

Patron: P Saul Telephone: 027 485 3600
President: I Steele E-mail: secretary@nzsportfishing.org
Secretary: H Pastor Website: www.nzsportfishing.co.nz

PO Box 54242

The Marina, Half Moon Bay, Auckland 2144

**MINUTES OF THE 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
22nd and 23rd SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE TAIRUA PAUANUI SPORTS FISHING CLUB AT TAIRUA
COMMENCING AT 9 AM**

PRESENT:

NZSFC President	Ian Steele
NZSFC Vice President	Warren Maher
NZSFC Vice President	Andrew Johnson
Comms and Operations Lead	M Plant
Admin Lead	H Pastor
Akitio BC	R Beales
Ashley SFC	J Bruce
	M Connor – Board member and Zone 7 Delegate - Canterbury proxy, Pegasus Proxy, Marlborough Rec Proxy
Bay of Islands SC	Jennifer Troup and Andrew Johnson
Big Fish FC	P Appleyard – Saturday only
Cape Egmont BC	
Counties	Stephen Harper
Hauraki Gulf Sportfishing	Peter Stewart proxy for Manukau Cruising Club
Hokianga GFC	Marina Stewart and Linda Pattinson
Gisborne Tatapouri	
	Hilton Webb (Life Member)
Hawkes Bay	Wayne Bicknell
Kawhia	Doug Taucher - Cecil Hickman
Kaikoura	
Manukau SFC	
Marsden Cove SFC	
Matarangi SFC	S Arnold
Mercury Bay	Gordon Mclver and Warren Harris
Mt Maunganui	Mark Hemingway IGFA/Life Member/board member Ross Lucas and Vance Fulton Board member
New Plymouth	Ian Steele Vice President, L Drummond and P Saunders
Raglan	Ken Barry
Tairua Pauanui SFC	Tim Evans
Tauranga SFC	D Nielsen
Te Aroha	S Cox and G Shanley
Te Kaha	D Murie
Waihou Bay SFC	B Muir, Christine Elmiger, Clive Fraser
Wairarapa SFC	E Beetham

Whakatakataka Bay	Bill McGarry Board Member
Warkworth GFC	Terry Creagh
Whangarei DSAC	P Saul and B Saul
Whangaroa SFC	Kelvin Mowat and Tony Allan
Whangamata OSC	B O'Neill, M James, P Keogh and K Lynch –
only two delegates for Whangamata	P Keogh and M James
Whakatane SFC	D Davey, Milton Reynolds and H Johnston – Board member
LegaSea	Sam Woolford , Trish Rae (Life Member) Scott Macindoe, Jessica Beetham, Sydney Curtis-Wilson Dirk Sieling Peter Campbell board Member LegaSea representative Blue Water Marine Research John Holdsworth (Life Member)
NZACA	
NZ Marine Research Foundation	Jeff Romeril
Ngati Hei	Joe Davis
IGFA	Tony Hill
NZSFC Social Media	
NZ Fishing News	

Meeting opened 9.00am

Welcome

Jo Davis from Ngati Hei opened the conference with a Karakia

Ian Steele welcomed all delegates and acknowledged invited guests. The new delegates were introduced and invited to stand. IS mentioned some of the invited guests; Todd Herbert – talking about kina, Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel and spokesperson for Environment and Oceans and Fisheries for National, Karen Steel from Sporty, Callum Gillespie CEO of Coastguard, Rowan Ashton from Brookfields Lawyers who assists with our Fisheries Management RMA space. Peter Carra from Water Safety NZ.

Apologies

- Linda Matthews - Ahipara SFC
- Jeff Douglas – Bay of Islands Swordfish Club
- Phil Appleyard – Big Fish Fishing Club
- Mark Scaife Canterbury Sport Fishing Club
- Daryn Burns – Counties SFC
- Evan McKay and Annette Hall Doubtless Bay Sportfishing Club
- Marty Sullivan – Kaikoura Boating & Recreational Fishing Club
- Tony Orman - Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association
- Spencer Roff - Muriwai Sport Fishing Club
- Ben Arkell – Piha Deep Sea Fishing Club
- Scott Bradley NZ Land Based Fishing Club
- Roger Faber – Gisborne Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club
- Tom Goodin – Cape Egmont Boat Club
- Dave Pye – Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club
- Gary Whitaker – Wellington Surfcasting & Angling Club

- Peter van Eekelen - Pegasus Bay Game Fishing Club
- Ian Carrick - Southern Sport Fishing Club
- Brett Bensemman - Tautuku Dunedin and Haast SFC
- Louise O’Sullivan - LegaSea
- Grant Dixon – NZ Fishing News
- Grant Blair – NZ Fishing News
- Richard Baker – NZ Land Based and NZSFC Board member

Moved apologies Accepted – Cecil Hickman and Peter Campbell – 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

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. Moved Mark Connor seconded Wayne Bicknell – Carried

Finance

LegaSea's role includes fundraising for the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council Fisheries Management Budget. Despite facing challenges like a cost-of-living crisis, petrol price increases, and interest rate hikes, LegaSea aims to raise \$160,000 this year to support fisheries management. In addition to public awareness campaigns costing over \$319,000.

LegaSea has a policy where 100% of public and unaffiliated club donations go to the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council, totalling \$1,154,000 since the inception of the LegaSea Allegiance Program. LegaSea's partner program has seen growth, with Bailey's and Whitehaven Wines among the contributors. The unspent contributions carried forward by NZFC from LegaSea currently amount to \$41,400.

LegaSea's initiatives, such as the Kai Ika project, are strategically important, aiming to engage communities and Māori in fisheries management. The project's success in Auckland has led to expansion plans in Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and Tauranga, with hopes to extend to the South Island in the future. Reviving fish care initiatives and introducing a voluntary code of conduct for charter operators are among LegaSea's ongoing efforts to support non-commercial fishers and reduce their impact on the marine environment.

LegaSea's team expansion is fuelled by partnerships and events like the Kaikoura project and Cans for People, which originated from the Kaikoura program's efforts to recycle cans for fundraising. The appointment of PKF Kerikeri as auditors is confirmed, with Mark Connor and Richard Baker continuing as directors. No directors' fees or dividends will be paid for the current and ensuing years.

Directors – the current directors of LegaSea are Peter Campbell and Mark Connor and these will remain the same. No fee shall be paid for the year ending 30.6.2024 or the ensuing year. The LegaSea Government Standing Advisory Committee, Mark Connor, Peter Campbell and Richard Baker and the contractors team lead by Sam Woolford Jess Beetham.

Moved that the LegaSea AGM be accepted and concluded – moved

AGM – NZ Sport Fishing Council

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed.

Minutes moved Kelvin Mowatt / Warren Maher – carried

There are no matters arising.

President's Annual Report – Ian Steele

Reflecting on the past year, it's clear that the challenges brought about by the pandemic have underscored the importance of human connection and making the most of our time. The pandemic prompted a reassessment of priorities, leading to increased flexibility in work arrangements and a heightened appreciation for quality of life. However, despite hopes for economic recovery post-pandemic, the reality of rising living costs, particularly evident in increased fuel prices, presents ongoing challenges.

Moreover, the strain on volunteer and paid resources within our clubs highlights the need for collective action to support their continued operation and evolution. Access to our coastal environment, essential for our activities, faces increasing obstacles due to various factors such as regional council plans and climate change.

Special mention must be made of those impacted by natural disasters like Cyclone Gabriel, emphasizing the need for resilience in the face of environmental changes. In this rapidly evolving social and economic landscape, fishing clubs play a crucial role, but their sustainability relies on adapting to changing circumstances and investing in future generations.

Efforts to address these challenges include initiatives to engage youth, enhance club relationships, and manage fisheries sustainably. Collaboration among affiliated organizations is essential for success, as is active participation from club members. Together, we can pool our resources and knowledge to overcome obstacles and ensure the continuation of our cherished fishing lifestyle for generations to come.

See full report attached

Moved Warren Harris / Peter Saunders - carried

Annual Financial Statements

Ian Steele presented the annual accounts.

The Finance Committee has had a productive year, particularly in terms of delving into our understanding of costs moving forward. Our income streams, notably affiliation fees, are significant, but public fundraising, including LegaSea grants, substantially bolsters our financial resources.

Regarding the affiliation fee increase proposed at the 2020 AGM, its implementation in the last season has proven pivotal in ensuring our financial stability, especially amidst rising living costs. While we anticipated a decline in affiliated numbers, the actual decrease was less significant than projected.

Some clubs have even experienced a rebound in membership, indicating a positive trend. Reviewing our financial performance, the surplus for the most recent year amounted to \$40,000, slightly surpassing the budgeted figure. This marks a significant improvement from previous years, which saw losses. However, we don't anticipate significant surpluses in the coming years due to increased costs across the board.

Our cash flow follows a cyclical pattern, typical of organizations like fishing clubs, with an influx of membership income followed by steady outflows throughout the year. While our reserves are sufficient for operations, they are modest, emphasizing the need for careful financial management.

