rowan is a senior associate with Brookfields Lawyers and specialises in resource management, local government and public law. Rowan has experience in a diverse range of resource management matters. This experience has proven to be invaluable as he helps the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council respond to Resource Management Act fishing controls arising as a result of the Mōtītī Environment Court decision and subsequent action in Northland, Hawke Bay and Taranaki.



SAM WOOLFORD

Sam has been the LegaSea Project Lead since 2016. Over time his role has evolved, he is now well versed in both LegaSea leadership and fisheries management issues. His networking skills are sharp, enabling him to develop meaningful relationships with representatives from environmental, Māori, fisheries and science organisations. His ability to think strategically adds a valuable contribution to the fisheries management work programme.



BENN WINLOVE

Benn has been the coordinator for the Hauraki Gulf Alliance for the past year. In that time he has developed a deeper understanding of the complexities associated with fisheries management and marine protection. Benn's ability to coordinate a disparate group of 110 organisations, businesses and individuals under the Alliance umbrella has been a major contributor to the ongoing advocacy for more fish in the water for future generations.



DALLAS ABEL

Dallas has extensive experience in marine conservation, particularly in scientific research and education. When he first moved from Australia to New Zealand in 2018 Dallas became a Fisheries Observer with MPI, logging over 350 days at sea. This experience has enabled Dallas to excel in advocating for sustainable fisheries in an informative and educational capacity.

Friends and Partners

DAME RANGIMĀRIE NAIDA GLAVISH – NGĀTI WHĀTUA

The Kai Ika Project is focused on conserving and maximising the use of every part of the fish. It also demonstrates a commitment and understanding of both kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga.

I also enjoy the collaborative approach, partnering with various Iwi, hapū, and local not for profit organisations to extend the work they do. It's not just about the fish. It's about bringing everyone to the table and the community working together. This is the essence of this whakataukī.

By fostering these partnerships, LegaSea is addressing the needs, aspirations, and cultural nuances of our community while creating a lasting impact. I wholeheartedly support LegaSea's vision and collaborative approach. These programmes are weaving care for our oceans, our health, and our cultural connections into one kaupapa that benefits everyone.

BLAIR JAMES (MANAGING DIRECTOR) – JAMES GROUP

Many of us at James Group have grown up with and share a real passion for boating, diving and fishing, and it's our hope that the next generation has the opportunity to do the same. Our partnership with LegaSea was a natural alignment with a not for profit organisation dedicated to protecting and restoring an abundant and healthy marine environment, it's this shared ethos that resonates with us so deeply.

We're incredibly grateful for the LegaSea team and their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in championing our fisheries and preserving our ocean for future generations, and we're proud to be supporting their mission alongside them.

NICK BINKS (DIGITAL SALES & MARKETING MANAGER) – COMPOSITE DEVELOPMENTS (OKUMA, CDX, TOADFISH)

Since its inception, LegaSea has been at the forefront of driving meaningful change to protect New Zealand's fishery. In the face of mounting pressures on our fishery, LegaSea remains a relevant, informative, and factual advocate for recreational fishos.

The diligent work undertaken by LegaSea has been pivotal in preventing further harm to our precious ecosystem.

CD was among the initial companies to rally behind LegaSea, recognising the essential role they would fulfil with protecting such a precious resource. We have and will continue to grow our support for LegaSea and see this as a vital investment in our future.

DAVIE DU PAVILLION (GENERAL MANAGER) – COBB GRILL NZ

We are proud to be gold partners of LegaSea. What resonates with us most is **The Kai Ika Project** – to share under-utilised fish parts and reduce fish waste, all whilst bringing people together to help conserve fish for our future generations - conservation through utilisation.

We are stoked to be supporting such an impactful cause. The less fish waste, the more fish for us, and our oceans. Thank you LegaSea for everything you do for our inshore fishery.

Platinum and Gold Partners

PLATINUM



Our Partners are our lifeblood. They help with funding, communication, social engagement, brand enhancement 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 that surrounds us.

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.

We could not achieve our collective outcomes 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.

GOLD

SHIMANO

marine
DEALS

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND YACHT SQUADRON

Black
magic
TACKLE
the best
by test...

Freedom
farms

Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND

CHESTERS
PLUMBING & BATHROOM

MIGHTY

HOOKBOUT

YAMAHA
Revs Your Heart

wettie

WAWA

NZ
CB

Makaira Boats
The Standard in Offshore Performance

TILE
SPACE

ULTIMATE
FISHING TV

sullivan
PLUMBING AND GAS

LUMO

crombie®
lockwood
INSURANCE BROKERS | A GALLAGHER COMPANY

Hutchwilco
Quality Lifejackets

SMOKAI

SURTEES®
BUILT TO FISH

better®

Paul's
Fishing
Systems

Envirogroup

ALROUND
SHEETMETALS

AOTEAROAD
CHANGE STARTS WITH THE SMALL THINGS

MAKAIRA
BOATS

WASABI
FISHING TACKLE
the best
of the rest...

HN HOUSE OF NAUTICA

Fishing knowledge online
The Fishing Website
www.fishing.net.nz

IRONCLAD
PAN Co
THREE GENERATIONS

KILWELL
Where Adventures Begin

Jarvis
Walker

ULTIMATE
CHARTERS
— NZ —

EDGE
FISHING

MetService

PMA
LEISURE

C O B B
ANYWHERE BUT THE KITCHEN

inox
Distributed by
NACSAN

THE HUTCHWILCO NEW ZEALAND
BOAT SHOW

BRIDGESTONE TYRE CENTRE
ST LUKES

GARMIN

PENN
LET THE BATTLE BEGIN

Salt fly fish
using the methods for English, English and Japanese

FOUNDATION
NORTH
Te Kaitiaki Puta o
Tāmaki o Tai Tokerau

GERARD
Roofing Designed to Endure

Makita

SKIPPERI

The Bobby Stafford-Bush
FOUNDATION

Auckland
Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Ovlov Marine

