

HOOKED up

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New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is one of the longest serving incorporated organisations representing recreational anglers.

The NZSFC was formed around the IGFA fishing rules and ethics so that a consistent standard could be set when comparing catches. The NZSFC offers additional records classes for New Zealand records beyond what IGFA offer for juniors and small-fry anglers. We have refined some of the IGFA rules to make them more suitable for our contests.

Our New Zealand based IGFA representatives keep a close liaison between IGFA and (NZSFC) and have regular input into issues that could affect New Zealand anglers. We have promoted valuable marine research that is internationally respected. This includes the game fish tagging programs for marlin, sharks, tuna and kingfish which now has a history of 17 years of information.

The Council created and continues to support the NZ Marine Research Foundation (NZMRF) for the primary purpose of conducting research on fish species benefiting our membership that could not, or will not be financed by government agencies.

Information from research carried out by the NZMRF has been very valuable when justifying our position in species management. All they have to do is remind themselves, that the majority of what the NZSFC does is for the benefit of individual members rather than equal benefits for each club.

More fish in the sea, better access, water quality, individual legal protection, record recognition, research, advocacy, fishing data collection and dissemination are all individual benefits of belonging to the NZSFC.

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COVER SHOT
Photo of the year
winner: Ian Steed –
flying marlin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WELCOME TO THE 17TH EDITION OF HOOKED UP!



I'm feeling very honoured to be writing my first report as the president of the NZ Sport Fishing Council. I can't say it was something I was thinking about when I first engaged with the board in 2010.

It's fair to say the board, and wider council for that matter, can be seen as autocratic and a hot-bed for argument as the varying views and personalities come together from the zones and affiliated clubs. On first encounters, the newbie can be forgiven for thinking "why would you bother?"

Persevering for a couple of years, one starts to see the potential of the Council and the opportunities it has for being so much more than it is. Dare to dream for a bit, and it doesn't take long for Pandora's box of opportunities to open.

I love working with teams to convert the opportunities of any organisation into reality and that's why I decided to step up.

As most of us know, the Council is made up of 55 member clubs which represent 34,000 members. We have a zone structure of eight zones, which elect a representative to sit at the board table to represent the views of that zone and collaborate with other zones in the best interests of the NZ Sport Fishing Council. There is no other body in NZ that has that structure for communication between members and the national body for 34,000 individual people.

CURRENT CHALLENGE *Our current challenge for us is twofold; how do we communicate better between our clubs and within NZSFC and how do we grow our base and broaden our reach?*

COMMUNICATION *Despite having the channels of email, social media, and zone meetings, we struggle to let our Clubs and their members know what's going on. On the flip side, we struggle to get timely feedback and responses from Clubs and their members. A classic example of this is the remits that get passed at AGMs. The number of times a notice of motion is circulated 60 days prior to an AGM, then voted on and passed, only to be relitigated the following year once clubs and their members have woken up to the impact of the remit, or even that there was a remit at all! The age-old problem of understanding what clubs need from NZSFC, what we offer, and where we need to grow our offering needs to be addressed. It's important so that we retain our existing members as happy citizens, and will also help us understand what's stopping the currently unaffiliated membership from becoming one of us.*

REACH *How do we grow our membership base? Our membership has remained at 55-ish clubs for quite a number of years, despite a number of new clubs joining our ranks, a similar number fade away - literally fade away and disestablish. The world has changed since I was a founding member of my local Club, the Waikato Sport Fishing Club, almost 30 years ago. We used to join clubs for comradery and a way of connecting with other fisho's and swapping stories and intel. Move on 30 years and people literally connect, merge, and grow families on social media. Our children have a myriad of other interests which can mostly be pursued online. How do we connect kids and youth with what we do with 'Hiwi the Kiwi', attract them to clubs and keep them occupied and enthused with fishing and our clubs in a way that's meaningful to the way they now connect?*

Secondly, I'm constantly amazed that despite representing 55 member clubs, 34,000 members and being the Sport New Zealand recognised 'National Sports Organisation' (NSO) for Sport and Recreational Fishing, we are almost unknown within our own membership let alone across the country. We have a lot of work to do to lift our profile as a "Council of Clubs" and what we do for helping our clubs be great clubs.

GROWTH *Our opportunities to grow are;*

- We solidify our current membership by making sure that there is good engagement and understanding between clubs and NZSFC*
- We understand non-affiliated clubs – understand their motivations and ensure they understand what value lies in affiliating with NZSFC*
- We develop youth programme that engages with children from a young age and continues with them as they grow up – ensuring that they understand the value, sustainability and enjoyment related to fishing*

I believe we need to accelerate these opportunities by leveraging our status as an NSO and, to an extent, through our connection with fishing tourism.

We've talked like this before and we've all seen our fair share of strategies for the council come and go. Which brings me to my final challenge. We need to plan AND execute.

One of the keys to successful strategy execution is effective governance. Effective governance ensures that a strategy is not only in place, but that it is being effectively resourced and executed. Governance becomes ineffective when the board allows itself to spend too much time on the issues of the day (Crisis du Jour). My hope is that we can shift the board focus to getting more future-looking stuff done. That's not an indictment on previous boards, that's an aspirational statement. Simply saying something must be better, does not mean that the current state is bad.

So I'm inspired, we have lots of opportunities and challenges ahead of us. The time is ripe for transformation. We have a freshened board, new president, new vice president, three new zone reps, Steve Burling, Lewis Avenell into zone 2, Ian Steele into zone 6, Dave (Scruffy) Wallace into zone 5 and a new co-opted board member Dirk Sieling to help us with the improving our Governance. That's a great recipe for doing some exciting stuff.

So now we have to work out how we do all this through practical engagement with our clubs, getting around the countryside more, and trying to attend club or committee meetings where possible.

Lastly, thanks to outgoing zone reps, Brenda Saul, Deryk Nielsen, Wayne Bicknell, and possibly our longest ever serving zone representative, Paul Batten. Thank you for everything you have done for the board and Council over your collective years of service. Last but not least thanks, to Phil Appleyard for steering the ship over the last three years and gradually handing over the reins.

Bob Gutsell

PRESIDENT

FROM THE OFFICE



AGM 2018

The Annual General Meeting 2018 was held at the Notovel in Ellerslie, Auckland on September 14 and 15, with 84 delegates and 28 partners attending. The weekend was a busy one with a tight time frame and lots of items to be considered. The partner's wine trail on Waiheke Island was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. For me personally, it was great to meet you all and put faces to names.

Our new board was elected, and a profile of the board members is included after this report. The board has some new and enthusiastic members who have great plans for the council going forward.

As with board positions, these regularly change, and we have a new president of the council - Bob Gutsell has taken over the reins from Phil Appleyard. Phil has been the President for three years and it is with a little sadness that he is stepping down, but he is still on the board as the immediate-past president and will still be working hard with the board and fishing committee I am sure.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Phil very much for his help in my first year in this position. He has a lot of knowledge about the council and its history and I would have struggled without his assistance and support.

A number of remits were put to the meeting - the biggest one being a re-arrangement of the policy documents and constitution. The reason for this was that NZSFC is currently governed by the following four documents (constitution, bylaws, fishing rules and board policy). Over the years there have been many double-ups and conflicting rules between the four documents.

During 2018, the board decided to complete a review of these documents in an attempt to streamline all four while also updating them. Most of the changes to these were corrections to rules and aligning them to the correct document. This entailed foregoing the bylaws and having four new documents - the constitution, fishing rules, fisheries management and the board charter.

The only addition to the rules, was the anti-doping policy which is a requirement of our association with Sport New Zealand.

