


# NZSFC MONTHLY REPORT

February 2025

NEW ZEALAND  
SPORT FISHING

## Welcome from the President

Scott Macindoe

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What a beautiful build up to the Nationals we have enjoyed with great weather and splendid fishing. Welcome back to the mighty Yellowfin tuna. So many families are celebrating sharing one of our most revered pelagics that have been MIA for far too long.

The Nationals are underway albeit with a somewhat subdued start due to a challenging weather pattern. Looking good from Wednesday onwards though.

However, while the fishing is good, we also need to talk about the serious challenges facing our fishery and our clubs. The Minister for Oceans and Fisheries has put forward changes that threaten the very foundation of our fisheries management. These proposals weaken governance, remove public consultation, and put our marine environment at risk. The NZSFC is standing firm in opposition, and we need our clubs and anglers to be ready to act. The deadline for submissions is March 28.

Beyond fisheries management, our clubs are feeling the pinch of economic headwinds. Sponsorships are getting harder to secure, and businesses backing our sport need to see a strong return on investment. Anglers, too, are having to make tough choices—taking time off work to compete isn't as easy as it once was, even in a season like this. Club competitions and overall attendance are reflecting these pressures, making it more important than ever to rally together and support the community that keeps this sport alive.

Despite these challenges, the NZSFC is continuing to push forward on multiple fronts. Below are key updates from our Board and Standing Committees, covering everything from fisheries advocacy to club operations and youth development.

## Fishing, Rules and Regulations

Co-Chairs Heyden Johnston & Mark Hemingway Fishing Committee

1. Nationals are in full swing, with a focus on rule compliance, promotion, and club engagement. Please read your nationals rules and make sure you comply. Thanks to Pelagic NZ for their support.
2. Education of weighmasters with a new weighmasters book, weighmasters video, and The Fishing Committee is pleased to share that NZSFC Board member Doug Taucher is offering a free 3-hour Weighmasters Course to all affiliated clubs. This is a fantastic opportunity to upskill and ensure your club's weighmasters are confident and accurate when it comes to weighing and recording catches. To book a session, please email [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz). These courses are vital to ensuring your club and its members are fishing to NZSFC and IGFA rules. Rules are what make our sport work and knowing them can prevent unnecessary disqualifications. A recent competition saw 13 out of the 59 (22%) of the tagged and released marlin being disqualified due to leader lengths exceeding the maximum allowed.
3. A reminder on the NZSFC leader length rules:
  - a. Line classes up to and including 10kg: Max 4.57m leader
  - b. Line classes over 10kg: Max 9.14m leader
  - c. Max combined length of double line and leader:
    - i. 6.1m for line classes up to 10kg
    - ii. 12.19m for line classes over 10kg
  - d. Both the leader and double line must not exceed their respective limits. We often hear anglers say, "But that's what the shop sold me!" – remember, it's not the shop's responsibility to check, it's the angler's. We strongly

encourage clubs to remind anglers at briefing nights to check their gear before fishing. Disqualifications can be disheartening, and a simple gear check can prevent them.

## Communications & Outreach

Co-Chairs Cie Robinson-Bates, Andrew Johnson Communications Standing Committee

1. New club information boards are coming (we know it has been a long wait!);The prototype has been constructed and refined. The board has agreed to a \$30,000.00 trail run in 10 clubrooms, which construction is starting on soon.. If successful this will be rolled out to more clubs. We look forward to providing more information about this soon.
2. NZSFCs Social media strategy is being enhanced with a dedicated budget of \$10,000 for this year allocated. The purpose of this is to establish better communication of what the NZSFC does directly to club members, and those potentially interested in joining a club.
3. Fundraising and sponsorship is a big part of how we keep this growing organisation sustainable into the future, and we are exploring every avenue to find people who want to be part of what we do and support it. We want to thank those who already do like Pelagic in their support of The Nationals.
4. Free Fish Heads app promotion is ramping up, with clubs encouraged to boost engagement.
5. Podcasts are continuing this year with 10 podcasts planned, and we have secured a \$10,000 grant from Maritime NZ to support the production of these podcasts.
6. As with all communications strategies it's important that clubs and club members please find time to provide input and participate to help with some of these efforts.

## Operations & Administration

NZSFC Staff Mike Plant & Helen Pastor

Over the past month, we've been actively engaged in various initiatives to support our clubs and members.

### Community Engagement & Events

1. Kubota Billfish Classic 2025: We engaged in discussions addressing environmental concerns from last year, reinforcing our commitment to educating the wider public on sustainable fishing practices. We are involved in fronting concerns of Sport fishing as shown last year at the Kubota Read more [here](#).
2. Crayfish Conservation Efforts: We've opposed proposals to increase commercial crayfish catch limits in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty, highlighting the risk to already depleted populations. Read more [here](#).
3. Fisheries Reform Response: We've voiced concerns that recent fisheries reforms may prioritise industry interests over public access and sustainability. Read more [here](#).
4. News making Catches: NZSFC has collaborated with mainstream media outlets and celebrated notable achievements in the media. Read more [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

### Safety & Education

1. Pod and Reel Podcast Launch: Introduced our official podcast to share stories, safety tips, and insights from the fishing community. The podcast has released four episodes, covering topics such as the resurgence of the southern bluefin tuna fishery and personal survival stories at sea. Listeners can access the podcast on platforms like Buzzsprout, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts. Listen [here](#).
2. Safety Awareness Initiatives: Promoted educational content on [bar crossings](#) safe fishing practices, especially the challenges of bluefin tuna fishing. Read more [here](#).
3. Collaborated with Drowning Prevention Aotearoa to assess rock fisher safety, [click here](#) to complete the survey and enter the draw!

