

# NZSFC MONTHLY REPORT

NEW ZEALAND  
SPORT FISHING

## Welcome from the President

Scott Macindoe

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to view online



Dear friends,

The outlook is grim for those of us fighting for abundance and a fair go for the next generation. It feels like the perfect storm.

Minister Jones has confirmed business as usual for trawling and Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Predictable and divisive

He is also fast tracking changes to the Fisheries Act. Not genuine reform. Just a desperate grab to squeeze more dollars from a broken system that benefits a greedy few. Please carefully read our [joint submission](#) to see what we are dealing with. We expect this will return as a Fisheries Amendment Bill before the end of the year with a very short consultation window. A solid [record of process](#) is being maintained – as always.

We have had two meetings with Minister Jones in March and April. Reports here for the [South Island](#) and [Auckland](#) meetings. They are worrying. The Minister says he wants better communication. What we are seeing is not that.

Environmental NGOs are again forcing Regional Councils to enforce the Resource Management Act across the seabed. This time it is the Waikato Regional Council being pushed to shut off large areas of coastline to all fishing except customary. The reason? Kina barrens. The twist? The Environmental Defence Society expert ecology witness saying he does not support culling kina. Apparently nature must be left to fix itself. All while they carefully try to avoid any reference to the Fisheries Act that might unravel their legal case.

So what do we do? We get louder, we get broader and we get moving. If you are not already, please [sign up](#) to the LegaSea supporter database and then ask your mates and family to sign up too. The more people we reach, the stronger our collective voice.

This is exactly why we created LegaSea in 2012. To grow awareness. To connect everyday people to what is happening. And to provide a clear path for them to get involved. Please remember that every single dollar donated by the public and unaffiliated clubs to LegaSea goes straight to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council to help fund the powerful advocacy work the Council has delivered for so many years – \$160,000 per annum on average for the last three years! Over \$1,600,000 since 2013. Add to that the support of more than sixty businesses through sponsorship and partnership. That is what powers the LegaSea engine.

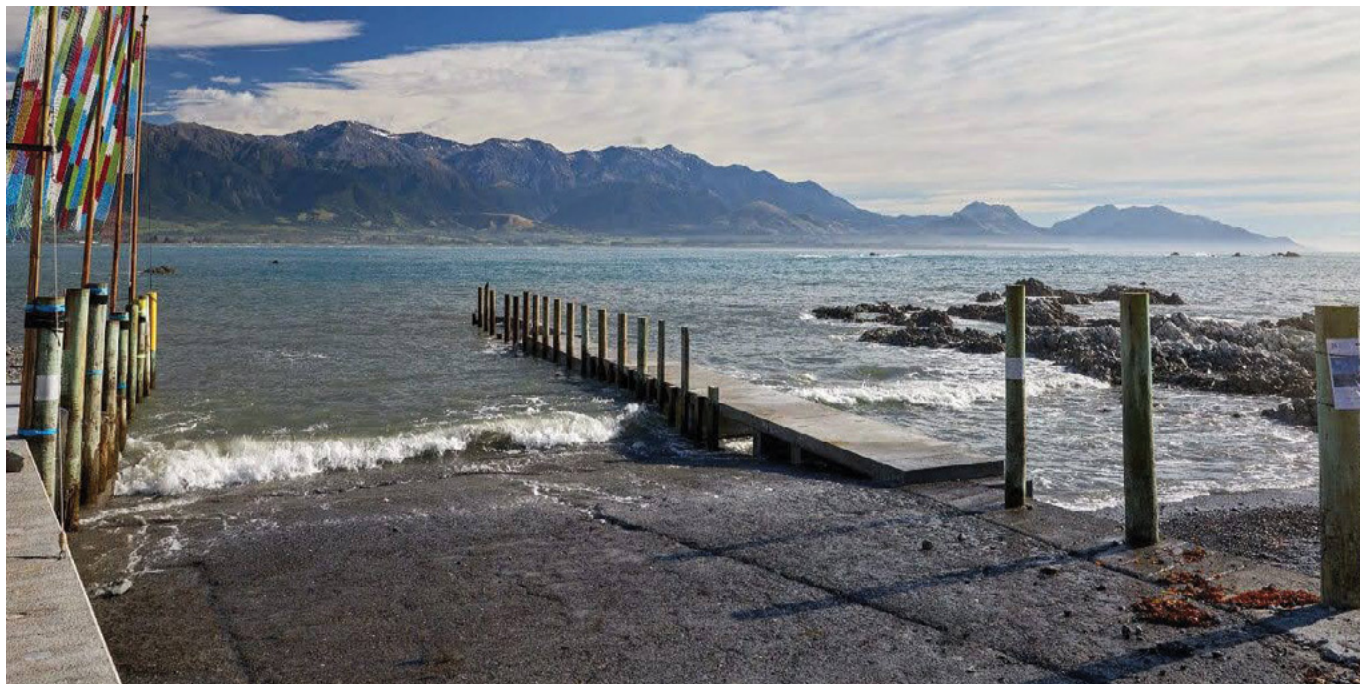
Thank you to the other national representative organisations standing with us as we speak up and stand up for ourselves. Take a bow New Zealand Angling and Casting Association, New Zealand Underwater Association and Yachting New Zealand. They know what is at stake. So do we.