I am sure you all realise that this was a huge job, which took up hours of reading and checking/cross checking. Congratulations has to go to Lewis Avenell and his team for the hours of work they spent going over the documents.

The other two remits that were passed were the southern bluefin tuna policy and the use of circle hooks. The reasoning for the southern bluefin tuna was that NZSFC supports the responsible development of a high value recreational fishery for southern bluefin tuna in New Zealand.

The remit was accepted - a daily bag limit of one fish per person in the North Island and two per person in the South Island. NZSFC clubs encourage fishers to weigh or report SBT that are kept and tag fish that are released.

Circle Hooks - On Page 69 of the 2018 yearbook, Section 8 of the IGFA & NZSFC RULES FOR TAG AND RELEASE states:

8. The Council strongly recommends that non off-set circle hooks be used when live baiting for any species. Only non off-set circle hooks can be used to catch billfish when using live and dead natural baits to claim a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council record. This will give fish a better chance of survival when tagged and released.

Zone 1 moved that this be amended by removing the sentence "Only non off-set circle hooks can be used to catch billfish when using live and dead natural baits to claim a New Zealand record." The rest of the wording to remain intact." This change was accepted.

We had two guest speakers this year - the first was Stuart Nash, Minister of Fisheries. He spoke to the meeting about plans for the future and how he has to work with both commercial and recreational sectors. He advised us that he was keen to work closely with NZ Sport Fishing and that he has, and wants, to continue having regular meetings with the council representatives. Our council is very lucky to have Josh Barclay in Wellington and working hard for us.

The other guest speaker was David Abercrombie from Yachting New Zealand. David spoke about Yachting NZ's new policy on sustainability to ensure that boat users create as little impact on the marine environment as possible. It was very interesting to hear that the yachting community are moving towards this approach and he stated that he would like to work with the boating community as well. He was very keen on youth projects which have proved to be the way of the future.

Webpage Our new webpage has now gone live, and although there are a number of additions and alterations still being worked on, it is great to have it available (at last!). I hope you all enjoy the new webpage and would appreciate any feedback you may have with regards to how it is working for you. This is an on-going project and will hopefully keep improving for you all.

Tags As the new season is now in full swing, please remember to order your tags early for any large tournaments you may have and also for the nationals. Please try to use your old tags first as the return address has changed and, although we can still use it for the moment, there will be a time when this is not available.

Affiliation fees At the AGM it was voted that affiliation fees will remain the same as last year and the donation to New Zealand Marine Research will also remain the same. As happens each year, I am requesting that your clubs send in your member numbers and catch numbers for the year along with the changes to your committees for the yearbook. There are still a number of clubs who have not responded, and I would ask that you get this information to me as soon as possible.

Helen Pastor

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We have a newly elected Board for the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council for 2018

PROFILE OF BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Gutsell PRESIDENT



Bob has been an avid fisher since he was old enough to hold a fishing rod. His first fishing photo was of a two-year-old holding a sprat on the Raglan Wharf almost 50 years ago. Since then, he has fished most of the North Eastern and Western Coasts of the North Island and from Panama to San Diego on the American West Coast.

He was a founding member of the Waikato Sport Fishing Club in 1989 and the president of that club from 2008 to 2014. At the same time, he became a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Board Member in 2012, has been the Communication Committee Chair since 2013 and became vice president in 2014. This year he has been elected as president, taking over from Phil Appleyard.

Bob has a passion for growing the organisations he works with, helping them look to the future while simultaneously stabilising the here and now with strategic thinking, good governance practices and a focus on building great relationships to achieve outstanding outcomes for the organisation.

Peter Campbell VICE PRESIDENT



Peter has been involved in Recreational Fishing Rights since 2000 and is currently vice president of the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council and director of the Sports Fishing Council's public outreach initiative 'LegaSea'. Peter was on the committee of the Tauranga Sports Fishing Club from 1995 where he organised the fishing contests until 2000. In 1999 he started a three year tenure as president. He is now a life member of the club.

Peter is based in Tauranga and has been a member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Board for over 17 years as a delegate and latterly vice president. His distinctive leadership style ensure efficient development of fisheries management submissions and policy documents, and delivery of regular updates for members and supporters.

Ian Steele VICE PRESIDENT AND ZONE 6 REPRESENTATIVE



Since a young age, Ian has aspired to learn and participate in all things related to fishing. Ian joined the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club in the early 2000s and from there has worked his way from helping around the club, to being on the club committee, club NZSFC delegate since 2015 and now NPSUC president. Ian has a strong interest in sport fishing, including light tackle and also furthering the capability and coverage of sportfishing in New Zealand – especially making sportfishing accessible and easily understandable. Ian is new to the board this year and has taken over the Zone 6 representative role from Lewis Avenell.

Phil Appleyard IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Phil is the owner of the Big Fish Bait and Tackle Company. He was born in Ireland Bay in Wellington and his parents were commercial fishermen. During the school holidays, Phil worked on commercial boats and when he left school he then became full-time. During this time Phil also was introduced to recreational fishing.

He went to Australia and spent two years on commercial prawn fishing boats and surface long line. When he returned to New Zealand he got involved with the retail fishing market. He helped start the Big Fish Bait and Tackle company 27 years ago and has owned it outright for over 24 years.

Recently he purchased the adjoining dive shop which is now called Big Fish Dive.

He started the Big Fish Fishing Club 25 years ago with a group of keen fishermen and the club became affiliated in 2000 at which time Phil became the delegate for the club and zone. Since then he became vice president for a year and has been the president of the NZ Sport Fishing Council for three years standing down this year.

Phil is still fishing but enjoys helping others to learn and grow to love the sport of fishing. He is keen to ensure that our great fishing grounds are available to his son and children of the future.

Peter Saul ZONE 1 REPRESENTATIVE



Pete is a past president and life member of the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers' Club. He has been the NZSFC records officer since 2006 and was appointed an IGFA Representative for New Zealand in 2017. He was employed by the Ministry of Fisheries in Whangarei from 1972 until 1997, at which time he and John Holdsworth formed Blue Water Marine Research, specialising in the area of marine recreational fishing and fisheries and contracting to the government and private organisations. Pete had a major hand in introducing the gamefish tagging programme into New Zealand in 1976 and administered it for the Ministry for many years. In 1988 Pete purchased the charter vessel "Lady Jess" which he operated out of Tutukaka until 2017. Pete is an avid light and ultra-light tackle angler

and greatly enjoys introducing new anglers to the thrill of marlin fishing through the ethical fishing approach advocated by the IGFA.

Lewis Avenell ZONE 2 REPRESENTATIVE



Lewis grew up fishing on the Kaipara Harbour during summer visits to the family farm. Later he joined the Big Fish Fishing Club in Auckland.

After moving to Taranaki and joining the New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club he soon took up the role of club delegate to the Council. He quickly found himself appointed to be the Waikato/Taranaki representative on the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Board.

Due to his growing interest Lewis is now an active contributor to the Fisheries Management – Marine Protection Standing Committee as well as the Legasea Governance Advisory Standing Committee

and this year has been elected chair of the Fisheries Management team.

Lewis has moved back to Auckland and taken up the Zone 2 representative role this year as Paul Batten has stood down.

Warren Maher ZONE 3 REPRESENTATIVE



Warren's first introduction to fishing was as a child growing up in Taupo and being taught to fly fish by his Pop. Days were spent exploring the lakefront, Waikato River, and up the back of the Waitahanui River with mates. Christmas holidays brought regular trips to Plummer's Point campground and the fresh water fishing gave way to the far more exciting wharf and sea fishing available and the multiple species from spotties off the wharf to kingies cruising past the boat ramp.