Financial Report was moved Warren Maher, seconded Lee Drummond - Carried

Moving forward, we propose the appointment of PKF, Keri Keri Chartered Accountants as our auditor for the upcoming year. Additionally, we recommend the reappointment of Pete Saul as our patron for another term.

I now open the floor for any questions or discussion regarding the Finance Committee report. Following that, I propose an en blanc vote for the appointment of officers.

Appointment of Officers

It was agreed that the following positions to be voted en blanc

It was moved that the Auditors be PKF Kerikeri for the 2022-2023 year and the reappointment of Pete Saul as our Patron for another term.

Moved Ian Steele seconded Warren Harris – Carried

The following were voted in en blanc

Board

President Ian Steele

Vice Presidents - Warren Maher and Andrew Johnson

Records Officer - Peter Saul - Peter advised that he is happy to continue.

Board Zone Reps

Zone 1 – Tony Allan

Zone 2 – Bill McGarry

Zone 3 – Phil Keogh

Zone 4 - Vance Fulton

Zone 5 – Wayne Bicknell

Zone 6 –

Zone 7 - Mark Connor

Zone 8 - Heyden Johnston

Council Treasurer / Finance Chair - Ian Steele

IGFA/life member Representative Mark Hemingway

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.

Ross Lucas / Doug Taucher moved the positions en blanc - carried

Budget

Presented by Ian Steele.

The budget was initially presented as a draft to the board in July and was considered a final draft at that time.

The finance committee has since reviewed the budget. Instead of applying a general Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment, the committee took a closer look at specific known costs.

Expense Side:

Costs have varied significantly in some areas, while others have remained stable. The committee is confident that the current expense projections are reasonably accurate.

The budget includes a nominal amount for grants, similar to previous years. For instance, the Kai Ika grant of \$150,000 this year significantly exceeds the usual \$20,000 budgeted amount. This grant was entirely used for its intended project, demonstrating that such funds flow directly through the budget without affecting the bottom line.

Given the trend of increasing grants, the budget for this year has been adjusted from \$20,000 to \$100,000, though actual figures may still exceed this amount.

Income Side:

Assumed donations are included in the budget but may fluctuate. These donations typically offset related expenses, so their impact on the bottom line is minimal.

AGM income remains stable year-over-year.

The price of tags has increased, and more tags are being sold. The budget reflects these changes.

The transition from a contracted CEO to a salaried employee has resulted in changes to the budget lines for contractor expenses now categorized under wages.

Other Allocations:

Youth Committee and Communications Committee: Allocations for these committees are included in the budget.

Nationals Tournaments: The budget includes provisions for the youth nationals and the main nationals. Costs have risen, particularly due to the increased expense of apparel.

The finance committee presented the budget to the board before the AGM. The board has reviewed and accepted the budget, considering it representative and ready for presentation at the AGM.

Last year's nominal profit was budgeted at \$5,555 but actualized at \$40. The year before, the budgeted profit was \$6,900.

Budget moved Steve Clay / Terry Creagh – carried

Affiliation fees

Fees have been set for 2024/2025 and remain at \$16 and \$5.50 being \$14 inclusive of GST for seniors and \$4.50 inclusive of GST for juniors with an additional \$2 and \$1 respectively to go to the NZ Marine Foundation.

Moved Bob Gutsell and Seconded Mark Conner carried

Bluewater Marine Research – John Holdsworth

Report on the Gamefish Tagging Programme

The Gamefish Tagging Programme began in 1975 under Peter Saul's leadership, with support from several clubs. Initially focusing on tagging billfish, it later expanded to include sharks, tunas, and kingfish.

In 1988, the program saw significant growth, especially in tagging billfish, coinciding with the Billfish Moratorium. This period also marked a shift in fishing methods, with a preference for using lures over traditional bait. This change to lures improved fish hooking in the jaw, enhancing release and survival rates.

Striped marlin comprised approximately 88% of the billfish tagged, making it the primary species tagged in New Zealand waters. Over time, the program observed fluctuations in the populations of tagged species. While shark and kingfish numbers declined in recent years, marlin populations remained relatively stable. On average, around 1,000 marlin were tagged annually, with a slight decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Efforts led to the inclusion of tunas, particularly yellowfin, by individuals like Bob Gutsell. However, by the time tunas were included, their presence in New Zealand waters had decreased. Recent observations indicate a growing tuna presence, suggesting a potential resurgence in their participation in the program.

The Gamefish Tagging Programme has played a vital role in monitoring gamefish populations in New Zealand waters. Despite challenges, the program continues to provide valuable data for conservation and management efforts.

Last Month the World Volunteer Fish Tagging Summit was an online event organized by Australians at InfoFish.

It spanned two days and featured 28 presentations, highlighting insights from longstanding tagging programs worldwide.

A notable trend observed was the increasing adoption of online reporting tools and apps, facilitating the dissemination of information to fishers. Presenters emphasized the value of data on released fish, stressing that it contributes to the sustainability and abundance of fisheries.

Education was a key component, with many tagging programs offering courses for participating fishers to improve handling practices. There's a growing demand for feedback from tagging program contributors, indicating a desire for transparency and impact assessment.

In New Zealand, Fisheries New Zealand funds Blue Water Marine Research to manage the tagging database and produce annual reports.

Innovations discussed included Julian Pepperill's insights into the advantages of long-term tagging programs.

Notable recaptures highlighted during the summit included a blue marlin recaptured after nearly five years and significant growth, as well as a southern bluefin tuna recaptured after 17 and a half years.

The programme has had challenges, such as funding cuts impacting tagging programmes due to budget shortfalls in the research ministry. Ministry have insisted that Bluewater Marine Research provide online tag sales to the public through the website. They make a contribution to the administration costs of that.

There has been more interest in electronic tagging. Finally, we have results from the New Plymouth and Sport Fishing and Underwater Club satellite tagging program which was unwritten by NZMRF. After problems the tags were changed to a larger tag with a bigger float. As a result of these changes this year we got six. One of them came off early. There's three that have reported so far and two due to report at the end of October. See the attach report.

Tagging Equipment:

A concern was raised regarding the stainless-steel link between the plastic streamer and the tag head. There are issues with the applicator, particularly the pin, which tends to bend easily in nylon tags. Replacement pins can be purchased from Hallprint, but they are costly. No significant advancements in conventional tagging technology are anticipated, though there is a desire for electronic tags to become more affordable.

Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment:

Regarding the bluefin tuna stock assessment, New Zealand provides information on catch, community effort, and other relevant data for the assessment. New Zealand has some influence on the delegates that attends commission meetings where decisions are made based on scientific evidence. Management procedures aim to base decisions on scientific findings, adjusting quotas accordingly.

The presence of numerous recaptures is not solely indicative of low tagging rates but also influenced by fishing fleet activity and tag retention rates. Tag retention rates vary, with striped marlin tags typically falling out after eight to ten months, though longer-term recaptures occur when tags are retained in bone or poorly placed.

Growth of goose barnacles on tags indicates prolonged exposure to the ocean surface, highlighting the importance of tag placement and retention mechanisms.

Question: M Hemingway – Mt Maunganui - Is there a better applicator that's around the world now that people are using? Example stainless heads, plastic heads, anything like that?

JH replied - there's no new technology coming as far as those conventional tags go. The big thing that we'd really like is electronic tags to get cheaper. They've been making them for 20 years now, and they're still charging the same expensive price when they're making them one by one by hand.

Question P Keogh - Whangamata - Were the smaller fish observed indicative of the health of the population, or were they influenced by seasonal variations in Marlin populations?

JH reply - It's unclear how long it takes for recruitment to manifest. Previously, aerial surveys were conducted in Australia to track small fish, but they've since discontinued. They now employ a different method, which takes longer to assess recruitment. In New Zealand, it appears there's strong recruitment based on the presence of small fish. Around 2000, there was a lack of small fish in New Zealand, sparking concerns about population stability, though this scenario did not materialize.

Moved that Bluewater Marine report be accepted Vance Fulton seconded Andrew Johnson – carried

New Zealand Marine Research Foundation – Jeff Romeril

The Marine Research Foundation, established by the New Zealand Sportfishing Council (NZSFC), has been instrumental in coordinating and funding scientific projects.

The NZSFC's contributions, amounting to \$2 per head for seniors and \$1 for juniors, help the foundations resources considerably.

A portion of the funds, totalling \$100,000, must be held in the bank before any projects can be started.

The donation of secretarial services of Helen by NZSFC has been invaluable, saving on operational costs.

Despite a quieter period over the past three years, the Foundation has managed to accumulate funds for future projects.

Recent Projects:

The Foundation supported the NZSFC delegate to the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne.

A study conducted by Kelly Tarton on the feasibility of artificial reefs in the high-risk Gulf was completed, with plans for further phases underway.

Satellite tagging of Marlin by the New Plymouth Underwater Sports Club and the Bay of Islands Club was successfully carried out.

