

HOOKED up



ISSUE 15 2018





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:

Baxter Emerson, 8, who fished the 2018 Nationals with his parents, landed a 1.5kg snapper on 1kg line. This qualified him for a New Zealand Small Fry line class record.

His mother, Rochell Emerson, has recently received a Women's line class record in April for trevally 2.40kg on a 1kg line.

Congratulations to them both.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members and welcome to another issue of Hooked Up.

The fishing this year has been very good and seems to be continuing with a lot of good fish being weighed and tagged.

After the election, the Council sent out letters to all the new ministers giving them an explanation of who the NZ Sport Fishing Council was and our five manifesto points. We also included the Fisheries Management Report and the CRA 2 report, as well as the NZMRF report on the cost and revenue from fishing in New Zealand. This has been fairly well received with good responses coming from the MPs, as well as a recent meeting with Eugene Sage, Minister of Conservation in Auckland.

At the same time, we requested and were given a meeting with Stuart Nash - the Minister of Fisheries. Your executive committee made up of Bob Gutsell, Peter Campbell and myself, along with John Holdsworth from Bluewater Marine Research met with the Minister and it was a successful and encouraging meeting. You will see the report of that meeting in this magazine, and we have requested quarterly meetings to keep communication open and information flowing.

The Annual General Meeting is set for September 14-15 at the Novotel in Ellerslie. This location was decided on so that we could hold the whole event in one place, along with accommodation, given the difficulty of transport in and around Auckland.

Don't forget to talk to your committees and delegates about any remits you would like to put forward at the Annual General Meeting as they have to be forwarded 60 days before the meeting.

It is great to see young blood coming through our organisation and congratulations to Lewis Avenell who has put his hand up for the Fisheries Management Committee.

I would like to thank the Fisheries Management team and the LegaSea team for their tireless work.

Happy fishing,
Phil Appleyard

President

FROM THE OFFICE

I would like to thank all of you for your help during the nationals while I learn the ropes.

AGM – September 14 and 15

This year, the AGM is being held at the Novotel in Ellerslie. We hope to have as many clubs as possible represented, and advise everyone to get their accommodation booked as soon as possible with the price of rooms potentially increasing as we get closer to the date.

If you call the Novotel reception and tell them you are coming to our AGM, you will receive a 10 percent discount on the accommodation.

If you are travelling, we suggest you book the Thursday night to ensure you will be there and ready for the AGM start at 9am on Friday.

The price of the AGM - excluding accommodation - has been capped by the Council at \$200, and any additional costs that incur will be paid for through the Auckland Clubs and the Council.

We hope plenty of delegates will bring their partners along for what promises to be a fun time in Auckland. We have a Saturday

event planned for partners on Waiheke Island. Waiheke has a number of fine wineries - from large and magnificent, to small and boutique - as well as lovely places to have lunch with beautiful views over Auckland and the surrounding gulf.

I have sent the registration forms for the AGM to your clubs and delegates, and I'm sure I will start to get replies soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Trophies

As the end of the year gets closer, we request all clubs please collect the trophies received and give them to your delegate so they can take them to the zone meeting in July.

Your delegates will then give them to the board delegate to bring to the July board meeting. This way I can collate them all and have them ready to hand out again at the AGM.

Yearbook

This year, I am endeavouring to have the yearbook completed earlier so that we can get it to clubs sooner and ensure our members are getting copies.

I would ask that as soon as the financial year ends - or as close to that as possible - could you please send me your club information, catch totals, and affiliation numbers so that I can get it into the book.

This is all part of a yearbook which seems to take some time getting sorted. We are changing the format of the book this year and hope to have a number of interesting articles included.

If you have any associates or businesses who would like to advertise in the yearbook, please let me know.

Photos

Don't forget, we have our competition for the best photo which will grace the front cover of our yearbook next year and will also be on the webpage. Please send your best shots - we can never have too many!

If you could also include a bit of information about the shot, that would be great.

Webpage

The webpage is almost ready to go! Special thanks to all who have sent me their updated club-page information.

Some clubs have not offered any information, so I would suggest when the page is live, you have a look at your club page and see what changes, additions, or alterations you would like to submit. I will be looking for your comments and hope you will find it a vibrant, new site that will give you all the information you need.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all the sympathy and wonderful support I received from the clubs and Council during the past month while I was not able to fully focus on my work. It was a very difficult time for my family and myself and your support and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Helen Pastor

Administrator Officer

New Zealand Sport Fishing Council Inc

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HARVEST BY RECREATIONAL FISHERS IN NEW ZEALAND

John Holdsworth, from Blue Water Marine Research, has recently has an article published in the scientific journal Fisheries Research. Below is a summary of the article.

About 20% of New Zealand residents identify as recreational fishers and in some areas they take a significant proportion of the total catch for popular species. As the fisheries management system has evolved various survey methods have been used to estimate the annual harvest by recreational fishers in New Zealand.

A new study published in the scientific journal Fisheries Research compares the results of three independent harvest surveys in New Zealand and some of the challenges involved (ref. Integrated survey methods to estimate harvest by marine recreational fishers in New Zealand. Holdsworth, Hartill, Heinemann & Wynne-Jones). It is critical to design these surveys well, with a large enough sample size and known probability of sample selection, to be able to scale up the results with reasonable accuracy and precision. Having three surveys run at the same time allows for valid comparisons and corroboration of results.

Overview

There were several major off-site phone-and-diary surveys between 1993 and 2001. The methods used in the surveys were the most sophisticated and defensible available at that time. Subsequently the survey methods were judged to contain errors and may have produced biased results. The large differences

in harvest estimates for several species were found to be due to changes in survey method, rather than large changes in recreational catch. As a result, there was government and stakeholder scepticism regarding the accuracy of off-site surveys.

New on-site survey methods were developed in Fisheries Management Area 1 (North Cape to Cape Runaway) using a combination of aerial counts of boats fishing and all-day boat ramp interviews. These produced reasonable harvest estimates at a regional level for species like snapper and kahawai, mainly taken by boat-based fishers.

