

HOOKED UP

ISSUE 16 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.

CONTENTS

4	President's Report
5	From the Office
6	Tokyo Fish Market
8	Koparepare
10	Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club
12	Nautigals Women's Fishing Event
13	Junior Anglers Team
14	Time out for Tarakihi
16	Tauranga Report
18	Fish handling best practice
20	Gamefish tagging news
22	Submissions Time out for Tarakihi

EDITOR
Phil Appleyard

SUB-EDITING
Helen Pastor

CONTENT ENQUIRIES
Helen Pastor
027 485 3600
secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES
Scott Taylor
021 862 579
sales@nzfishingnews.co.nz

www.nzsportfishing.co.nz



COVER SHOT
Brett Rigby and his son
courtesy of Digital Fish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



WELCOME TO ANOTHER EDITION OF HOOKED UP

It is with a measure of sadness that I am standing down this year as your president.

As I look back on the time I have spent in this position, I can say that it has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I have had the support and friendship of a strong and focused board.

This year we have been involved in some large projects.

Our communications team has worked hard on the new website. This has been a huge project for them and is all ready to go live shortly. As some of you have seen, the new webpage will make things easier for members and visitors alike, along with our administrator who will regular update it. This is just stage one - with the next step being the entries for the nationals - so things are moving well in that direction.

Our LegaSea team is working hard and have launched a new campaign called Time Out for Tarahiki. This will push public awareness about the reduction of tarahiki on the East Coast and will encourage our politicians to make some good, sensible changes (have a good read of the article later in the mag). The team have also completed a large number of submissions to the Ministry with regard to tarakihi, southern bluefin, elephant fish, red gurnard, john dory, flat fish and the Kaipara Harbour scallop protection. You can view all these submissions on our website.

The board has been working hard on two surveys this year - the Affiliation Survey and the Nationals Tournament Survey. It has been interesting reading the replies from these two documents and the feedback is very important. The team is working on collating all the information and this will be discussed and displayed at the AGM.

Our policy team, headed by Lewis Avenell, has worked hard in collating and sorting the council documents into a cleaner, easier to follow set of documents. At this stage no changes have been made to the actual rules in these documents, but they have been regrouped and any double ups have been removed. These documents, with explanations, have been sent to your clubs and delegates so that each club has the opportunity to review and discuss them prior to the AGM. Approval of these changes is set out in a remit to be tabled at the AGM.

I hope you all enjoy this edition of our magazine and I look forward to catching up with you all at the AGM in September.

Phil Appleyard

PRESIDENT

FROM THE OFFICE

It has been a busy time lately as I head to the end of the first twelve months of my tenure in this position. I am learning lots and hopefully have not made too many mistakes.

Lately I have been working on a number of things firstly being the finishing up of the nationals and sorting the prizes and certificates which should be with you all very shortly, if not already. If you find that I have missed someone please let me know as soon as possible so I can get it sorted. I would ask that all clubs promote our great sponsors ITM and Simrad in their prizegivings. They have been very good to us and hopefully will support us again next year.

The preparation for the Annual General Meeting is going well, and we hopefully will have a great conference for you all to attend. Please read the AGM update to make sure you are up to date with all the information and that no one gets missed out. Council remits have been sent to all the clubs and delegates so contact your delegate and make sure you are informed about proposed changes for the Annual General Meeting.

The new webpage is nearly finished, it was held up with the separation of the Nationals Software from the existing domain name, so as soon as this is sorted we will go live with the new one. I am sure that you will find it easy to work through and hopefully a more interactive informative webpage.

I know that there will be things that will need alterations and additions as happens with any new webpage but at least we can start with using it and find out the hooks as we go through. I am looking forward to your comments and additions when you all start using it. At the moment it is at stage one, and, in the future, we will have the opportunity to make it more interactive with clubs being able to upload their own information and events into our calendar.

Please note the following important message from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) about a product recall of Yamaha inflatable lifejackets. The lifejackets may have had the canister removed and without the canister the lifejacket will not inflate when the toggle is pulled.



Please forward this onto your members and friends so that we can all check out inflatable lifejackets and make sure that they are not the ones that have been recalled.

Many thanks to those clubs and Zone meetings that I have visited. I have really enjoyed meeting you all and getting to see your clubs and how you work. Hopefully I will get to see more of our clubs in the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting.

Helen Paster



"TSUKIJI" TUNA AUCTIONS

TOKYO FISH MARKET MAY 2018

By Toni Peck
MT MAUNGANUI SPORT FISHING CLUB

Last month on a trip to Japan, at the top of our 'To Do' list was to visit the Tsukiji Fish Market to see the Bluefin Tuna auctions. This market was built in 1935 but is on the move in October this year, after being postponed last year. Mostly due to soil contamination problems at the new location.

This is the largest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world and the tuna can reach phenomenal prices. It is considered an honour to buy the first tuna in January each year so that is when the biggest money is paid. All because the winning bidder gets the free advertising. This year a 405 kg specimen went for just over \$300,00 although some years they have reached over a million. The auction runs all year round, except Wednesdays and Sundays and with hundreds or even thousands of these tuna being sold each day it makes you wonder how this can be sustained.

Getting to the market is tricky, you have to be early in case you miss out. Research told me that we needed to arrive before 2am, or maybe 3 or 4am, it's the unknown because the maximum people allowed through each morning is 120. And there is no booking system so it's on a 'first come, first served' basis.

There are no trains or buses in those early hours, so I made sure to get accommodation close to the market to save on the taxi fare. I certainly wasn't prepared to walk the distance at that time of day, although Japan did feel very safe but we would have got lost anyway. We took the taxi at 2.30am.

On arrival we were led to the meeting place at the "Fish Information Centre". There were probably 60 or so people already there when we arrived, and people continually trickled in after us, until it was time to go.

While we waited there, sitting on the floor for nearly 3 hours, we were entertained by a humorous Japanese man who was informative, told jokes, gave advice, and also told us to "shut up" if there was talking. He informed us that he has whale for breakfast, dolphin for lunch and shark for dinner... every day. I asked him afterwards how true that was, and he assured me that it absolutely was. Those are his three favourite eating fish.

He also told us that the workers here don't enjoy the visitors, as it is their work place and we tend to be nuisance factors. It is very fast-paced and it seemed they couldn't wait to get rid of us at the end of the auction. There were no smiles when we were told to leave – put it that way.

We had a grader/auctioneer come and chat to us as well. Grading is to do with the redness of the meat (the redder the better) and the fat content (medium fat is best). He explained that the sea conditions where the fish are caught have an effect on the quality of the meat also, they can usually tell if they were caught in areas of rough water eg between two large Japanese Islands, but I couldn't get what the effect was. All a bit hard for me but I got the gist. There are many factors that come into it.

The group was separated into two. I didn't see a number count being done, but my own count was in excess of 120 and nothing was said and nobody was turned away. The first group went in for 10-15 minutes, then the second group followed for the last 10-15 minutes. The auction only lasts 45 minutes. Everywhere you looked there were Bluefin tuna... mostly the smaller ones but a few of the larger species as well. All were displayed on the floor in rows where buyers in rubber boots checked out the quality beforehand, by studying the samples that were cut from their tails (rubbing the eat together in their hands) and by lifting a flap that had been cut in their tails, studying it with a spotlight.