The Foundation's website, a long-term project, is nearing completion and will soon be launched.

The Foundation has committed to a joint project with Kai Ika and Auckland University to study the issue of mushy snapper.

Consideration is also being given to building artificial reefs using byproducts from the agriculture industry, which could potentially alleviate resource consent issues.

Financial accounts are attached to the report, though they are subject to audit.

The NZSFC contribution for the year is not shown in the accounts as it was paid in July.

Operational expenses primarily consist of project funding and administrative costs.

Changes in trusteeship occurred during the year, with new appointments and resignations. Peter Davies and John Ray have both stood down. Rick Pollock and Simon Hooker have been appointed as Trustees.

IS requested the Foundation increase the communications from NZMRF to the clubs and to Council. It was agreed that regular reports would go to NZSFC to share with their member clubs.

NZMRF report accepted – Moved Pete Saunders / Terry Creagh – Carried

Weighmasters Booklet Report – Mark Hemingway

Since the release of the previous Weighmasters booklet, effort has gone into producing an updated edition. The primary goal was to enhance the quality of photographs, as the previous booklet had issues with images. The new edition features improved photo quality and additional content.

We are seeking high-quality photos of freshly caught spearfish and broadbill swordfish. Ideal photos should show the entire fish with minimal obstruction, although some post-processing can be done to clean up minor issues.

A new page has been added detailing the procedures for weighing fish that may set a New Zealand or world record. This section provides clear instructions on what needs to be done at the weigh station.

The booklet now includes better images and descriptions of tuna species. Notable improvements include:

- Detailed images of yellowfin and bigeye tuna liver.
- Comparison between Southern Bluefin and Pacific Bluefin.
- Enhanced juvenile tuna identification.
- Improved photos of skippy tuna, slender butterfly tuna, and frigate tuna. A better photo of the frigate tuna is still sought.

A new diagram has been added to clarify leader lengths and measurement procedures. This aims to resolve confusion about how to measure and attach traces.

Updated illustrations and a detailed section on assist hooks and IGFA compliance have been included. The booklet now also features a list of IGFA-recognized species for those targeting specific records.

The booklet includes improved readability of graphs and tables, as well as updated record application information.

A participation certificate template for Weighmasters has been added. This is available for clubs to print or obtain electronically from NZSFC Secretary.

The booklet concludes with acknowledgments for those who contributed to its development.

Copies of the new booklet are available. Clubs can collect their allocation from Mark Hemingway or Helen this weekend. We still have some copies left, but they are a sought-after resource, so please collect them promptly.

We are particularly interested in obtaining high-quality photos of marlin throat frills and lats.

A great deal of work has gone into the updated Weighmasters booklet to enhance its quality and usefulness. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project. For those who haven't yet received a copy, please get in touch with us soon.

Doug Taucher – Kawhia - brought up the subject of training weighmasters.

There has been discussion about organizing a roving tour across the zones to provide weighmaster training. Mike Plant has expressed interest in assisting with this initiative.

It was suggested that when clubs need a Weighmaster there could be a list of available weighmasters they could go to.

IS – New Plymouth advised that this would be taken as an action to create a repository for Weighmasters who are happy to travel and for clubs that are looking for someone for an event. In the interim, clubs with experienced weighmasters are encouraged to conduct their own training sessions. Clubs may utilize the certificate template provided in the booklet for this purpose.

For clubs where the main weighmaster has not attended formal training, the train-the-trainer approach is supported. This allows senior weighmasters to train others within their club, ensuring broader dissemination of skills and knowledge. President's will be required to sign off certificates that the Weighmaster has attended a Training Session.

The idea of implementing a formal certification course for weighmasters has been discussed for several years. However, there has been some resistance due to concerns that such certification might create bottlenecks, making it difficult to onboard new weighmasters when courses are not available.

The weighmaster session held last night aimed to address these concerns by providing general competence and training for both new and experienced weighmasters.

There is interest in developing a train-the-trainer model to allow senior weighmasters to train new weighmasters within their clubs. This approach would help maintain consistent standards across clubs and ensure that training can be provided even if formal courses are not readily available.

Clubs are encouraged to run their own training sessions for new weighmasters. They can use the certification form included in the weighmasters handbook to standardize training within their clubs. This will help ensure consistency in weighmaster practices and prepare new weighmasters effectively.

Some clubs face challenges with resident weighmasters and might benefit from having a roster or network of weighmasters who can assist when needed.

A proposal was made to create a list of traveling weighmasters and clubs seeking weighmasters for events. This would facilitate connections between clubs and available weighmasters, making it easier for clubs to find support for weigh-ins when their regular weighmasters are unavailable.

Concerns about the succession of weighmasters were raised, with suggestions for involving younger members and providing training opportunities to build a future pool of weighmasters. It was noted that while some clubs have a good pool of weighmasters, integrating new members into this role can be challenging due to the pressures and responsibilities involved.

Clubs facing difficulties in finding resident weighmasters or new volunteers can benefit from implementing a structured training approach. This could involve hands-on training, shadowing experienced weighmasters, and gradual responsibility increases to build confidence and competence.

It was suggested clubs create and maintain a list of both clubs seeking weighmasters and traveling weighmasters available for assistance. This will help facilitate the exchange of support and expertise across clubs.

Utilize the video resource from last night's weighmaster session as a training aid. Despite some sound issues, the video will be edited and made available as a valuable training tool for clubs. A google doc could be set up so that when ideas for changes come up, they can be added into the document for the next review of the Weighmasters booklet.

Clubs should continue to seek feedback and make improvements to training materials and processes to address the evolving needs of weighmasters and clubs.

Youth Committee – Warren Maher

Since the first Youth Nationals in 2022, which saw 208 anglers from 22 clubs, the event has experienced growth. This year, we noted that many clubs organized fishing competitions alongside their Youth Nationals. This significantly increased participation, whether the competition was held over a weekend or extended across two weeks. This approach not only encouraged more involvement from our clubs but also contributed to a better turnout.

The Youth Nationals have encouraged connections among participants. For example, the Steele kids from New Plymouth and the Speed Family from Mount Maunganui, who were competitive during the

Nationals, have continued to stay in touch and share their passion for fishing. Additionally, Blake Hay (Whangarei) and Brock Johnson (Counties) met on the beach during the event and formed a friendship that extended throughout the competition. These interactions highlight the camaraderie and community spirit that the Youth Nationals encourage.

Work is underway to refine the competition rules to address some of the challenges faced, particularly by parents. We are incorporating feedback to make the rules clearer and more accessible. Ongoing engagement with the youth committee is also helping us gather insights and suggestions for future improvements.

The Youth Nationals photo section which showcases the highlights and moments of the competition, will now be included in the main Nationals.

These updates and improvements reflect our commitment to enhancing the Youth Nationals experience, fostering connections among young anglers, and continually evolving based on participant feedback.

Youth Ocean Trust

This was set up to be able to raise funds for youth activities and also give grants to suitable youth applications. The charitable purposes are listed in section 4.1 of the Trust Deed and there's eight objectives outlined within that section and the means to achieve those that we see through that trust document. Warren Maher said the Youth Trust has been advertised and clubs and delegates should be aware of its existence. The current trustees are Brenda Saul from Whangarei OSC, Ian Steele from New Plymouth SUC and Warren Maher from Tairua-Pauanui SFC, and they are seeking future trustees.

The Youth Ocean Trust's goal is to expose more children to the joys of fishing, highlighting its benefits for mental health and biodiversity, and fostering a lifelong passion for the sport.

Youth Engagement Strategies. Following the workshop in Tutukaka, the team noted a need for a structured approach to youth development and participation in fishing and this has been broken down into three stages.

Engage children with little to no prior exposure to fishing.

Partnered with YMCA youth camps, where participants are introduced to fishing basics such as knot tying, tackle handling, and casting. Thanks to Scott McIndoe for supporting this with fishing gear donations.

Enhance the skills and knowledge of youth already involved in fishing clubs.

Provide opportunities to deepen their understanding of sports fishing through various programs and activities. This includes practical experiences and educational resources designed to advance their skills and involvement in the sport.

Support and develop the most experienced young anglers, preparing them to become future leaders in the fishing community.

This offers advanced training opportunities, such as camps and national boating events. These youths are also involved in our Youth Committee, where they gain leadership experience and contribute to the sport's future. Our goal is to foster these individuals into ambassadors for the sport and future weighmasters Also to explore opportunities for integrating fishing into educational programs and increasing the use of media platforms that today's youth use.

Future plans are to investigate the possibility of participating in the BOI Yellowtail Tournament, a longstanding event in its 53rd year. This could involve arranging teams or utilizing local boats to facilitate participation.

Our aim is to address the challenges faced by young people who lack access to fishing opportunities. By providing structured engagement at all levels—from novice to advanced—the team hopes to ensure that the future of our sport remains well-supported.

Our workshop highlighted the importance of expanding youth fishing opportunities through various community organizations. Notable success has been achieved with the YMCA, which has incorporated a fishing category into their youth camps.