Now we need more of us to get stuck in. Please get involved. Stay informed. Speak up. Support our work. This is not about one voice. It is about all of us pulling together. Before it is too late.

Best regards,  
Scott Macindoe

## Administration

### AGM Kaikōura



**Accommodation:** Please book your accommodation as soon as possible.

**Flights and ferry bookings:** Remember to book early to ensure you can get a seat as the dates are in the school holidays. Campervan sites are available. A registration form will be sent shortly. This will have all the information regarding the AGM and partners events.

**Future AGMs:** NZSFC are on the lookout for future AGM venues, please reach out if your club would like to host in the upcoming years.

**The 2026 Yearbook and End of Year Trophies:** The yearbook planning has started. Please get your up to date information to Helen as soon as you can, including and your annual catch and tagging numbers. Helen will send out the forms at the end of June 2025. As AGM's tend to be later in the year please make sure you send this as soon as possible.

**Yearbook 2026:** Planning is underway with a fresh look. Got something you'd love to see in the yearbook? Share it [here](#). Please update all your information regarding your club.

**Club of the year:** Please get all your applications for club of the year sent to Helen as soon as possible. The forms are in our Tackle box. Also applications for Volunteer of the Year and Angler of the Year. Remember to give us a great story with lots of pictures.

**Records:** As requested please get all your first and heaviest records to Helen as soon as you get them. This makes it easier to keep the register up to date.

**5 to 1 certificates:** Please send these through as soon as possible. I am updating them on the website. You will see them under [Catch Ratio Certificates](#) in records on the website. At present we have only one club's certificates for this season.



*Last years winner of Club of the Year MBGFC with President Gordon McIvor*



## Fishing Standing Committee (FSC)

**Rules Updates:** The Committee is currently undertaking a review of the Nationals' and Youth Nationals' rules to ensure their accuracy and to address any areas of potential confusion. Additionally, an annual review of the IGFA rules is conducted to ensure ongoing alignment and compatibility.

**Youth Nationals:** Read our final wrap up [here](#). The competition was a great success. This year we had 533 anglers, an increase of 191 anglers from last year. With the enthusiasm growing we are hoping for another big increase in 2026. We are having a review of the rules and also the software to ensure that we have a robust and accurate tally for 2026.

**New IGFA World Junior Line Class Records:** Thanks to the sterling efforts of the NZSFC and our IGFA representatives we are now able to recognise junior world records across all line classes and almost all species, more details [here](#).

**Tagging Programme:** The 2025 Gamefish Tagging Update is full of cool stories from the season. Striped marlin covered big distances fast, yellowfin tuna were caught again just weeks after tagging, and one swordfish came back to the same spot almost two years later. There's even a couple of kingfish that showed up again after six years in the wild. More details on tagged marlin recaptures and the amazing journeys these fish have made is available [here](#).

**Disabilities in Fishing:** The NZSFC are currently in the process of initiating developing a disabilities section to promote inclusiveness and accessibility in recreational fishing throughout Aotearoa. If you are interested in assisting us in developing this exciting new initiative then please contact us at the NZSFC at [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).

**Disputes:** The NZSFC have developed a disputes procedure and now provide a portal for disputes to be conveyed to the NZSFC on our website. If you have an issue that can't be resolved with your club, between clubs or with the NZSFC then please let us know through our complaints email address – [complaints@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:complaints@nzsportfishing.org.nz)



*Disability in Fishing committee member  
Bryce Dinneen with Matt Watson*

## Youth Standing Committee (YSC)

### Youth Nationals 2025

This year's Youth Nationals was a huge success, despite challenging weather. The event saw 533 youth anglers from 22 clubs nationwide, with 795 fish caught, and 99 fish tagged, measured, and released. We're proud to share that there are currently over 20 world records pending as a result of this year's comp, an incredible achievement and a true testament to the skill of our young anglers.