Warren now lives in Tairua on the Coromandel Peninsula and has the type of life a lot of us dream of - where you can balance earning a living as an electrician with plenty of fishing and diving as the

weather allows. He works on Tairua time where if the sea is flat you go fishing and as he is not a surfer, when it's rough you work - that's just how it is!

Warren is the Tairua-Pauanui Club delegate to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and has this year been appointed as Zone 3 Representative to the Board. Having two daughters grow up in Tairua and seeing the love they developed for fishing and diving and just being out on the ocean has hit home the importance of protecting the fishery now and for future generations.

There is nothing better than seeing the smile on a kids face when they catch a fish, and the pride they have when they get to show it off.

Warren believes the NZSFC and LegaSea are the best in the business at promoting and protecting the rights of the recreational fishing public in what are very trying times with the depletion of a number of fish species throughout the country and the inaction of a Ministry to do anything about it. He is proud to be involved with the dedicated people of these organizations and hopes his input over the coming years will benefit ours and his grand kids and they will get to see just what it used to be like. So, if you are in Tairua call into the Club for a beer as Warren will most likely be there, or keep an eye out for a yellow stabicraft and you may discover one of his fishing spots.

Steve Burling ZONE 4 REPRESENTATIVE



Steve is based in Papamoa. He has been an active member of the Mount Maunganui Sports Fishing Club for nine years, participating in the committee.

He has held the position as a delegate for the club for the past three years and is now the representative delegate on the Board.

Steve is new to the board and has taken over the representative position from Deryk Nielsen.

David Wallace (Scruffy) ZONE 5 REPRESENTATIVE



David James Wallace (AKA, Scruffy) has lived in Gisborne for 60 years and is happily married with three children.

Dave previously was a Forestry Transport and Waste Management business owner for 38 years but is currently semi-retired. He helps his wife in their Bernina retail shop and has Touchwood Fishing Charters, a 45ft Pelin Columbia in which he is owner / skipper and has been for 18 years. Dave has been a Gisborne Tatapouri Sport Fishing Club member for 35 years, is presently the club captain and this is his second time on the committee in his time as a member of the club.

Dave is very passionate about seeing people smile when they catch fish. He believes red wine and fish are the ultimate drink and food. He said he will never give up fighting for abundant fisheries in NZ and is proud to be a part of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council family.

He also enjoys trout fishing at Lake Waikeremoana and often goes out with his family on their 28ft Wellcraft.

Dave is new to the board taking over the representative role from Wayne Bicknell

Mark Connor ZONE 7 REPRESENTATIVE



Mark started fishing when he was around 10 years old and has spent a lot of time around Banks Peninsula in the early days chasing crayfish, blue cod and butterfish. He also explored the Marlborough Sounds and D'urville Island area where he has been going to regularly for 40 years. He also fishes trout and salmon but hasn't done that recently.

He has fished Stuart Island, Dunedin, Moraki, Christchurch, Kaikoura, Marlborough Sounds, D'urville island, Nelson, Wellington, Napier, Gisborne, Whakatane, Auckland, Great Barrier, Bay of Islands and the Three Kings to name a few in New Zealand and has fished around the world in the

Vanuatu group for 7 years, also Vava'u Tonga, Costa Rica, Carbo San Lucas, Australia and he is heading to Prince Edward Island chasing bluefin in August.

His passion for fishing led him to join the Ashley Fishing Club which in turn lead him to attend an NZBGFC AGM in Tautuku Fishing Club back in 2005 where he saw the value of the of the organisation and the comradery of the delegates and clubs. This encouraged him to become a sub-delegate for the Council and things just went nuts from there and next thing he knew he was president. Mark feels very privileged to have been part of the growth and changes there has been over the years. The name change to New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, the starting of the Hiwi the Kiwi Program, the inception of LegaSea and the growth of our now highly respected and professional teams of contractors in our Fisheries Management team and also LegaSea team and the continuing alignment with other organisations.

Mark has had many roles in the Council including president for four years, vice president for two years. He is on the Fisheries Management Committee and Finance Committee, he has been the Zone 7 Rep for 10 years and was a member of the NZSFC group that started LegaSea and current director of LegaSea. He has been on the Fishing Committee and on the Constitution Review Committee which was specifically set up for a short time in 2013. He helped organise and worked the CHC and then Hutchwilco Boat shows with Richard Baker in the early days before LegaSea took over and has been an Ashley Fishing Club member for approximately 20 years.

NZSFC have a great bunch of people who have given up their time as volunteers often at great personal and financial cost to grow and build a great organisation that now has a group of excellent paid professionals taking us to another level.

Ross Lucas ZONE 8 REPRESENTATIVE



Ross has been a member of the Mount Maunganui Sport Fishing Club since 2006 and Te Kaha Sport Fishing Club since 2012.

He became a NZSFC delegate for Mount Maunganui Sport Fishing Club in 2013, and became the Zone 8 board representative in 2015. He sits on the Fishing and Communications Committees and the LegaSea Governance Advisory sub-committee.

Ross has a passion for fishing and feels that his role on the communications committee and fishing committee help the information to flow to clubs from the Council and ensure that the clubs are getting the correct information and they can then make decisions. Ross hopes that the Council will be a good support for clubs and help be their voice in the wider community.

Mark Hemingway IGFA REPRESENTATIVE AND LIFE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE



Born and bred in the Bay of Plenty, Mark's earliest memories of fishing are surfcasting with his dad and uncles on Papamoa Beach after milking the cows. This and other land based excursions to remote Coromandel or East Coast locations created a passion and hunger for more. His first boat, a 14ft tinny got him to areas he had only dreamed of, from there the boats only got bigger and the fishing tales longer, from catching mackerel to marlin he enjoys it all.

He quickly developed an appreciation for conservation, fish welfare and respect for those who publicly supported the future of the fishery, that's pretty much why he joined a club, got on the committee to become involved and give back to something that has brought him and his family many fun and fond memories.

The first New Zealand Sport Fishing Council AGM that he attended was at Cape Egmont in 1998. Mark says "I remember looking around the room and thinking wow, to be with people like John Chibnall, Rob Dinsdale, Bill Marshall, Allister Reid, Bill Cooke and the late John Hough, together we can make a difference!" In his time with New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, together he's helped initiate and achieve many things that he believes are for the better of all NZ rec fishers, the Kahawai legal challenge, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council fisheries management, Hiwi the Kiwi, Mataitai's, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council fishing committee, IGFA rule changes, Top Shots and Nationals Rules are to name a few.

His role as IGFA and life member rep sees him, where necessary, helping with record applications, rulemaking or fine tuning, environmental issues, fish welfare and identification. He has an open door policy and if any club wants help with anything fishy then please feel free to call.

Mark feels that the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has changed a lot since those early days, but what's important is that our fundamental beliefs in what we fight for are still the same.

Richard Baker PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE



Richard is your typical good, keen Kiwi family man with fishing in his DNA. He was introduced to fishing by his father at the age of four, fishing off a wharf in Port Charles, Coromandel, and has never looked back. Onehunga Wharf and Mangere Bridge were favourites in his youth, then progressing to rock fishing and diving around most of the North Island's ledges once he could drive. In his late 20s he progressed to game fishing from trailer boats but still enjoys getting out on the rocks occasionally. Over the years he has introduced many people to fishing and has enjoyed assisting them to catch trophy kingfish and their first marlin.