The IGFA resource for tackle and equipment is available and will be leveraged to support youth fishing initiatives. Clubs are encouraged to utilize these resources to enhance their programs.

It was noted that while some youths may drift away during their 20s, the goal is to provide a continuous journey and opportunities for progression, ensuring they remain engaged with the sport long-term.

A common challenge is the significant jump in membership fees when juniors transition to adult status, leading to potential drop-offs.

Kelvin Mowat – Whangaroa asked if the Whangarei DSAC could expand on what their club does about once the juniors are no longer juniors, but the price to senior does a big jump - Whangaroa has this problem. P Saul advised The Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club has implemented an intermediate membership fee for those aged up to 21, offering a reduced rate compared to the senior fee. This initiative has been successful in retaining young members and keeping them engaged.

The introduction of intermediate fees has been popular among young anglers and has helped maintain their club membership. Several other clubs also have similar mechanisms in place.

Scott Macindoe elaborated on the involvement of the fishing module in YMCA's Surf Safety Camps, which also include partners like Coast Guard, Surf Life Saving New Zealand, and Surfing New Zealand.

Despite some challenges with weather conditions and fishing success, the fishing component of the camp has been a highlight for participants, demonstrating its strong appeal and effectiveness in engaging youth.

Doug Taucher from Kawhia spoke about the youth nationals and how their club worked hard and got 36 kids fishing the tournament and challenged the other clubs get more involved and get their junior members keen to fish the nationals.

It was suggested at this stage that Doug would be a good representative for zone 6 on the board of NZSFC. After some discussion it was **moved by Ian Steele and seconded Warren Maher that Doug Taucher become the Zone 6 Rep for NZSFC – carried.**

At this stage the group went outside to have a group photo.

Sporty Presentation – Presented by Kieran Scheele and Troy

Sporty Software provides a comprehensive platform designed to streamline website management and member administration for clubs. This overview covered the main features, benefits, and operational aspects of the platform. The presenters went through the platform features in detail:-

Platform Features

- **Website Management** including Custom Design: Training and Support:
- **Setup and Support:** Initial Setup and Ongoing Support:

- **Widgets and Features:** Customizable Widgets and Streamlined Processes:
- **Data Management** Online Forms and Payments and Magic Links:
- **Member Database (SuperCRM):** Centralized Data and Communication Tools:
- **Integration and Reporting:** Custom Reports
- **Data Update and Management:** Member Updates and Profile Management: Key Benefits
- **Efficiency:** showing cost savings and a user-friendly programme.

Sporty Software offers a robust solution for managing club websites and member data. Both presenters offered to discuss further with delegates outside of the meeting and names and numbers were collected.

Scott Simpson, MP for Coromandel, spokesperson for the Environment, Oceans, Fisheries and Water

Scott Simpson acknowledged Joe Davis from Ngāti Hei, the local iwi, and Warren Maher who is deeply involved with the Tairua Pāuanui Club and serves as a Waikato Regional Councillor.

He stated the Coromandel electorate has one of the longest coastlines in New Zealand. This extensive coastline makes the Coromandel a prime area for recreational sports fishing.

He mentioned the following:-

The National Party highly value the contributions you make through your clubs, associations, and communities.

The Labour Party introduced their reform package for the Hauraki Gulf—a piece of legislation many people don't fully understand extends beyond the Coromandel Peninsula.

He mentioned that the Gulf's health has declined significantly over our lifetimes, and much of what happens in the marine environment is influenced by land activities. The Gulf is heavily used, with around 2.5 million New Zealanders engaging with it regularly. The recent legislation proposed highly protected areas, which could impact recreational fishing.

The Labour government recently consulted on bottom trawling in the Gulf, offering four options for banning trawling in specific areas. He advised that he was not at liberty to say what the policy would be for the Nationals party.

There was a lot of discussion around the trawling problem. Mark James from Whangamata Ocean Sports Club stated he is a marine biologist of 40 years and has great concerns around the way the HPAs have been set up and some of the ones down our coastline, when justification was requested, it just didn't stack up. One of the key things is the lack of local consultation.

Scott Macindoe voiced his disappointment that after all the hard work that has been done this is still being ignored and unacceptable behaviour is still allowed to happen. The only answer is zero bottom trawling.

Andrew Johnson Bay of Islands asked whether Scott was aware of the provisions within the RMA that led to the closures in the Bay of Islands and Motiti in Tauranga. In your new RMA, will National remove all provisions to manage recreational fishing under the RMA or your new proposed legislation?

Scott Simpson replied. A notable issue arose with the Motiti situation. Essentially, the regional council, took the initiative to establish marine reserves on their own accord. This action had considerable implications and highlighted the difficulties encountered in addressing such developments while in

opposition.

Trish Ray addressed the importance of integrating marine protection into fisheries management decisions. She emphasized that discussions on trawl zones should not exclude the proposed high protection areas.

Trish highlighted concerns about displacement and fishing effort, noting the significant impact these issues have had. She stressed the need for real, comprehensive fisheries management and placed this responsibility on Scott.

Scott Simpson acknowledged the complexity of these issues, agreeing that they involve numerous interrelated factors

Scott concluded by underscoring the shared desire among New Zealanders to enhance the abundance of marine spaces. He acknowledged the importance of ensuring that these resources remain plentiful not just for the current generation, but for future generations as well.

He thanked the room for the opportunity and looked forward to hearing your views and answering any questions.

Coastguard – Callum Gillespie

Callum Gillespie gave an overview of Coastguard Operations. He highlighted the general understanding of Coastguard's role among attendees, mentioning the presence of Coastguard volunteers in the room.

Mission and Vision: Coastguard's mission is to save lives at sea. The vision is to ensure that with Coastguard support, everyone in New Zealand can enjoy the waters safely and with confidence. Emphasis was placed on not only responding to emergencies but also on educating and upskilling the public.

Operational Structure: Coastguard operates from approximately 59 locations nationwide, with around 2,000 volunteers and 75 staff. Key assets include 59 rescue vessels, two air patrols (in Auckland and Kerikeri), and two dedicated communication centres.

Public Perception and Misunderstandings: While Coastguard is recognized for maritime search and rescue, there are misconceptions about roles such as patrolling or enforcing regulations. Callum emphasized that Coastguard is not involved in enforcement but focuses on rescue and safety.

Recent Activity and Challenges: This year has seen a decrease in boating activity, with Coastguard responding to approximately 2,600 events compared to 3,200 the previous year. Factors include open borders and economic conditions. Key statistics: 6,300 people safely returned home, 142 rescues, 6 lives saved, and around 270,000 volunteer hours contributed.

Notable Incidents: Callum included photographs and descriptions of significant events, such as the Kaikoura incident, the Triple Eight yacht rescue, post-Cyclone Gabrielle efforts, and the tragic Manukau Harbour incident.

Focus on Safety and Prevention: A real-life video was shown illustrating the importance of wearing life jackets. It was stressed that life jackets are crucial for safety and should be worn by all on boats under 6 meters. Coastguard continues to advocate for mandatory life jacket legislation.

Education and Community Engagement: Coastguard has educated 8,548 learners through 21 programs this year and reached 67,000 school children through safe boating programs.

Changing Boating Trends: Increased offshore activity, movement west of the North Island, and growth in lake and population centre boating were noted.

Opportunities for Collaboration: Coastguard invites collaboration with sports fishing clubs for boating safety courses and seminars. Volunteers are needed, with an appeal for those interested to join the Coastguard team.

Callum ended the presentation, promising to address any questions and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to share information regarding Coastguard.

Meeting Discussion on Customary Fishing

Sandra Mauher from MPI was originally scheduled but received a last-minute notification that she would not be able to attend. As a replacement Ian Steele, (President NZSFC) Wayne Bicknell from Hawkes Bay and Joe Davis, Ngāti Hei held a discussion panel on Customary Fishing Rights.

Ian Steele discussed the customary fishing rights which are protected by legislation, including the Treaty of Waitangi and the 1992 Deed of Settlement. These rights involve the management of customary fisheries and the traditional gathering of fish. There are various regulations in place depending on the area, including those from 1998 for the North Island and Chatham's and from 1999 for the South Island.

They touched on different types of customary fishing areas, such as Rohe Moana, Mataitai, Tāpiri, Rāhui, and temporary closures under sections 186A and B. For a visual reference, there's a map on the MPI website showing these areas.

Joe Davis joined the discussion to explain what Rohe Moana is and how it functions within Ngāti Hei. Joe advised that Rohe Moana refers to a coastal area where mana or kaitiaki rights are exercised.

Wayne Bicknell covered the regulatory aspects in detail, including the roles of Mataitai and Tāpuru reserves. Mataitai reserves are established with community involvement and prohibit commercial fishing, while Tāpuru reserves offer a higher level of community engagement and require Ministerial approval.