All these tuna were frozen. Some for up to 12 months, but the grader/auctioneer told us that they will keep for up to two years if frozen at minus 60 degrees at sea which stops discoloration of the meat.

The tuna come from every corner of the world including New Zealand, ours are mainly the smaller 'Southern' species. Methods used around the world for the captures are mostly surface long lines but also nets and 'hand lines' (which I take it were rods and reels). With the 'hand line' method there is always more than one person on it.

Each auction was over really quick, and with the bidders in a circle surrounding the fish, it was hard to see it all, even though we were close by, but we did hear it. We were on ground level (not above them looking down as I imagined), just standing on a small willy nilly piece of floor wherever we could fit. It sure didn't seem like a specially designated area for us. No camera flash allowed, so as not to interfere with the process whereby buyers bid with their fingers. In the eyes of NZ Health & Safety this place would be deemed too dangerous for visitors I'm sure. Just getting from the "Fish Information Centre" to the Auction area and then back out again, was a rat race. There are vehicles, forklifts, scooters and trucks and people buzzing everywhere like busy bees. I am sure this tour would never be allowed in New Zealand.

Following the auction the tuna were cut into smaller pieces which would then be on-sold to restaurants, supermarkets and other retailers. ■



DRINK LIKE A FISH?



There's no need to swallow saltwater in the process of putting quality fish on the table. Instead, why not try a fine glass of Whitehaven's Kōparepare wine?

We are pleased to announce the partnership between Whitehaven Wines and LegaSea. Whitehaven have promised that each bottle of Kōparepare wine enjoyed helps fund LegaSea and their commitment to have our inshore fisheries restored to abundance.

Kōparepare (pronounced – Kaw-pardy-pardy) means, gift, present, or contribution. It has been creatively named and labelled to represent the coming together of people and organisations to contribute to the future health of our coastal fisheries.

There are currently three variants in the range - a pinot noir, a sauvignon blanc and a very tasty rosé (chardonnay will follow shortly).

If you enjoy wine with fish and friends, and desire an affordable, easy way to contribute further to improving our fisheries, then you'll appreciate Kōparepare and the conversations it encourages.

There are two options for you to enjoy the wine. One is to order it direct by utilising the order form link on the LegaSea website www.legaasea.co.nz/koparepare, the other is to encourage your club bar to stock it.

For clubs wishing to make enquiries about ordering Kōparepare for the bar, or to have a tasting night for club members, please contact Danny Phipps directly at Whitehaven Wines on 021738315 or by email danny@whitehaven.co.nz

Thanks to Kōparepare, there are better things to swallow than saltwater! ■

NZSFC encourages their members to drink responsibly.

ORDER FROM THE LEGASEA WEBSITE
**[www.legaasea.co.nz/
koparepare](http://www.legaasea.co.nz/koparepare)**



KŌ PARE PARE

Kōparepare - (noun)
gift, present, contribution - taken to friends

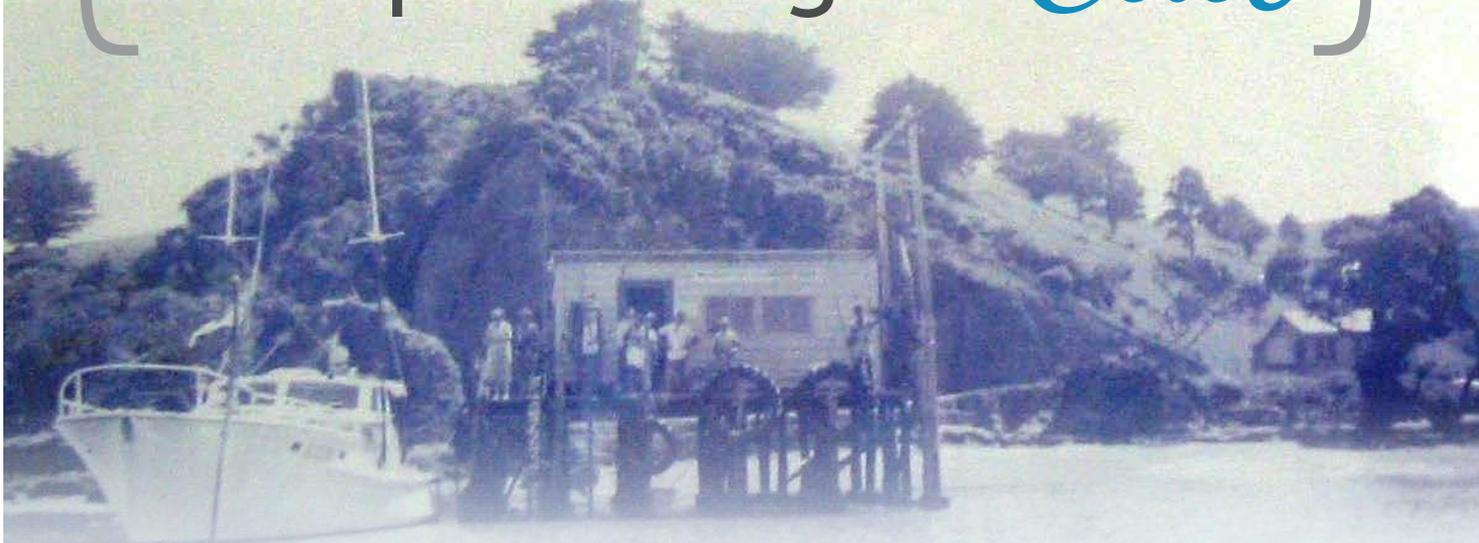
MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC

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.