He has a background in banking / finance and has been a financial adviser for the past 20 years. He has worked in a voluntary capacity with recreational fishing for the past 25 years, being a foundation member of the NZ Land Based Game Fishing Club and the club's delegate to the NZ Sport Fishing Council. Richard served as vice president of the Council for seven years, as president from 2008 until 2011 and is now a life member. He remains co-opted to the Board, is on the fisheries management committee, and is also a spokesperson for LegaSea. He has written for several NZ fishing publications, is an IGFA Representative, and trustee for the NZ Marine Research Foundation.

Scott Macindoe PUBLIC RELATIONS, FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND LEGASEA REPRESENTATIVE

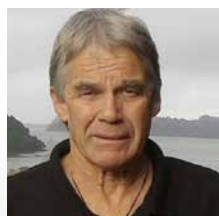


Scott has engaged and participated in a wide variety of fisheries management processes and advocacy roles for over 20 years. He works hard on building teams and capacity. His knowledge is sought after and valued. He and his wife Judy are both active conservationists, committed to restoring abundance to both fish and bird abundance. He strives to practise manaakitanga at every opportunity - building unity through humility and hospitality.

Scott's Auckland home has served as a meeting place since 2001. It is from here that the Kahawai Legal Challenge, the Hokianga Accord and more recently, the LegaSea initiative have been coordinated. The focus is on alignment and cooperation - only by having as many relevant representative organisations working closely together can we expect to achieve the broad based public awareness of the changes that need to be made to achieve restored abundance and a fair go for future generations.

He is well supported and grounded by his fellow committee members at the Warkworth Game Fishing Club and has become the club delegate this year.

Dirk Sieling GOVERNANCE AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE



Dirk Sieling has been a keen angler since his childhood in Holland, where he spent many hours as a kid catching eel and flounder. He continued this passion in New Zealand where he moved in 1974. He learned to dive in Whitianga and spent most of his spare time fishing, diving and hunting. In recent years he represented recreational fishers in the SEACHANGE Stakeholder Working Group that amongst many other things recommended sweeping changes in the management of the greater Hauraki Gulf fisheries, the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park.

Dirk and his wife Kathy spent almost a decade in Gizo in the Solomon Islands where they initially arrived on a yacht and set up a successful recreational fishing and diving business. Dirk was a regular contributor to NZ Fishing News and is also the author of the Solomon Islands Cruising Guide. Dirk and Kathy successfully ran the Brisbane to Gizo Yacht Race in conjunction with the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Currently they are farming in Whitianga and Dirk has been an elected representative on the Fonterra Shareholders Council where he was tasked with co-chairing a representation and governance review. He has also served as a Councillor on the Thames Coromandel District Council. Dirk and Kathy are members of the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club and continue to share their passion for fishing. Dirk feels strongly about a more rational approach to fisheries management in New Zealand.

Dirk is a new member to the board this year.

{ OLD MAN }

and the Sea Trophy



CAPTURE: 127.8kg striped marlin
on 10kg line
DATE: 16/04/18
ANGLER: Wynne Going – 88 years young
BOAT: GPS
SKIPPER: Hayden Wright

Wynne Going was preparing for his 88th birthday on April 16, and he was also preparing his sport fisher GPS to go offshore to fish the remote Wanganella Banks.

Due to a poor weather forecast, the leaving date was changed, but we didn't want Wynne to celebrate without a bang.

Ocean Beach, just off the Tutukaka coast, had been fishing very well for striped marlin and the action had been hot although the approaching weather systems were less than ideal. Still, the decision was made to try and make the most of it and catch Wynne a birthday marlin in the morning before the weather turned foul.



Wynne and the team were on board the morning of the 16th, with a tank full of our favourite baits, ready to make the short 11nm run from Tutukaka to where we marked good bait balls of slime's and jack mackerel on the sounder. Baits were deployed on 8kg and 10kg stand up tackle and the waiting game began...

The weather conditions began to deteriorate and we quickly had a solid 20 gusting 25 knot nor-wester with a building sea. After a couple of hours, Wynne suddenly gets the bite on the 10kg setup and in comes the marlin, up to the surface where it put on an awesome aerial display of jumps as it grey-hounded across the ocean - I was after it in hot pursuit, unfortunately soaking Wynne and the crew!

The fish then took off on a deep run heading north. After an hour the conditions made it very difficult - we had gusting 30 knot nor-westerns, torrential rain at times, and a short, sharp sea state.

The fish continued to dig deep, and Wynne did a fantastic job controlling the drag and applying pressure, making gains on the fish where possible, while dealing with the conditions.

At the two and a half hour mark, while pulling many different line angles, we started to get reactions from the fish and Wynne was making good gains - although soaking wet and cold.

Kieran was ready with the gloves - Brad and Sam with the gaffs - and for the next 20 minutes we played an exciting game of cat and mouse, as Wynne worked the fish closer and closer to the boat, trying to get the 15ft leader to hand as we chased the fish aggressively in reverse.

Suddenly, the swivels pop out from the white water behind the transom as the fish powers away turbo spooling! A couple of intense moments later, Kieran gets a wrap on the leader followed by an excellent gaff shot from Brad and a few more gaffs from the team to secure a 127.8kg Stripe marlin for Wynne on 10kg stand-up tackle.

To top the day off, we threw our last baits back out and quickly got bit, coming tight on another striped marlin estimated at 110kg - which we quickly caught and tagged for Kieran.

Given Wynne's age and poor eyesight, the difficult weather conditions along with 10kg stand-up tackle, the skill required for light tackle, and a three hour fight, this was a fantastic angling effort and easily a 10 to 1 capture.

Here are some of Wynne's other notable catches for the season.

SWORDFISH

- 178kg on 60kg
- Same day catching 2x swordfish, est 150kg tagged and a landed 213kg on 60kg

MARLIN

- Est 180kg tagged striped marlin 37kg
- Total billfish for the season as angler – 3 swordfish and 7 marlins (4 at Wanganellas) ■

Get ahead this Christmas
with

LEGASEA GIFT PACKS

Support LegaSea, provide a bit of extra cheer for your clients, staff or friends this Christmas and you can then ease into Christmas knowing you are sorted.

ORDER NOW, IT'S A WIN, WIN, WIN!

GIFT PACK 1

A CASE OF MOA LEGASEA LAGER FOR THE OFFICE OR GIFTING



Fishing with your mates is a precious occasion. Moa have hooked up with LegaSea to release LegaSea Lager this summer to ensure that mates, fishing and beer is something that's protected for generations to come.

12 cans to a pack (4%ALC) RRP \$23.99

SPECIAL PARTNER OFFER: \$17.25 (including GST) per pack. (Normal RRP \$23.99). Based on minimum order of 4 cases. Total \$69.00

This is a "one chance only" price of \$17.25 per case and is limited to our closest Partners, LegaSea Legends and volunteers.

ORDER NOW

NZSFC encourages their members to drink responsibly

GIFT PACK 2

A GIFT BOX OF WHITEHAVEN'S LEGASEA KŌPAREPARE WINE



The award winning Whitehaven Wines of Marlborough have produced a range of wines to support LegaSea. This pack contains a Rose, Sauvignon Blanc and a Pinot Noir all from the Marlborough region. Smartly presented in a wooden case it's full of class.

SPECIAL PARTNER OFFER: Kōparepare pack \$75.00 (including GST) per pack

ORDER NOW

KŌPAREPARE CASE LOTS



If you are looking for a larger quantity of wine to enable single-bottle gifting, catering for a summer event, Christmas function, or simply to take to the bach, then the Kōparepare range is also available by the dozen. Pick between Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Rose, Chardonnay or choose a mixed case.

SPECIAL PARTNER OFFER: Kōparepare pack \$75.00 (including GST) per pack

ORDER NOW



KŌ PARE PARE

Kōparepare - (noun)

gift, present, contribution - taken to friends

MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC

Each bottle of Kōparepare enjoyed helps fund LegaSea and their commitment to have our inshore fisheries restored to abundance. It's our gift to future generations.



