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**MINUTES OF THE 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING COUNCIL  
HELD ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 20th and 21st SEPTEMBER 2024 AT THE WHAKATANE SPORT FISHING  
CLUB IN WHAKATANE COMMENCING AT 9 AM**

**PRESENT:**

NZSFC President	Ian Steele
NZSFC Vice President	Warren Maher
NZSFC Vice President	Andrew Johnson
Secretary	Helen Pastor
Comms and Operations	Mike Plant
Akitio BC	Robin Beales
Ashley SFC	John Bruce, Mark Connor (Life Member)
Bay of Islands SC	Jennifer Troup and Andrew Johnson
Big Fish FC	Phil Appleyard
Cape Egmont BC	Tom Goodin, Phillip Barrett
Clevedon SFC	Nick Blasé, Jason de Graaf
Counties SFC	Stephen Harper, Darrin Burns
Hauraki Gulf SFC	Peter Stewart
Hokianga GFC	Marina Stewart and Linda Pattinson
Gisborne Tatapouri SFC	Roger Faber, Hilton Webb (Life Member)
Hawkes Bay SFC	Wayne Bicknell (Life Member) and Brett Rigby (Zone 5 Board Delegate)
Kawhia BAC	Doug Taucher (Zone 6 Board Delegate) Cecil Hickman
Kaikoura BRFC	Marty Sullivan

Mangere BC	Scott Macindoe (Life Member) - proxy
Manukau SFC	Scott Macindoe (Proxy)
Marlborough Rec Fishers Assoc	Mark Connor (Life Member) - proxy
Marsden Cove SFC	Graham Ellis
Matarangi SFC	Stu Arnold, Stephen Clay, Sue Sinclair
Mercury Bay GFC	Gordon McIvor, John East
Mt Maunganui SFC	Mark Hemingway IGFA/Life Member/board member Ross Lucas and Vance Fulton (Zone 4 Board Delegate)
Muriwai SFC	Mark Harvey
NZ Land Based FC	Richard Baker
New Plymouth SUC	Ian Steele, President NZSFC, Lee Drummond and Peter Saunders
Pegasus Bay SFC	Mark Connor (Life Member) - proxy
Raglan SFC	Ken Barry, Courtney Petrie
Tairua-Pauanui SFC	Tim Evans, Kevin Robinson, Graham Bell, John Janssen, Mark Robinson, Cie Robinson-Bates
Taupo FC	Jude Hansen, Kerri Graham
Tauranga SFC	Deryk Nielsen
Tautuku FC Dunedin & Haast	Brett Bensemann
Te Aroha SFC	Steve Cox, Greg Shanley, Bernie O'Neill and Kevin Lynch
Te Kaha SFC	Dave Murie
Waihau Bay SFC	Ben Muir, Clive Fraser, Chris Randrup
Wairarapa SFC	Ed Beetham
Whakatakataka Bay SFC	Bill McGarry (Zone 2 Board delegate)
Warkworth GFC	Terry Creagh
Whangarei DSAC	Pete Saul (Life Member) and Brenda Saul
Whangaroa SFC	Kelvin Mowat and Tony Allan (Zone 1 Board delegate) Kerri-Rae Herbert
Whangamata OSC	Kelly Meads, Mark James, Phil Keogh and Gary Smith
Whakatane SFC	Denis Davey, Milton Reynolds, Heyden Johnston (Board member)
Co-opted Board member	Peter Campbell (Life Member)

### **Supported by**

LegaSea Ltd	Sam Woolford, Trish Rae (Life Member) Jessica Beetham, Sydney Curtis-Wilson
Blue Water Marine Research	John Holdsworth (Life Member)
NZACA	Jim Yeoman
NZ Marine Research Foundation	Jeff Romeril (Life Member)
IGFA Rep	Tony Hill

### **Attending Guests**

NZ Fishing News	Grant Blair
Kubota	Tom Maxwell
Hutchwilco	Jordan Cordtz
CD Rods	Nick Binks and Tom Johansen

**Meeting opened 9.00am**

**Welcome** Ian Steele - NZSFC President welcomed all clubs.

**Heyden Johnston President WFSC** welcomed all to his club and delivered a speech on behalf of the Whakatane Sport Fishing Club Patron, John Baker.

**Apologies**

Roz Nelson - Life member

Warren Harris - Life Member

Bob Gutsell - Waikato SFC

Annette Hall - Doubtless Bay SFC

Peter van Eekelen - Pegasus Bay

Ian Carrick - Southern SFC

Tony Orman - Marlborough RFC

Christine Elmiger - Waihou Bay GFC

Ben Arkle - Piha DSFC

Clem Fortes - Mangere SFC

Mark Newbold - Mangawhai BFC

Gary Read - Marsden Cove GFC

Apologies were accepted - Moved - Peter Campbell seconded Mark Connor - carried

**MINUTES SILENCE:**

A minute's silence was acknowledged for those members who passed away over the last year.

**LegaSea AGM - Chaired by Peter Campbell**

**Meeting opened 9.10am**

**1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. It was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record. Moved Mark Connor seconded Wayne Bicknell - carried

**2. Reports:**

**Peter Campbell's Report as a Director of LegaSea:** Peter Campbell provided an update on the activities of LegaSea. He discussed the relationship between NZSFC and LegaSea and how LegaSea is self-supporting.

Mark Connor's report on LegaSea's fisheries management activities was noted.

**Tim Evans Tairua Pauanui SFC** - Tim raised a question regarding the deficit in LegaSea's accounts, specifically asking about the loan from Scott Macindoe. He inquired about the long-term view of this debt.

**Scott Macindoe's Response regarding his debt:** Scott explained that he would not be able to continue providing donations this year. He has provided loans to LegaSea in the past. He clarified that all public donations go to the NZSFC and discussed LegaSea's structure and operations. He further explained that the loan supported the Kai Ika programme and outlined the terms of the loan i.e. it is unsecured, interest-free, and repayable only through funds raised for repayment. Scott also advised he has had a life insurance policy for \$500,000 for the last 10 years that has LegaSea as the beneficiary.

**Ian Steele Update:** Ian Steele provided an update on the process of formalising the loan agreement and related documentation, including the creation of a surety document.

**Sam Woolford's Update on LegaSea:** Sam Woolford provided an overview of LegaSea's activities, including last year's decisions and collaboration with Matt Watson on the Free Fish Heads initiative.

**Cans for Kai Update:** A collection initiative, "Cans for Kai," was discussed. The funds raised from this project are expected to provide a stable income stream, with an anticipated forecast of \$24,000 by August 2024.

### **Financial Report**

The Financial report was discussed. As there was no discussion or changes regarding the financial report it was moved that the report be accepted - Moved by: Bill McGarry Seconded by: Dave Murie - motion carried

### **3. Election of Directors:**

- a. **Directors:** Mark Connor and Peter Campbell were re-elected unopposed. No director's fees or dividends will be paid for the year.
- b. **LegaSea Governance Advisory Standing Committee:** The same members were reappointed: Scott Macindoe, Richard Baker and Dirk Sieling.

### **4. General Business:**

- a. Acknowledgments and thanks were given to various individuals for their contributions:
  - i. **Sam Woolford and Jessica Beetham** for their work and submissions.
  - ii. **Sydney Curtis, Trish Rae, and Katie Goodwin** for their support with our submissions.
  - iii. **Chris Scott, Matt Welch, Josh Inger, and Benn Winlove** for their individual workstreams.
  - iv. **Chris Jupp** for his work with the Kai Ika programme in Wellington.
  - v. **John Holdsworth** for his 27 years of support as a marine scientist.
  - vi. **Barry Torkington** for providing solid fisheries advice.
  - vii. **Scott Macindoe** for his ongoing support.
  - viii. **Warren Maher and Richard Baker** for their contributions.

The meeting was closed at **9:30 am**.

## **AGM – New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Inc**

The 67th NZSFC Annual General Meeting was opened by Ian Steele.

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as a true and correct record, moved by Kevin Mowat and seconded by Gordon McIvor. The motion was carried.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **President's Report – Ian Steele**

Ian Steele presented the President's Annual Report. He discussed the nomination process and explained that due to a change in his personal circumstances and increased work commitments, he was unable to continue in the role of President. He expressed his gratitude to his partner Cie Robinson-Bates and all those who had supported him throughout his tenure. [A full copy of the report is attached.](#)

A motion to accept the President's Annual Report was moved by Lee Drummond and seconded by Pete Saunders both from New Plymouth SFC. The motion was carried.

### **Financial Report – Ian Steele**

Ian Steele then presented the Annual Financial Report. It was noted that the accounts were currently unaudited and that the final audited accounts would be forwarded once completed. Ian explained that this year, the NZSFC and LegaSea accounts had been consolidated, making the audit process more complex. He provided an overview of the consolidated accounts and discussed the NZSFC accounts in detail. [Accounts attached here.](#)

**Vance Fulton - Mt Maunganui SFC** raised a question regarding grants and donations, pointing out he felt there was an error in the financial statements. **Brett Rigby – Hawkes Bay SFC** addressed this question and provided clarification to address Vance Fulton's concerns.