Joe Davis spoke about the practice of Rāhui as a traditional tool which has evolved over time. A Rāhui was put in place on the Coromandel due to severe depletion of scallops, driven by overfishing and environmental damage. The Rāhui has led to the closure of this area to help restore scallop populations. In terms of customary fisheries, the system was formalized with the Sea Lords settlement in 1992, introducing customary permits. The system is regulated, sometimes over-regulated, to prevent abuse.

Kaitiaki are chosen through the Ngāti Hei Trust, a democratic process involving local knowledge and community input. The role requires understanding the community dynamics and managing permits responsibly. Changes in kaitiaki roles are infrequent but can occur based on community needs or internal decisions. It's a position that demands respect and accountability. We need to balance fairness and strict management to ensure resources are used appropriately.

We've seen local divers conducting their own surveys, which led NIWA to step up and perform their own survey. This move also drew attention from the scientific community, highlighting the local efforts in data collection. While the scientific community often considers local data anecdotal, these local initiatives push them to engage in further research. It's crucial for advising the Minister and recognizing that the community is proactively contributing to these efforts, enhancing what Scott refers to as "social justice" or "social license."

On the legal side, Section 186 of the MPI legislation stipulates that customary fishing rights remain unaffected by the imposition of Section 186, which means customary fishers can continue their practices. Historically, not adhering to Rāhui was dangerous, a point Joe raised earlier. The need for Section 186 often arises when Rāhui is not respected by the wider community. For instance, Taranaki iwi's recent Section 186 application was initially for 70 kilometres but was adjusted to 55. There were misconceptions that this was to restrict others while allowing iwi to fish, which was offensive to them. Their application explicitly stated they wouldn't use the area themselves despite the legal allowance.

This reflects a common public perception, also seen in the customary fishing book where practices and permits are misunderstood. Current regulations, like those for specific tangi or occasions, are enforced through the regulation book, not Rāhui.

Joe clarified that there's a distinction between customary fishing permits and Section 186. Permits are about specific allocations and detailed records, while Section 186 deals with broader area restrictions.

IS stated that this was correct, and Joe would go over the specifics of the permit system. Sport Fishing Council holds policies on customary fishing and ahu moana.

The Sport Fishing Council's policy recognizes various customary fisheries management tools and encourages affiliated clubs to engage with mana whenua to develop these tools. It's crucial to foster these relationships rather than avoid them, as they are beneficial and supportive.

When implementing Rāhui, it's important not to overuse it, as it can diminish its mana. Rāhui should be applied thoughtfully to ensure it remains effective and respected. The Minister's approach to Rāhui reflects a cautious stance due to its potential misuse.

Understanding and communication are crucial. Many misconceptions about customary fishing and permits exist. Customary permits are separate from recreational limits. If a boat is involved, bins must be clearly marked. Customary permits must be carried at all times, and records must be maintained accurately.

Joe was asked if he could you clarify if customary permit allocations allow for recreational limits as well?

Joe Davis replied No, the customary permit specifies the quantity allowed under that permit only. Recreational limits are separate and must be adhered to as such. Permits must be clearly marked and kept separate from recreational catches. When asked if this permit system apply to non-iwi members as well, he advised that yes it does. The permits are not exclusive to iwi.

The customary fishing operates under strict regulations. Misunderstandings often arise because of the lack of clear communication. The aim is to protect marine resources while respecting cultural practices. Wayne Bicknell stated that we need to continue educating ourselves and others about these processes to avoid misunderstandings.

Joe Davis shared slides on the permit system. He advised that Education is key. Ensuring people understand that customary fishing and recreational fishing are regulated differently and that permits are strictly enforced can improve public perception.

Discussion was had regarding kai moana being transported customary take outside of the Rohe area. Joe Davis replied that they don't have an issue with taking customary kai moana outside our Rohe moana. It's part of our manaakitanga, or hospitality. It's a tradition of sharing and support.

Each iwi does have its own customs and practices. For example, Ngāti Hei's practices might differ slightly from Ngāti Maru's or Tamaterā's, but the core value of conservation is shared across the board. The

Mahia situation seems to be a response to a significant depletion of resources, and they're trying to rebuild their stocks by limiting the take.

The intention behind these regulations is to protect and rebuild resources. However, the enforcement of these regulations can sometimes appear rigid.

The responsibility lies with each tribe to ensure the integrity of those issuing permits. While the Ministry of Fisheries might intervene if patterns of abuse are detected, the tribes must handle the vetting process themselves. The permits are legal documents and can be scrutinized by authorities. If there are concerns about misuse, reporting to the 0800 Stop Poaching line could be a way to address the issue. We need to maintain the integrity of our systems across the board.

Ian Steele thanked Joe Davis and Wayne Bicknell for their insights and information.

Todd Herbert – Commercial Diver Fisherman gave a talk about Kina Barrens.

Due to being on and in the water often he has noticed the problem and what he must deal with under the water.

Without predators such as crayfish and large snapper there is nothing to stop the Kina clearing out areas of kelp. This is becoming more and more of an issue, and we can quite regularly see areas where the kelp is all gone. He noted the problem for the Kina when the food source is scarce the Kina themselves are under nourished. Over the past seven years the Kina population has exploded. The divers have had to use part of their quota to regain ground and let the Kelp grow. After the Kina spawn they are undernourished and no good for collection.

Todd showed a video of an area where there is plenty of kelp there is plenty of food and the Kina will get fat.

He showed a video of outside of the Mayor Island Marine Reserve. Outside of the reserve there was plenty of Kelp and Kina and this is where they are allowed to harvest Kina. He then showed an area in the reserve where the Kina fishing is not allowed. The video showed nothing but Kina.

Todd attended a two-day meeting in Wellington regarding this. MPI, DOC and all the interested parties were there, and it was generally acknowledged that there was a problem. The question was how we are going to fix this. One option was to remove the Kina. The TACC has just come back showing there is an abundance of Kina, but they want to close off more areas from diving for Kina and it seems the opposite of what was said would be a good idea. He pointed out that the Poor Knights Reserve is also in danger.

Todd pointed out that if we can manage these areas, then they will thrive but left as they are there will be no food in most of our most popular marine reserves.

Discussion was had around having controlled harvesting of Kina in the marine reserves – along the same lines as when we send DOC into the forests to manage pests. It is sensible to note that if there is no Kelp the Kina are skinny but if the Kelp is allowed to grow the Kina will thrive as well. There has been plans to harvest Kina and fatten them up on land with a special diet. This is getting some traction.

Relocation was also discussed. Ones that have been relocated have gain condition and the area where they were taken from has also improved and the Kina there has got fat as well. A trial was done of taking the Kina and putting it into an area where there was Caulerpa. It appears they cannot digest the Caulerpa weed as easily.

Ian Steele thanked Todd for coming along and sharing this information with our group.

Saturday Session

IS suggest the group formalise the nomination of Doug Taucher as zone 6 representative on the board.

Moved by Ian Steele seconded by Ken Barry – carried

Peter Campbell noted that the LegaSea finance report had not been moved. Therefore, it was Moved that the LegaSea finance report be accepted **Moved Mark Connor seconded Warren Maher - carried**

Notices of Motion

Motion #1

NZSFC Policy on Commercial Spearfishing

July 2023

Policy

1. No gill netting of fish around offshore reefs and outcrops.
2. Support commercial fishers transitioning away from gill netting reef species and adopting the more selective harvest technique of spearfishing, on the basis that:
 - a. Adoption does not negate the need for ongoing fisheries management; and
 - b. The declining biomass of reef species due to overallocation and overharvest needs to be addressed by effective fisheries management.
3. To minimise the risk of conflict between commercial and non-commercial spearfishers, spatial controls defining the area where commercial spearfishing can occur must apply.

Problem Definition

1. In the Auckland and Kermadec Fisheries Management Area, commercial fishers can set on most reefs if they say they are targeting a quota species.
2. Outside of the Auckland and Kermadec Fisheries Management Area, commercial fishers can target reef species using gill nets.
3. The NZSFC's existing policy recognises set netting by recreational anglers as a legitimate form of recreational fishing for food.
4. Gill netting for reef species is a non-selective fishing method with a high mortality rate of target and non-target species.
5. Reef species are important to maintaining biodiversity and productivity of the marine environment.
6. Reef species are vulnerable to over harvest as they are generally low knowledge stocks with few abundance indices or valid stock assessments.

Policy Objectives:

1. To extend the protection from gill netting applying to the 19 species named in the Sale of Reef Fish Schedule applying to the Auckland and Kermadec Fisheries Management Area, to all of New Zealand's Fisheries Management Areas¹;
2. Enable spearfishing to encourage selective fishing, while excluding specific species from harvest;
3. Reduce wastage from gill netting around reefs by encouraging more selective harvesting techniques such as spearfishing; and
4. Reduce the potential for spatial conflict by defining areas where commercial spearfishing is prohibited.

Policy Strategy:

To actively support members, individuals and organisations seeking to promote sustainable fishing techniques that protect reefs and other benthic marine environments from physical damage and wastage due to unintended catch.