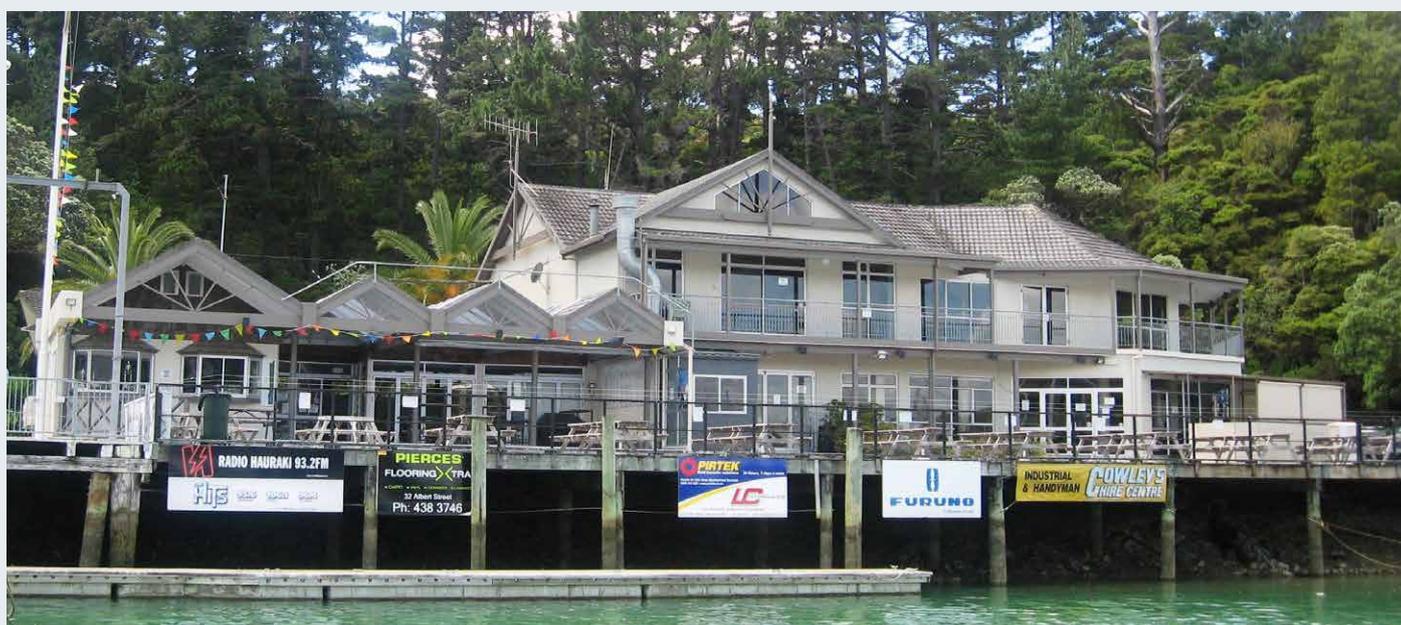
WHANGAREI

Deep Sea Anglers *Club*



The Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers' Club was founded in 1944, has been based at Tutukaka since 1953, and was one of the original five clubs that established the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council in 1957. By 1960 the club had over 1100 members; not many fewer than in 2018. In 1963 the catch tally included just 17 striped marlin and 1 black marlin, but 142 yellowfin tuna.

The techniques for catching tuna had arrived in the country with Australian and United States teams fishing the second International Contest in 1960 and were quickly adopted by local anglers. The run of tuna soon ended though, and by 1969 the annual tuna catch was measured in single figures once more. It was not until the late 1980's that yellowfin were again plentiful off Tutukaka.





In 1970 the Northland Harbour Board began a reclamation for a marina at the head of Tutukaka Harbour. The building of the present WDSAC clubhouse was begun in 1973 right alongside the Tutukaka Marina and its adjacent boat ramp. These facilities are among the best in the country, and host hundreds of visitors every year.



The Tutukaka One Base was the original contest of its type in the country, starting in 1975, and attracting boats from as far as Whakatane until other clubs cottoned onto the concept and introduced similar contests of their own.

The WDSAC has contributed some prominent personalities to New Zealand game fishing, including four Council Presidents over the years. One of these, Rob Dinsdale (President in 1980) was also the Council Records Officer from 1957 until he passed away in 2006 – an incredible 50 years of continuous service.

Club members have won many of the Council’s annual trophies over the years and it is perhaps significant that on 13 occasions they have been awarded the Old Man and the Sea Cup for the most meritorious catch of the season, because in 2018 it is two of the oldest active club members who have had the most outstanding success. Life Member Wynne Going and fellow Life Member, Past President and current club Patron Stuart Smith have both had fantastic days on the sea this year, as detailed in the previous issue of Hooked Up.

We’ll always make you feel welcome so come and visit us here on the beautiful Tutukaka Coast!

The Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers’ Club - Home of the Striped Marlin – still holding the all tackle World Record for a Striped Marlin of 224.1kg. ■

NAUTIGALS

The “Nautigals” is the biggest contest of the year at Tutukaka and this women’s fishing event causes all sorts of unrivalled hilarity each edition.

Air Vanuatu’s long-running sponsorship of both the Nautigals and the Tutukaka One Base has enabled many contest winners to experience the tropical fishing in that country, and as a spin-off, a number of Tutukaka families have built homes in the north of Vanuatu so they can spend more time away from New Zealand’s winter chills.



Junior Anglers Representative Team

Like all clubs, WDSAC has faced the problem of attracting and retaining young members.

Its solution has been an ongoing programme of support for junior anglers including selecting a representative team each year. The successful anglers are expected to help fundraise for their trip to the Bay of Islands International Yellowtail Contest, where they are guided by expert skippers and fishing masters to catch kingfish on 6kg and 8kg line. Projects including working bees, selling raffles, helping around the club, and a fundraising hangi have all helped them develop a strong team ethos, and participating in public speaking as part of being in the team has been amazing for boosting self-confidence.

This programme has been so successful that former team members have continued to fish actively and take part in many club activities, including mentoring new junior teams in future years. The skills picked up by participating in the contest – not only against other juniors but also senior teams – have proven invaluable both to the anglers and the club itself. While the results have been terrific, with the team even beating all the senior teams on one occasion, the friendships made and the feeling of belonging to the club have been even more important. While there is a serious amount of dedication and time required from a small band of organisers, fishing masters and skippers, the payoff to the WDSAC has made this extremely worthwhile.



TIME OUT FOR TARAKIHI

TRAWLING IS DESTROYING TARAKIHI.

GET MAD. SIGN THE PETITION

Go to LEGASEA.CO.NZ/TARAKIHI

TIMEOUT FOR TARAKIHI



Tarakihi is a mealtime favourite for people who fish and those who buy it, because it is notoriously good for cooking when fresh. But things are about to change between Otago and Northland. The main stocks on New Zealand's East Coast are severely depleted so substantial cuts to commercial catches are required to rebuild the fishery within a reasonable time frame. The Minister of Fisheries, Stuart Nash, needs to know we care and that we support him in making a bold decision to restore abundance. LegaSea is giving you some easy tools to show you care.



TAKE TIME OUT FOR TARAKIHI
legasea.co.nz/tarakihi

◀ **Watch the video and spread the word**



LegaSea is a public outreach initiative of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council. The Council has an experienced fisheries management, science, policy and legal team. On behalf of the Council LegaSea raises funds and provides public-friendly information about a variety of processes that are important to restoring abundance in our fisheries for future generations.

What's the issue?

- 50 years of trawling, wastage, and dumping has taken its toll on our fisheries and environment. Over time, our tarakihi population on the East Coast has dropped by 83%.
- 95% of the tarakihi catch is either taken or dies as a result of industrial fishing methods.
- There are concerns about the bycatch of protected species and the environmental impacts in this fishery.
- LegaSea knows it will be hard for the Minister to make a bold decision to restore abundance without solid public support.

What's the solution?

- The Minister must put the fish first. Stuart Nash needs to cut commercial catch limits by 65% to ensure the stocks are rebuilt within 10 years.
- Ban trawling from inshore nursery areas to protect small fish and the environment.
- Better manage all fisheries to provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all New Zealanders.
- People power. Together we can stand up for abundance and show we care. LegaSea has made it easy to take Time Out for Tarakihi here at www.legasea.co.nz/tarakihi

What about recreational fishing?