In 2009 the Ministry initiated a programme of work to improve national recreational harvest estimation. Several options were considered and eventually there was political and financial support for the three harvest surveys that would run concurrently, using different methods, at different spatial scales, and using independent research providers.

The national off-site panel survey design was based on a random sample of New Zealand dwellings and face to face interviews. A total of 7013 fishers were recruited to the panel and interviewed by phone at regular intervals. A further 1780 “non-fishers” were also contacted and some of these people had fished and their harvest was recorded. The survey estimated that a total of 2.48 million fishing trips were made by New Zealand residents over 15 years old who caught and kept marine species in 2011–12. Their harvest

was over 8.7 million finfish and 8.3 million non-fish, comprising mainly of shellfish, squid, rock lobster, and sea urchins. The national off-site panel survey found that most fishing trips (58%) in were conducted in Fisheries Management Area 1 (FMA 1) and, of those, 69% were from trailer boats or moored boats.

On-site surveys were used to gather information on recreational fisher harvest on their return to shore, usually at boat ramps. Accurate data can be gathered by trained survey staff at these access points. This is the preferred method for collecting information on the size of fish caught (measured by interviewers) rather than relying on self-reported estimates. To estimate total catch by boat based methods a reliable estimate of total fishing effort on survey days is required.

The aerial-access survey harvest estimates were based on 85,000 boats counted from the air that were engaged in fishing in FMA 1 during the 45 days that were surveyed in 2011–12. The associated boat ramp survey encountered 26,220 boats returning to monitored access points and 19,856 (75.7%) of these parties were interviewed. Seventy-eight percent of these trips involved some fishing and a total of 40,122 fishers were interviewed.

The combined access survey in the Western Bay of Plenty (Port Charles to Maketu) used all day fixed location ramp surveys and roving surveys of secondary access points to collect catch per trip data. The primary objectives were to estimate recreational harvest of scallop and rock lobster, which are specialist fisheries that are difficult to assess using large scale off-site surveys. Results were based on 12,514 boat trips of which 11,346 (90.7%) were interviewed in 2011–12. Eighty-one percent of these trips involved some fishing and a total

of 25,170 fishers were interviewed. The largest proportion of un interviewed boats (6.7%) were for boat trailers remaining in the car park at the end of the survey. Just 1.6% of returning boats were not interviewed and only 0.5% refused to answer questions.

The two on-site methods only collected data on boat-based harvest. To estimate the harvest by all methods in the survey area, data from the national off-site panel survey were used to estimate the proportion of the recreational harvest taken by land-based fishers in each



survey area. These proportional estimates were then used to scale up boat-based data to give total harvest for each combination of species, area and season.

Harvest Estimates

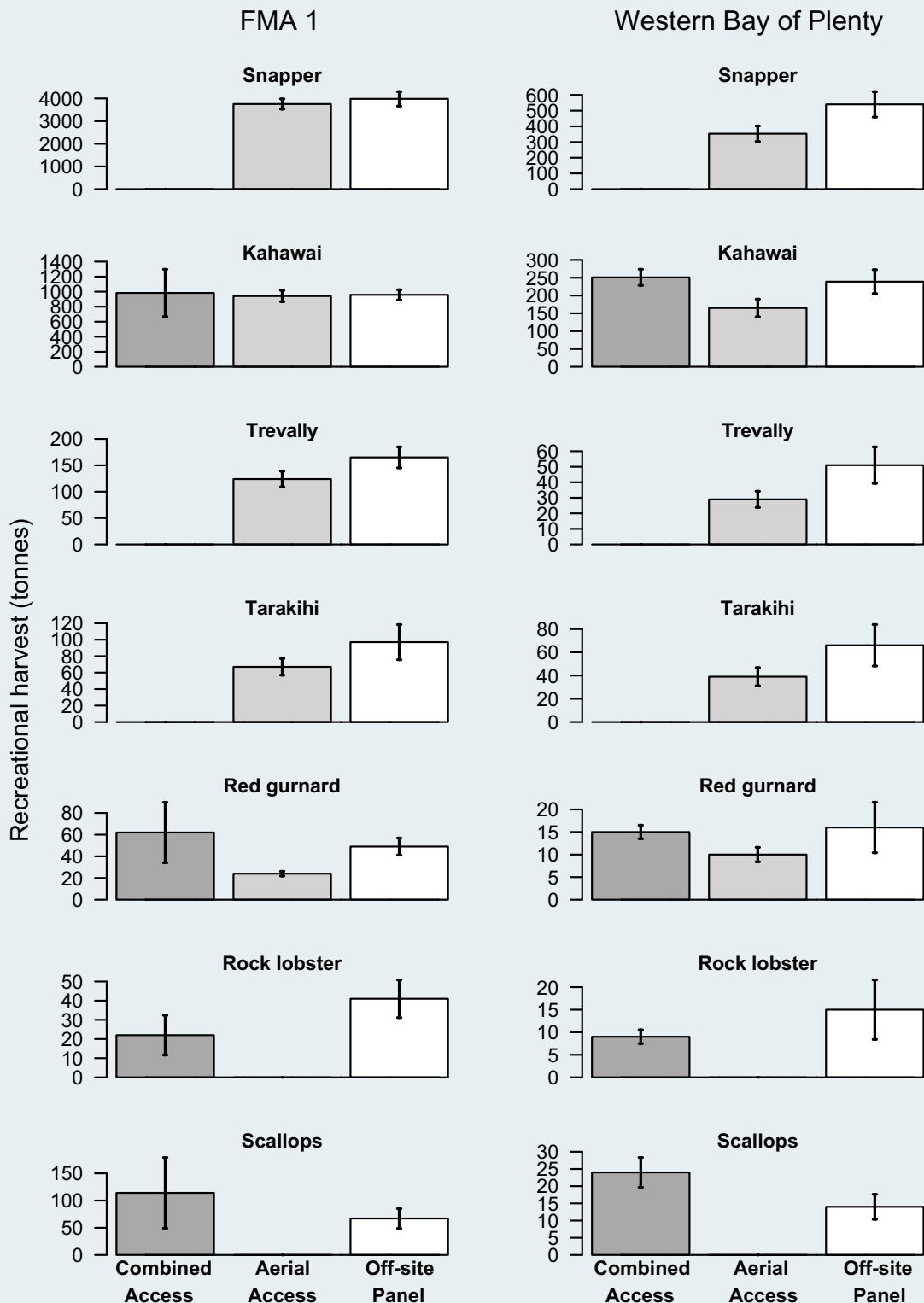
The harvest estimates from three concurrent and independent surveys for some or all of seven species that are commonly caught off north eastern New Zealand are compared in Figure 1.