A motion to accept the Annual Financial Report was moved by Warren Maher (TPSFC) seconded by Bill McGarry (WBSFC). The motion was carried.

### **Appointment of Officers**

It was agreed that the following positions would be voted on en bloc.

A motion was made to appoint WilliamBuck Accountants as the auditors for the 2024-2025 year, moved by Pete Campbell and Tim Evans (TPSFC). The motion was carried.

The reappointment of Pete Saul as Patron for another term was moved en bloc.

The following appointments were made:

- **President:** There were no nominations for the President's role received by the deadline, therefore as per our Constitution, the vote is to be taken from the floor.
- **Vice Presidents:** Warren Maher and Andrew Johnson were appointed.
- **Records Officer:** Peter Saul, who confirmed he was happy to continue in the role.

The Board Zone Representatives were confirmed as follows:

- **Zone 1:** Tony Allan - WSFC
- **Zone 2:** Bill McGarry - WBSFC
- **Zone 3:** Phil Keogh the current zone 3 delegate has stepped down due to work commitments; this role will be appointed by the zone as soon as possible.
- **Zone 4:** Vance Fulton - MMSFC
- **Zone 5:** Brett Rigby (Hawkes Bay). Wayne Bicknell was thanked for many years of service as the Zone Representative as he is stepping down, but he will continue with his work on the FMSC.
- **Zone 6:** Doug Taucher - KSFC
- **Zone 7:** Mark Connor - AFC
- **Zone 8:** Heyden Johnston - WSFC

The **Council Treasurer / Finance Chair** was confirmed as Brett Rigby, and the **IGFA/Life Member Representative** was confirmed as Mark Hemingway.

A motion to accept these appointments was moved by Pete Saunders (NPSUC) and seconded by Deryk Neilson (TSFC). The motion was carried.

The meeting then addressed the nomination for President. Nominations were open from the floor, and **Andrew Johnson - BOISC** - moved the nomination of Scott Macindoe for the role of President. Andrew Johnson expressed many thanks to Ian Steele for all his contributions to the role.

**Terry Creagh - Warkworth SFC** - endorsed the nomination, and it was seconded by him.

**Kelvin Mowat - Whangaroa SFC** - raised a question about Scott Macindoe's involvement in all roles and how this would be managed. Scott Macindoe thanked Kelvin for the question and clarified his commitment to the role. He stated that, to step into the President's role, he would withdraw from his work with LegaSea, with Sam Woolford and Jessica Beetham taking the lead in that area. Scott also confirmed that he would be stepping down from the Fisheries Management Standing Committee. His primary focus as President would be fundraising, team building, and governance.

The motion was put to the vote, and all were in favour. The motion was carried unanimously

Scott Macindoe then acknowledged Ian Steele for his leadership of the Council, expressing his appreciation for his hard work and remarkable dedication to the cause.

### **Affiliation fees**

The Affiliation Fees 2024/2025 were set at the 2023 AGM

There is a Notice of Motion related to the affiliation fees, and this will be discussed tomorrow as part of Notice to Motions.

### **Coastguard Presentation**

Simon Marshall, Coastguard spokesman, provided an update on the ongoing bar crossing seminars. He shared a video of a recent rescue and stressed the importance of collaboration between Coastguard and local clubs. Working together can significantly improve outcomes. He specifically mentioned that bar crossing is a major concern at Whakatane.

In just the first three weeks, over 500 people had already attended these seminars. He encouraged clubs to reach out for more information. Additionally, Simon discussed the broad range of educational courses available, expressing a particular interest in expanding offerings to provincial areas. He also noted that the kids' programme had engaged 85,000 participants to date.

Lee Drummond, President of Taranaki Coastguard, praised the seminar as excellent and highly valuable. Gordon McIver from Mercury Bay asked about statistics on rescues, EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons) success rates, and personal lifejackets. Simon replied that there were no specific statistics available now.

**Richard Baker – NZ Land based FC** inquired about the lost nowcasting service at White Island and whether it would be replaced. Simon acknowledged the question and committed to gathering more information on the matter. **Warren Maher from Tairua-Pauanui SFC** reminded everyone of the importance of ensuring lifejackets have a crutch strap and knowing how to properly use a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).

**Andrew Johnson from BOISC** raised a point about the need to link data effectively, noting that while much information is available, the key lies in connecting it. Simon agreed, emphasizing the importance of utilizing local information efficiently.

Simon ended by thanking everyone and acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the Coastguard Volunteers.

Mike Plant advised that the recent Safer Boating Forum provided valuable insights into enhancing safety for our members, with a key focus on education, equipment, and practical improvements.

Mike Plant then introduced **Jordan Cordtz from Hutchwilco** to share their latest offer.

Jordan highlighted the importance of ongoing safety initiatives, emphasizing the need for regular refreshers and education to ensure the safety of boating communities. His presentation provided a comprehensive overview of safety products and the company's continued commitment to improving safety standards. He advised the meeting of the new deal that Hutchwilco has available to our clubs and club members.

A discussion followed with Mike Plant, addressing specific requirements and compiling a 'wish list' of safety improvements. One key initiative discussed was the launch of safety packs designed for boating launches, which could further support safe boating practices.

Several safety suggestions were brought forward by forum participants. Chris Randrup from Waihou Bay raised concerns regarding the battery life of Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), noting that while the battery life is currently between 24 and 28 hours, improvements could be made, such as integrating GPS and homing signals, as well as low-light capabilities for night-time use.

**Philip Barrett from Cape Egmont BC** suggested incorporating crutch straps on all life jackets to enhance their fit and functionality.

**Kelvin Mowat from Whangaroa SFC** discussed the issue of EPIRBs and their battery expiry dates. He inquired whether it is more cost-effective to replace the batteries or purchase a new device. The response indicated that, while it is often recommended to replace EPIRBs, newer models now allow battery replacements, and these products have become more affordable and user-friendly.

A vote of thanks to Simon Marshall (Coastguard) and Jordan Cordtz (Huthwilco) for their contributions, acknowledging their ongoing work to improve boating safety standards.

#### **Bluewater Marine Research - John Holdsworth**

John Holdsworth gave an update on the tagging programme, reporting that it had its best year yet, with an increase in catch numbers for January. Notable recaptures included a Yellowfin, and a Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) caught in the Tasman Sea, originating from the Aldermans. This year also saw a rise in online submissions for released and recaptured fish, streamlining the reporting process. Clubs were encouraged to continue submitting data through their designated channels.

**Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) Updates:** A highlight of the season was a Southern Bluefin Tuna caught in the Hokitika Trench, weighing 100 kilos and aged 17 years and 7 months, underscoring the slow growth rate of the species. Another SBT, aged 20 years, weighed 75 kilos. These figures emphasise the importance of considering the slow growth of Southern Bluefin Tuna in future management decisions.

The commercial SBT catch has increased, with 3000 tonnes caught globally and 186 tonnes from New Zealand. However, due to an oversupply in the international market and rising transport costs, the price of SBT has decreased in Japan, causing economic challenges for New Zealand fishers. Recreational fishers contributed 69 tonnes to the overall catch. Encouraging catch and release, including tagging and release, remains a priority, with a limit of one weighed fish per person currently being adhered to.

**Striped Marlin:** Catch data for Striped Marlin indicated the highest catches occurred in January, February, and March. This data is important for understanding fishing methods. However, a recent stock assessment for Striped Marlin was deemed inadequate by the Science Committee, and further work will be needed. The Billfish Logbook Programme contributed to the assessment, highlighting the need for continued research and data refinement.

**International Collaboration:** Global fishing networks, including data from New Zealand, will soon be integrated into the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) network. The IGFA is launching a climate change programme that will align with New Zealand's data, with early trends indicating fish are appearing earlier than usual, a pattern that may continue.



**Stock Assessment and Satellite Tagging:** John Holdsworth presented an updated stock assessment for Striped Marlin, noting an expansion of fishing efforts across the Pacific. Mature Striped Marlin are typically found below 15 degrees south. New Zealand's recreational catch totals 1000 tonnes, which includes data from the gamefish tagging programme. Australian data is also now being included in these assessments.

The Satellite Tagging Programme has provided valuable insights into fish migration and behaviour, particularly in areas between 18 and 20 degrees. Special thanks were given to the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF) and the National Pacific Underwater Sports Club (NPUSC) for their support.

**Club Support and Engagement:** John Holdsworth emphasised the importance of continued support from clubs and individual members to provide the strong evidence needed for sustaining fisheries. The NZ Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) is actively promoting the programme.