The recreational catch of tarakihi represents less than 5% of current harvest so even if we stopped fishing tomorrow there would be no measurable change in abundance of the tarakihi stocks.

New recreational harvest surveys are underway now with results due out early next year. Significant cuts in the annual tonnage allowed for recreational harvest are proposed from October 2018 because recreational catch has declined in most areas as the stocks have been fished down.

The allowance for mortality caused by commercial bulk harvesting methods - but not included in landed catch - adds up to more than the total recreational allowance proposed, so reducing the wastage attributable to commercial fishing will do more to grow the fishery for everyone.

LegaSea is concerned that all Kiwis are paying the price for this ongoing wastage both on the water and at the shop, when excessive commercial fishing (responsible for more than 90% of fish harvested) and years of knowingly wasteful fishing practices are responsible for the decline.

Minister of Fisheries, Stuart Nash, is now considering new catch limits for tarakihi. LegaSea want him to make a decision that has the best outcome for the fish, but he will only make a precautionary decision if he has public support.

LegaSea is calling on all Kiwis to stand up for the environment and health of our fisheries by asking the Minister to take Time Out for Tarakihi. Take a moment to show you care. ■

Tauranga Beaches long-line fishing by law challenged

ARTICLE FROM BAY OF PLENTY TIMES

Proposed new restrictions on long-line fishing along Tauranga beaches have been challenged by recreational fisherman Tony Kinzett who argued there was no clear evidence of problems.

Kinzett was one of eight submitters who spoke to a council committee last week on the review of the Beaches Bylaw.

Appearing with wife Rox, he said the only new rules he supported were to police a maximum speed limit on motor vehicles using the beach and to exclude drones from the definition of aircraft.

But he opposed the introduction of controls on longline kontiki-styled fishing, saying his research had revealed that there was nothing to demonstrate that fishing on a beach was dangerous and caused a nuisance.

Quoting the Local Government Act, he said there was no clear evidence of a "material reason or purpose" to amend or introduce a new bylaw.

Kinzett's inquiries revealed that the primary issue for Papamoa police had been vehicles being driven dangerously or at speed along the beach.

"I am led to believe that in general there are no real issues in regards to fishing."

St John Ambulance told him there was nothing it was aware of, but it was checking its register for incidents on the beach.

A long-serving committee member of the Papamoa Surf Life Saving Club told Kinzett that in his 17 years with the club, he was not aware of any injuries caused by fishing.

"During patrols, we have had a few long lines crossing into the flags or along the beach where we have had swimmers. Obviously this could be a potential danger with hooks, but generally, the owners of long lines have respected us when we have asked them to bring them in.

"Common sense would tell you not to launch close to flags or populated areas of swimmers," the club member said in an email.

in an average season, there were maybe one or two incidents where kontikis floated into flagged areas, but lifeguards quickly sorted it out, the club member said.

The club's chairman confirmed to Kinzett that there were no real issues.

Kinzett concluded his inquiries by asking the council where and when fishing had risked public safety or caused a nuisance.

“In our opinion, minor issues do no warrant council imposing additional bylaws.”

He said it was the right of every person to have equal access, use and enjoyment of the beach.

“There are existing dedicated swimming-only areas allocated during the peak season. These allow for safe areas for all swimmers and are controlled by lifeguards.”

Kinzett said police had the power to manage public safety and the fishing bylaws were not in tune with residents and holidaymakers.

Peter Campbell, chairman of the fisheries management subcommittee of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, partly supported the fishing additions to the bylaw.

However, he drew attention to the section by which the council could, by resolution, prohibit or restrict fishing on all or part of the beach to ensure public safety and prevent nuisance.

Campbell said government and local authorities could restrict fishing and gathering kai moana, so Sport Fishing was acutely aware of the cumulative effect fishing restrictions had on members and the wider public.

“Clear evidence of a real problem is required before any new restriction is introduced. Closures to fishing on relatively remote parts of the beach are not warranted.”

He asked the council to clarify the resolution process and whether prohibitions or restrictions would be publicly advertised.

On the bylaw to prohibit people using all-terrain vehicles at speed or in a dangerous manner, he asked the council to define the wording “which causes or might cause inconvenience to any person in the area”.

Campbell supported not allowing kontikis within 300m of a flagged swimming area but said fishing should be allowed after the flags had been removed provided public safety was taken into account.

Several submitters said operator inexperience was the main reason long lines drifted into areas where people were swimming.

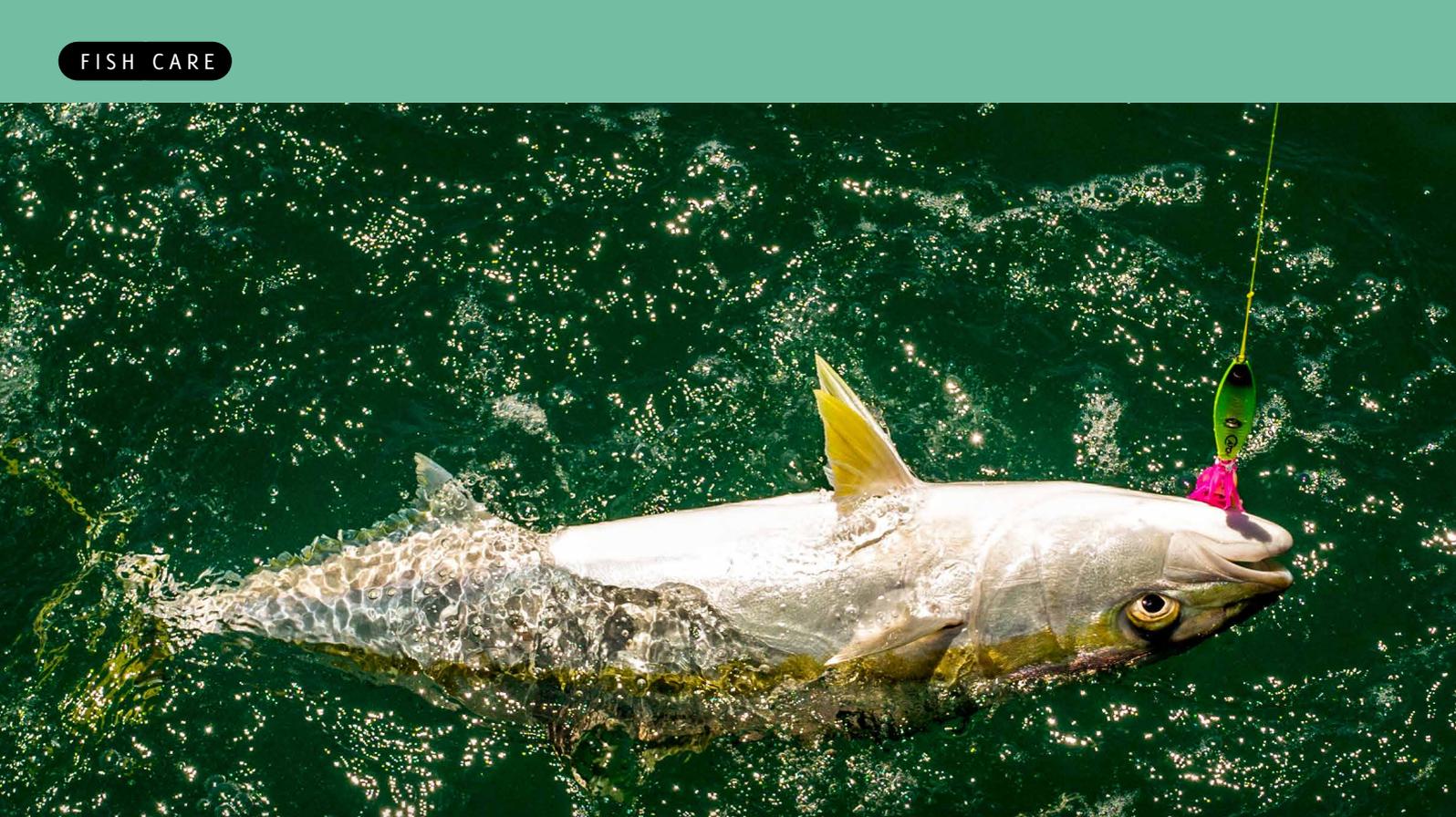
Swimmers entering the water near where a fisher had launched a kontiki also caused problems.