When the surveys were compared, the estimates for the two largest recreational fisheries in FMA 1, for snapper (3,800 t) and kahawai (950 t), were remarkably similar. The aerial-access survey estimates for trevally, tarakihi and red gurnard were lower and significantly different to the FMA 1 estimates from the national panel survey.

The combined access point survey estimates scaled to FMA 1 for kahawai (980 t) and red gurnard (62 t) were similar to the national panel survey estimates. For the smaller specialist fisheries in the combined access point survey: rock lobster (22 t) was lower to the national panel survey (41 t); while the scallop estimate (114 t) was higher than

the national panel survey (67 t – green weight including shell)) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Comparison of harvest estimates (tonnes) provided by the three surveys, by species for fisheries Management Area 1 (FMA 1) and the western Bay of Plenty with confidence intervals (black bars).





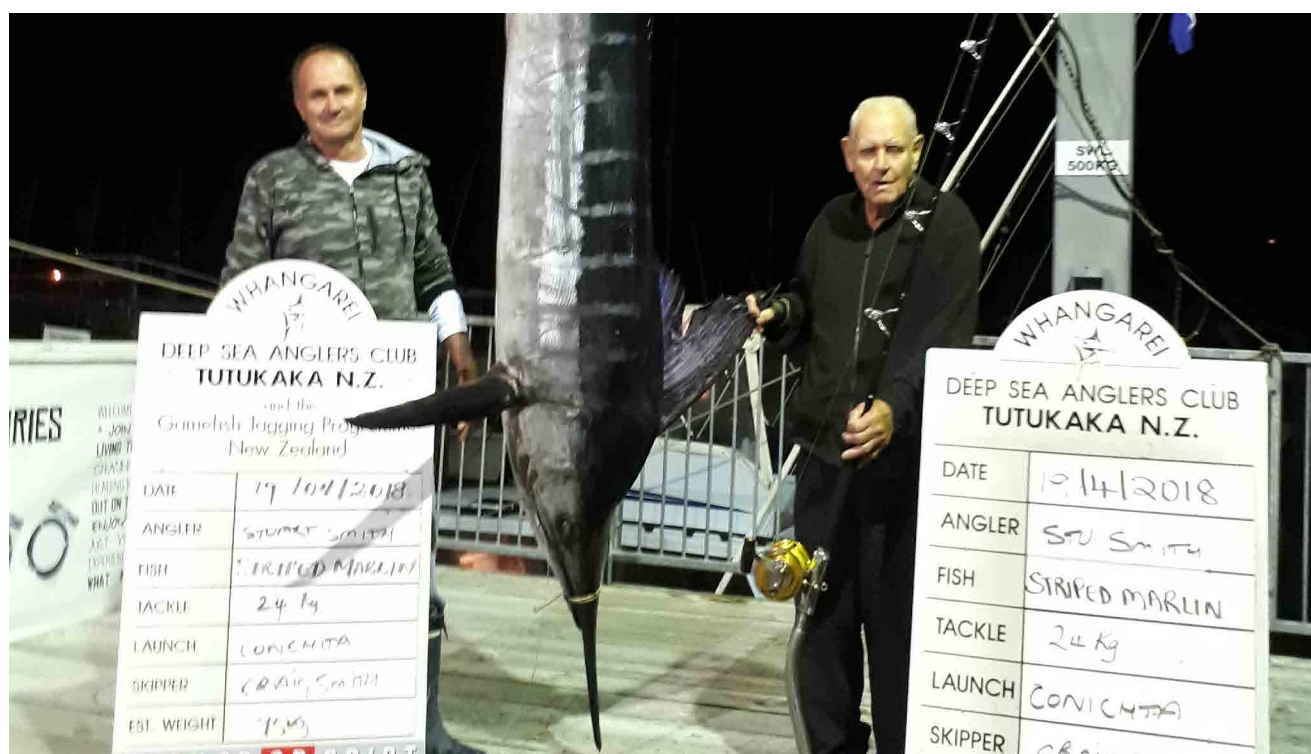
Conclusion

Overall, the conclusions that can be drawn are that:

1. The national panel survey performed well at large scales, like whole fisheries management areas, where the number of panellists reporting their catch is large enough.
2. The aerial-access survey worked well for the largest fisheries and collected a lot of detailed information on the areas fished and the size of fish kept.
3. Harvest for some of the secondary species was underestimated with the aerial access method because, by chance, the survey days selected at random fell on more bad weather days than average.
4. The different set of random survey days selected for the combined access survey were more representative of good and bad fishing days and gave good harvest

estimates of boat-based catch at local and regional level. However, there was more uncertainty when these estimates scaled up for all methods and whole fisheries management areas.

While this was an expensive exercise, the opportunity to run three concurrent surveys was much more informative about potential sources of bias than running a single survey. For our most popular recreational fisheries having a large, representative sample provided estimates that were very similar. Even with good survey design and random sampling, harvest estimates for secondary species can vary. It is important that recreational fishers provide complete and accurate information if included in a survey. These estimates will inform fisheries management decisions which rely on trends in harvest over time. The next national panel survey and aerial-access surveys are currently underway with results out early in 2019.



{ AGE & AILMENTS }

Age and ailments are no barrier for two veteran life-members of the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club, both with spectacular catches recently.

Wynne Going, 88, set the tone on his birthday (April 16) with a magnificent 127.8 kg striped marlin on 10kg line. Wynne subdued the fish after a three-hour fight from his launch GPS, with his grandson Hayden Wright at the helm and their crew of “young guns” on the deck to wire and gaff.