Moved Trish Rae seconded Vance Fulton

Carried 100%

Motion # 2**NZSFC Travel and Accommodation Expenses Policy**

Effective Date: 1 June 2023

POLICY STATEMENT:

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) is committed to ensuring responsible and transparent use of funds for the benefit of its members (Clubs). This policy establishes guidelines and procedures for the reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by NZSFC Board Members when conducting official business or attending approved events on behalf of NZSFC.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all current and future team members of the NZSFC, including staff, elected officials and appointed representatives.

POLICY GUIDELINES:**1. Eligibility:**

- A. This Policy applies to Team members being NZSFC Board Members, Staff and Standing Committee as defined in the NZSFC's constitution, who are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses.

- A. Reimbursement of travel expenses is contingent upon the travel being authorised by the Board or delegated authority.
2. ***Travel Authorisation:***
- A. Team Members must seek prior approval from the Board or President for any travel that requires reimbursement of expenses.
 - A. Travel authorisation should be requested in writing, including the purpose of the trip, estimated costs, and anticipated benefits to the NZSFC.
3. ***Travel Expenses:***
- A. Reasonable and necessary travel expenses will be reimbursed. This includes transportation, accommodation, meals, and incidental expenses directly related to the authorised travel.
 - A. Team Members are encouraged to make cost-effective choices and seek the best available rates for travel and accommodation.
 - A. Team Members should avoid extravagant or unnecessary expenses that are not directly related to the authorised travel.
4. ***Board meetings and AGM***
- A. Board meetings: Regular board meetings are generally held at Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, Half Moon Bay. Attendance at these meetings requires travel and 1 nights' accommodation which will be reimbursed by NZSFC.
 - A. AGM: the NZSFC annual general meeting held in September each year requires attendance by board members including the board meeting on the Thursday prior to the commencement of the AGM. Accommodation costs shall be met as follows: One night for the board meeting, and one night for the AGM. Staff and independent board members (including IGFA rep) are entitled to one additional night on the basis they are not also representing a Club, and on occasion staff may also need to stay an additional night depending on the venue and location of the AGM.
5. ***Reimbursement Process:***
- A. Team Members must submit a travel expense claim within 30 days of completing the authorised travel.
 - A. The expense claim should include itemised receipts, invoices, and any other supporting documentation as required by the NZSFC.
 - A. All travel expense claims must be submitted in accordance with the NZSFC's financial policies and procedures.
6. ***Approval and Reimbursement:***
- A. All travel expense claims will be reviewed by the NZSFC to ensure compliance with this policy.
 - A. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the approved budget and the availability of funds.
 - A. NZSFC may request additional documentation or clarification if necessary.
7. ***Compliance:***
- A. Failure to comply with this policy may result in delayed or declined reimbursement.

A. Any misuse or fraudulent activity relating to travel expenses may result in disciplinary action, including termination of the Team Member's position within NZSFC.

8. **Policy Review:**

A. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

A. Any proposed changes or updates to this policy must be submitted to the Board for approval.

APPROVAL:

This policy has been approved by the Board of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and shall be effective as of the date mentioned above.

Moved: Ian Steele - Seconded: Bill McGarry - Carried – 100%

Motion # 3

Motion – Credit Cards

That short term borrowings in the form of Bank Credit Cards with a total limit of \$4000 combined be undertaken for NZSFC Staff for the purposes of NZSFC Business only. Monthly Transactions will be reviewed by the NZSFC President (or Board member delegated by the President). Each monthly balance will be repaid.

Explanation

Currently the staff have to use personal funds and pay out of pocket expenses. This is not sustainable or reasonable. As per the Constitution, and lending requires approval from the AGM. It was requested that the credit card payments will be check monthly by the finance committee chair.

Moved Ian Steele Seconded Bill McGarry - Carried – 100%

Motion # 4

Affiliation fees

Proposer: Ian Steele

Seconder: Andrew Johnson

Speaker at AGM: Ian Steele

There is no change to affiliation fees for the 2023-2024 year.

The Affiliation Fees 2023/2024 were set at the 2022 AGM.

The Motion is for the 2024/25 year.

Senior member - \$16.00

Junior members - \$5.50

This includes:

Donations to:

New Zealand Marine Research Foundation

\$1.00 per senior member

\$0.50 per junior member

Youth Ocean Trust

\$1.00 per senior member

\$0.50 per junior member

Reasoning:

NZSFC wants to see the NZ Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF) and newly created Youth Ocean Trust both thrive in the long term.

Due to COVID, the recent 2-3 years have seen constrained opportunities for Marine Research projects, especially suitable projects that NZMRF have had the opportunity to fund. Donations have continued to be paid year on year by affiliated members (approx. \$64,000 in 2023), via their clubs and NZSFC to NZMRF. This has led to a notable change in financial position of the NZMRF – from a low in around 2016, to approximately \$360,000 during 2023.

The Youth Ocean Trust, as the front end of our Youth Programme (formed in 2023 by NZSFC) currently has no funding source and requires seed funding from NZSFC to ensure the Trust can function.

Further, the current economic climate in NZ means that Cost of Living pressures are being felt throughout NZ – by our communities including Club members and Clubs. This means that there is little to no appetite in the current economic climate to increase the affiliation fees or donations paid by each NZSFC affiliated member.

Therefore, the proposal put forward for the next 1-2 years is to split the existing donation pool paid by affiliated members, and allow both the NZMRF and YOT to have sufficient funding to operate each year to a base level, and allow for Grant seeking by Each trust over above the base funding provided by NZSFC – noting that NZMRF has a supply of funds that should allow normal operation for the next couple of years – buying us time to negotiate the economic conditions (and not increase affiliation fees), while also getting the Youth Ocean Trust underway.

NZSFC wants to see the NZ Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF) and newly created Youth Ocean Trust both thrive in the long term – this proposal for allows a short-term plan and suggest that (at the latest) the 2025 AGM, the size of the donation for NZMRF and the Youth Ocean Trust be reviewed with an intent to increase donations for each.

Discussion and possible alternative:

The motion put forward is simply a 50/50 split of the existing donation pool, with a suggested review at the 2025 AGM for the total value.

Another consideration prior to voting on the Motion (which would require an amendment) is to provide 100% of the current donation pool to the Youth Ocean Trust for 1 year (as a kick start), and then provide for 50/50 from thereon. This would mean:

- 2023 AGM (2024/25 season) - 100% next season to the Youth Ocean Trust
- 2024 AGM (2025/26 season) - 50/50 NZMRF / Youth Ocean Trust

- 2025 AGM (2026/27 season) – Review of both – possible increase

This matter was discussed with alternative suggestions. Jeff Romeril talked about the work NZMRF is trying to do and that they would be severely hampered by a reduction or loss of contributions. It was suggested that a payment of \$32,000 (the amount equal to half of the NZMRF contribution) be paid to the Youth Ocean Trust.

After much discussion an amendment to the motion was put:-

That the Affiliation fees remain the same, being that there is no change to affiliation fees for the 2023-2024 year. The Affiliation Fees 2023/2024 were set at the 2022 AGM.

The Motion is for the 2024/25 year.

Senior member - \$16.00

Junior members - \$5.50

Moved Kelvin Mowat seconded Ian Steele – carried

The Motion was then moved – Kelvin Mowat seconded Ian Steele – carried

It was moved that \$32,000 be paid to YOT (being a figure which relates to half of the NZMRF donation) as seed funding to assist the trust in its first year.

Moved Kelvin Mowat seconded Warren Maher – carried

LegaSea – Benn Winlove and Sam Woolford

Changes in the Hauraki Gulf fishing regulations were discussed. Concerns were raised about the displacement of fishing pressure from the Hauraki Gulf to other areas, such as East Cape and Northland. It was noted that while Auckland might not face immediate issues, the broader implications include a potential increase in fishing pressure elsewhere.

The current consultation process has highlighted the need for input from various fishing clubs outside the affected areas. Participants noted the government's plans to invest in the trawl fleet, which could extend the lifespan of destructive fishing methods for decades. Concurrently, the Whakatane Regional Council is developing a new marina that will support a fleet of 60 commercial boats, potentially amplifying industrial fishing on the East Coast.

It was emphasized that the Hauraki Gulf is at the frontline of these changes, but a unified voice from all clubs, from Houhora to East Cape, is crucial. Clubs are encouraged to make submissions, not only from Auckland or Snapper One clubs but from all involved parties as the issue affects everyone.

Benn Winlove and Sam Woolford presented information on the economic impacts of recreational versus commercial fishing. It was highlighted that while commercial fishing previously generated approximately \$1.8 billion, current figures have dropped to about \$1.4 billion. In contrast, recreational fishing offers substantial community value, and its economic impact should be communicated effectively to the public and policymakers.