#### **Club Feedback:**

- **Stephen Harper - Counties SFC:** Inquired about sending the information to clubs. John Holdsworth agreed to do so.
- **Gordon McIvor - Mercury Bay GFC:** Raised the topic of tagging Southern Bluefin Tuna. John Holdsworth referenced a presentation by Tuna Champions on proper handling and satellite tagging of Bluefin Tuna. The survival rate for Bluefin Tuna is 85%, with non-survivors typically caught on treble hooks or showing signs of bleeding. The survival rate for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBT) tagged with satellite tags remains high, even with long fight times.
- **Ben Muir - Waihou Bay SFC:** Asked about the state of Pacific tuna numbers. JH confirmed that New Zealand has requested an increase in catch limits through the Commission.
- **Jude Hansen - Taupo Fishing Club:** Asked about the environmental impact of satellite tagging. JH reassured that the environmental damage from satellite tagging is minimal.
- **Courtenay Petrie - Raglan SFC:** noted the prevalence of smaller fish, especially around the 90-kilo mark. JH explained that smaller fish tend to appear earlier in the season. Raglan SFC had tagged 75 marlins over four days, with many small fish in the mix.

**Shark Tagging:** The tagging of bronze whalers was discussed, with it being noted that their tagging is primarily for research purposes due to limited practical value.

- **Jason deGraaf - Clevedon SFC:** Inquired about the differences between stainless steel and plastic tags. John Holdsworth explained that stainless steel tags are sharp and particularly effective on sharks, while nylon tags, preferred internationally, are best suited for marlin.

**Conclusion:** John concluded by reiterating the importance of continued support from clubs and individual members in gathering valuable data for the sustainability of these fisheries. The advancements in tagging and satellite technology continue to provide crucial insights into fish behaviour, migration, and survival, ensuring that fisheries management is based on sound scientific information.

#### **NZ Marine Research Foundation - Jeff Romeril presented the NZMRF President's Report**

The New Zealand Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF) has consistently reported annually since its formation in the 1990s, with the inclusion of an audited financial report, though this is not a requirement

for NZ tax purposes. In recent years, we have been able to present audited financial reports in a timely manner, thanks to our current auditor.

This year, three grants were approved. The most significant was a commitment to support a PhD student at Auckland University studying mushy flesh snapper. This marks the first of a four-year commitment to support research led by a PhD student. While it is too early to report developments, we plan to present an update involving the student at next year's AGM. Other grants included continued support for the marlin satellite tagging programme with the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club, an ongoing project that has spanned several years, and funding for a representative from Blue Water Marine Research to attend the 7th International Billfish Symposium in San Diego, USA. The total amount spent on these grants matched our income for the year, reflecting a sustainable approach to funding research initiatives.

The audited accounts for the past year are included with this report. The auditor confirmed that our financial procedures are in order. The end-of-year balance remains at \$324,000, the same as last year, ensuring that our spending on grants and operations aligns with our income, while maintaining reserves for future projects. Total income for the year was \$80,900, sourced from donations (\$65,400) and interest (\$15,500). Expenses amounted to \$9,600, including costs for the audit, accounting, advertising, website maintenance, and meeting expenses.

The Foundation welcomed Simon Hooker as a new trustee, bringing our total to six. Simon, with a background in Marine Science, business management at NIWA, and his current role as Research Manager for NZ Winegrowers, adds valuable expertise and a strong commitment to marine conservation.

Thanks were extended to the NZSFC members for their ongoing support through donations and the valuable time donated by administration officer Helen Pastor, whose secretarial assistance saves us significant costs.

Jeff Romeril, Chairman

On behalf of fellow trustees:

Richard Baker, Pete Saul, Terry Creagh, Rick Pollock, Simon Hooker

### **Wild Chix Presentation - Shanel Honore**

Shanel delivered the presentation on behalf of *Wild Chicks*, a company founded by Isabell Zitzelsberger to empower and educate women in the outdoor sports community, particularly fishing and boating. Isabell Zitzelsberger, who is also a member of the Deer Stalkers Association, recognized the lack of tailored resources and support for women interested in these activities and established *Wild Chixs* to fill that niche.

**Introduction to Wild Chix:** Isabell started the company with the goal of providing women with more information and opportunities in the world of fishing, boating, and outdoor activities. The organisation is dedicated to creating a space for women to learn, share experiences, and connect with like-minded individuals.

**Women on the Water Initiative:** A major focus of *Wild Chix* is promoting women's participation in boating and water-related activities. The organisation offers programmes and courses designed to increase women's confidence and skills on the water, including a course on Boating Basics for Women.

**Sydney Curtis - LegaSea** - participated in the Boating Basics course and shared her experience, stating that the course was extremely beneficial. She highlighted how it provided her with essential skills and knowledge that boosted her confidence on the water.

The plan moving forward is to encourage more women to engage with *Wild Chix* and contribute to its growing community. By creating opportunities for learning and leadership, *Wild Chix* aims to empower women across the country to take an active role in outdoor adventures.

**Jude Hansen - Taupo SFC** expressed her interest in introducing *Wild Chix* to the local community and supporting the initiative in her area.

Ian Steele thanked Shanel for her excellent presentation and encouraged all clubs present to support *Wild Chix* on its mission to empower women on the water. He emphasised that the more support and engagement from local clubs, the greater the impact *Wild Chix* could have in encouraging women's participation in our sport.

The presentation was well-received, and there is a clear enthusiasm to support *Wild Chix* and its efforts. Moving forward, the goal is to encourage women to participate in events, spread the word, and continue building a strong community of empowered women in fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities.

#### **Youth Committee - Warren Maher - Chairman Youth Committee**

Warren Maher advised that a Strategy Session was held in the BOI where the critical goals and roadmap was formulated. The main parts are: -

One of the primary objectives discussed is expanding youth involvement in fishing and conservation activities. This includes fostering a greater sense of community and engagement, particularly through the growth of the Youth Nationals and other youth-focused initiatives.

- **Youth Nationals Growth:** We aim for increased participation, with an expected 200 participants this year. The enthusiasm is growing, and we are exploring ways to integrate local club competitions into the Youth Nationals.
- **Youth Involvement:** Efforts to increase youth participation extend to schools and local clubs, with a specific focus on the School Category and encouraging greater involvement at all levels.
- **On-Line Youth Fishing Club:** A proposal was made to develop an online youth fishing club to connect young anglers across regions, enhancing engagement and interclub participation.

#### **Sustainable Fishing and Education**

Sustainability remains a central theme, with goals to educate young anglers on responsible fishing practices and the broader environmental impact of their activities.

- **Marine Conservation - Fish Care (Legasea):** The importance of marine conservation was emphasised, and initiatives like LegaSea's Fish Care were highlighted as essential for promoting responsible fishing practices.
- **Nurturing Responsible Fishing Habits:** We aim to nurture responsible fishing habits by promoting the principle of using all parts of the fish. This ensures sustainability and teaches young anglers the value of conservation and waste reduction.
- **Ocean to Plate Initiative:** This initiative continues to grow, focusing on educating youth about the journey from ocean to plate, ensuring they understand the entire process and its impact on marine life and sustainability.

### **Digital Strategies**

Digital tools and strategies will play an integral role in engaging the next generation of anglers. Use of digital platforms to enhance engagement will be increased, including the proposed online youth fishing club. Digital outreach is expected to increase visibility and participation in youth programmes.

### **Potential Rule Simplification**

Simplifying rules to encourage more participation and ensure a more accessible experience for new and young anglers. This will be explored further in future discussions.

### **Grant Funding and Financial Strategy**

The committee will be seeking grant funding and financial support for the various initiatives laid out, including youth programmes, sustainability efforts, and digital strategies. The Youth Outreach Team (YOT) is actively pursuing funding to support these initiatives, with a clear focus on sustainability and youth engagement.

### **Long-Term Strategic Goals**

Looking beyond the immediate objectives, WM outlined long-term goals for ensuring sustainability, engagement, and growth in youth fishing.

The Youth Ocean Trust will play a key role in ensuring that the cultural principles of sustainability, mental well-being, and time on the water are integrated into all programmes and initiatives.

### **Youth Nationals Sponsorship and Logistics**

- **Sponsorship:** We have confirmed sponsorship from Daiwa and JAF, with T-shirts ordered for this year's Youth Nationals. Orders will be placed early, ensuring that designs are completed, and products are ready before Christmas.
- **Shark Tag and Release:** The decision has been made to eliminate the weighing of sharks during the Youth Nationals, promoting a tag-and-release policy to protect these vital species.

### **Regional School Prize and Community Impact**

Efforts to connect local schools and youth groups to the broader fishing community were emphasised, with a regional school prize being proposed as an incentive for involvement and achievement.

The long-term strategic goals set will set guidelines for a more connected, responsible, and digitally integrated youth fishing community. The continued pursuit of funding and support will be critical to achieving these objectives.

Although unable to attend, Daiwa NZ advised that as a key stakeholder in the industry they recognise the importance of fostering recruitment and participation while supporting the next generation of our sport.

The Daiwa Youth Nationals agreement has been locked for three years cementing future planning. Funding has been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 with access to digital channels and ambassador network.

The team from Just Another Fisherman Supports Youth Fishing (JAF) were unable to attend but sent the following message: -

Just Another Fisherman is dedicated to improving mental health through fishing, recognising the positive effects that being outdoors and, on the water, can have. This aligns with their commitment to creating opportunities for young anglers to connect with nature and each other.

Through events like their Anglers Escape, they've seen how fishing can build friendships and trust, creating safe spaces where participants can discuss life challenges and support each other.

