

# NZSFC Club Monthly Report: September 2023

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

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

- NZSFC AGM UPDATE 22/23
  - NZSFC COOKBOOK
  - NOTICES OF MOTION-AGM
  - CLUB AGMS
  - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE
  - NZMRF UPDATE
  - CAULERPA SPREAD DISCUSSIONS
  - YOUTH OCEAN TRUST DEVELOPMENTS
  - AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND
  - HAURAKI GULF MARINE PARK
  - INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION PLAN
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## NZSFC AGM UPDATE 22/23 SEPTEMBER

The invoices for the AGM have been sent to the delegates who have registered. **Please ensure that this invoice is paid as soon as possible. If you have any changes to your requirements the Secretary needs to be advised as soon as possible.**

A booklet will be sent to all delegates shortly with the agenda, and other AGM papers. This will also be available at the AGM in your Conference pack.

Weighmasters workshop at the AGM - please note that all are welcome to this workshop 3pm Thursday 21st September. If you have any club members / weighmasters who are interested in attending please encourage them to come along. We are making a video of this session for anyone that can't make it.

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.

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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.

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/>

## **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.

## **INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION PLAN**

The final Fisheries Industry Transformation Plan was released on August 7th. NZSFC issued a press release on August 8th, titled "Government Fishing Plan Ignores Public Outrage."

<https://legasea.co.nz/2023/08/08/government-fishing-plan-ignores-public-outrage/>

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## **CLUB AGMS**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) season is always a busy time for our Clubs, and this year was no exception. Our Communications and Operations lead, Mike Plant, was invited to a few of our affiliated clubs during this AGM season, leaving a positive mark on various sportfishing clubs and their members.

Mike Plant, joined by NZSFC vice president Andrew Johnson were invited to speak at the Mangawhai Sportfishing Club AGM. Attendees were encouraged to have them address their concerns and answer questions regarding the proposed Hauraki Gulf Marine Park with concerns bottom trawling would intensify in Bream Bay. Andrew and Mike provided valuable insights, and have encouraged Mangawhai to have their voice heard through attending zone 2 meetings where affiliated clubs are sharing similar concerns.

Following his visit to Mangawhai, Mike Plant continued his AGM journey to the Warkworth Sportfishing Club. There, he engaged with members, discussing the importance of responsible fishing practices and the significance of the proposed marine park in preserving their beloved fishing grounds. His presence at the AGM served as a reminder that the angling community plays a vital role in protecting New Zealand's coastal waters.

The final stop on Mike Plant's AGM tour was the Hauraki Gulf Sport Fishing Club AGM. This event was particularly significant, as it was an AGM prize giving and fishing comp all in one. Mike addressed the club members, sharing insights on the marine park's potential detrimental effects to both fish stocks and recreational anglers. In addition Mike had the privilege of handing out awards on behalf of the New Zealand Sportfishing Council at these AGMs.

## **HAURAKI GULF MARINE PARK**

Notable developments in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park include:

1. Approval of Fisheries Plan: The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Fisheries Plan has been approved.
2. Marine Protection Bill: The Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, supporting 19 new MPAs, has been introduced into Parliament and referred to the Environment Select Committee. Submissions will likely be called for around the end of 2023.

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3. Trawl Zone Consultation: Consultation is ongoing for trawl zones, with submissions due by November 6th. This could result in displacement of fishing effort into East Northland, Coromandel, and Bay of Plenty.

4. Unresolved Issues: The plan does not adequately address concerns related to overfishing, depletion, and the use of bulk harvesting and destructive bottom-contact fishing methods.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-options-for-bottom-fishing-access-zones-in-the-hauraki-gulf/>

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

At the upcoming NZSFC AGM, several communication objectives will be unveiled, promising exciting NZSFC additions to our clubs. In addition to this monthly club report, the Communications Committee is proud to announce the following upcoming collateral for clubs.

1. **Coasters**: NZSFC drink coasters with questions and answers on all things fishing. This initiative aims to provide clubs with professionally designed coasters for their events and gatherings, enhancing the club experience.
2. **Stickers**: Member and club entrance door versions of NZSFC stickers will be showcased at the AGM, with prints ready for courier delivery to clubs and their members afterward.
3. **Club NZSFC Collateral Stand** A resource for clubs: A standout feature of this AGM presentation, the Collateral Stand, will include a main poster with informative brochures. These materials will offer a balanced mix of NZSFC information and current news for display at your Club going forward, including the Monthly Club Report, and will be promptly distributed to clubs post-AGM.
4. **Weighmaster Video**: A video capturing the weighmaster session at the AGM will be created, serving as a valuable resource for clubs, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and accuracy in fishing competitions.

Get ready for these exciting updates, as they will soon be coming to your club, enhancing the NZSFC experience for all members.