And the fine for breaching vehicle safety rules on the beach has been reduced from \$750 to \$150 after it was revealed that the \$750 fine had been a barrier to police enforcing the current bylaw. ■

Suggested code of practice for long-line fishers

- **Maintain 500m clearance from the flagged swimming area.**
- **Minimum distance of 400m between long-line fishers.**
- **Respect other water users.**
- **Keep fishing gear near the water's edge.**
- **Maintain a watch on fishing gear to prevent line drift.**

Source: New Zealand Sport Fishing



HANDLING FISH

Best Practice

As we fish more and more, we're realising that it is no longer a case of 'plenty more fish in the sea', but rather a case of 'every fish counts'.

How we handle our fish is very important - especially when we intend to release the fish and keep them alive to help restore our inshore fishery.

Best practice starts before you reach the water. If you file or flatten down the barbs on your hook it makes it easier to leave the fish in the water and flick it off the hook. This significantly reduces the amount of holding or handling required to unhook the fish. Barbless hooks are also a safety measure for the fisher, making it easier to remove hooks from fingers and other body parts if an accident occurs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.fishcare.org.nz

Once on the water, there is a hierarchy of best practice when releasing fish.

Firstly, avoid handling of the fish by keeping the fish in the water and removing the hook with a pair of pliers. If conditions prevent the safe release of the fish because of a rocking boat or it is difficult to reach the fish in the water, lifting the fish out of the water to use the pliers is the next step. This works well for small or undersized fish. If this is not practical or it is a larger fish, then using a rubber mesh net (while in the water) to hold the fish for release.

If you must handle the fish prior to release please don't use a wet cloth or sponge. The material can easily remove the protective mucus and make the fish susceptible to infection and mortality. Wet hands are the preferred way to handle your fish, while it is in the net or on a cool wet surface. The fish may swim away strongly but still die later if its mucus has been removed and infection sets in. Use the towel on your hands afterwards of course.

Rock or beach fishing presents different challenges as fish are often dragged up onto rocks or sand, scratching the fish and removing not only mucus but scales and skin as well.

Swinging the fish into your hands and avoiding contact with land is the best option. Using a long (3 metre) rod helps to keep the fisher safe from the ocean swell and helps to get the fish into the fisher's hands for release. Sometimes there is a rock pool available that can be used for preparing a larger fish for release after photos. Letting it revive and taking photos quickly before carefully releasing back into the water is a good approach.

If you are taking photos of a fish before release don't hold it by the tail, instead, support the fish's body with one hand under the head and another under the belly. Avoid any fingers in the gills or eyes.

If you happen to catch a fish that is undersized and has swallowed the hook, cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and release it back into the water. It is best to keep all legal sized fish that you land instead of releasing them in the hope of catching a big one.

Lastly, avoid using stainless steel hooks as they take years to rust out if the fish escapes with the hook still attached. ■





Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Gamefish Tagging News July 2018

Change of Address

The Fisheries division of the Ministry for Primary Industries has changed its name and moved to a new address at the MPI campus on Maurice Wilson Avenue, near Auckland Airport. **Please note the new Postal Address for all tag cards and recapture information:**

**Gamefish Tagging
Fisheries New Zealand
PO Box 53030
Auckland 2150**

Mail to the old Auckland postal address will be redirected, but only for a limited time. Unfortunately, there will be tags on fish and in circulation with the old address for some time to come.

We have been trialling a website that allows fishers to report recaptures and some releases online. This was set up to assist fly fishing guides who have been using small plastic dart tags to track kingfish they catch in some North Island harbours and on the flats in Golden Bay. There have been some problems with entry of release information but reporting recaptures has worked well. Fishers can upload a photo of the fish and the tag. In future gamefish tags will have the website printed on them as a reporting option. Go to:

[Fishtagnz.co.nz](http://fishtagnz.co.nz)

and click on [Report a tag recapture](#)

2017–18 season

While there are still a few marlin around, the summer of 2017–18 was generally a poor one for striped marlin. There were blue marlin and a surprising number of shortbill spearfish in the early months. When the striped marlin turned up they tended to be in patches, some off the west coast and some off Northland. There were good numbers of kingfish around this season but not always in the usual places. Warm sea temperatures saw a number of species range further south than last summer. We are still receiving and processing tag cards so no totals are available yet, but we will need these soon. **Please return all tag cards now for fish released in the 2017–18 season or earlier using the new address above.**



Tag recaptures

There were four billfish recaptures reported last season. A swordfish tagged off *Primetime* in 2009 at Middlesex Bank was recaptured last year by a New Zealand tuna longliner west of the Waikato. It had been at liberty for 8 years 3 months and was estimated about 140 kg on both occasions. Male swordfish don't get much larger than this.

A striped marlin tagged off New Plymouth in March 2016 was recaptured two years later off Raglan. This fish had a steel anchored tag and was about 110 kg on release and weighed 122 kg on recapture.



A swordfish tagged in April 2016 in the Bay of Plenty was recaptured in mid-January 2018 by a tuna longliner in the outer Bay of Plenty. This time the steel anchored tag had stayed in place for 1 year 10 months. It was estimated to weigh 100 kg on release and 115 kg when it was recaptured. Typically, swordfish and marlin breed in sub-tropical waters in spring or early summer and in the case of these fish, have returned to New Zealand in subsequent years. Therefore, the management measures applied in New Zealand will have some impact on the population that is available here in future years.

A striped marlin tagged at the Wanganella Banks was recaptured 150 nautical miles west of New Caledonia on 20 June 2018 by a local longline boat. This fish was released on 30 March 2018 from the vessel *Bwana II* and estimated at 50 kg. Therefore, it had travelled 700 nautical miles NNE in 82 days.