Angler of the Year 2018

John Gregory



Winner of the Angler of the Year this year, John Gregory has also won the Saul Trophy for Most Tagged Game Fish - with 74 tagged and released game fish (one black marlin, six blue marlin, 45 striped marlin, 14 broadbill, seven mako shark, one thresher shark).

He has also won the Peter & Noelene Short Memorial Trophy – Most Tagged Billfish. 66 billfish tagged and released (one black marlin, six blue marlin, 45 striped marlin, 14 broadbill).

John's record is astounding. He has made outstanding conservation achievements in tag and release programmes. Finally retiring this season, John has left an outstanding legacy. His swan song during this season was that his crew and boat have achieved tagging & releasing 304 Swordfish and 101 striped marlin. He has committed most of his life to the conservation of pelagic fish species ■.



BILLFISH CONSERVATION STRENGTHENED IN THE USA

Sport fishers and conservation groups have succeeded in prohibiting the sale of marlin, sailfish and spearfish in the mainland US States. For many years fishers have been concerned about dwindling billfish stocks and declining catch rates. This was particularly so in the north Atlantic, Californian and Mexican fisheries. A study commissioned by IGFA showed that it was not just US vessels landing billfish, but the United States was the world's biggest importer of billfish.



Advocates saw the opportunity to reduce the size of the international market and advance the US as a leader in billfish conservation, setting an example for other countries to protect billfish stocks. So often it is the passion and determination of recreational fishers, who have first-hand experience in a fishery and spend a lot of time on the water, that instigate management change. They insist that commercial fishers and politicians are held accountable for years of overfishing and poor governance.

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and **Wild Oceans** ran a successful campaign called Take Marlin off the Menu which culminated in the passage of the the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012. However, a loophole allowed billfish caught commercially in Hawaii and US Pacific territories to be shipped and sold in the US mainland. There were some cases of Atlantic billfish being landed illegally and being passed off as coming from Hawaii. In August 2018 an amendment to the Billfish Conservation Act prohibits the importation of all billfish (marlin, sailfish and spearfish) in the United States, while still allowing for traditional fisheries within the State of Hawaii and the US Pacific territories. This allows billfish to be sold to the local market including fish caught by recreational fishers or charter boat operators.

Hawaiian Senator Brian Schatz said, “It’s a relatively small fishery — less than \$1 million annually — and most of it is incidental or bycatch that they’re making use of from the ahi (yellowfin tuna) fleet. I think we can consume that amount of billfish locally, and to the extent that our fleet can feed our people I think that’s better policy.”

Foreign fishing vessels in these islands can still land billfish and export it to international

markets and broadbill swordfish are not included in the Billfish Conservation Act.

Here in New Zealand we have had some non-commercial status for billfish since 1987 under the provisions of the Billfish Moratorium. In the early 1990s marlin and spearfish gained full non-commercial status and swordfish was by-catch only until 2004, when it was introduced to the Quota Management system.

Recreational fishers must not sell the fish they catch here, but 40% to 50% of billfish catch recorded by New Zealand Sport Fishing Council clubs is landed and eaten. This adds up to about 70 tonnes per year. The proportion of unreported catch has increased in recent years with more in trailer boat fishers trolling out wide for billfish and tuna. These boats often don’t launch from traditional gamefish ports and some fishers do not need the services of the local fish smoker or are not interested in weighing their fish. Also, some club members may choose not weigh fish that are under the NZSFC voluntary minimum weight of 90 kgs. Recreational catch records for marlin are needed to monitor changes in our fishery, as there is no reliable commercial catch data, and clubs are encouraged to record all fish landed, even if they are “weighed on board”.

Some marlin is imported into New Zealand, mainly from Fiji, but these are minor quantities compared to the amount landed in the recreational fishery. New Zealand anglers have a tradition of eating some of their catch. I don’t see that changing any time soon. We must keep encouraging tag and release but not shame people for keeping some marlin for friends and family. After all, we are a Pacific nation and our “do it yourself fishery” is not like mainland USA. ■

Life Member **SCOTT MACINDOE**



At the Annual General Meeting this year, two life memberships were given to members who the board felt had devoted their time and energy over the years to giving exceptional and outstanding service - supporting and facilitating our organisation to grow. Without these members we would be a very different organisation.

In the early 2000s, when I became vice president of the Council, I decided it was time to learn a little more about fisheries management.

For several years I had been hearing from Bill Cooke about the shortcomings of the Ministry of (Commercial) Fisheries, and the ineffectiveness of the NZ Recreational Fishing Council. I attended a meeting with the then-Minister of Fisheries, Pete Hodgson, and his assistant Mark Edwards (now the industries leader on the National Rock Lobster Management Group) and heard from them that an organised “Recreational Fishing Sector” was an oxymoron. My, my how times and situations have changed!

I went along to a meeting of a fast-emerging advocacy group, Option4, that had evolved out of a heavily commercially-influenced Ministry of Fisheries project that had three options. All of these would have seen the recreational sector legislated into the QMS, the public’s rights in the fishery substantially extinguished, and a strong likelihood that recreational fishers would be licensed into the remains of a commercially-managed fishery.

Scott Macindoe sat outside of the Council but was headed up by a really dedicated lunatic and several other fishers, and fishing media personalities. Over the past 20 years, this lunatic has been a true leader. He has opened up his home, and has facilitated, managed, and supported recreational fishers and the Council.

He has continually drawn people together. He has encouraged them, inspired them, and supported the Council with its Fisheries Management endeavours, through the Kahawai Legal Challenge, and he was there at the genesis of LegaSea. He has worked tirelessly and led this initiative from the outset to a point where, today, the LegaSea brand is well recognised by both the Council clubs, the wider public, recreational fishers, commercial fishers, mainstream media, and the government.

He has made - and continues to make - a massive time and financial contribution. Initially, that was with the Kahawai Legal Challenge, which would not have happened without him. More recently, it has been with the development of LegaSea, participating in the Sea Change process, as well as the Free Fish Heads & Kai Ika Fishcare projects with OBC and the Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae.

He is the consummate networker, having united the sector. We now work very closely and are formally aligned with the NZ Angling and Casting Association, many Iwi and tangata whenua - especially Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua with the Hokianga Accord initiative - NZ Underwater, the environmental organisations, Yachting NZ, and many other similarly minded groups.

There is also the increasing recognition and support from the corporate sector with LegaSea’s partners, both from inside the marine industry and out, with others such as ITM, Barkers, Moa Breweries, Whitehaven Ko Parepare Wines, Haines Hunter Boats... and that’s where I start going wrong as there are now too many valuable supporters to name!

Scott is totally clear that we can successfully create an organised, professional, and respected group that does a fantastic job to represent the interests of all New Zealanders. He is all about working positively together, witnessed by his efforts to connect recreational fishers with tangata whenua and environmental groups around New Zealand. Scott believes success will be achieved together by understanding and respecting each other’s aspirations and needs.

The success and solid foundation of what is now recognised as an organised recreational fishing sector is a testament to this man. His passion, energy, and dedication is infectious and while he has ruined many lives... I can comfortably say that I’d take a bullet for him.

It gives me great pleasure to move the motion for Mr Scott Macindoe to be recognised as a Life Member of the NZ Sport Fishing Council. ■

By Richard Baker - Board member



GISBORNE Tatapouri *Sports Fishing Club*

The Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club recently celebrated its 53rd anniversary and is firmly established as one of the leading sport fishing clubs in the country.