Congratulations to Counties Sport Fishing Club, winners of the Early Bird Club prize, and Ryder Hamilton (Mercury Bay GFC), this year's Early Bird Angler! Both score Daiwa prize packs, thanks again to Daiwa for their continued support.

### Congratulations to our champions:

- Secondary School Champion Angler: Tyler Speed (Mt Maunganui GFC) – including the *only tagged broadbill* and longest kingfish at 106cm!
- Primary School Champion Angler: Maddison Slobbe (Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club) – with top catches in blue cod and kingfish.
- Mt Maunganui took home the Interclub win, followed by New Plymouth and Counties.

We're already prepping for 2026! We're exploring the inclusion of freshwater species (like trout and salmon) in future Youth Nationals, with draft rules being developed. Further discussion is expected at the AGM in Kaikōura.

Full details for the youth nationals can be found [here](#).



Secondary School Champion Tyler Speed with the longest Kingfish



Emily and Ryan Steele with Brock Johnson in Taranaki



Mila, Alayna, and Lyla fishing on 3kg line



Riley Burch with a new club record for Hawkes Bay



5 year old Jordi Scotland with his PB snapper at his first comp in Mercury Bay



4 year old Liam Silvester with his first ever fish in Mercury Bay



## Youth IGFA Nominee

A shout-out to Brock Johnson, who has submitted his application for the IGFA Youth Representative role.

## NZSFC Future Youth Leaders

We're on the lookout for passionate, motivated young fishers aged 17–24 to join a new NZSFC Youth Committee. This group will help guide youth initiatives, run national projects, and play a hands-on role in shaping the future of fishing.

Whether they're into competitive fishing, sustainability, event planning, or just want to make a difference in their community we want to hear from them.

**Clubs:** Know a standout young person in your ranks? Encourage them to apply! This is a great opportunity for youth members who show leadership potential, have a passion for fishing, or have already been actively involved in your club.

Youth Committee members will work alongside the NZSFC Youth Standing Committee, gain leadership experience, and help shape the direction of national youth programmes.

**Apply now:** [NZSFC Future Youth Leaders](#)

## Communications Standing Committee (CSC)

**Website Improvements:** A new search bar is in development to improve accessibility and navigation on the NZSFC website. Got suggestions for what you'd like to see on the site? Let us know [here](#).

**Tackle Box:** It's a growing hub for resources, templates, and helpful tools for clubs. Got ideas for helpful content or templates? We're keen to hear them just pop your suggestions in when you fill out the updated club info form [here](#).

**Podcast:** [The NZSFC Pod and Reel Podcast](#), shares powerful stories from the coastlines, clubs, and characters that define New Zealand's fishing community. With over 7,000 downloads already, make sure you have a listen to the following stories from our clubs and their members

Episodes 1 and 2 recount Will Fransen's near-death solo fishing trip at the Aldermans, followed by efforts to recover his boat *Betty G*. In Episodes 3 and 4, the spotlight shifts to the southern bluefin tuna revival in Waihou Bay, featuring Christine Elming, Tony Walker (TK), Toby Barkla, and John Holdsworth, with strong ties to the Waihou Bay and Whakatāne Sport Fishing Clubs.

Episode 5 delivers sobering insights from the Gisborne-Tatapouri Fishing Club, with President Roger Faber and Coastguard skipper Henry Van Teel, covering a fatal bluefin expedition. Episodes 6 and 7 take listeners to the Manukau, Piha, and Muriwai clubs, featuring legends like Mark Gill, Kris O'Neill, Duncan Clarke and Craig Ross, as they unpack the realities of West Coast surf, safety, and survival.

This week's episode is Women at the Helm with Ahipara's Lisa Nobel, Mercury Bay Game Fishing clubs Girls in the Bay committee and the women behind Wild Chix.

This podcast weaves local voices into a national story, one club, one coast, one conversation at a time.

Hear the stories [here](#) or search NZSFC wherever you get your podcasts

## Southern Bluefin Tuna Seminar Series

After a tragic 2024 season that saw too many lives lost on the water, NZSFC and Coastguard are stepping up. We've teamed up with some of the country's bluefin legends to run a series of free pre-season seminars across the North Island and beyond. These sessions are about sharing knowledge, building confidence and making sure more of us get home safe.