Russell Graham from the Taupo Club asked about the need for bottom trawling versus other fishing methods. The response indicated that bottom trawling is favoured for its cost-effectiveness and low skill requirements, despite its destructive nature. Scott added that there is also fear among Te Tiriti o

Waitangi beneficiaries about potential breaches if trawling restrictions are imposed, given that trawling is crucial for catching various fish species.

Bob Gutsell – Waikato inquired about the specifics of the trawl exclusion zones and their boundaries. It was clarified that Area A would only allow Danish seining and not unrestricted trawling. The issue of where trawling currently occurs, and the transparency of this information remains a concern.

Sam Woolford elaborated on "Option Zero," advocating for no trawling within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and the establishment of a separate fisheries management area. This approach aims to minimize the impact of trawling on the Marine Park while allowing for selective fishing methods.

The meeting then shifted to discussing Ahu Moana, a policy emerging from the Sea Change process. Ahu Moana aims to restore environmental conditions and address fisheries issues through local collaboration. This policy has gained traction as more diverse stakeholders, including Mana whenua and commercial fishing representatives, engage in the process.

Wayne Bicknell shared his experience from the Hawke's Bay area, where local efforts and agreements with commercial fishers have led to the establishment of a commercial-free zone. This collaborative approach has yielded positive results and serves as a model for other regions.

Warren Maher from Tairua described the Opitio Bay scallop issue and described a similar approach involving scallop and pink mao mao protection. Local initiatives and scientific surveys have led to successful rahui implementations and regulatory changes.

Dirk Seiling – Whitianga provided insights into the Ahu Moana policy's flexibility and potential for expansion to other regions.

The team asked local clubs to engage in submissions and consultations, emphasizing the importance of local input in shaping effective fisheries management.

Next Steps:

1. Clubs are encouraged to make submissions on the proposed changes and the Ahu Moana policy.
2. Continued engagement and collaboration among stakeholders are vital.
3. Further discussions on specific regional issues and how they relate to broader policy changes will be ongoing.

Mark Connor expressed his thanks to all the contractors, particularly Trish Rae, Barry Torkington, and Scott Macindoe. He then asked the new team to introduce themselves.

Katie Goodwin introduced herself as a new contractor for LegaSea and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. Katie began as a volunteer while completing her Bachelor of Science with a major in environmental and marine science. Katie has worked with Kai Ika and has recently moved to working with Trish on submissions, articles, and supporter engagement.

Sydney Curtis is another new contractor, a scientist and a contractor for LegaSea. She acknowledged her mentors, John Holdsworth and Trish Rae, and discussed her involvement in Blue Water Marine Research and various projects such as the Mushy Flesh Fish and Game Fish Tagging Project. Sydney also shared her academic achievements, noting a GPA of 8.3 out of 9 and a substantial number of A plus grades.

Trish Rae addressed the Fisheries Amendment Bill and the success in influencing the Fisheries Amendment Bill last year. After our AGM David Parker introduced a supplementary order paper at the last moment, which successfully removed the preset decision rules from the bill.

The removal of these preset decision rules prevented a situation where the industry could have taken a substantial portion of the TAC.

Rowan Ashton, the council's legal advisor, was recognized for his crucial role in various processes.

Finally, thanks went to Mark Connor and Peter Campbell for their support allowing the team to operate effectively.

Scott Macindoe mentioned that the financials showed a total expenditure of \$320,000, which is divided into two main categories: engagement and participation.

The expenditure is the contribution from affiliated clubs. Last year, the contribution amounted to \$120,000, up from \$95,000 the previous year, thanks to an increase in the affiliation levy. This year, the contribution per affiliated member will be \$3.30, a slight increase from \$3.12 last year, due to a slight dip in membership.

For the first time, the council has secured a grant for engagement and participation, marking a significant breakthrough. This funding is expected to continue and grow, with projections indicating that next year the council will earn and spend approximately \$370,000. The budget will allocate around \$250,000 to engagement and participation, with the remaining \$120,000 dedicated to strategic planning.

In-kind contributions from volunteers are a significant part of the council's operations, with a conservative estimate valuing these contributions at \$350,000 per year. Jim Yeoman, NZACA and Alan Davidson were also acknowledged and thanked.

The LegaSea and Fisheries Management reports were moved by Lee Drummond and seconded Terry Creagh – carried

IGFA – Mark Hemingway, Bob Gutsell and Pete Saul

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) has faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted the organization's activities and momentum. The Oceania committee, was established prior to the pandemic, experienced a substantial slowdown.

Brett Cleary from Australia has taken the initiative to re-establish meetings, and an AGM scheduled shortly. Primary focus of this meeting will be addressing constitutional matters specific to Australia.

Among the various committees, the Fishing Rules Committee has been notably more active. This committee holds more frequent meetings compared to others, primarily due to the engaging nature of their discussions.

Update Rules and Recognition Committee – Pete Saul

Bob Gutsell and Pete Saul have been involved in the Rules and Recognition Committee for the Oceania region. Over the past few months, they have had several meetings and has made notable progress.

One of the objectives has been to address the issue of line class recognition for junior anglers. The IGFA has not extended recognition of Junior line class records. To address this our committee submitted a proposal to the IGFA. The submission included a list of 31 species for which we requested the opening of world record categories for small fry and juniors and also proposed the inclusion of three new species to the list of world record species, five new slam categories, which would benefit anglers in New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and Australia, and eight species for consideration for trophy fish clubs.

The response from the IGFA was less favourable than anticipated. However, there was a notable achievement: the inclusion of the white or silver trevally to the line and all-tackle world record species list. The Murray Cod will be added to the eligible species for all-tackle length world records. For the trophy fish clubs, giant trevally, wahoo, and snapper will be included. The qualifying size for snapper has been set at 25 pounds. Although some advocated for a higher size limit, the 25-pound criteria are considered reasonable given the rarity of such catches. It has been suggested that alongside the weight, a minimum length for snapper might also be appropriate to encourage the release of large fish.

The IGFA also accepted one new slam proposal, the Pacific Royal Reef Slam, which features a range of tropical species. Our group had hoped for a slam that included species such as southern bluefin tuna. However, this proposal will be considered in January next year, as the IGFA only meets annually to discuss such matters. We can make further submissions before then.

The team has also advocated for a change in the rules regarding line handling when a fish is on the line. Specifically, they sought to address the issue where a junior angler's world record application was disqualified because they did not immediately remove the rod from the holder while the fish was taking line. We have not yet received support from the Australian counterparts on this matter. Bob and Peter are working on strategies to rephrase proposals to address this issue, considering both fish welfare and safety concerns. This is particularly relevant for anglers in small boats, where solo angling and safety are important considerations.

In summary, better communication leads to better outcomes, and the team is optimistic about continuing to make progress in this area.

Good conversations have been had with the Oceania Group around Fisheries Management. Mark Hemingway noted that a subject that has been discussed is skipjack availability and the overall decline of skipjack throughout the region. This has been noted in Australia as well as in the Islands. This information has been fed back through our fisheries management team and then back through the officials to the Central Western Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Bob Gutsell is in the process of being ratified as an IGFA representative.

The IGFA report was moved by Mark Hemingway seconded Pete Saul – carried

Communications Committee – Cie Robinson-Bates, Ian Steele and Mike Plant

The focus for comms is on both internal and external communications, with a particular note of appreciation for LegaSea's work in public outreach.

The "Tackle Box," is a new resource and this was explained. This will allow clubs to use this resource. The Tackle Box aims to centralize information, making it easier for clubs to find answers and share resources. Helen has contributed valuable content to this, addressing frequent queries and providing documents relevant to clubs. Members are encouraged to explore it, and any problems should be sent to the office.

A brief discussion followed on the usage of the Tackle Box. Doug shared his experience, noting the potential for the resource to grow and become more useful as additional examples and information are added. The tool is designed to prevent the need for reinventing the wheel and to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Youth Nationals. This event has gained significant visibility through a photo competition, which has proven effective in generating exposure. Four GoPro Hero Minis and other prizes, such as UE Boom

speakers and Daiwa gear, were offered to encourage photo submissions from young anglers. Social media on the youth nationals has been increased.

The discussion then moved to the Nationals, with emphasis placed on improving promotion of the event. This includes addressing common queries about competition rules and details, which will help demystify the event for all. The goal is to increase anticipation and participation, solidifying the Nationals as the premier fishing competition in the country. Enhanced photo competitions and social media use are key elements in this effort. Media coverage, such as articles in Adventure Magazine and Fishing News, will help.

A new addition to our communications strategy is the club report, which provides a summary of council activities and achievements. This report is designed to offer talking points and relevant updates for club members, streamlining the process of informing them about council work. The club report is intended to be a practical resource, without the additional frills of photos or extensive content, to facilitate quick and effective communication. Feedback on this format and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

In conclusion ongoing communication improvements and resource sharing is important. Members are encouraged to visit the Tackle Box, participate in promotional efforts, and utilize the club report to stay informed about council activities.

MP then continued with social media points. Social media is increasing. One of our top reaching posts reaching just under 90,000 people, that was over the nationals, on the 1st of February to the 28th of February this year.