From its small beginnings on the shores of Tatapouri Beach, the club has now moved to the Gisborne marina waterfront and continues to grow from strength to strength.

The walls of the club are testament to the history that abounds within this club and the trophy fish captured by its members over the years.

It is a true reflection of the passion and commitment that its members have given to carry the club on from simple beginnings to the social rock pool that it is today.

The club now runs 13 significant fishing tournaments per annum with continued high levels of participation. Fishing in this club is its backbone and as long as the fish of the Gisborne coast remain accessible the club will continue to flourish and grow for generations to come.

Aside from the tournaments, the weigh station is constantly busy with an awesome array of world-class fish.

Visitors to our club are welcomed with a level of hospitality that is unique to the Gisborne region. Visit us any time you like. The door is always open to members of sport fishing clubs around the country and there are many tales of fishing our waters to be enjoyed. ■

Life Member **HILTON WEBB**



Gisborne sport fishing stalwart Hilton Webb has been made a life member of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. He is now one of only eight life members.

He was nominated by Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club captain and board member for zone five, Dave “Scruffy” Wallace, for more than 25 years of service to the recreational fishing community and Sports Fishing Council.

Hilton’s love of fishing started from a very young age, fishing with his dad, brother and sisters, while holidaying at the family bach at Te Kaha.

Hilton also introduced his own family to fishing, spending hours on the water at Te Kaha in a small “tinnie” with daughters Carolyn and Tracey, and son Steven.

In 1987-1988 Hilton finally bought his own boat, Voyager, and once again got into some serious fishing with daughter Carolyn and son Steven - Tracey preferring to remain on shore rather than venturing out into the deep ocean where the big fish were.

Hilton was a very successful fisherman, always returning to some of his dad’s favourite fishing spots - “Kels”, “Monowai”, and “the Gables”. All discovered in the time before GPS, with new rocks found using his old “paper” sounder, lining up the “Red Shed” over the “Cabbage Tree” - a skill learned from his dad, Ray Webb, who was a founding member of the Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club.

Finally, in 1992 at the Bay Bonanza, after the crew won several prizes, there was finally enough money to purchase the first GPS for “Voyager”!

In 1963 when the new Ramp at Tatapouri was built, Hilton’s dad, Ray Webb, was the coordinator of it all and Hilton, aged 16, together with his older brother Alan were there with the rest of the club members to help with its construction.

Hilton was also instrumental in extending the Tatapouri ramp, arranging the blasting of the channel and requesting permission to dump a “couple” of truck loads of rocks at Kaiti Beach where reclamation works were taking place as part of the Gisborne Port development.

After a fair few truck loads of rocks were dumped at the Kaiti Beach site, Ben Tahata of the Gisborne Harbour Board rang Hilton and said, ‘I thought you said “a couple of loads”,’ Hilton’s reply was, “only a few more to come in!”

Hilton’s passion and commitment to the Club was reignited in 1987 with the purchase of “Voyager” and with son Steve they spent many many hours talking fishing, tying knots, setting up rods and reels, making sinkers, watching videos, and getting ready to go catch the big ones.

In 1990, whilst on a “Sunrise Coast” work trip to Mayor Island, Tim Chrisp discussed the options that would arise with the upcoming availability of the No. 2 wharf shed and both Tim and Hilton agreed it would be a wonderful town base for the Tatapouri Fishing Club.

On returning to Gisborne, Hilton discussed the possibilities with Ben Tahata of Gisborne Harbour Board and the then-president of the fishing club Wayne Menzies.

Hilton’s drive and passion for his club eventually secured the No. 2 shed and the rest is history.

In 1992, John Hough took Hilton under his wing and bought Hilton on board and introduced him to the NZSFC and the political and management side of fishing - something Hilton is very passionate about.

Hilton loved being part of the NZSFC team and we travelled the length and breadth of New Zealand attending AGMs. Sometimes with other Tatapouri delegates and at other times alone when nobody else made themselves available as a delegate.

In the early days when the club had very little funds, we drove to meetings in Auckland and met all the costs, including the numerous toll calls to various delegates and clubs. Hilton learned so much about the Council and fishing from John Hough and I remember very early on Hilton told me John’s rule, ‘Keep your mouth shut at the meetings, listen to all the arguments/evidence, and then have the last say!’

As more and more clubs joined the Council, it became very difficult to accommodate all the delegates at Council meetings and so it was mooted that New Zealand be divided into zones and each zone held meetings of clubs in their zone every couple of months to discuss the issues of the day and reach a consensus which was to be taken to the NZSFC quarterly meetings held in Auckland.

Gisborne Tatapouri became a member of Zone 5 and Hilton held the position of Zone 5 Representative to Council for many years. Flying up to Auckland early on a Saturday morning and back in the evening to attend meetings.

Hilton has attended nearly all of NZSFC Annual General Meetings over the past 25 years, missing the one held in Raglan due to a clash in dates with a business commitment!

Hilton has met several of the Ministers of Fisheries during his time on Council and been scolded by at least one of them but his commitment and passion for fishing and NZSFC has never wavered.

Hilton has been involved in the CRA3 group and MPI Forum, spending many hours attending meetings, travelling to meetings, formulating policies and loving every minute of it. I can't tell you much about these meetings, the "Papers" would arrive in the mail and he'd be off to "another meeting", sometimes he would come home happy, sometimes cross, and sometimes frustrated because no progress was being made. 'Were the meetings really worth all the time and effort?' he would say. But he never gave in and continued to fight for conservation of our fisheries and what he truly believed in.

He was on the Gisborne Tatapouri Committee for many years holding positions of committee member, vice president, president and patron, standing down from patron in November 2015.

With nine grandchildren, it was time for Hilton to spend more time with his growing family and teach the grandies the joys of fishing! He has a rule that he won't take any of the grandies fishing until they turn 11 as it's a long way to go out fishing and he does not come home until he is ready! ■