Wynne’s fish continues a fantastic run of light-tackle captures for GPS including several on 10kg line - some tagged and released - as well as two on 8kg line, now setting new club records on both 8 kg and 10 kg at the WDSAC.

These fish are a credit to all involved who have learned skills passed down from Wynne’s many years of marlin fishing.

I had the pleasure of being on the Wanganella Banks with Wynne three seasons ago watching him play, tag, and release 10

marlin, and right as I pen this article, he is back there again doing what he loves.

News just in, Wynne tagged and released four striped marlin at the Wanganella Banks making his personal total this season seven tagged striped marlin - including one estimated at 180 kgs - one landed on 10 kg line, and two swords at 188 kgs and one at an estimated 220 kgs.

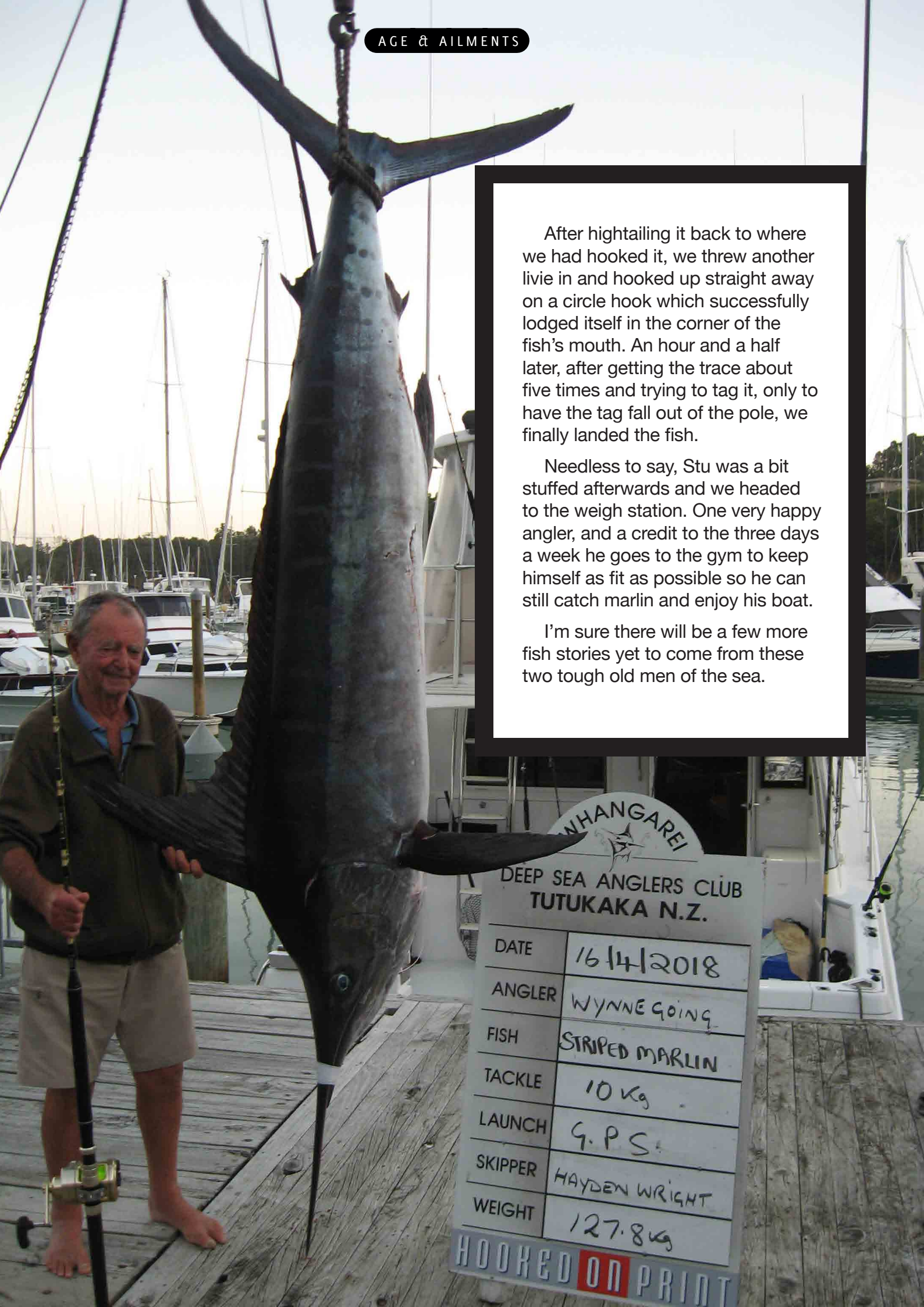
Another club patron, Stuart Smith - just five months short of his 90th birthday - had an incredible day at sea on April 19 aboard his 34 ft Vindex “Conchita”. Stuart played two striped marlin, tagging and releasing one at 95 kg and weighing one at 124.4 kgs on 24 kg line.

Both were tough fish with one foul hooked in the anal fin with a loop of the trace around both pectoral fins. That put on a fantastic display jumping out through the heap of boats gathered off Ocean Beach where the WDSAC is experiencing a fantastic autumn run of large striped marlin. With just Stuart and myself on board as skipper, this marlin was successfully tagged and released.

After hightailing it back to where we had hooked it, we threw another live in and hooked up straight away on a circle hook which successfully lodged itself in the corner of the fish's mouth. An hour and a half later, after getting the trace about five times and trying to tag it, only to have the tag fall out of the pole, we finally landed the fish.

Needless to say, Stu was a bit stuffed afterwards and we headed to the weigh station. One very happy angler, and a credit to the three days a week he goes to the gym to keep himself as fit as possible so he can still catch marlin and enjoy his boat.

I'm sure there will be a few more fish stories yet to come from these two tough old men of the sea.



WHANGAREI
DEEP SEA ANGLERS CLUB
TUTUKAKA N.Z.

