

NZSFC Club Monthly Report: August 2023

A Round up of NZSFC Club News and information for Club Committees, Delegates and Members

August 2023: This is a report for our clubs throughout New Zealand. Please distribute this information throughout your Club. This report includes a summary of:

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- CONCERNS OVER GOVERNMENT FISHING PLAN
- NZSFC AGM UPDATE
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- IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION FOR SWORDFISH ANGLERS
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- NEWS FROM FIORDLAND MARINE GUARDIANS
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NZSFC COOKBOOK

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council invites your members to participate in our Cookbook Competition by submitting your most delicious and creative seafood recipes,

By taking part in this competition, you'll be supporting our Youth Ocean Trust, as the proceeds from the cookbook sales will contribute to nurturing the next generation of marine enthusiasts.

Additionally, we need your imaginative flair in crafting a title for our cookbook. We want a name that captures the essence of our vibrant fishing community and the diverse flavours that we're fortunate to have right on our back doorstep. Your idea could become the iconic cover of this culinary masterpiece!

And that's not all—every entry will automatically enter the draw to win a remarkable three-generation guaranteed Ironclad Legacy Pan valued at \$279.

To participate, visit our website and click on 'news' or simply follow this link:

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/cookbook-competition/>

CONCERNS OVER GOVERNMENT FISHING PLAN

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has expressed concerns regarding the government's Fishing Industry Transformation Plan, emphasising the need for a balanced approach. Some members of the public and environmental advocates have raised worries that certain fishing practices allowed under the plan might have negative impacts on the country's coastal areas.

A considerable segment of the public has shown support for addressing potentially harmful practices like bottom trawling. Critics of the plan argue that it might not fully address the public's desire to restore fish populations and explore less disruptive fishing methods.

In response to these concerns, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, along with other collaborative groups, has put forth an alternative proposal. This alternative plan is centred around the restoration of fish populations, promotion of selective fishing techniques, and reduction of environmental footprints. Ian Steele, President of the NZSFC, emphasises the significance of transitioning from current practices to more sustainable methods such as trapping and longlining, with the intention of fostering a thriving marine ecosystem.

The alternative proposal places a premium on rebuilding fish populations, ensuring the health of the marine environment, and upholding the interests of communities and businesses.

One particular area of concern in the government's plan is the lack of a clearly outlined timeline for transitioning away from potentially damaging methods. The NZ Sport Fishing Council underscores the importance of achieving a minimum of 50% restored fish stock size (B50) as a crucial benchmark for achieving a thriving fishery, bolstering ecosystem resilience, creating employment opportunities, and ensuring affordable access to fresh fish for local communities.

NZSFC AGM UPDATE 22/23 SEPTEMBER

The invoices for the AGM are being sent to the delegates who have registered. Please ensure that this invoice is paid as soon as possible.

Cut off for delegate registration has passed - if you haven't registered already and wish to do so, please contact us immediately as spaces are now very limited. If you are not planning to attend the AGM could you please let me know as soon as possible. This will make it easier for additional invitations etc.

The partner's event information has been sent out to all clubs and delegates and life members. The Tairua team have worked hard to have a great social couple of days for all our partners as it has been difficult with road closures and other hiccups along the way. If you have missed it please click the attached link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1qxbpjsq0582e7qcsh2t/2023-Partner-s-Activities-Poster.pdf?rlkey=4lxo9c6mmbjhxd1xny6yzhxun&dl=0>

NOTICES OF MOTION - NZSFC AGM

All the notices of motion have been sent to the clubs and delegates for discussion prior to the AGM. Please bring these to the attention of your committees so they can decide on how they wish to vote - or if they have any queries / questions for the AGM.

We have had a couple of queries about the Youth Ocean Trust since the Notices of Motion were issued. A reminder that the Youth Ocean Trust has been created by the NZSFC to develop the youth programme - much like the NZ Marine Research Foundation is for science funding, the Youth Ocean Trust is for Youth.

It is important that we have a clear understanding of what our clubs want so even if you can't get to the AGM please appoint a Proxy for your club and advise them of how you want to vote. Please send NZSFC a proxy form as soon as possible so we can record this for the meeting.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION FOR SWORDFISH ANGLERS

Off the back of a recent video we posted for International Fisherman's day, The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) reached out to the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) regarding a common dispute in the deep-dropping community. The question was whether it is acceptable to wind in a slackline with the rod still in the rod holder after a swordfish bite. The IGFA has clarified that this action is not considered an infraction of their Angling Rules, as long as the angler is the only one reeling and removes the rod from the holder once the line becomes tight. Experienced anglers may know when the bait is taken, but the official interpretation considers the fish "hooked" only when the line is tight. NZSFC aims to publicise this clarification to help anglers' fish in accordance with IGFA rules.

CAMERAS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS: A MILESTONE IN NEW ZEALAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY

On July 30, Rachel Brooking, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, made a significant announcement about the implementation of monitoring cameras on 23 fishing vessels, commencing from Tuesday, August 1. With an additional 70 vessels that will undergo monitoring by the end of 2023, and the plan is to expand this initiative to encompass up to 300 vessels by early 2025. Priority has been given to installing cameras on vessels that pose higher risks to protected species of mammals and seabirds.

