

Joint recreational submission to the fisheries management review

January 2016

In December 2015 a comprehensive submission was made in support of the review of New Zealand's fisheries management system.

Joint submitting interests were the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and affiliated members, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association and LegaSea supporters.

These submitters offered the Ministry for Primary Industries a range of legislative, administrative and management solutions to restore abundance, productivity, and diversity in New Zealand's inshore fisheries and marine environment.

Underpinning the submission is the increasing public awareness of the need to grow New Zealand's wealth and provide for people's health and wellbeing by applying LegaSea's 5 Principles.

www.legasea.co.nz/5principles

5 Principles of LegaSea

Fishing for Abundance

- ☉ Let's rebuild the fishery.
- ☉ Stop senseless waste.
- ☉ The public (NZ Inc) owns the fishery.
- ☉ Equal size limits for all.
- ☉ Value recreational fishing.



Environmental management

- ☉ Establish and manage to a strong environmental standard.
- ☉ Change the focus from managing single species and apply ecosystem based management, so proper regard is given to multiple species and the environments in which they live.
- ☉ We need more precautionary decisions so lower catch levels can be set when information is poor.

Increased abundance in inshore fisheries will mean higher catchability and generate greater value through increases in sport and recreational fishing opportunities.



Utilisation

- ☞ There is a collision of interests where the commercial objective of maximum yield keeps stocks low in fisheries popular with the public.
- ☞ The low export values derived from New Zealand's commercial catch is embarrassing.
- ☞ We need to find alternative ways to use fewer resources while generating more value to New Zealand.
- ☞ The Minister must remain responsible for decision making.

An inshore zone with limited commercial fishing is required to satisfy the public's expectations and wellbeing.



Information

- ☞ Commercial interests have successfully captured research spending.
- ☞ The move from Resource Rentals to cost recovery has been a national disaster. Under the current funding model even basic monitoring of many inshore stocks is unaffordable.
- ☞ We need more transparency and fewer confidentiality agreements between commercial interests and the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- ☞ We need ongoing, independent surveys of recreational harvest as self reporting is unreliable and unproven.

- ☞ All information used in the decision making process must be made publicly available.
- ☞ We need to incorporate valuable local knowledge into decision making processes.

Ongoing fisheries independent surveys are required to better monitor the status of exploited stocks.

Governance

- ☞ We need wholesale change as the Ministry for Primary Industries is seen as a bureaucracy paid from the public purse but serving industrial fishing interests.
- ☞ We need legislative changes to protect the Crown from commercial claimants of compensation for losses.
- ☞ Liability for 28N rights must be returned to the Crown, and no commercial catch increases until the matter is resolved.
- ☞ Public fishing must remain outside of the Quota Management System, with allowances set by the Minister.
- ☞ Co-management is possible when legislation is amended to protect the Crown from compensation claims.
- ☞ Co-management would enable Maori to exercise their stewardship obligations as provided for in existing legislation.

Co-management of marine resources is possible if an inshore zone is established to limit commercial fishing.

You are encouraged to discuss these views amongst family, friends and with the submitters, as it by sharing our collective knowledge that we will find ways to improve the ecological and economic outcomes derived from our nation's fisheries.

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