DATE	16/4/2018
ANGLER	WYNNE GOING
FISH	STRIPED MARLIN
TACKLE	10 kg
LAUNCH	G.P.S.
SKIPPER	HAYDEN WRIGHT
WEIGHT	127.8 kg

HOOKED ON PRINT

Minister *of* Fisheries



After a letter from Phil Appleyard to Minister Stuart Nash congratulating him on his new position, Minister Nash extended an invitation to meet with NZSFC as one of the key fisheries stakeholder groups.

The main purpose of the meeting was a mutual introduction. NZSFC put forward our five policy points from the manifesto, as well as the CRA 2 and southern bluefin consultations as possible discussion points.

Phil introduced the Council as a long-established, well-supported national body for fishing clubs and advised the Minister that it is recognised as a national sporting organisation by Sport NZ. The Minister was also advised that NZSFC was the instigator of the charitable trust, the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation.

Minister Nash asked for an explanation of the relationship between the Council and LegaSea, and was advised that LegaSea is now a well-recognised brand and was a public outreach arm, and a limited liability company owned by NZSFC. LegaSea was formed six years ago so that individuals who supported the work the Council was doing could register and keep informed and contribute financially. Funding now comes from a wide range of sources including

donations, sponsors, Building LegaSea, LegaSea Works and Legends.

Minister Nash asked about the research funded by the NZMRF, as he had seen the economic report. NZSFC also explained another major project which had been the striped marlin satellite tagging over three years in conjunction with Stanford University. Grants had also been made to smaller shark tagging and billfish projects.

NZSFC put forward its support for a commission of inquiry into the QMS. Minister Nash said he could not replace the QMS as there were too many Maori settlement and legal problems. An alternative review of the QMS is being considered, however developing terms of reference had been harder than he thought. Council asked if we could be of assistance with this, but the offer was not accepted at this time. Council said there needed to be an attractive alternative to the QMS developed before the review and that more work was required.

Minister Nash asked why recreational catch reporting apps were not being used or promoted, a question raised by the National Rock Lobster Management Group, who he met earlier that morning. NZSFC advised that New Zealand amateur harvest surveys

were recognised internationally as some of the best in the world. Apps will provide low quality information from some but not all fishers. The keenest and better fishers are more likely to use them so there will be a bias in the data collected. To scale this up to a total recreational harvest, which is what commercial representatives are asking for, requires a register of all fishers in New Zealand. In the USA they now require non-licenced fishers to register and pay the administration fee of US\$25 just to manage the database. It would be much better to use road tax, paid on petrol used in boats, to increase the frequency of NRB and NIWA surveys.

increased off the eastern Bay of Plenty, sport fishing clubs weighed about 85% of the landed catch providing a valuable record for MPI and the international tuna commission.

The Council also described the Kai Ika project that encourages utilisation through sharing. Members of the Outboard Boating Club (OBC) sort and store their unwanted fish heads, frames and offal and these are picked up by volunteers from the Papatuanuku Kokiri Marae in Mangere. To date over 13,000 kg has been collected and distributed throughout the South Auckland community.

NZSFC also support and promote the Free Fishheads web app which connects fishers who have spare fish heads and frames with those who savour the delicacies of fresh fish straight from the bone. The Minister was advised of examples of how this project helps ensure maximum utilisation of this valuable resource.

Another example of the Council's work is the Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing programme that we have supported and promoted for primary and intermediate schools around the country. Mark de Lacy, aka "The Minstrel", has entertained and inspired over 400,000 children over the past 10 years with his roadshow www.hiwithekiwi.co.nz. The programme actively promotes sustainable fishing, keeping

plastic out of our oceans, and water safety. The Hiwi the Kiwi book and CD as well as the teaching resources have been forwarded to the Minister for his information.

We gave the Minister a copy of our FishCare handout. This promotes the message that we all have a responsibility to look after the resource we use and gain benefits from. Recreational fishers can use more selective fishing methods, learn the best handling and releasing techniques, and minimise waste by fully utilising each fish they catch.

NZSFC raised the issue of destructive industrial fishing methods in the inshore zone. These are often areas with important habitat and high numbers of juvenile fish. The Council remains concerned about wastage and fish dumping which are still a problem with some methods. There are times where chronic localised depletion is still a problem, as we have seen with rock lobster (CRA 2), snapper (BOP) and gurnard (Hauraki Gulf, Hawkes Bay) in some areas. Inshore zones that only permit low impact recreational and commercial fishing would go a long way toward solving a number of management issues and reduce conflict.

A decision on CRA 2 was imminent and was subsequently released on 26 March 2018.

Phil handed the Minister the letter that had been sent to MPs containing the NZSFC Fisheries Management Annual Report, the Southwick economic report, and summaries of our CRA 2 and Southern Bluefin Tuna submissions.

We found the meeting valuable and have drafted a letter thanking the Minister for his time and asking for a quarterly meeting with NZSFC representatives that will allow for an ongoing sharing of views and initiatives.

Nationals 2018 & Nationals Survey



This year's Nationals went off with minimal problems - a welcome introduction to my first at the helm and I'm sure I will only get better over time. Thanks to those of you who helped me along the way.

ITM and Simrad supported us again this year, and I would ask all our clubs to advertise and promote our association with them in your newsletters and various media outlets. Without the support of ITM and Simrad, it would be very hard to run the Nationals the way we do, and we wouldn't be provided with such great prizes so please show them your support.

I have some promotional Simrad hats and bandanas that are available to any club that would like some to use at their prizegiving so please let me know. I can send them down with your plaques.

The 2018 ITM Simrad Nationals saw a great number of competing anglers - 1482 anglers and 443 teams across the tournament. Although the numbers were down slightly on last year, the adverse weather conditions during the competition were the contributing factor here with a few clubs having to cancel fishing for a couple of days. The two clubs with the largest number of teams were Mercury Bay (49 teams), and Waihou Bay (61 teams) - Waihou Bay had a total of 225 anglers.

Year	Anglers
2010	1435
2011	1492
2012	1378
2013	1534
2014	1488
2015	1666
2016	1647
2017	1548
2018	1482

There were 38 competing clubs out of 56 member clubs. The number of fish overall was slightly up on the previous year and the tagging numbers continue to rise.