This time last year we were reaching about 220,000 people. Up to this week, we're now at 440,000 people. We have effectively doubled the number of people we are reaching in our social media posts.

Our media presence has a large bias towards men at 83% and women only 17% of our followers. The team is looking at content as well to engage more female participation and youth.

He suggested for clubs doing social media just simple questions that are to do with fishing or anything fishing related. They get engagement. MP talked about showcasing the heroes of your club, the well-known people, sharing their successes, really celebrating it.

Website - We're working with Helen and Ben from LegaSea as well putting a lot of work in there and we are looking at digitalization of historical yearbooks and adding photo galleries as well because we know photos are what people want to see.

So that's a real focus on for us in the upcoming year, obviously starting with the Weighmaster's workshop. That can be a resource as a 30-minute full presentation as it was, but we can also cut little highlights and snippets out of it that we use in social media and even for just asking questions over leader length or hook placement or anything like that. We can just take out that little bit of gold and use it to showcase these points.

Mike Plant then talked about media. He advised that he used to work in radio for the last 20 odd years, and was heavily involved in New Zealand media. He has stepped up for a few interviews and on TV and is backing up what LegaSea says on certain issues, but it gives us two barrels of the gun, so to speak. Located in Auckland where these media companies are helps, and quite often they can come to my place with a camera and get it on instantly when the news breaks. So that's kind of my role in that. He has been working well with the LegaSea team to ensure the message is spread throughout the media channels.

He advised he is being fed good solid information to make statements on your behalf. So that's something that we will focus on going forward as well and always be available, always being able to share our voice and make sure it's heard.

The coasters and cookbook were also discussed, and more information will be coming out about these shortly.

IS presented a discussion on succession planning and discussed with clubs about information sharing and skill sharing. This was open for a general discussion.

Comms report moved seconded and carried.

Satellite Tagging Programme – Observations from Ian Steele

Ian Steele – New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club took a few moments to go through the satellite tagging programme his club has become involved with.

The satellite tagging program began with a group of enthusiastic anglers from New Plymouth about four to five years ago. This initiative was driven by the need to gather more data on marlin behaviour, especially given the limited historical information on their migratory patterns in the region.

Each satellite tag cost approximately \$7,000, totalling nearly \$50,000 for six tags. The funding was a collaborative effort, including contributions from club donations, the Marine Research Foundation and support from John Holdsworth, who facilitated connections with IGFA and Stanford University.

A committee was established to manage the deployment process. The committee developed guidelines and a rotation system for tag deployment to ensure fair distribution among contributors.

Many contributors who initially expressed interest in tagging were reluctant to handle the high-value tags. Consequently, the committee had to streamline the number of boats and personnel involved in the tagging process.

The tagging process required specific equipment and procedures, including large tag barbs and precise insertion techniques. Several tags experienced issues, such as malfunction or loss, which complicated the project and necessitated additional support and adjustments.

IS advised that effective management and clear communication are crucial. Initial assumptions about widespread involvement in tag deployment proved inaccurate, highlighting the need for flexibility and readiness to adjust plans based on actual participation levels.

Building relationships with organizations like the Marine Research Foundation and technical experts was essential for overcoming challenges and securing additional support.

The project underscored the importance of securing sufficient funding and resources upfront and early planning is critical.

The experience provided valuable insights into satellite tagging, including the practical aspects and challenges of the process.

Additional Tags: Discussions are underway with IGFA and Stanford University regarding the possibility of obtaining more tags for future deployments. There may be opportunities to secure additional funding from past contributors or through new partnerships.

The satellite tagging program has been a significant learning experience for the New Plymouth Sportfishing Underwater Club.

Tackle Box – Helen Pastor

HP did a short presentation on how to use the tackle box. The tackle box was discussed by delegates.

General Business

Ian Steele thanked all the sponsors who have assisted NZSFC through the year and also the ones who helped make the AGM so successful. He also gave a big thank you to the Tairua-Pauanui Sport Fishing Club for hosting the Conference and AGM this year.

2024 AGM. The AGM will be held at the Whakatane Sport Fishing Club – Zone 8 in 2024. Heyden Johnston gave a talk about the club and the facilities and also a quick rundown on the possibility of the club being moved due to the building of the Marina.

AGM 2025 – we have an offer from the Kaikoura Boating and Recreational Fishing Club for 2025.

Presidents' Shout. A Motion to have a president's shout of \$2,000 on the bar – Moved Ian Steele seconded Warren Maher – carried. This will start at 4pm tonight.

Meeting closed 3.30pm

2023 President's Report - NZ Sport Fishing Council

It has certainly been an interesting year. Looking back at the COVID times, we were reminded of the value of our own time, and how important relationships and interactions with other people are – reminded that we are only on this planet for a certain amount of time and that we need to ensure that we make each day count.

During the various COVID lockdowns and restrictions on movements, we all sought 'normality' – to do 'what we want to be doing' with those people that we enjoy being around. As a result, we have seen a new flexibility in the workplace, and an increased value placed on our quality of life.

As we exited the COVID period, we all thought that things would improve over time with regard to our lifestyles. Little did we realise that the COVID years were the best economically that we had seen for some time.

This year, 2023, has been the period where we have seen the cost of living pressures increase drastically. While wages have increased, they have generally not kept pace with the cost of living – creating the 'Cost of Living Crisis'. Things have tightened economically due to the deliberate cooling of the economy by the Reserve Bank (through higher interest rates). The rate of change has been the kicker.

Suddenly, the new 'Normal' includes our COVID learnings on the value of our own time and a higher cost of living, including higher cost of going fishing (e.g. Petrol more than \$3 / litre).

This new 'Normal' has seen increased pressure on the scarce pool of peoples' time to operate our clubs – both Volunteer and paid. It's simply getting harder and harder to find people to undertake key roles such as Club Committee's, act as weighmasters and support our Clubrooms, club bars and restaurants.

At the same time, on a number of fronts, we have continued to see increased challenges in accessing our wonderful coastal environment, and the marine life that lives within it. Topics that have challenged us this year include the various Regional Council Plans, The RMA, Caulerpa, Climate Change / higher rainfalls/storms, localised depletion and Rahui, Fisheries Plans, The Hauraki Gulf, QMS Sustainability Reviews - the list goes on.

Speaking of challenges, a special mention goes out to all those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle – all clubs and club members affected – especially in Auckland, Coromandel, Hawkes Bay and Gisborne areas. Your response as clubs and a community was inspiring.

The social and economic environment around us has changed - and is continuing to change at a rate not seen for many years, if not decades. The quote 'The only constant in Life is Change' feels very relevant at present.

Now, more than ever, Fishing Clubs have relevance. The hardest part is resourcing them with the many necessary skillsets from volunteers, Club members and staff so that they can grow and adapt – generally so that we can do more with less.

In a world where there are many organisations attempting to influence people with a volume of communications, it is evident that NZSFC Clubs need to continue to invest in future generations, in order to ensure that the way of life we know today can be shared with the next generation.

To this end, NZSFC has this year progressed various initiatives including (but not limited to):

- Investing in the next generation - NZSFC Youth Programme and Youth Ocean Trust
- Club relationships and communications with the appointment of Mike Plant
- Club support – Tacklebox resource, Weighmaster Book update, Weighmaster training
- Fisheries Management – an unprecedented volume of input and submissions around NZ

- LegaSea – increased public profile and influence including Kai Ika.
- Sportfishing – Youth Nationals and Nationals

We are well positioned to continue the development of our support and initiatives into the coming season through our various interconnected organisations:

- NZSFC
- LegaSea
- NZ Marine Research Foundation
- Youth Ocean Trust

The key to our progressing is your involvement with your Club, and you Club's involvement with NZSFC. The more engagement and sharing of thoughts and ideas between us as Clubs, the stronger our Clubs are now and into the future.

As a Council of Clubs, NZSFC will facilitate Club development across a number of fronts. As a Council of Clubs, our Clubs do best when we engage and share what we know and any resource that we have created (either individually or as a group) – thereby being greater than the sum of our parts.

The scale of the challenges that each of our clubs and club members face means that we are best to pool our collective thoughts and resources so that all Clubs can continue to evolve in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Get involved. Do you or your club have an idea, learning or concept that you feel other clubs would benefit from? Get in touch, ensure that your club delegates are attending the bi-monthly Zone meetings with neighbouring clubs, and we can continue to propagate support for all NZSFC Clubs and their Club members.

Lastly – Thanks. A huge thank you to everyone that makes our Clubs happen day to day, and also to all those who make NZSFC operate. Regardless of your contribution, large or small - whether your contribution was at a Club working bee, participating in a club event, taking your child fishing, donating time or money (the list goes on) – it's the combined effort of everyone involved that means we all get to enjoy the fantastic New Zealand fishing lifestyle with friends and family. A lifestyle that's special and worth ensuring for future generations.



Ian Steele
President - New Zealand Sport Fishing Council