Empowering Youth: By partnering with the Youth Nationals, Just Another Fisherman is investing in the next generation of anglers, encouraging not only participation in the sport but also conversations around mental health, resilience, and well-being.

Just Another Fisherman's support of initiatives like the Youth Nationals echoes their larger mission of giving back to the community, especially in supporting mental health charities like Gumboot Friday and I AM HOPE. These initiatives help provide counselling for youth, and this partnership seeks to extend that positive impact to youth across New Zealand.

### **Youth Nationals 2025**

This competition is exclusively for youth participants and is designed to boost engagement, giving them a sense of ownership and pride in the event. It's a fun and interactive way to get our youth even more involved in the spirit of the Youth Nationals.

This info will go to clubs after the AGM.

### **Virtual Reality**

Studies show that VR has a high engagement rate with youth, helping them connect to learning experiences more effectively. By immersing users in virtual environments, VR increases retention and interest in educational topics.

According to research, 94% of educators report that VR increases student engagement, and 80% see improved learning outcomes when VR is used for experiential learning.

VR allows youth to experience things they wouldn't normally have access to—like underwater ecosystems, fishing environments, and marine life. This hands-on, immersive learning boosts understanding and retention of complex concepts.

The success of our youth programmes depends heavily on the active support and engagement of our clubs and delegates. The youth-focused initiatives offer incredible opportunities to inspire the next

generation of fishers and marine enthusiasts. We need the commitment of everyone involved to ensure these programmes thrive and reach their full potential.

Greater involvement and contribution from our delegates were asked for —not just in name, but through active participation in youth programmes, mentorship, and community engagement.

**Jude Hansen - Taupo SFC** - Asked if there be a freshwater component for the youth nationals. WM replied that we do not have one at present but are open to including this.

### **Disability in Fishing**

**Chris Randrup - Waihou Bay SFC** - brought up the option for the special needs community - youth or adults. Warren Maher agreed that we need to help to make this happen. Tauranga - Bruce Dinnan - wish for fish was mentioned as an example and whether he would like to be more involved with NZSFC. It was suggested we possibly give recognition to any special needs anglers. Recognise a catch and we open ourselves to special needs requirements. Chris Randrup will offer a trophy along those lines.

**Warren Maher – Tairua-Pauanui SFC** - suggested Chris Randrup email the fishing committee and then they can work on this point. He also suggested it is reported to the zone for feedback.

**Tim Evans Tairua Pauanui SFC** - took out two young guys in the youth nationals and said they really enjoyed the experience. His challenge to all is to identify a couple of kids in your community and get them involved.

**Stephen Harper - Counties SFC** - noted that the end of year awards only recognises juniors in snapper and requested that all fish are recognised with a junior catch. He was asked to forward this request to the fishing committee. He advised that they had a Junior facilitate their Youth Nationals briefing. Youth nationals have been very good for the clubs - it has brought families together. This conference agreed with this and advised that it would be actioned through the fishing committee. Mercury Bay GFC has moved their youth comp to youth nationals' dates to encourage more entries.

It was moved that the Youth Committee report be accepted Moved Doug Taucher seconded Tim Evans - carried

### **Tagging Board Discussion**

DOC sighted our boards, and they want the logo changed. They do not want to have reference to DOC on the boards and have given a cease-and-desist instruction.

Question was put to the members - do clubs need to remove these boards from the clubs but what to replace them with. Do clubs want to produce their own ones, or should we do it as a council of clubs? Pelagic has offered to help with a design and some costs.

**Tim Evans - Tairua Pauanui SFC** advised that all references to DOC have been taken off the references, but this does raise the point as to how we promote tagging.

**Derek Nielsen - Tauranga SFC** - Tauranga has a board. This is a standard catch board with a hook over that highlights tag and release.

**Warren Maher - Tairua Pauanui SFC** - a board stands out and shows the history. He would like to see the boards continue.

**Gordon McIvor - Mercury Bay GFC** - their board hasn't been used for a while although the concept is good it does need modernising.

**Brett Bensemam – Tautuku Dunedin & Haast FC**- has a historical board but is willing to look at another board. MPI has not offered to pay to change them.

**Pete Saul - Whangarei** - sponsor not hard to find.

The room was asked how many clubs would be keen to have a board from NZSFC.

The clubs were Tairua, Mercury Bay, BOI, Tauranga, New Plymouth, Raglan and Tautuku

**Kelvin Mowat Whangaroa SFC** - suggested clubs do their own. The board discussion was left to have the clubs organise their own boards.

**LegaSea Report presented by** Sam Woolford and Jessica Beetham

LegaSea, established in 2012 by the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC), was created to inspire nationwide support for the sustainable management of coastal fisheries. The funds raised by LegaSea are managed by the NZSFC Fisheries Management (FM) Standing Committee, ensuring the effective allocation of resources towards fisheries management and advocacy.

### **Fundraising and Financial Contributions**

LegaSea has raised \$108,000 through public donations and \$94,000 in grants. Several fundraising initiatives have contributed to the cause:

- *Koparepare Wine*: \$1 from each bottle sold is donated to LegaSea.
- *Barker's LegaSea Range*: 20% of sales go towards LegaSea.
- *Matt Watson's Swordfish Mojo Beer*: Proceeds from sales, including the beer's upcoming launch in Woolworths, help fund LegaSea and promote the Free Fish Heads campaign and the Kai Ika app, which redistributes surplus fish heads to alleviate pressure on local fish stocks.

The continued success of these initiatives is essential for LegaSea's financial sustainability and for raising awareness about sustainable fisheries management.

### **Strategic Communications**

LegaSea aims to expand communication channels to enhance messaging effectiveness. The website is a central hub for information and will be kept up to date with relevant details and resources. Direct engagement through events is also a priority to strengthen connections with the public.

### **Sustainability and Support**

LegaSea supports the Rahui on scallops and participated in the Sustainable Seafood Festival, where all fish were longline caught, and shellfish were hand-picked. This aligns with LegaSea's values and promotes sustainable practices.

### **Social media and Engagement**

LegaSea's social media reached 500,000 people in the first half of the year, and the goal is to increase

involvement and visibility. Despite a decline in local newspaper reach, the website continues to be a key driver, with 36,000 views and \$44,000 in sales over the past year.

### **Educational Initiatives**

LegaSea introduced the *School of Best Practice*, a programme aimed at encouraging sustainable behaviour. The Youth Ocean Trust is eager to collaborate on this initiative. Additionally, a *Hauraki Express Charter* for charter operators has been developed to promote better practices within the industry.

### **Fish Care and Competitions**

LegaSea is exploring ways to support fish care in competitions, such as implementing tagging guides and promoting catch-and-release practices.

### **Impact of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in increased costs, but it also saw a rise in demand for the Kai Ika programme, which redistributes fish scraps to communities.

### **Cans for Kai Initiative**

Phoenix Metal Recycling has supported the *Cans for Kai* initiative by offering double the current market rate for cans and providing a van to help with logistics.

### **Filleting Service Redevelopment**

Plans to redevelop the filleting service at Westhaven are underway, with Auckland Council's support. The project aims to enhance the location and service, while generating additional revenue for the area.

### **Free Fish Heads Programme**

The *Free Fish Heads* programme, powered by Matt Watson's app, allows people to share fish heads across New Zealand. This initiative promotes resource-sharing and reduces pressure on the Kai Ika programme, helping to alleviate waste and support local communities. The programme will officially launch in October.

## **Artificial Reefs and Fisheries Management Report Summary**

### **Artificial Reef Projects:**

**Biggest Artificial Reef:** The Port of Napier redevelopment is highlighted as the largest artificial reef project in the country. The project has been in development for three years and, once completed, will be designated as a marine reserve.

**Twofold Bay Project:** A trawler is set to be sunk to create an artificial reef, surrounded by 50 reef balls. These reef balls are being produced and distributed nationwide, with local businesses contributing to the funding by selling them.

**Cyclone Impact:** Efforts to advance these artificial reef projects have been delayed due to the recent cyclone, slowing progress on these initiatives.

### **Fisheries Management:**



A **250-square-kilometer area** has been designated where commercial fishing will be restricted from **December to February**. This initiative aims to help researchers study whether the area serves as a spawning zone for fish.

Appreciation was expressed for **LegaSea contractors**, with a suggestion that clubs consider using their services for future projects.

#### **Sydney Curtis (SC) Report on Fisheries Management Concerns:**

**Reef Balls Project:** The use of marine-friendly concrete reef balls continues to gain traction. The **Tasman Bay project** has successfully obtained resource consent, and there is growing interest in expanding the initiative. Each reef ball costs \$1,000, and the project is gaining significant momentum.

**Bait Fish Concerns:** There has been a notable decline in **bait fish populations**, which are critical for both fishing and marine ecosystems. These fish feed on plankton and serve as prey for larger fish, such as tuna. The decline is attributed to both **over-allocation** and environmental factors. This issue ties into LegaSea's broader fisheries management efforts, underscoring the need for sustainable fishing practices to protect bait fish populations.