The breakdown of fish caught highlights that inshore fishing is very popular as well as the much sought after gamefish. Due to the weather, a large number of inshore species were caught, including Snapper and Kahawai.

It was great to see good numbers of fish tagged and released and hopefully these numbers will increase in the future.

Year	Weighed	Tagged and Released	TOTAL
2016	668	644	1314
2017	711	368	1079
2018	714	378	1092

Catch Totals		Tagged Totals	
Blue Marlin	18	Blue Marlin	28
Broadbill	1	Black Marlin	2
Striped Marlin	25	Broadbill	5
Shortbill Spearfish	6	Striped Marlin	161
Blue Shark	4	Shortbill Spearfish	12
Thresher Shark	0	Blue Shark	35
Mako Shark	1	Bronze Whaler	6
Bronze Whaler	1	Hammerhead Shark	0
Yellowfin Tuna	11	Mako Shark	63
Bluefin Tuna	1	Yellowtail Kingfish	65
Bigeye Tuna	1	Tuna	1
Slender Tuna	0		
Skipjack Tuna	110		
Albacore Tuna	124		
Yellowtail Kingfish	13		
Kahawai	178		
Snapper	161		
Trevally	34		
Mahimahi	23		
TOTAL	712		378

Queries

Should you or your club members have any queries regarding the questionnaire, feel free to contact me secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz. The Nationals dates are set for next year so look February 16-23 in your 2019 calendar. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we will have another successful Nationals tournament.



MARAETAI

Boating Club

Maraetai Boating Club is a thriving club situated right on the gateway to the Hauraki Gulf.

The club is over 60 years old and has handy access to the north and south of Waiheke Island, beyond to Ponui Island, and the Coromandel Peninsula. Great fishing and sailing grounds are close to the clubhouse as the building is built over the water.

Maraetai Fish and Dive Section joined the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council in 2013 and became the first unincorporated member of the Council.

The club has approximately 1500 members which incorporates sailing and fishing/dive sections. Of those 1500 members, approximately 1150 of them are active boating members. The fish and dive section is a small part of these numbers but we are very keen to see more members join their group.

Maraetai Boating Club has four large regular fishing tournaments which are hugely supported:-

- Kids Off Couches fishing comp around Waitangi Day
- Reel Girls fishing comp
- No Bait – No Berley
- Club Champs





The Fishing Section is currently in the early stages of discussion with LegaSea to become involved with LegaSea's food for all/free fish head programme called the Kai Ika Project. The club wishes to develop the programme within the Maraetai Club and along the coast. This project involves the club collecting and safely storing fish heads, frames and offal

to be collected by the local marae. The marae will then distribute the food to local communities who need it.

Ian Twist and his team are very approachable and will happily chat to anyone who is interested in learning more about their club.

Contact Ian at iantwist.justis@gmail.com



KIDS *off* COUCHES

Maraetai Boating Club Inc

The **Kids Off Couches** tournament is run by Maraetai Boating Club on Waitangi Day each year. This is a catch-and-release tournament and is tied in with the FishCare principles.

The tournament is designed to get kids out fishing with their parents at an early age, and to teach them about putting back fish they don't want to eat. We hope this will teach children the FishCare principles from a very young age and to get them involved with looking after their fisheries for their future. Some of the children were even teaching their parents!

The tournament was sponsored by Top Catch and LegaSea, with a strong focus on catch-and-release and how to do it well. A set of fish cards were put on each boat, along with FishCare brochures and instructions for a photo competition.

The photo competition was designed to find the best photo of a competitor showing the FishCare message, with the winner receiving a lifejacket donated by LegaSea. This was a great success as parents could photograph their children easily - with approximately 47 photos submitted. With the photo competition being promoted to anglers all day over the VHF, pictures came in all afternoon and the team had a blast viewing them all before choosing the winner shortly before the prizegiving.

There was also a fish wall which allowed children to buy a fish card for a gold coin



TOURNAMENTS

donation and put it on the wall with their name. Each child who put a fish on the wall got a packet of hooks to use in the competition. At the end of the day a dart was thrown at the wall and the lucky winner won a fishing rod courtesy of Top Catch. All the gold coin donations received went to LegaSea.

The Kids Off Couches competition has been running for seven years now, and 2018 saw the largest number of anglers (130 entries) since the competition began. It is estimated that approximately 300 people would have been at the club on the day.

The tournament is a great way to get kids involved in the FishCare message and also to get them out on the water enjoying fishing with their parents and off the couches!

Well done Maraetai – fabulous achievement.

The tournament is a great way to get kids involved in the FishCare message and also to get them out on the water enjoying fishing with their parents and off the couches!



FISH



FishCare is an education programme to help recreational fishers reduce their impact on the ocean, particularly and inshore fish stocks.

LegaSea initiated FishCare because it is important that kiwis help look after our fishery for future generations. Every user of the resource, whether they be fishing for reasons of fun, food or finance, have a responsibility when using our nationally shared resource.

In issue 14 of Hooked Up, we introduced FishCare - The school of best practice with its 5 core principles.

1. Fishing techniques.
2. Handling methods.
3. Utilisation.
4. Safety at sea and while fishing.
5. Minimising fishing impacts on other creatures (e.g. whales, sea birds).

In this issue we go deeper into fishing techniques to think about ways we can minimise our impact on the fishery.

Best practice techniques are those that catch the fish you want to keep and avoids catching the rest. Handling fish increases their chances of mortality.

There are three common reasons people release their catch; they are undersized, trophy fish or an unwanted species. The goal of releasing fish is to have it swim away strongly, to live and continue to productively inhabit the ecosystem.

How the fish is caught plays a major part in its chances of survival, and this is where your choice of rod, reel, line and terminal tackle can make a difference to those odds of survival.

Fish that come to the boat exhausted and then handled and subsequently returned to the water can struggle to survive or may fall prey to predators e.g. undersized snapper maybe attacked by shags (cormorants) looking for an easy meal.