Three mako sharks were recaptured. All were tagged in the first three months of 2017 and were all caught six to nine months later in other countries. A 50 kg mako tagged off Kawhia was recaptured in August by a longliner from Noumea and released alive with the tag intact. A 35 kg mako tagged off Whangarei Heads was recaptured in Tongan waters in October 2017 after 272 days at liberty. A small mako free tagged (without being hooked) off Tangimoana was caught by a recreational fisher in Bass Strait 284 days after it was released. This fish was retagged and released.

Reporting recaptures

If you recapture a tagged fish, we need all the same information you would put on a release card. **Please measure kingfish by laying them flat on a measuring board and recording the distance from the nose to the vee of the tail.** It is highly likely that a tagged kingfish was measured this way on release. Send the information to the new postal address or enter on the Fishtagnz web site.

There are incentives to report tag recaptures:

1. **\$1000 lucky draw each year for one fisher who returns a tag with all the required information.**
2. **A reward shirt for each angler who tags a fish that is recaptured.**
3. **A polo shirt with GameTag logo for the angler reporting the recapture.**
4. **Recapture letters go to anglers and skippers involved with release and recapture.**

Thanks to Fisheries New Zealand who fund data management and reporting; the NZSFC which purchases and distributes the tags; and Blue Water Marine Research who are contracted to manage the database.



27 July 2018

Submission: We support a modified version of the FNZ proposed option 1 for the Tarakihi eastern stock.

Recommendations

1. The Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) Final Advice Paper presents the Minister with a modified version of Option 1 to comply with FNZ's Harvest Strategy Standard Operational Guidelines.
2. In applying a modified and compliant version of FNZ's Option 1, the Minister –
 - a. Reduces the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) by about 65%;
 - b. Sets aside an increased tonnage to allow for other sources of fishing related mortality; and
 - c. Rejects FNZ Options 2 & 3 on the basis that they are non-compliant with their own Harvest Strategy Standard.
3. The Final Advice Paper includes the submitter's view that the short-term cost of rebuilding the eastern tarakihi stock is outweighed by the long-term benefits of having well managed fish stocks thriving in a healthy marine ecosystem.
4. The initial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) reduction must ensure the stock rebuild strategies, including the TACC reduction, are implemented as soon as possible.
5. That the amateur bag limit is reduced to 15 fish for tarakihi within the combined finfish bag limit, only on the basis that the TACC is reduced by about 65% to comply with the Harvest Strategy Standard.
6. The Minister resets the recreational allowances based on the 2011–12 National Panel Survey harvest estimates in TAR 1, TAR 2 and TAR 7. This is a reasonable approach given current low availability and abundance in most areas.
7. That the existing allowance of 15 t for TAR 3 be retained because the National Panel Survey estimates are based on an inadequate sample size.
8. The Minister directs research to concurrently collect high quality catch at age data from all tarakihi stocks.
9. That juvenile mortality be addressed, firstly by FNZ setting standards requiring more selective fishing methods are used to avoid small fish.
10. Where a method cannot meet acceptable selectivity, bycatch, and environmental standards the particular fishing method must be excluded from the area.
11. That TAR 1 is split into separate east and west coast QMAs, as these are clearly different stocks with different management requirements.
12. That proportional reductions to TACCs are based on recent catch within the TACC, this includes the reduction in TAR 7.

The submitters

13. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the proposals for the future management of Tarakihi 1, 2, 3, & 7. Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) advice of consultation was received on 4 July, with submissions due by 27 July 2018.
14. The NZ Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation with over 34,000 affiliated members from 56 clubs nationwide. The Council has initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support for the need to restore abundance in our inshore marine environment. Also, to broaden NZSFC involvement in marine management advocacy, research, education and alignment on behalf of our members and LegaSea supporters. www.legasea.co.nz.
15. The New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (NZACA) is the representative body for its 35 member clubs throughout the country. The Association promotes recreational fishing and the camaraderie of enjoying the activity with fellow fishers. The NZACA is committed to protecting fish stocks and representing its members' right to fish.
16. Collectively we are '*the submitters*'. The submitters are committed to ensuring that sustainability measures and environmental management controls are designed and implemented to achieve the Purpose and Principles of the Fisheries Act 1996, including "maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations..." [s8(2)(a) Fisheries Act 1996]
17. The submitter's continue to object to FNZ's truncated consultation timetables. It has been impossible for us to consult with our constituents on the 17 various proposal papers issued by FNZ, and respond within 18 working days. In our view this timeframe does not allow for adequate consultation. It is particularly offensive for non-commercial organisations such as ours that need to consult with a range of interests and volunteers nationwide. This is unacceptable consultation and, in our opinion, most likely unlawful as per ss12 & 13 of the Fisheries Act 1996 and as judged by the Court of Appeal¹.
18. Our representatives are available to discuss this submission in more detail if required. We look forward to positive outcomes from these reviews and would like to be kept informed of future developments. Our contact is Helen Pastor, secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz.

Background

19. Tarakihi has long been an important component of catch for customary Maori, commercial and recreational fishers. It is distributed around New Zealand, preferring cooler, deeper waters in the north and has a wide distribution in southern areas. Tarakihi are long lived, relatively slow growing, and tagging studies show some long distance movement. Generally, there are more young fish in the south and more older fish in the north.
20. Most of the information used in the stock assessment comes from catch, effort and fish age structure from the commercial fishery, which represents over 90% of the landed catch, with trawlers taking the majority of catch. Integrated stock assessment models combined all available information on tarakihi in each Quota Management Area (QMA) but worked best when all of the east coast of the North and South Islands were considered as one stock, with separate fisheries operating in each QMA. The model estimates the tarakihi spawning stock biomass (total weight of mature fish) to be at 17% of the unfished biomass. FNZ Harvest Strategy Standard Guidelines are that **a rebuild of the stock to the target of 40% of the unfished biomass in 10 years is required.**

¹ International Airport Ltd and Air New Zealand (CA 23/92, 73/92[1993] 1 NZLR 671).

21. When tarakihi was introduced to the Quota Management System in 1986 the combined Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for TAR 1, 2, 3 & 7 was 4,520 tonnes. This increased to 5,286 t (up 17%) following Quota Appeal Authority hearings. Area based increases in the 2000s brought the total to 5734 t. The current TACC for the four QMAs is close to the highest catch years in the 1970s, but not quite as high as the peak years in the 1960s when the stock was being fished down. However, a large part of TAR 7 and half of TAR 1 are not considered part of the eastern tarakihi stock in the current assessment.

FNZ proposals

22. FNZ have developed three options to reduce the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and recreational allowances. The allowances for customary fishing are unchanged and FNZ propose the allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality is increased to 10% of the TACC (Table 1). The recent stock assessment model was used to predict the reduction in catch required to rebuild the stock to 40% in 10 years (Option 1), in 10 years with commercial catch reductions phased in (Option 2), and a 20 year rebuild period (Option 3) (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed management settings in tonnes for TAR 1, 2, 3, & 7 from 1 October 2018, with the percentage change relative to the current settings in brackets.