**Jack Mackerel Bait Fish Update:** SC shared updates on efforts to restore the abundance of jack mackerel, a key bait fish species. The Fisheries Management team has been working on this issue, and a flow chart was provided to explain the relationship between LegaSea and the Fisheries Management team.

#### **Engagement with MPI and Government Changes:**

**Pete Saunders - New Plymouth SUC** raised concerns about how the **recent government changes** could impact interactions with **MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries)**. There remains a challenge with the quality and accuracy of information reaching politicians. The importance of focusing on key campaigns to avoid resource dilution was emphasised, with the bait fish issue identified as a top priority.

**Warren Maher - Tairua Pauanui SFC** expressed concern over the declining bait fish population and the public's increasing interest in what can be done to address the issue. He also raised questions about trends in other fish stocks and how best to tackle these challenges. It was suggested that clubs may need more clear direction, possibly engaging with commercial operators to find solutions.

**Deryk Nielsen - Tauranga SFC** mentioned regular meetings with MPI and Pelco, with the aim of restarting discussions and working towards a solution. DN offered to facilitate further meetings and collaborations. IS highlighted that commercial realities continue to be a significant factor in these discussions.

**Deryk Nielsen - Tauranga SFC** also provided an update on the gamefish calendar, acknowledging the lack of a full stock assessment. This remains a critical issue in terms of managing sustainable fishery practices and addressing stock depletion.

#### **Rowan Ashton reported on current key cases**

Rowan Ashton provided an overview of key cases he has been working on, including Seafood NZ Ltd v Forest & Bird [2024] NZSC 111. He explained that operational guidelines are not mentioned in the

Fisheries Act and that Section 13 is the key provision governing stock recovery measures. The Marine and Coastal Area Act 2011 was also discussed in relation to rights associated with Customary Marine Title (CMT).

Rowan outlined the depletion of the East Coast Tarakihi stock, noting that in 2017, the stock had declined to less than half of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Forest & Bird sought judicial review in the High Court, arguing that the Minister should have based the recovery period solely on scientific and environmental considerations and should have adhered to a 70% probability of successful recovery rather than 50%, as per the Harvest Strategy Standard (HSS) and Operational Guidelines.

The High Court ruled that the Minister was required to determine the recovery period based solely on scientific considerations, with social, cultural, and economic factors coming into play only after this period had been established. The Minister was found to have erred in considering the Industry Rebuild Plan when setting the recovery period.

The Supreme Court further determined that the appropriate recovery period must be assessed based on biological characteristics and environmental conditions, excluding social, cultural, and economic considerations.

The Court also ruled that the HSS and Operational Guidelines were not preconditions for ministerial decision-making but may still contain the best available information. In this case, a 70% probability of recovery was deemed inappropriate where TAC would be revisited during the rebuild period.

Rowan expressed disappointment with the ruling. He noted that the bill had reached the Select Committee stage, and there remained one last opportunity to lobby politicians directly.

**Mark James of Whangamata OSC** inquired whether Scott Simpson was still involved, and he was advised he was. Lobbying is important.

**Wayne Bicknell from Hawke's Bay SFC** raised concerns about the next steps for the Tarakihi decision, prompting a discussion on stock levels and rebuild periods.

**Sam Woolford from LegaSea** provided an update on the Cray One decision and highlighted that the Fisheries Management Area (FMA) has an environmental bottom line, much like the Tarakihi case.

**Andrew Johnson from the Bay of Islands SC** questioned the confidentiality of court proceedings and whether other affected parties could participate. The response was that court documents could be accessed via application, but this would perhaps be impractical and expensive.

**Terry Creagh from Warkworth SFC** voiced concerns over the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (HGMP) process, describing it as a sham. It was noted that the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) had deferred action at this stage.

#### **Fisheries Management - Mark Connor.**

Mark Connor acknowledged the collaborative work of NZSFC's Fisheries Management Standing Committee (FMSC) and thanked contractors, including Trish Rae, Katie Barry, John Rowan, and Stuart

Ryan, as well as observers and committee members. The committee is actively engaging with 29 ministry-led processes and remains the sole advocate for fish stock abundance.

Grant-seeking efforts were recognized, with thanks extended to Jessica Beetham.

A motion was moved to accept the Fisheries Management reports Moved Lee Drummond and seconded by Terry Creagh, carried.

**Chris Randrup Waihou Bay SFC** acknowledged that the LegaSea team had taken a pay cut to sustain operations and extended a formal thank-you for their sacrifices.

The meeting closed at 4:45 PM.

**The meeting resumed Saturday at 9:02 AM.**

**Andrew Johnson - Caulerpa report.**

Andrew Johnson provided an update on the Caulerpa response. Andrew, a marine engineer involved in marine contracting and response efforts, detailed the ongoing management and mitigation strategies for Caulerpa. A high-density mat of Caulerpa has formed on the seafloor at depths of 2 to 15 meters. The species grows on various surfaces, creating monocultures that increase sedimentation.

In the Bay of Islands, a dredging method was trialled to remove Caulerpa without causing environmental harm, with an estimated removal rate of one acre per day. Additional removal methods were considered, including the use of benthic mats to cover both rocky surfaces and the seafloor. Chlorine mixture treatments are being tried but found to be ineffective. The benthic mat has emerged as the most promising solution, particularly for rocky areas, while alternative approaches, including diver-assisted removal and ultraviolet light, are also being explored.

**Warren Maher Tairua Pauanui SFC** provided regulatory and environmental considerations, noting that there are currently nine known Caulerpa sites, including Barrier Island, Great Mercury Island, Rakino Island, Te Rawhiti, Mokohinau Island, Omaha Cove/Leigh, Fantail Bay, Waiheke Island, and the Coromandel Peninsula, including Kawau Island. Controlled Area Notices (CANs) have been issued to manage and monitor the presence of Caulerpa, with ongoing discussions regarding their effectiveness. Concerns were raised about whether large, closed areas would be enforceable or if they might be ignored by the public. A proposal was discussed to remove CANs while still restricting shore-based fishing.

**Terry Creagh from Warkworth SFC** inquired about the effectiveness of the salt treatment at Barrier Island, to which the response indicated that the approach was not scientifically effective, reaffirming that the benthic mat remains the best solution.

**Doug Taucher from Kawhia SFC** asked about the handling of removed Caulerpa, with the response noting that it is typically buried under the Biosecurity Act.

**Jude Hansen from Taupo SFC** questioned whether Caulerpa could spread to freshwater environments, and the response was that it is not considered a freshwater issue in New Zealand.

**Ian Steele from New Plymouth SUC** raised concerns about the monitoring of new areas for Caulerpa spread, with confirmation that divers are conducting increased surveys in high-traffic areas for early detection.

**Doug Taucher Kawhia SFC** inquired whether Caulerpa is a concern on New Zealand's west coast, with the response indicating that while it is not strictly limited to the east coast, the climate is less favorable for its growth in western regions.

**Jennifer Troup from the Bay of Islands SC** urged members to report any unusual marine growth by taking photos and submitting them to MPI for assessment.

**Warren Maher from Tairua Pauanui SFC** emphasised that Caulerpa smothers marine life and depletes fish populations, highlighting the need for early detection and rapid response.

The importance of continuous monitoring, with the benthic mat being the most effective solution identified thus far. Members were encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspected sightings promptly.

#### **Council Budget - Presented by Ian Steele**

Ian Steele presented the budget to the auditor for review. The key financial figures and allocations were outlined as follows:

##### **Income:**

- Trading Income: \$21,000
- Affiliation Fees: \$440,000 (plus 12.17% GST)
- Interest: Details pending clarification
- Nationals Income: All income received is directly allocated for expenditure

##### **Expenses:**

- Accountancy Fees
- AGM Expenses
- Audit Fees
- Wages: Covering two full-time paid staff members
- NZMRF Payment

The budget was formally moved by Terry Creagh - Warkworth SFC and seconded by Peter Campbell - Board Member. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Notices of Motion**

##### **Notice of Motion #1 – Setting of Affiliation fees – 50% Voting Required**

**Proposer:** Kelly Meads – Whangamata Ocean Sports Club **Seconder:** Roger Faber – Gisborne Tatapouri Club

### **Speaker at AGM: Kelly Meads – Whangamata Oceans Sports Club**

The remit proposed is that a Non-Recreational Member category is added to the Affiliation Fees structure such that a Non-Recreational Members shall only pay \$5.00 per person to the NZSFC.

A Non-Recreational Member of a club shall be recognised as:

(a) Persons who, having paid a reduced membership fee and been approved as such by that club committee and are permitted full use of all club facilities and privileges with the following exceptions:

- (i) Financial members under the age of 18 years shall not hold any Club Office or be entitled to vote.
- (ii) If Non-Recreational Members wish to participate in any event that is commissioned or governed by the Rules of the NZSFC or the IGFA, they will pay a surcharge to enter, with that fee being passed on to the NZSFC.
- (iii) Donation to NZSFC – offering the ability for Non-Recreational Members and Recreational Members to make donations.