Trophy sized fish played on light gear may likewise not have enough strength to properly recover and may die shortly after release. Choosing a fishing rig that is strong enough to subdue the fish you are targeting without completely exhausting it by the time it reaches the boat is the best approach. You will of course have times when it doesn't go according to plan, and fish you don't want to catch grab your lure or bait and you end up with an exhausted fish for release at the end of the fight.

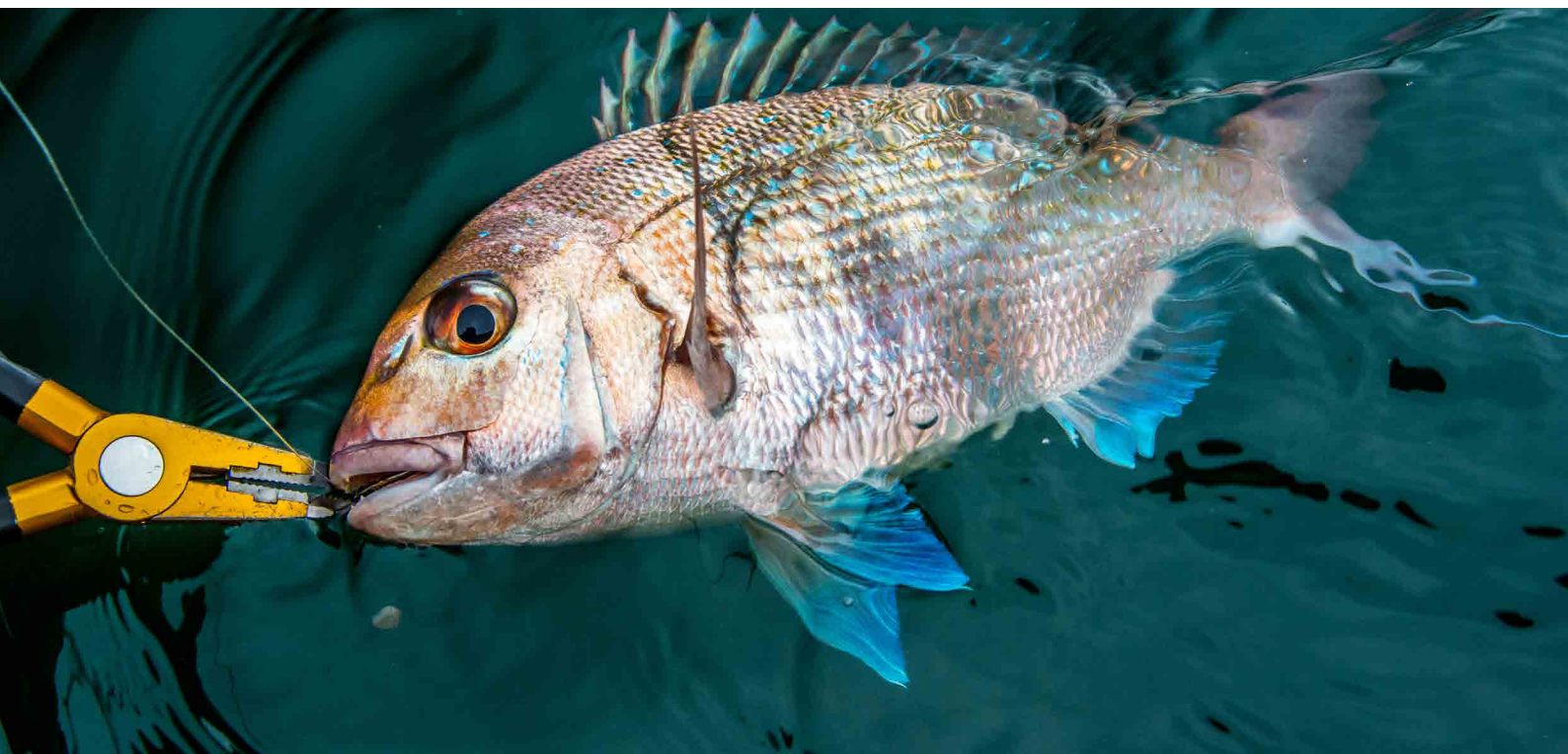
This may raise questions around targeting popular inshore species with super light tackle (1 or 2kg line for example) where almost any fish captured end up exhausted. Numerous fishers are attracted by the challenge of super light tackle fishing. Planning to keep all the fish you catch is a good approach so that releasing fish is not part of the equation. Use large baits or lures that are more likely to catch the fish you want to keep. The other consideration is to put away the light tackle

after catching a few fish or if you keep catching unwanted fish that will be released. This way it becomes more a matter of how you fish, instead of don't fish with super light tackle.

The terminal tackle. We have already discussed lures, bait and hooks but there are other considerations when rigging up. For example, what happens if the line breaks and the fish escapes? Will the fish be dragging around a heavy sinker or other tackle? If so, it will most likely die. If you are using bait, choosing a rig that allows the sinker to slide off and not be dragged around is preferable.

Rigs commonly referred to as strayline rigs, where the hook is attached to leader, a swivel and then mainline with a ball sinker sliding above the swivel, is an example of a rig that will allow the fish to escape sinker-free if the line breaks at any point.

Ledger rigs on the other hand usually have the sinker on the bottom of the leader with hooks attached to one or more droppers above it. This is a favourite rig with fishers who fish in deeper water. If the line breaks however, in most cases, the fish will still have the sinker attached and will eventually die. If you



Catching an undersized fish is one of three common reasons for returning a fish to the water.

want to use ledger rigs then using heavier line to minimise any break offs is a better approach or using a sacrificial light line to your sinker so if you do snag your line the sinker is the only part you lose.

For more information go to www.fishcare.co.nz

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REBUILDING CRA 2

The next Steps



A discussion of issues for NZSFC consideration and your feedback

May 2018

A. Introduction

This document discusses several options for managing recreational and commercial fisheries, with the intention of contributing to the rebuild of the depleted CRA 2 fish stock in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty. The Ministry, now named Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ), has signalled a regulation review later this year which follows the Ministers decision to make large cuts to commercial catch and the recreational allowance. This paper also provides information on the NZSFC Board's recommendation to support an amateur daily bag limit of 3 rock lobster per person in the CRA 2 management area, for a limited time.