While it is believed that the idea of cameras on fishing vessels was first proposed six years ago, in reality, it has been nearly a decade since this concept was introduced. Our "Save Our Snapper" campaign in 2013, initially shed light on the wastage and mortality associated with bottom trawling, particularly along the northeast coast.

In response to the concerns raised, on September 17, 2013, then-Minister Nathan Guy announced the decision for Snapper 1, which included the requirement for "Camera or observer coverage on 25% of all trawl vessels by December 1, 2013, with 100% coverage by October 1, 2015" and "Mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on all commercial vessels by October 1, 2014."

Over the years, recreational fishers actively participated in reform processes, voicing their strong support for the installation of cameras on commercial vessels, both deepwater and inshore.

It's great to finally see progress in this area following significant input from us over the years.

NEWS FROM FIORDLAND MARINE GUARDIANS

New recreational fishing rules have been approved by Oceans and Fisheries Minister Rachel Brooking, aiming to rebuild hard-hit fisheries and ensure their sustainability for the future.

The changes include: Reducing daily species and bag limits for many finfish and shellfish species within the fiords. Closing the oyster and scallop fisheries in Fiordland to allow their populations to recover. Introducing more restrictive fishing zones at each fiord's entrance.

So, what does this mean for you? Outside the Fishing Lines, the daily combined finfish limit would be reduced from 30 to 20 per person, and inside the lines, it will be further reduced to 10.

These recommendations were made by the Fiordland Marine Guardians, who are dedicated to protecting these marine resources for generations to come.

This marks the most significant changes to amateur fishing regulations in Fiordland since the Guardians' establishment in 2005, making it a monumental milestone towards restored abundance.

STRIPED MARLIN SATELLITE TAGGING RESULTS - WEST COAST NORTH ISLAND

A satellite tagging programme of Striped Marlin (S/Marlin) has long been discussed for the west coast of the North Island. Recent years have seen this come closer and closer until this winter, sufficient donors stepped forward including many keen fishers, both individuals and organisations.

In addition, the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club has contributed to the cost of a Tag (and facilitated the administration of the project), and the ultimate success of the project was only made certain due to the underwrite and contribution by the NZ Marine Research Foundation

Here are the highlights:

The first tag, attached to a 70 kg striped marlin named Crusader, surfaced after 59 days. Although it was supposed to stay on the fish for 240 days, it provided valuable information about the marlin's movement, indicating it was healthy before the tag released.

The second tag, deployed on an 80 kg striped marlin by the Trident crew, popped off after 85 days. This fish took a different route, leading researchers to wonder if it was returning to a known spring/summer spawning area in French Polynesia.

The star of the show is the third tag, placed on a 95 kg striped marlin by the Obseasion crew. It travelled extensively along the east coast of the North Island and reached the waters of the South Island, surprising researchers with its unexpected journey.

The data collected from these tags helped to summarise the daily maximum and minimum depth and water temperature, providing valuable insights into the marlins' behaviours.

These tags have given us the first detailed tracks of striped marlin released on the west coast of the North Island. The marlins spent time in New Zealand waters during February and March before leaving in April. Warmer sea temperatures and La Niña weather events may have contributed to the expansion of their normal range, with some marlins even being spotted and caught off the South Island.

The programme has sourced the tags through the IGFA (<https://igfa.org/>) and specifically the Great Marlin Race (<https://igfa.org/igmr-program-overview/>). The cost for this project is approximately \$50,000 - which is simply the costs of the 6 tags, the analysis and reporting.

CURRENT FISH STOCK REVIEWS

Fisheries New Zealand is consulting on increases to the Total Allowable Commercial Catch for:

1. Trevally 2 fishery - lower east coast of the North Island. This review mainly applies to the Gisborne and Hawkes Bay trawl fisheries.
2. Gurnard 3 fishery - east coast South Island, Southland and Fiordland. This review applies mainly to the Canterbury trawl fishery.
3. Kina 1A and 1B fisheries - off the upper east coast of the North Island. The review mainly applies to the East Northland dive fishery.

PROTECTING OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

We are thrilled to share that Ian Steele, the President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Inc (NZSFC), recently presented NZSFC's submission opposing seabed mining in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Working together with our partner organisations, we believe the ongoing parliamentary inquiry into seabed mining plays a crucial role in assessing the risks, benefits, and necessary regulatory changes to protect our precious marine ecosystems.

Seabed mining has proven to have detrimental effects on fish populations, availability, habitat productivity, and tourism.

It threatens the delicate balance of our oceanic biodiversity and the livelihoods of countless communities dependent on sustainable fishing and tourism industries.

At NZSFC, we firmly advocate for viable alternatives to seabed mining. We believe in promoting solutions that preserve our marine environment while meeting our resource needs. Our latest submission on the seabed mining inquiry delves into the critical importance of recycling metal e-waste, urban mining, and bioleaching as sustainable alternatives.

We would like to express our gratitude to the remarkable efforts of our partners, such as Kiwis Against Seabed Mining and the New Plymouth Sport Fishing and Underwater Club, who have joined forces with us to fight against seabed mining in the past.