### **Reasoning:**

- (i) Non-Recreational Members pay a reduced membership fee and in return only get the right to legally use the clubs' facilities, other than reciprocal rights with other NZSFC affiliated clubs.
- (ii) As operating expenses increase for clubs especially for larger clubs, as an example gas, power, wages and rates; members are being asked to pay increased member fees to cover the costs of running a club; and
- (iii) this option allows the member to select the best option for them, either Non-Recreational Member or Recreational Membership.

**Kelvin Mowat - Whangaroa SFC** called for a point of order for the first remit. He pointed out that this is in fact a new form of membership for NZSFC which has not been noted. Our clubs are members who have had their constitutions checked and approved, not the individuals. Every club has their form of membership. This is a decision for each club, and he asked that the remit be withdrawn.

This was not accepted by the President, and he allowed the motion to be discussed. It was noted that the voting rights require a 2/3rd majority and this was accepted.

**Kelly Meads – Whangamata OSC** - talked to the motion.

**Roger Faber - GTSFC** - advised that they were getting pressure from committees and members, To justify the amount. They also talked about the fairness of the amount paid.

### **Questions or comments.**

**Gordon McIvor (Mercury Bay)** advised that there is sympathy regarding the voting issue and emphasised that this should be addressed. He believes that the current ratio is the same for all clubs, suggesting that a reduction would significantly impact the council's operations, given the individual cost of the fee.

**Richard Baker (NZ Land Based Game Fishing Club)** congratulated the clubs on how they are managed and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the clubs. He noted that the effect on the council's funding base would result in a loss of half of the affiliation fees to the council. He inquired whether the council had considered how it would manage the financial liability moving forward if the remit is passed. Clubs expressed concerns about preventing members from withdrawing altogether.

**Kelly Meads – Whangamata OSC** mentioned that the club is facing challenges and noted the financial issues they are experiencing.

**Tim Evans (Tairua Pauanui SFC)** reported that their membership had grown from 400 to 1,800. They now provide a breakdown on invoices, so members understand exactly what they are paying for. They also maintain a separate account for affiliation fees, ensuring that these fees are not included in the main accounts.

**Kelly Meads – Whangamata OSC** commented that many members were unaware that they were paying affiliation fees and answered questions on this.

**Heyden (Whakatane SFC)**, with 3,000 members, shared that under the current remit, social members pay affiliation fees. They make sure all members are aware of the benefits they receive and how the funds are utilized. He highlighted the importance of communicating the council's benefits to the members, adding that they have no intention of changing their club's status.

**Kelly Meads – Whangamata OSC** raised a query regarding pensioners, specifically 95 single members and 55 social members, asking if these individuals might be contributing less to the club.

**Kelvin Mowat (Whangaroa SFC)** asked if those over 18 could vote.

**Kerri Graham (Taupo SFC)** inquired about the wage bill, mentioning it was \$1 million, and asked about the turnover and the proportion of affiliation fees contributing to the NZSFC's revenue. She also raised the question of what other measures are being taken to raise revenue.

**Andrew Johnson (Bay of Islands SFC)** expressed sympathy and understanding of the concerns about the disproportionate voting system. He suggested that an immediate balance sheet is necessary to ensure the council's financial stability. He questioned what the future of the club would look like, noting that financial solutions are unlikely to come from the current financial situation.

Voting was done by a show of hands.

Voting in favour 2 cards - total 12 votes - Voting against - remainder of the room

The remit was unsuccessful.

### **Notice of Motion #1a – Capping Fees**

**Proposer: Kelly Meads – Whangamata Ocean Sports Club**

**Seconder: Roger Faber – Gisborne Tatapouri Club**

**Speaker at AGM: Kelly Meads – Whangamata Oceans Sports Club**

Propose having an affiliation cap of \$50,660K including GST on Clubs with 3101 + members on total fees.

Reasoning:

- (i) Recreational and Non-Recreational Members allows the Club to offer appropriate fee structure to both categories of membership. Both types of membership have differing needs. Recreational Membership covers all aspects of fishing and boating activities, and the Non-Recreational Membership covers as an example such things as Sailing and Waka ama.
- (ii) As operating expenses increase for clubs especially for larger clubs, as an example gas, power, wages and rates; members are being asked to pay increased member fees to cover the costs of running a club; and
- (iii) this option allows the member to select the best option for them either Non-Recreational Member or Recreational Membership.
- (iv) The WOSC fees to the NZSFC will be over \$100k in the 2024/2025 year and there is no value to be seen from NZSFC for that level of fees.
- (v) The Voting rights are disproportionate which leaves the larger clubs disadvantaged. Larger clubs are being penalised for having more members with votes capped at 6 and 3101 + members as per the NZSFC Constitution. Example – the WOSC 6 votes cost \$18K per vote last year.

The motion was discussed, and comments as follows: -

- It was emphasised that clubs had a duty of care when handling members' money, particularly concerning the council's fees.
- Clubs have **reduced all expenses** to lower costs, but large memberships still incur significant expenses.
- The club is seeking **relief** from the high costs of staying affiliated, though they are not planning to withdraw from the council.
- **Stephen Harper - Counties SFC** stated that it is crucial to support larger clubs and ensure that the 16 big clubs are spending money effectively. He suggested showing members where their money is going and keeping clubs informed. He also offered support to Whangamata OSC and pledged assistance in helping them communicate with their members.
- **Mark Connor - Ashley SFC** noted that members are paying fees to the council, which are then collected and forwarded.
- **Roger Faber - Gisborne Tatapouri SFC** mentioned that affiliation fees are simply part of the club's subscription, but members are unaware of how the funds are allocated.
- **Pete Saul - Whangarei DSA** raised the issue of pensioners and social clubs with fishing sections, suggesting it might be a concern for some clubs.
- **Kelly Meads – Whangamata OSC** acknowledged the challenges of dealing with comments from members, particularly around social membership and pensioner involvement.
- **Roger Faber - Gisborne Tatapouri SFC (Donation)** expressed gratitude to all the clubs and the Council for their support during a recent tragedy. He mentioned that they are trying to stay in the Council and prevent members from calling special general meetings.
- **Richard Baker (NZ Land Based Game Fishing Club)** highlighted that as a large club with substantial expenses; these issues are typically managed through subscriptions. He cautioned that

social members should not begin to dominate the direction of the club, stressing that the focus should remain on fishing.

- **Kevin Robinson - Tairua Pauanui SFC** drew attention to Clause 4 of the remit, which states, "there is no value to be seen from the NZSFC level of fees." He noted that there is a lack of understanding among members about where their money goes and emphasised that the responsibility lies with the management and committee to ensure that this information is communicated effectively to club members.

Voting was done by a show of hands.

Voting in favour 2 cards - total 12 votes - Voting against - remainder of the room

**The remit was unsuccessful.**

#### **Notice of Motion #2 – Administration Fee for NZSFC membership fee**

**Proposer: Kelly Meads** – Whangamata Ocean Sports Club **Seconder: Roger Faber** – Gisborne Tatapouri SFC

**Speaker at AGM:** Kelly Meads – Whangamata Oceans Sports Club

Propose administration fee to be charged for the individual membership fee payment of \$16.00 including GST collected by the Clubs on behalf of the NZSFC. A club levy of up to 10% to be deducted for the administration costs that are associated with collection of levies for the NZSFC annual fee.

#### **Reasoning:**

- (i) The Clubs pay the wages for staff to administer and process the member's payment. Significant time is involved with administration of individual member details, bank processes and forwarding the fees to NZSFC.
- (ii) WOSC administration fee is approximately \$10,500 per annum.

- This was discussed.
- **Heyden Johnston Whakatane SFC** inquired about the remit, asking for clarification. He also raised the point that there should be no cost to the club to administer it, and suggested the club is already paying a wage for administrative purposes.
- **Cie Robinson-Bates Tairua Pauanui SFC** responded that they already handle this for their club and it is easy to pull out the information.
- **Phil Appleyard Big Fish FC** mentioned the involvement of the club as a big business and emphasised the importance of their support for NZSFC.
- **Tim Evans Tairua Pauanui SFC** offered assistance, stating that where members are enthusiastic and passionate, they will support the cause. He offered to help engage with members and encourage participation in discussions.

Voting was done by a show of hands.

Voting in favour 2 cards - total 12 votes - Voting against - remainder of the room

**The remit was unsuccessful.**



## **Presentation from CD Rods - Nick Binks and Tom Johansen**

The company expressed its strong commitment to supporting the NZSFC and outlined plans to further increase their involvement. They emphasised their ongoing efforts to sustainably grow their support and to continue expanding their range of brands, which have been consistently increased over the years.

**Nick Binks** complimented **NZSFC** on the work it does, particularly in the area of education, which he stressed is vital. He mentioned their partnership with Legasea, NZ Angling and Casting, and Fish Care, noting that the company is a Platinum Sponsor of Legasea and continues to offer support to the NZSFC.

The company outlined a structured approach to engaging with the council and proposed working with the committee to determine the best way to get involved. They expressed a desire to offer value to the clubs. They also indicated plans to increase their visibility within the community, stating that they want clubs to recognize the company and see them as an active presence. They will participate in competitions and strive to build stronger connections with the clubs.