In order to guide NZSFC discussions please read this document and send us your comments or questions. **Your feedback by June 16th is important.**

Please email john@bluewatermarine.co.nz or trish@moanaconsultants.co.nz.

B. National Rock Lobster Management Group

Potential regulatory changes were discussed at the National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG) meeting on 3 May. For years NZSFC has advocated for lower exploitation rates and more conservative rock lobster management. The management model for CRA 2 has failed. As a consequence, we now have this valuable fishery at an all-time low level, significantly reducing the social, economic and cultural wellbeing it once provided.

C. Discussion - Regulations

C.I. Recreational daily bag limit

RECOMMENDATION: NZSFC support an amateur daily bag limit of 3 rock lobster per person in CRA2.

1. On 14 April 2018 the NZSFC Board agreed to recommend a recreational bag limit of 3 rock lobster per person, per day, in the CRA 2 management area.
 - a. This offer of a reduced bag limit must be time-bound, that is, have an expiry date.
 - b. Reduction only applies to the recreational bag limit in CRA 2.
 - c. Reduction is a contribution to rebuilding the stock, by limiting the growth in recreational harvest as the stock rebuilds and setting a reasonable overall recreational allowance.
 - d. The projected rebuild rates for CRA 2 were much slower if catch increased at the same rate as abundance.

CRA 2

Management



The Ministry, now called Fisheries New Zealand, has signalled they will be conducting a review of regulations applying to the Crayfish 2 (CRA 2) stock later this year. Due to depletion, CRA 2 no longer provides for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of many New Zealanders, especially those of us with an interest in the marine environment between the Hauraki Gulf/Bay of Plenty.

To help you understand the issues affecting CRA 2 and how we can contribute to its rebuild, the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has developed a` discussion document. This document outlines some of the issues affecting CRA 2, and describes how we can contribute to its rebuild through implementation of effective regulations. We need your feedback so the NZSFC can develop a formal response in preparation of the regulation review.

THE LARGEST NETWORK OF SERVICE STATIONS ON THE WATER

KEY

CARDS ACCEPTED:

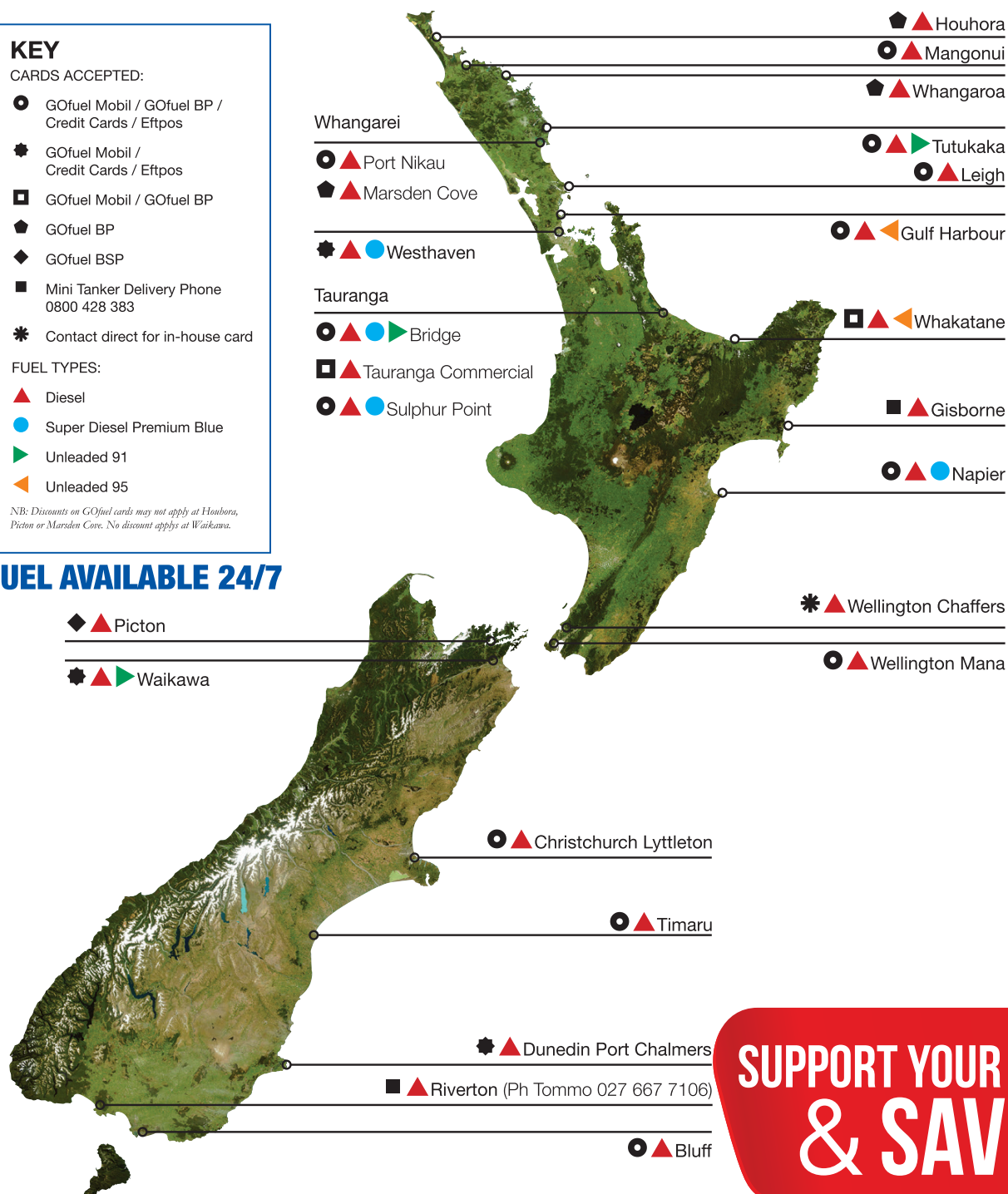
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