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## **NZMRF UPDATE FROM JEFF ROMERIL - CHAIRMAN**

In August, Jeff Romeril issued an email to all Clubs from the NZMRF, he will also report to the AGM the following:

The New Zealand Marine Research Foundation plays a vital role in supporting marine research for the benefit of recreational fishers. Established by the NZSFC in the early '90s, it officially began its work in 1999. Initially funded at 50 cents per member per year, contributions have since grown to \$2 for adults and \$1 for juniors.

The foundation, led by trustees with strong ties to NZSFC, has undertaken significant projects. Notable achievements include long-term satellite tagging of marlin, fish welfare research that influenced government decisions on animal welfare, and the creation of a valuable recreational fishing reference document. Currently, they're considering research on "mushy fish" (snapper) and assisting with artificial reef creation.

NZSFC clubs' donations are crucial for the foundation's operations. This funding largely determines the effectiveness of NZMRF. The foundation reports annually to the NZSFC AGM, and these donations are a substantial contribution. NZSFC's support through its Administration Officer, Helen Pastor, is also greatly appreciated.

Despite challenges, including the impact of COVID-19, NZMRF has built a strong financial reserve and completed various projects. They're now focusing on studying mushy snapper and considering creating artificial reefs from aquaculture shell waste.

Regarding trustees, there have been changes, with new additions of Rick Pollock and Pete Saul following the resignation of John Rae and Dr Peter Davies. There are plans for further expansion in the future.

The NZMRF is reliant on NZSFC donations to conduct valuable research in the interests of recreational fishers.

## **CAULERPA SPREAD DISCUSSIONS**

In August 2023, there were three hui meetings held to address the spread of Caulerpa, an invasive seaweed, particularly along the northeast coast. Biosecurity NZ is still in the

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process of determining an appropriate and financially feasible response plan. Key points of interest include:

1. Ngāti Manuhiri Roadshow Hui: These gatherings occurred in Bay of Islands, Auckland, and Whitianga on August 5th, 7th, and 9th, respectively.
2. Waiheke - Rāhui Imposed: A rāhui was established on the north side of Waiheke Island, extending 1.0 nautical miles from the coastline, restricting activities such as anchoring, diving, and fishing.
3. Aotea Great Barrier Biomass Control Trial: A suction dredging trial to control Caulerpa biomass is scheduled to commence in early September.
4. Kawau Caulerpa Removal Trial: A trial for the removal of Caulerpa around Kawau Island was expected to begin on August 14th.
5. Controlled Area Notices: These notices prohibit diving, fishing, and anchoring in specific areas, including Aotea Great Barrier Island, Ahuahu Great Mercury Island, and Te Rāwhiti Inlet in the Bay of Islands.

NZSFC has taken a strong interest in this issue, and have been keeping the issue front and centre with the relevant Government agencies. This is a critical issue, as the invasive seaweed has the potential to affect both the ecosystem and also our access to the best boating and fishing locations. We will keep you posted on developments.

## **YOUTH OCEAN TRUST DEVELOPMENTS**

The YOT, named "Nga tai tamariki ki te moana," aims to secure funding for youth activities related to ethical fishing practices, water safety awareness, sustainable fishing, and marine conservation. The current YOT trustees are actively seeking additional members, and the trust is progressing towards finalising its budget based on its trust deed guidelines.

In recent meetings with the YMCA regarding the recent Surf Safety Camp Pilot programme, opportunities for NZSFC involvement through the Youth Ocean Trust have emerged. These pilot camps provided a valuable introduction to ocean-based activities for youth from Decile 1 and 2 backgrounds, including fishing. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, emphasising the impact and demand for these camps.

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Growth potential and shared responsibilities are on the horizon, as representatives from various organisations plan to explore avenues for expanding the Surf Safety Camps. These camps have not only proven successful as a proof of concept but also as a platform for grant-seeking to fund a wider rollout.

There is no expectation of financial contributions from NZSFC or YOT for the upcoming summer season of Surf Safety Camps and provides a possibility of one aspect of the Youth Programme going forward.

The Youth Programme is planned to enhance the engagement with youth, our clubs and the community through a wide range of activities - ultimately to grow awareness of Fishing and Clubs - and also the next generation of Club members, fishers and Committees.

### **AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND CLOSURE**

An application for a 2-year temporary closure under Section 186A was submitted to FNZ on August 21st by Motairehe Marae Trust. NZSFC, LegaSea and New Zealand Angling and Casting Association have opposed this after feedback from clubs . Concerns raised by Clubs adjacent to this requested closure include:

1. Denial of Public Access: The closure could deny public access to the area.
2. Impact on Fishing Effort: Without a plan to reduce catch limits, this closure may displace existing fishing efforts into other areas, affecting Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, and East Northland.
3. Lack of Depletion Address: The closure does not address depletion issues.
4. Possible Opposition: It is anticipated that other groups and commercial fishers may oppose this application, though no feedback has been received from FNZ yet.

<https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Aotea-s186A-submission-recreational-21-Aug-2023.pdf>