By Dianne Webb

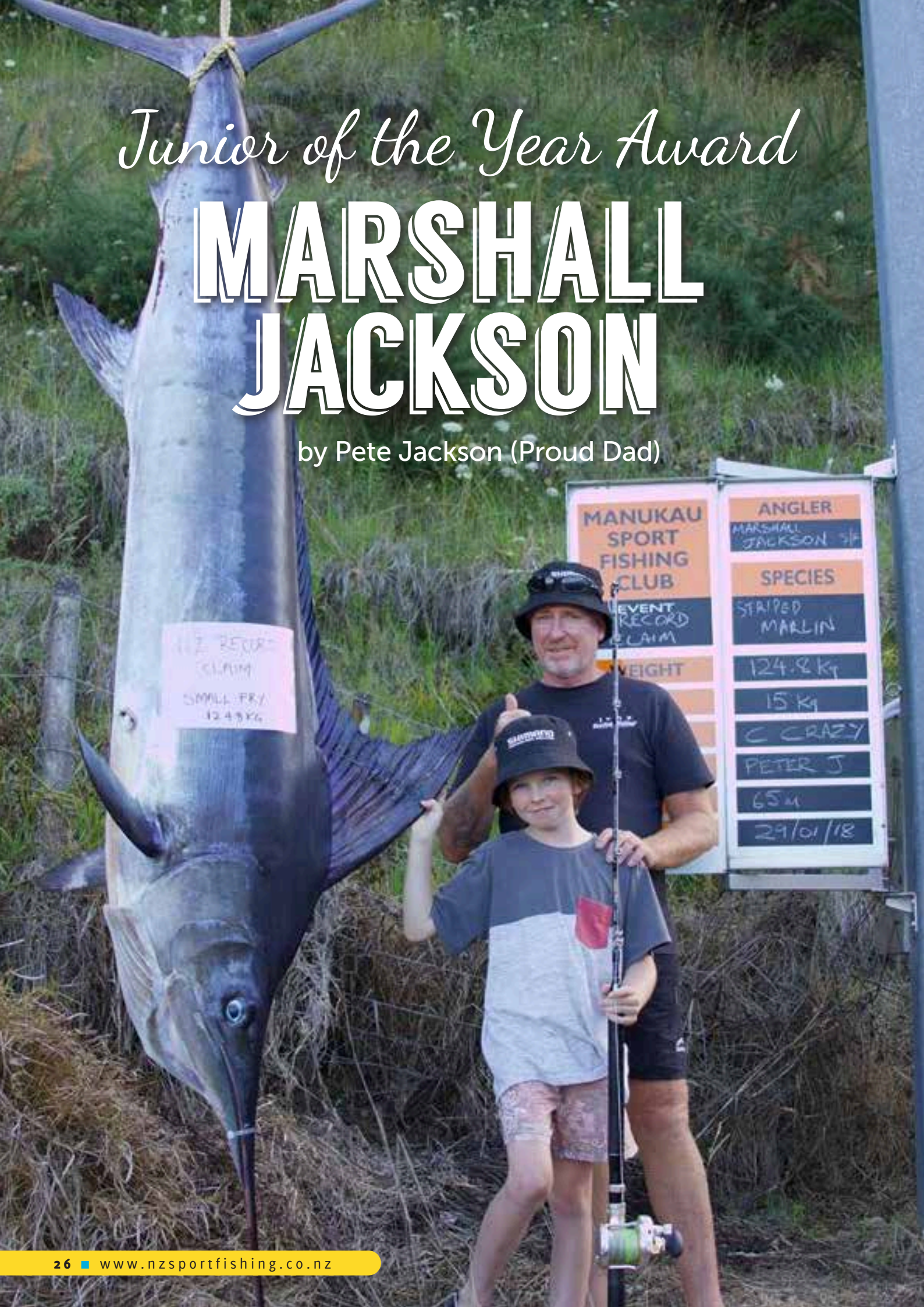
Hilton is the little guy with the hat on!



Junior of the Year Award

MARSHALL JACKSON

by Pete Jackson (Proud Dad)



Marshall Jackson - top junior award for his striped marlin capture on the 29/01/2018.

A new New Zealand small fry record.

Marshall is a very keen angler and has achieved some special captures already, including a New Zealand record wahoo two years ago. But a striped marlin has eluded him and he was hoping this year would be the one.

So I hatched a plan this season to try and get him one. Being of small stature, I knew he would only manage a 15 or 24 kg set up properly, so I thought we would have a crack on 15kg. I chose Shimano Talica 25 setups knowing if the right fish jumped on there was a chance of a small fry record, as long as we could get it before his birthday on Feb 3.

The summer season had started but the weather had not been that favourable for us out West off the Manukau where we fish. With continual wind, and large swells, we only managed to get out twice in the earlier part of January. We had a striped one on for him the very first day we went out, but unfortunately we jumped it off.

A small window of weather popped up at the end of January, probably the last chance of getting him one as a small fry before his birthday at the beginning of Feb. So we were off over the Manukau Bar, we had my good mate Tony Carpenter with us, and with a 5knt variable forecast and 1m swell we hoped for a glorious day.

We deployed 4 x 15kg outfits with Red Gill lures on, and for the first part of the day Marshall sat patiently watching the lures with his mini Black Magic harness on. By lunchtime, we decided to go in close off Piha in 55m of water where we found a nice school of skippy's that we worked, second time around we raised a nice fish on the short port corner and we were hooked up.

I slowed the boat, and Tony and I cleared the other rods. By the time we had done this Marshall had picked up the rod with the fish on and clipped himself in to his harness. He said to us, 'should I put the drag up?' and I said 'yes, to

strike', and it was on. The fish was doing some nice jumps for about 15 minutes pulling out the 15kg line from Marshall's stand up setup, and we started chasing the fish down. After 30 minutes the fish had settled down. It was swimming about 30m deep and tracking out to sea, taking a little line, and getting a little back. To and fro, this went on for the next 45 minutes. Marshall was doing a stellar job on the rod, every time we asked "are you ok"? His reply was, "I'm good".

For the next 45 minutes it was a dog fight with the fish still tracking out to sea, coming to the surface occasionally, and then going back down to around 30m. All the time we're asking Marshall "are you OK, if you've had enough it;s OK", but every time his answer was "I'm all good I'm not giving up" so we kept him hydrated, and carried on.

After two and a quarter hours we changed the angle of our boat on the fish and the fish reacted differently. It was coming to the surface more often, and we could tell it was getting tired, another 15 minutes and Marshall had the wind-on on the rod and Tony had the leader. We eased the tired fish to the boat and popped a tag into it - caught! Marshall was ecstatic and exhausted after 2 hours 35 minutes. He'd done an outstanding job as a small fry on stand up tackle - dad was pretty proud to!

Looking at the fish we decided to pull it into the boat as we knew it was a nice one and should exceed the existing small fry record.

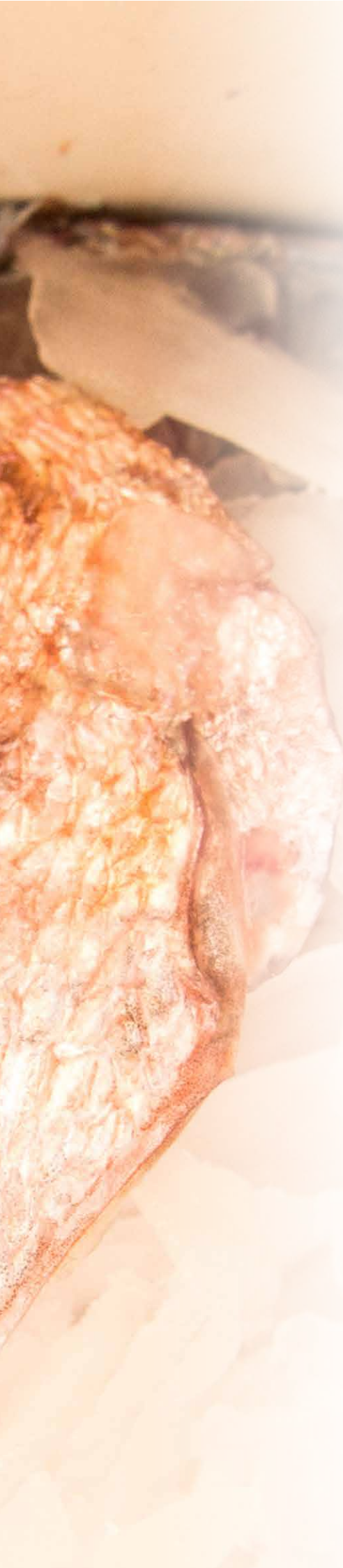
Back to the Huia weigh station and the fish pulled the scales down to 124.8kg, blitzing the old record by 30kgs. So after a small celebration we lodged a NZ Record claim for a small fry on 15kg. This has since been ratified. You've got to love it when a plan comes together. ■

UTILISATION IS CONSERVATION



What is “best practice”
when it comes to
utilising our fish?

*Unwanted heads and frames can be
shared with people in your community
eager to turn them into delicious fish
dishes. Go to www.freefishheads.co.nz*



Some species like kahawai and skipjack tuna have large quantities of blood in the flesh. Bleeding the fish before putting it on ice can help reduce the amount of blood in the flesh and improve their eating qualities.