We'll cover how to set up your boat and gear, spread and rigging tips, vessel preparation, safety planning, navigation, bar crossings and how to fish around commercial fleets. There will be advice on trolling, jigging and topwater techniques, plus insights from local experts who know the tuna grounds inside out.

Some events will run alongside fishing club competition nights. You do not have to be in the comp to attend the seminar. Competition details will be included in each Humanitix event listing. Check the link to find your local session and register now.

[Find your local event and book now.](#)



*Tauranga had a great night at the first of the Bluefin Tuna Seminars*

**Social Media:** With the Youth Nationals on, we saw some strong growth through our social channels on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). This followed the trend of the previous months of channel growth, with numbers of engagement and followers continually improving.

#### **Facebook:**

91,000 views | 4,400 page visits | 762 people commenting, sharing or posting | 60 new followers

#### **Instagram:**

15,300 views | 274 profile visits | 66 new followers

**New Zealand Records:** Clubs have been advised of an error relating to NZ records in the yearbook. For the most up to date records at any time visit the records page on the NZSFC website [click here](#).

**Information Boards:** Final designs have been shared and include space for delegate spotlights, Fish of the Month, yearbook distribution, and club notices.

We're aiming to roll these out to ten trial clubs in the coming month stay tuned!

**AI for Clubs:** Work is underway to develop simple AI guidance for clubs, including a potential instructional video and workshop to help demystify how AI tools can support club comms.

**Delegate Spotlights:** We're calling on all club delegates to complete the [Delegate Spotlight form](#) to help us highlight the incredible people behind our clubs:

**NZSFC Club Updated Information:** The NZSFC is updating club contact records to ensure we're connecting with the right people and sharing relevant information more effectively. This year, we're also expanding our records to include key roles across clubs so we can deliver the right support, resources and opportunities to those who need them. We are also asking clubs to let us know:

- What workshops or training would be most helpful (e.g. club governance, sponsorship, social media, health & safety etc)
- What challenges your club may be facing, and
- What ideas or successful initiatives you would be willing to share to help other clubs grow and learn.

We want to ensure NZSFC's 2025 support is club driven and relevant. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the update form [here](#).

## **Governance Standing Committee (GSC)**

**Constitutions:** Time is ticking and your constitutions need to be finalised and approved by DIA by April 2026. This requires your constitution to be accepted by your members at a formal AGM / SGM prior to this date. If your club requires assistance with your constitution we have a number of templates that may be of assistance. Don't delay time is of the essence. Please call or email Helen at [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz) and she will be able to help.

## Finance Standing Committee (FSC)

The finance committee has been busy preparing for NZSFC's budget and planning for the next financial year. Our intent is to set budgets for revenue & expenditure for each of our seven standing committees (Finance & Administration, Fishing, Communications, Youth, Governance, LegaSea Governance and Fisheries Management). The reason for this is to drive accountability of the standing committees and to make it easier for our members to understand what their membership fees are used for.

The latest review of the 2024-25 financial position shows us to be on track and slightly ahead of budget. We can however see headwinds starting to blow against us in terms of the increased work to fight the SCAM of the proposed Fisheries Amendment Act changes, a huge work in progress, and other measures to ensure protection of the recreational fishery. The committed work of our contractors comes at a cost, so any avenues for donations or grants must be explored.

It is pleasing to note that all clubs have paid their affiliation fees in full which is a huge contribution to continuing the sustainability of our organisation. Thank you very much!

## Fisheries Management Standing Committee (FMSC)

### The reforms proposal process

25,000 submissions made by members of the public utilising the [powerful submission tool](#) developed by LegaSea. The [NZSFC submission](#) is an outstanding and powerful message to Government

### The Waikato Regional Council Coastal plan process

On 30 April, 8 nominated representatives attended the Waikato Coastal Plan hearing. Our [legal submission](#) delivered by Rowan Ashton says it all. Thank you to our President, Scott Macindoe for your presence and strong representation. His [affidavit](#) makes so much sense.

A massive thank you to those who volunteered their time, Gordon McIvor on behalf of affected Zone 3 clubs and Deryk Nielsen from Tauranga Sport Fishing club spoke to their submissions. Bob Gutsell submitted a written submission for Zone 6. They were accompanied by Sydney Curtis (NZSFC) who spoke to science, Joe Davis (Ngati Hei) and Ken Hindmarsh (Mercury Bay Business Association). See a report for the meeting [here](#) with links to all written statements.