Stock	Option	Total Allowable Catch	Total Allowable Commercial Catch	Allowances		
				Customary Māori	Recreational	All other mortality to the stock caused by fishing
TAR 1 ¹	Current settings	2029	1447	73	487	22
	Option 1	1221 ↓ (40%)	983 ↓ (32%)	73	110 ↓ (77%)	55 ↑ (250%)
	Option 2 (year 1)	1466 ↓ (28%)	1205 ↓ (17%)	73	110 ↓ (77%)	78 ↑ (355%)
	(year 2)	1307 ↓ (36%)	1061 ↓ (27%)			63 ↑ (286%)
	(year 3)	1181 ↓ (42%)	946 ↓ (35%)			52 ↑ (236%)
	Option 3	1384 ↓ (32%)	1131 ↓ (22%)	73	110 ↓ (77%)	70 ↑ (318%)
TAR 2	Current settings	2082	1796	100	150	36
	Option 1	1017 ↓ (51%)	735 ↓ (59%)	100	73 ↓ (51%)	109 ↑ (303%)
	Option 2 (year 1)	1556 ↓ (25%)	1225 ↓ (32%)	100	73 ↓ (51%)	158 ↑ (439%)
	(year 2)	1206 ↓ (42%)	906 ↓ (50%)			127 ↑ (353%)
	(year 3)	926 ↓ (56%)	652 ↓ (64%)			101 ↑ (281%)
	Option 3	1376 ↓ (34%)	1061 ↓ (41%)	100	73 ↓ (51%)	142 ↑ (394%)
TAR 3	Current settings	1503	1403	15	15	70
	Option 1	725 ↓ (52%)	579 ↓ (59%)	15	3 ↓ (80%)	128 ↑ (183%)
	Option 2 (year 1)	1150 ↓ (23%)	965 ↓ (31%)	15	3 ↓ (80%)	167 ↑ (239%)
	(year 2)	873 ↓ (42%)	714 ↓ (49%)			141 ↑ (201%)
	(year 3)	653 ↓ (57%)	514 ↓ (63%)			121 ↑ (173%)
	Option 3	998 ↓ (34%)	837 ↓ (40%)	15	3 ↓ (80%)	143 ↑ (204%)
TAR 7 ²	Current settings	1088	1088	-	-	-
	Option 1	986 ↓ (9%)	952 ↓ (13%)	1 ↑	23 ↑	10 ↑
	Option 2 (year 1)	1067 ↓ (2%)	1026 ↓ (6%)	1 ↑	23 ↑	17 ↑
	(year 2)	1014 ↓ (7%)	978 ↓ (10%)			12 ↑
	(year 3)	973 ↓ (11%)	940 ↓ (14%)			9 ↑
	Option 3	1041 ↓ (4%)	1002 ↓ (8%)	1 ↑	23 ↑	15 ↑

Submission

- 23. The submitters do not support any of the Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) options. The submitters support a modified version of FNZ's Option 1.**
24. We submit that a modified version of Option 1 correctly follows the Operational Guidelines of the Harvest Strategy Standard and this modified option must be available to the Minister to consider in the Final Advice Paper.
25. FNZ state that they consider that the stock will reach the target when an assessment estimates that it is as likely as not (50% probability) that biomass is at 40%. FNZs *"progressive approach to the rebuild strategy"* (para 1003) does not inspire much confidence that a 10-year rebuild to 40% will be achieved, particularly given the current level of opposition from quota holders about the target and rebuild strategy.
26. The submitters agree with FNZ that it is important that the *"initial TAC reduction should provide a high level of confidence that it will ensure the start of the stock rebuild"*. To achieve an adequate level of confidence (70%) that the target of a 10 year rebuild to 40% is reached the following is required:
- a. A TACC reduction of at least 65%; and
 - b. An increased allowance for other fishing related mortality based on the model projections supplied by FNZ.
27. The submitters are concerned that FNZ do not have a consistent rationale or policy on setting an allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality. For trawl caught fish where a minimum legal size (or industry minimum economic size) results in discarded fish, there needs to be a more consistent approach. Usually this is set as a proportion of TACC. The submitters support the default setting of 10% of the TACC and ask that any variation from this is adequately explained.
28. The allowances for other sources of fishing related mortality for tarakihi are variable and confusing. The allowance made in the stock assessment was most likely 10% of commercial catch. In addition, there are errors in the estimates of the percentage increase in the allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality. They are overstated by 100% in each case. The increase from 22 t to 55 t in TAR 1 is 150%.
29. The submitters reject FNZ's Options 2 & 3 for a 3-year staged reduction or a 20-year rebuild. The three-year staged reductions to the bluenose TACCs were not fully implemented because of a temporary increase in commercial catch rates and support for the industry by the Ministry. This pattern of behaviour by the Ministry does not inspire confidence that FNZ can follow through with progressive cuts at the same time as a revised and updated stock assessment is underway.
30. The submitters reject the commercial fishing industry's proposal to voluntarily shelve 20% of quota prior to the next stock assessment. Their proposal clearly signals they are not taking the need for a rebuild seriously. After all the promises and PR it appears the commercial fishing industry's enthusiasm for science based fisheries management has waned. From the latest stock assessment and industry's data it is abundantly clear that the eastern tarakihi stock has been overfished for a long time.
- 31. We urge the Minister to heed the best available scientific information and not stall the start of the rebuild.**
32. The stock assessment model has been extensively reviewed over the last two years. There was considerable inter-annual variation in recruitment in the eastern stocks. The 2007 and 2009

year classes were particularly strong and these 9 and 11 year old fish may be supporting an increase in catch rates in FMA 2 in the last few years.

33. However, **catch alone is not a good indicator of stock abundance** and reliance on one or two strong year classes in a long-lived species like tarakihi is a high risk strategy, which we do not support.
34. Concurrent collection of high quality catch at age data across the eastern stock will be required for future assessments. There is some uncertainty in the extent of movement within the eastern stock and linkages with other regions. However, we note that a model that separated the stock into three regions estimated almost the same stock status (17.8% SB_0) as the single stock model (17.0% SB_0). If anything the 3-stock model showed a larger decline in tarakihi since 1975 than the single stock model (Figure 1).