The company is interested in helping facilitate new initiatives and fund projects, with past support including kids on the wharf in Whakatane. The company's focus remains on fostering positive relationships and providing tangible support to the clubs and their activities.

**Ian Steele New Plymouth USC** raised the question of how to share the club economy with members and how it might look moving forward.

**Response:** It was noted that during COVID, there was a significant increase in demand, followed by retailers accumulating excess stock. Currently, there is general uncertainty in the market, with price point changes and the effects of a recession leading to a drop in consumer spending.

Okuma was highlighted as the biggest brand, with all rods having been updated. The company has seen its largest market share growth recently.

**Andrew Bay of Islands** asked what the company hoped to see from clubs hosting and anglers fishing.

**Response:** The company emphasised the importance of joint benefits from participation and a focus on having a good time. They highlighted the value of wearing the brand, using the gear, and providing feedback. They encourage members to get more involved and to actively promote the brand.

**Heyden Johnston Whakatane SFC** suggested that clubs consider forming partnerships with retailers, noting that giving away gear could drive members to spend at retail stores.

**Response:** It was clarified that the company could work with clubs directly or through retailers, with the best scenario being the same either way.

**Tim Evans Tairua Pauanui SFC** thanked the company for the voucher provided.

Pelagic Gear and Aquatec were mentioned as technical clothing brands. Lead times and order blanks were briefly discussed.

**Doug Taucher Kawhia SFC** inquired about the possibility of obtaining larger shirts.

**Nick Binks** responded that there might be a possibility, but the largest size available is 3XL.

Nick Binks thanked the council and clubs for their continued support.

**IGFA and Fishing Standing Committee Report - Mark Hemingway - Heyden Johnston Co-Chairs** reporting.

Mark Hemingway and Heyden Johnston discussed the Weighmaster Booklet and requested feedback, with plans to consider a new edition next year. **Deryk Nielsen Tauranga SFC** reported that copies had been distributed to all weighmasters, and a training session was conducted, which resulted in positive feedback. It was noted that a new edition would be appreciated and would be valuable. In response to the request for feedback on improvements

**Ed Beetham Wairarapa SFC** shared that he had recently completed a course and found the booklet to be excellent, particularly noting the quality of the illustrations. He suggested that using photos instead of illustrations could enhance the booklet further, while the descriptions were deemed excellent. Ed also recommended a review of the booklet in the coming years and mentioned that copies can be obtained from Helen our secretary.

The topic of the Youth Nationals and Main Nationals was also addressed. A decision was made last year to remove weighed sharks from the nationals as part of a general tidying up of the rules. **Heyden Johnston Whakatane SFC** raised concerns regarding the number of weighed sharks in the nationals, noting that 39 sharks had been tagged and that the nationals could no longer support their inclusion. He also mentioned that the Youth Nationals committee was in favour of removing sharks from their event, expressing frustration with the current situation.

**Stephen Harper Counties SFC** noted that there was a lack of information provided to the youth regarding this issue. Warren Maher clarified that the decision to remove sharks came through the youth committee and was then presented to the fishing committee for review. It was confirmed that the review of the shark points would not result in any changes to tagged shark points, which will remain the same.

**IGFA Report - Mark Hemingway, Pete Saul, and Richard Baker** reporting.

The Oceania Committee held a summit in Sydney in April. Richard Baker provided a report, copy attached.

Andrea from the Oceania Committee spoke about communications and social media, highlighting an excellent billfish season, although Australia had a poor one. She also raised concerns about electromagnetic interference affecting fish migratory paths.

Mark Hemingway informed the meeting that he had stepped down from the Education Committee. Peter Cox presented the Passport to Fishing for Juniors programme, and there was discussion about length and measure mats in Western Australia, with a goal to secure a better price point.

The topic of money tournaments was briefly discussed, and it was announced that Tuna Champs would be promoted by India Thompson, who is scheduled to visit and help raise awareness.

Dr. Pepperill discussed the importance of fish data, but noted that there are ongoing challenges, including factions fighting within the industry. He expressed concerns over the potential liability issues, as insurance is becoming a significant problem. Mark Hemingway mentioned that a trip had been planned for a guest speaker who had to cancel due to COVID-19.

Mark Hemingway also reported that Bob Gutsell had recently visited IGFA headquarters in America and was tasked with bringing up key issues on behalf of the council, including junior records, which are currently only published online.

Another issue raised was the practice of leaving the rod in the holder while clearing gear, which members feel is not appropriate. Work is ongoing to address this concern. Additionally, it was noted that a new rule from IGFA regarding two-hook metre rigs needs to be reviewed, and the IGFA website should be consulted for updates.

The council welcomed two new IGFA members, Mark Connor and Jennifer Troup.

**Vance Fulton (Mt Maunganui SFC)** raised a point about jigs for bluefin tuna, advising members to be mindful of the assist hook length, as standard hooks are often too long.

Finally, Mark Hemingway shared that the Weighmaster video is now available online on YouTube, with plans for a more refined version in the future.

The acceptance of the IGFA and Fishing Committee Reports were moved by Doug Taucher seconded by Heyden Johnston - carried.

### **New Zealand Fishing News Report**

**Grant Blair** from **NZ Fishing News** and **NZ Fishing Media** introduced a new option for a seasonal quarterly publication, aimed at featuring more detailed content and enhancing the overall image of the magazine.

He also provided an update on their online fishing website, which offers real-time articles. Over the last 12 months, the site has experienced 2.1 million engaged user sessions, with an average time on site of 3 minutes. In terms of social media, Fishing News is seeing significant engagement. Their Facebook page has 36,000 followers, while Instagram has 17,000. The NZ Big Game Fishing page has 46,500 followers, and they also have a growing TikTok presence with 19,000 followers.

Grant also highlighted the Export Fishing Comp, now in its 12th season. This is a nationwide, online, measure-based competition that engages approximately 10,000 anglers annually. Over the course of the competition, twelve tonnes of fish have been released, with 38,000 catches recorded. The competition is designed to empower anglers to make better decisions at the time of their catch.

The measure board for the competition is priced at \$49 USD, with 87% of catches being baited. Clubs are offered their own measure-based leaderboard at no cost, and registration is free via the competition app.

**Jude Hansen Taupo SFC** asked whether a trout competition could be approved, to which the response was that it had previously been removed due to legislation issues, but it was agreed to discuss this further.

**Deryk Nielsen Tauranga SFC** confirmed that their club is participating in the calendar of competitions, further highlighting the ongoing engagement with fishing events.

Ian Steele thanked Grant for his presentation.

**Fisheries Management Standing Committee - John Holdsworth and Sydney Curtis** reporting.

John Holdsworth discussed various issues related to high-value fisheries, including rock lobster, kingfish, and kahawai. A legal challenge regarding these species was raised, as well as concerns about a scallops closure, which is both an environmental and fisheries problem. The key focus was on the need for abundance in fish stocks to ensure healthy, functioning ecosystems, as well as a fair allocation for recreational fishers.

Sydney Curtis provided an update on the CRA proposals, emphasizing major concerns regarding the ecosystem-based stock assessments. It was noted that catch data is being fed into these assessments, but in some areas, the data is not accurately reflecting the current state of the stocks. The science behind these assessments was criticised for not aligning with what is happening in the environment.

There was a discussion about the upcoming public consultations scheduled around Christmas and how to proceed with addressing these issues.

**Trish Rae - LegaSea** spoke about the Cray 1 recovery plan, highlighting the involvement of environmental groups that are now taking legal action. The Minister's decision regarding the crayfish stock was found to be unlawful in court. A significant part of the court's decision pointed out that the Fisheries Act mandates specific environmental bottom lines, which had not been followed. The Minister is required to consider both the state of the fish stock and the indirect effects of fishing on the environment. The potential consequence is that all fisheries management decisions made since 2022 could be considered unlawful. The recovery plan for Cray 1 remains a priority for the NZSFC.

**Warren Maher Tairua Pauanui SFC** thanked the committee for the updates and raised a question about how the Minister would gather the necessary information to address these issues. Concerns were raised about the current state of the fishery and what the Ministry is doing to ensure they have an accurate understanding of the situation. It was noted that the issue might be resolved through court action, and the committee expressed interest in seeing what actions would be taken by the NIWA vessel. The possibility of looking into 186A and whether it is adequately recognizing the threats to the fish stocks was also discussed.

**Andrew Johnston BOISC** identified concerns regarding recreational limits and how the NZSFC should move forward in obtaining accurate data. He emphasised the need to allocate resources to secure the necessary information, including the use of political capital and funds. He noted that the committee would need to prioritize which fish stocks to focus on. The annual survey on southern bluefin was mentioned, and the usefulness of catch records from clubs were acknowledged, though it is becoming increasingly difficult to communicate with members. An alternative approach was proposed, suggesting that the Minister might need to allow for additional mortality coverage to address the issue.

**Constitution update.** A reminder was given to all clubs to remember to update their constitutions before April 2026. Many clubs have already done so. Assistance on this is available in the tacklebox for clubs.