Learning to effectively kill the fish we wish to eat is important. The Japanese developed the 'iki' technique of spiking the hind brain of fish to quickly and humanely kill the fish. A dedicated metal spike is generally used, or the sharp point of a knife can also be effective. The difficult part can be locating the brain. Here is a useful resource for learning where to spike fish: <http://www.ikijime.com/>

Once the fish has been killed, chilling the fish is the next important step. Many fishers will take a bag of salt ice with them and make a slurry of sea water in their chilly bin whilst fishing. A thick ice slurry can bring the flesh down to below freezing temperature and start to freeze the flesh. A better approach is to make a thin ice slurry of one part ice to two parts salt water (2:1) that covers the fish. Cooling the fish quickly to somewhere between 2-10 degrees is ideal. After 15 minutes in the ice slurry, removing and storing on ice in a separate container or in a refrigerator retains the best eating qualities.

If this process isn't possible, retaining the fish in a thin ice slurry throughout the day will help keep the fish in top condition. Add ice when necessary to keep the slurry consistently thin.

Fish that are chilled overnight are easier to fillet. Maintaining the fish in slurry over several days is also fine, especially if more time is required to process the catch appropriately. Always include time to process your catch as part of your fishing trip, so no fish are wasted due to time constraints. Wasting or dumping fish because of bad planning is unacceptable. Don't kill more fish than you can utilise.

Many people fillet their catch and then discard the rest of the fish (head, frame, offal). This may represent up to 70% of the fish being wasted. Utilising the whole fish is the best conservation practice as it means we make the most of our natural resources.

There are numerous ways to utilise the whole fish. Removing the offal and gills before splitting and smoking is an easy way to use as much flesh as possible. Steaming the fish frame and head can help produce delicious stock for soups and chowders and help retain much of the flesh on the fish.

If you have surplus heads and frames, there will most likely be a number of people your community who would gladly collect and use them. How do you easily find these grateful members of your community? It's a fairly easy exercise because a website and app has been developed to connect people who have fish with those who would like them, just go to www.freefishheads.co.nz ■

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Paul Batten – Zone Two



Paul first became aware of the NZBGFC (now the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council) when he was on the committee at Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club (Tutukaka) in 1989.

They hosted the first AGM he attended, and he met/talked to a lot of anglers he had read about. His first AGM as a delegate was 1991 at New Plymouth and has been to every one since.

This year, at our (NZSFC) AGM he received his 25 years service award.

Paul has had many roles while on the board as Zone 2 Auckland Representative. He has been to every board meeting since his nomination and only missed one zone meeting. An outstanding record.

His two personal favourites have been working on the Nationals and current lines, which he has penned since issue one some 14 years ago.

Paul says it has always been drummed into him by his father that if you enjoy and get great satisfaction from your sport, put something back into it – and he has done this by being on committees for his clubs, region and national body. He obviously listened to his father.

He feels that there is only one thing better than fishing and that is talking to newbies, when they catch their first fish.

Paul has stood down from the board this year but is still actively working in his Mangawhai club and involved in the current lines articles. He has huge knowledge of the nationals tournament and our trophies.

Well done Paul and thank you for all your hard work and devotion to our sport over the years. ■



Cole Dallimore

Sportsmanship award for self-disqualified Kingfish.

A potential NZ-World record caught in the nationals and Nationals Champion Angler winner.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Cole Dallimore

This is not a regular trophy given by the Council but the board felt that young Cole Dallimore, aged 11 years, more than deserved it for his efforts this year at the Nationals.

Cole went out fishing with his dad Scott during Nationals week and was able to catch a number of fish, one being a possible New Zealand record kingfish. The results were in and Cole had caught the biggest kingfish of the nationals. After checking the sizes it also looked like it qualified for a New Zealand record.

It wasn't until a couple of weeks later, as Cole and his dad filled in the record application, they noticed that they had broken a rule – Cole's dad had touched the line while Cole was bringing it in to avoid it hooking onto the outboard motor. Therefore, it would not be eligible for a New Zealand record.

Cole and his dad discussed this and called their Club and the Secretary of NZSFC to advise that they would be withdrawing the fish from the Nationals, where he would have qualified for Champion Angler Yellowtail.

A sterling effort and fine example of sportsmanship and playing by the rules. Cole did say at the prizegiving that he was going to come back and get one of the big trophies.

Well done Cole – I am sure you will have many more great fishing Trophies in your future.



LEGASEA UPDATE

DECISIVE LEADERSHIP BY THE COUNCIL

It is not very often we get to celebrate good news when it comes to fisheries management but it is worth popping the corks for this conservation initiative. At the September Annual General Meeting the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council announced it was promoting a voluntary reduction of the recreational crayfish bag limit in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty. It is pleasing the New Zealand Underwater Association and Spearfishing New Zealand are supporting this effort on behalf of their members.

The Council is promoting the voluntary reduction from the maximum daily limit of six to three crayfish per person, per day, from now until April 2019. New regulations and a lower recreational daily bag limit are expected to be applied in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty (CRA 2) management area from April next year. However, the Council has decided to take the initiative and encourage members to assist with the early stages of rebuilding the CRA 2 stock.

CRA 2 has been depleted to an all-time low level. In 2016 the CRA 2 spawning stock biomass was 328 tonnes, just 18% of unfished levels. In 2017 the vulnerable stock biomass, the fish available for harvest, was estimated to be just 5% of unfished levels. This is why legal size crayfish have been so hard to find anywhere in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty.

This depletion is a consequence of overfishing and laissez faire management. As many of you have told us, your access to reasonable numbers and size crays has diminished over time. So much that 42% of respondents in our last poll supported a total closure of CRA 2 for a time to enable the fishery to recover. Instead, the Minister Stuart Nash decided in April this year to reduce the Total Allowable Commercial Catch from 200 to 80 tonnes per year.

Decisive leadership is required. Reducing the amateur crayfish bag limit now will help the rebuild in the lead up to the next spawning season and show a willingness by recreational fishers to our bit by leaving more crayfish in the water.

A lower daily bag limit will also allow more recreational fishers to share the benefits of a rebuild, while supporting a rapid restoration of the stock. It has been a long time since we saw an abundant crayfish stock in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty.

We can all contribute to the successful rebuild of CRA 2 by conserving the fishery, making maximum use of the fish we harvest and most importantly, enjoying the benefits of sharing our catch with the special people in our lives. ■

**happy
fishing**

**& goodluck with
the new season**

CLUB MARINE INSURANCE OFFER

Dear NZSFC Affiliated Club Members and Supporters,

On your behalf, NZSFC has negotiated an arrangement with Club Marine that allows for you to insure your boat with them and have 15% of the premium paid to the club you belong to or nominate as a commission.

For example if your premium is \$500 per annum, then your club will get \$75. If 100 people in your club sign up with Club Marine with a similar level of premium then your club stands to earn a commission of \$7,500. The more we support Club Marine as a collective the more opportunity there is for us to have both competitive premiums and rewarding commissions.

After a couple of years we would like to be able to increase this commission payment percentage to clubs – the old ‘walk before you run’ routine.

Aside from this fantastic commission proposal, Club Marine also offers its policy holders;

- A no – claims bonus of up to 25%
- 5% discount when renewing your policy on-line
- Club Marine will also cover You for loss of entry fees that are not refundable and paid by You and Your crew up to \$1,000 should a claim under the Policy cause You to withdraw from a fishing tournament or yacht racing event. The cover provided by this benefit will only be paid if the loss or damage sustained by Your Boat necessitates Your withdrawal (prior to the commencement of the event) and no Excess will apply for these lost entry fees..
- Free emergency and personal assistance service
- Emergency claims line 24 hours / 7 days a week
- The very informative Club Marine magazine



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