### Approval of new clubs

1. We are so proud to announce new NZSFC affiliated clubs including Grey Lynn Sportfishing Club, Karikari Peninsula Ocean Sports Club, and Whangapoua Sport Fishing Club.

## Youth Development & Youth Nationals

Co-Chairs Warren Maher & Cie Robinson-Bates Youth Standing Committee

1. A t-shirt design competition for the Youth Nationals has been launched, engaging schools and clubs.
2. The committee is refining competition entry processes to better track participation.
3. Additional prizes and a photo competition have been introduced to boost engagement.
4. A new trophy recognising the "Fighting Factor of Fish" will be included in the 2026 Youth Nationals.
5. IGFA is seeking a youth representative from NZ, with Junior committee members Brock Johnson and Olliver Pask expressing interest.
6. Plans for a Youth Development and Mentorship Programme, potentially structured into 10 modules, are being explored in collaboration with NZSFC partners.



*Some of the awesome designs we've received so far for this year's Youth Nationals T-Shirt Competition*

## Finance & Accounts

Co-Chairs Brett Rigby & Bill McGarry. Finance Standing Committee

1. The Board reviewed the financial position, with discussion on profit and loss statements and upcoming budget considerations.
2. A new accountability reporting structure was proposed to improve transparency and fundraising efforts.
3. Fundraising initiatives, including a bequest programme and engagement with key charitable trusts, were discussed.
4. A review of term deposits and future investment strategies is underway.

## Governance & Strategy

Co-Chairs Heyden Johnston & Scott MacIndoe Governance Advisory Standing Committee

1. A review of the NZSFC Constitution is in progress, with draft updates expected by March.
2. Proposed changes to affiliation fees aim to align with CPI adjustments over time.
3. The committee is working to secure funding from Sport NZ, with initial discussions held with potential funder leadership teams.
4. A potential rebranding of NZSFC is under consideration.

## Fisheries Management

Co-Chairs Mark Connor & Wayne Bicknell. Fisheries Management Standing Committee

1. On 12 February 2025, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Shane Jones announced [proposed changes](#) to the Fisheries Act that threaten to remove public consultation, weaken governance, camera regulations, and discard

rules. The FMSC is working together to develop key talking points to send to Clubs and draft a submission opposing the changes. Submissions are due 28 March 2025.

2. The NZSFC is closely watching the progression of a sand dredging application in Beam Bay. The FMSC team is assessing how sand dredging impacts the marine ecosystem. If local clubs in the area are concerned of the adverse impacts, we encourage them to reach out to the FMSC.
3. In the past month, NZSFC made submissions on the following reviews;
  - a. Pacific bluefin tuna total allowable catch (TAC) [review](#).
  - b. Proposed commercial [landing exception](#) for pāua.
  - c. Proposed commercial [landing exception](#) for Bluff Oysters.
4. Advocacy efforts continue on the Resource Management Act (RMA) Amendment Bill 2. NZSFC sent a [submission](#) on 10 February opposing legislative overlap with the Fisheries Act.
5. NZSFC continues to be heavily involved in the future management of crayfish. See our recent submissions below;
  - a. NZSFC submission in response to potential future management measures for [Northland crayfish](#) (CRA 1) - Sent 15 December.
  - b. NZSFC submission on the review of [Otago crayfish](#) (CRA 7) - Sent 29 January
  - c. NZSFC submission in response to the future management of [Hauraki Gulf, Bay of Plenty crayfish](#) (CRA 2 ) - Sent 29 January
6. Since 2022 NZSFC has been involved in the [Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan](#) alongside NZSFCs legal council Rowan Ashton. Involvement has included attending hearings and providing detailed submissions. The committee is preparing for the next hearing in April.
7. The committee is still awaiting a Ministers decision on the [Hauraki Gulf trawl corridors](#). Our [submission](#), sent in November 2023, opposed the trawl corridors and urged Fisheries NZ to support a complete ban on bottom trawling and Danish seining in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
8. The [Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill](#) had its second reading in November and is awaiting to be enacted. The NZSFC is concerned that a [recent amendment](#) proposed by the Minister for Conservation would allow select commercial gill-netters to fish inside two of the proposed High Protection Areas. We will keep local clubs updated on this matter.
  - a. You can read NZSFC November 2023 submission opposing the Bill [here](#).

**NEW ZEALAND SPORT FISHING** FISH ANYWHERE IN NZ **MATE VS MATE**

# NATIONALS

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CLUB VS CLUB

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