**Communications update - Mike Plant & Cie Robinson-Bates** reporting.

The committee discussed three key communication initiatives aimed at increasing engagement and information sharing. These initiatives include display boards, coasters, and the Pod and Reel podcasts.

These are intended as four distinct methods of communication: communicating from the NZSFC to delegates, to affiliated members, to non-affiliated members, and to the general public. It was noted that there is an overlap with Legasea in these communication efforts.

Zone packs are sent to all delegates, clubs, and presidents, and the committee emphasised the importance of the club report, which is provided monthly. This report includes updates on activities and a summary of what the council has been working on. Clubs were asked to discuss these updates internally and share their responses with the council.

The display stands were mentioned as tools to hold relevant information from clubs, Legasea, NZSFC, and the Marine Research Foundation, tailored to each club's needs. These materials are designed to keep clubs informed and engaged.

Social media was also highlighted as a key component of communication, with the council specifically focusing on growth on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The council encouraged clubs to share content and keep them informed about any relevant updates. Clubs were urged to help grow the council's online presence by sharing posts and updates, as well as letting the council know how they are finding the initiatives.

Mike Plant discussed the funding process, particularly in relation to the Safer Boating Forum, which is currently funded through the fuel excise tax. At present, the funding amount stands at \$6,000, but Council has been granted another \$10,000 to produce the podcasts, with four episodes already completed. These podcasts are performing well, ranking in the top 10% of podcasts in New Zealand at the time. The committee has approved funding for ten more episodes focused on boating safety.

Also discussed was the issue of recreational boats being restricted from operating within 2 km of certain areas. Through their connections, the committee was asked to speak on behalf of the clubs regarding this issue. **Heyden Johnston (Whakatane SFC)** raised concerns around bar safety seminars, and Annette (Far North Radio) provided an update. The funding for this initiative has been extended for another year.

The committee received an update on the Kubota issues and related information, with Mike providing details about the science behind LegaSea's work and the need for clubs to maintain good behaviour when interacting with these initiatives. Additionally, the issue of the Fur Seal tagging was discussed, with DOC noting that the photo provided does not show the full tagging number. Efforts will be made to assist in capturing a clearer image.

Mike also mentioned his involvement in the prizegiving and his role as an MC at events. The committee stressed the importance of NZSFC becoming more relevant and visible in the media, with reports being shared around key locations such as the beacon.

The committee emphasised the need for increased involvement and support from all clubs. They noted that the more clubs contribute, the better the load can be shared, making it easier to achieve goals. Clubs were encouraged to provide their stories to help strengthen the council's presence and impact.

**Kelvin Mowat (Whangaroa SFC)** Inquired about the production status of display stands.

Response - Stands to be rolled out as soon as possible and unfortunately did not secure funding for the stands.

**Warren Maher (Tairua Pauanui SFC):** Emphasised the importance of collective effort in maintaining progress. Highlighted communication as the key issue for today's discussion. He stressed the need to keep communication channels open and mentioned that there are still some coasters available.

**Trish Rae (LegaSea):** Discussed the challenge of maintaining consistency in messaging. She mentioned that writing messages can be difficult and raised an issue with QR codes linking to FAQ pages, which expire after a certain period.

**Club Report:** Update on CRM (Customer Relationship Management) and membership database.

- Decision made to proceed with Sporty as the CRM management tool.
- Sporty will allow tailored messaging but requires response engagement.
- This system will assist in scenarios where we don't have direct knowledge.

**Peter Campbell:** Talked about exploring options to approach job hunters.

**Mike Plant** shared excitement about the potential of the job opportunity.

The comms Report was moved by Deryk Nielsen Tauranga SFC seconded Kevin Robinson Tairua Pauanui SFC - carried.

### **Special Guest: Tom Maxwell**

Tom Maxwell discussed the success and growth of the Kubota competition, emphasising how easily similar events can be established and encouraging clubs to consider organizing their own. He shared insights into the competition's origins, explaining that despite having no prior experience in tournament organisation, his background as a charter operator in Mercury Bay and his international and domestic travels equipped him with the knowledge needed to launch the event in 2012.

Since its inception, the Kubota competition has expanded significantly, now attracting 470 teams and featuring a \$2 million prize pool. The event is structured around three main pillars: the Kubota prize, ensuring all participants have a chance to win a major prize; a \$400,000 prize for the heaviest billfish; and a self-generated jackpot for the top three champion teams. Additional categories provide further opportunities for participants.

Tom highlighted the importance of maintaining accessibility by keeping entry fees reasonable while planning to cap and close entries early for better event management. He expressed his willingness to assist clubs in developing similar competitions and mentioned his current work with the Bay of Islands to create a comparable event.

He also addressed financial security concerns, stressing the importance of prudent financial management and ensuring that all funds are banked before being spent. He cautioned against potential gambling-related risks and highlighted that the Kubota competition injected \$7 million into the local community in March alone, demonstrating the economic benefits of such events. Despite the scale of the competition, he reassured attendees that a solid financial foundation and clear terms and conditions help minimize risks.

Tom reiterated his commitment to supporting clubs and fostering more competitions across New Zealand. He also emphasised the importance of effective communication during tournaments, explaining

that the Kubota competition operates through 24/7 radio updates, providing real-time information on fish weights and other key details.

**Courtenay from Raglan SFC** raised concerns about managing complaints on social media, to which Tom suggested involving Mike to counter negative comments with factual information.

**Sam Woolford from LegaSea** shared his experience of helping with communications last year and noted that there would be a greater focus on proactive, high-quality information dissemination into local communications this year. He also suggested creating a festival atmosphere at the weigh station, where facts about the fish could be shared. Additionally, teams could be encouraged to donate part of their catch to local community services, which could help reduce negative talk surrounding the event.

**Richard Baker NZ Land based SFC** and **Ed Beetham from Wairarapa SFC** asked about what happens if a marlin is not caught or if a category is not won. Tom clarified that if a category is not won, it will be randomly drawn, ensuring that every participant has a chance to win something, even if they don't land the top prize.

## **General Business**

### **Club Location at Whakatane – Heyden Johnston President Whakatane SFC**

Heyden Johnston provided an update on the Whakatane club's location, explaining that a flood wall is in place, with plans to extend it further down the coast. Discussions included potential access through or around the club. He clarified that while the land is leased, the buildings are owned by the club. Insurance considerations were addressed, with flooding being a mandatory inclusion in the policy, and the club deciding to assume the associated risk. Future plans include raising the building and adding an outdoor area. In response to a question from **Doug Taucher (Kawhia Boating & Angling Club)** regarding the adjacent building, Heyden explained that nearby structures are on short-term leases and do not meet earthquake standards. The club has explored various options concerning these buildings.

## **Catch Recording**

Trish Rae discussed the ongoing issue of catch recording, which is a common challenge at present. Marty Sullivan from Kaikoura inquired about how fish are managed across the mainland.

Brett Bensemann provided information on the traffic light system, which was introduced as a solution to the catch recording issue. He noted that Fisheries New Zealand had not performed well in this area.

Brett Bensemann further explained that Mainland Fish had developed an app designed to streamline the process, allowing fish to be brought through areas where catch regulations frequently change. The app aims to improve catch management and ensure compliance with evolving rules.

## **Annual Tagging Draw**

John Holdsworth conducted the annual tagging draw for a \$1,000 cash prize awarded for a recapture and detailed reporting. The winner was William Clark from Nelson for August 2024. John Holdsworth will contact the winner.

Thanks were extended to NZ Underwater and the NZ Angling and Casting Association for their continued support.

### **Other Matters**

**Barney O'Neill from Te Aroha SFC** suggested changing the shirt colours for future events.

**Phil Appleyard Big Fish Fishing Club** raised concerns regarding line testing procedures, with **Pete Saul, Patron** noting the importance of correct testing practices. He emphasised that Black Magic Tackle lines are assessed wet and that clubs need to follow proper procedures, including soaking lines for two hours in freshwater before conducting five tests. Dry lines test higher than wet ones, and IGFA rules specify that testing machines must be calibrated annually, along with scale calibration.

**Tim Evans Tairua Pauanui SFC** inquired about new club flags. A supplier is being worked with, and new pin fish pins are also in development.

Thanks were extended to sponsors and supporters, as well as to Heyden Johnston and the Whakatane team for their assistance.

### **2025 AGM host**

For 2025, Kaikoura was confirmed as the AGM location, with Marty Sullivan noting that a community centre is under construction and expected to be ready in time. Accommodation options include three motels near the venue, along with discounts for whale-watching, dolphin encounters, and zip-lining. Seafood will be collected for meals, and further coordination with Helen will take place within the next month. Sedema Hotel will accommodate motorhomes. The dates for the AGM are set for September 26-27.

The 2026 location remains vacant, though Mt Maunganui has offered to host.

### **President's Shout**

A motion for a \$2,000 President's Shout was moved by Ian Steele and seconded by Brett Rigby, which was carried.

### **The board advised the co-opted members on the board this year.**

Richard Baker - Co-opted member with a focus is on Fisheries Management

Peter Campbell - Co-opted member as a Director of LegaSea.

### **Meeting closed 1600**