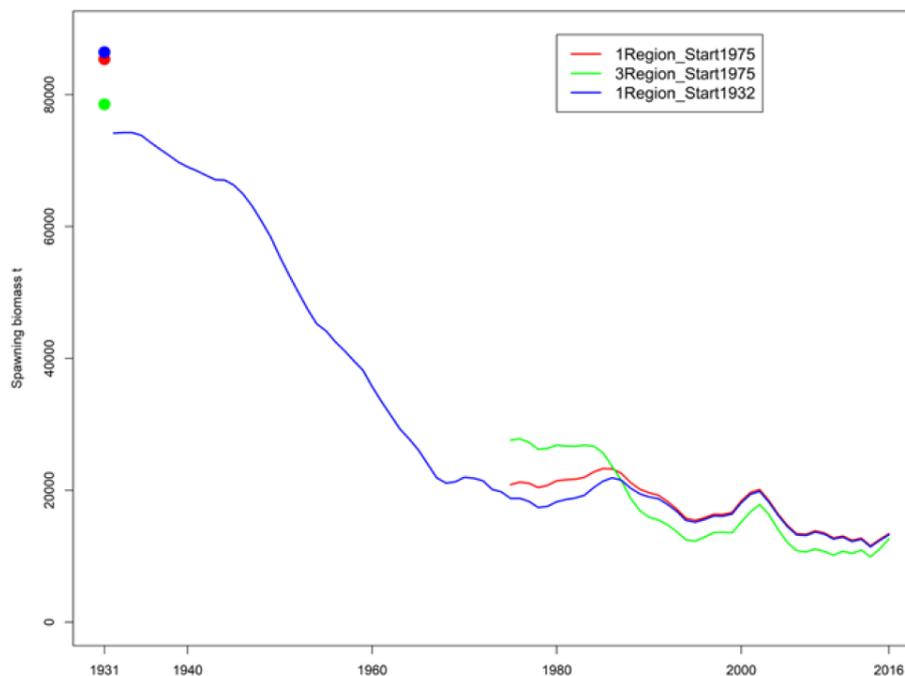


Figure 1: Results of the eastern tarakihi stock assessment model estimating biomass since 1931 (blue), for three separate regions since 1975 (green), and the one region base case model since 1975 (red).

35. The logical conclusion is that **the eastern tarakihi stock has been fished down to a low level.** Occasionally there is good recruitment and biomass increases, as happened in the early 2000s. The Ministry responded to that improvement in fishing by recommending the Minister allocate additional quota in TAR 1, 2 & 3, which he did. Since then the combined TACC has not been caught and the stock has declined further.
36. **Good years of recruitment must be protected and used as opportunities to rebuild the stock not as a reason to abandon good management.**
37. It is international best practice to follow the lead of high quality, age structured stock assessment models, accept the state of depletion, and then implement a rebuild plan to reach the target biomass in a reasonable time. The tarakihi stock has been well below target since 1975 and the current combined TACCs are just as high today as the peak catch years in the 1970s. Moreover, the fishing mortality rate (F) has increased steadily over the last 25 years.
38. We submit the Quota Management System has favoured high tarakihi exploitation over sound stock management for too long. **Now is the time to reset management for this important fishery.**

Recreational controls

39. The submitters have had discussions with some members and supporters about potential changes to the amateur fishing regulations. However, the inadequate 18 working days consultation period has denied us the opportunity to canvass the views of our wider affiliated member base.
40. Of the members and supporters we have spoken with there is a general wiliness to accept some change, taking into account that current overall catch and individual catch per day has been affected by low availability and abundance in areas where the public fish.
41. There is conditional support for an increase in the minimum legal size (MLS) for tarakihi off the east coast of the North Island on the basis that any MLS increase also applies to commercial catch taken by fishers using gear that meets selectivity standards in avoiding undersize fish.
42. The submitters will support a daily bag limit reduction to 15 tarakihi within the combined finfish bag limit to align with southern management only on the basis that the TACC is reduced by about 65% to comply with the Harvest Strategy Standard.
43. **The submitters advocate that tarakihi remains within the combined bag limit of 20** in the North Island and 30 (for a larger number of species) in the South Island. The submitters note that there is no intent to reduce the current low recreational catch but as the stock rebuilds a lower bag limit may better distribute the benefits amongst recreational fishers.
44. **The submitters celebrate the conservation efforts of many recreational fishers** who choose not to take their daily bag limit. However, tarakihi are primarily a table fish that appeals to both children and adults, and they are a target species for charter vessels looking to provide a reasonable catch for their clients.
45. The proposed reductions to the overall recreational allowances are large, but based on reasonable harvest estimates from the 2011–12 National Panel Survey (NPS) in TAR 1, 2 and 7. The harvest estimates from TAR 3 need to be treated with caution because they are based on an inadequate sample size and are therefore unreliable. The submitters support the retention of the existing allowance of 15 t for TAR 3 until the next review. Preliminary results of the next NPS are expected to be available in 2019.

Impacts on the marine environment

46. There is widespread public support for a more caring approach to the marine environment and better management of natural resources. The massive increase in concern over plastics in the ocean and wasteful fishing practices is testament to this. An assessment by the Ministry in 2012 found that of the direct human impacts on New Zealand's marine habitats the most important was bottom trawling². Bottom trawling was identified as having the third equal highest negative impact on inshore ecosystems. The highest scoring threat was ocean acidification and climate change. Land-based sedimentation also ranked high. Trawling causes significant physical impacts on benthic communities, reducing biodiversity and productivity.
47. The use of 100 mm nets (cod ends) causes high mortality of juvenile, undersize tarakihi, particularly in TAR 3. The South Island east coast trawl surveys show a much higher incidence of 25 cm and 26 cm tarakihi observed at sea than recorded during sampling of landed catch in Licensed Fish Receiver premises. Discarding of small, uneconomic catch has been prevalent in New Zealand commercial fishers for over 100 years.

² MacDiarmid, A.; McKenzie, A.; Sturman, J.; Beaumont, J.; Mikaloff-Fletcher, S.; Dunne, J. (2012). Assessment of anthropogenic threats to New Zealand marine habitats. New Zealand Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Report No. 93. 255 p.

48. In 2004 the Ministry's Director of Fisheries Management wrote to his colleagues, *"As you are aware discarding is a systemic failure of the current system and something we have not been able to get on top of since day 1 of the QMS [Quota Management System]. Fisheries Management can't quantify the tonnages involved but **we suspect they are significant to the point that they are impacting on stocks.** We estimate that if we found the golden bullet to stop discarding, we would probably put over half of the inshore fleet out of business overnight through a lack of ACE [Annual Catch Entitlement] availability to cover by-catch"*. Over the years there have been numerous investigations with few significant prosecutions.
49. **Wasteful practices from the past are no longer acceptable.**
50. **It is time trawl and Danish seine methods were removed from inshore nursery areas.** The calls for removal will only become louder if FNZ continues down the track of 'land-all catch' for most commercial vessels with cameras.
51. Modern fishing technology must strive for more selective, less environmentally damaging fishing gears, rather than killing all catch, regardless of size limits, to support the effectiveness of the proposed camera-based monitoring on boats. There are some species that are susceptible to barotrauma and fishing mortality, and others that are more hardy. The submitters will be very concerned if some methods are allowed to operate in inshore waters under the recently talked about 'land-all catch' policy.
52. It is becoming increasingly apparent that **the Quota Management Areas for a number of species in northern New Zealand are too large.** These unwieldy areas are presenting challenges for management of separate stocks. Tarakihi, flatfish and John dory are species in this year's sustainability round with QMAs that include the east and west coast of the top half of the North Island. The submitters support the division of the TAR 1 into separate east and west coast QMAs, as clearly these are different stocks with different management requirements.
53. The distribution of TACC reductions across QMAs complicates FNZ's proposed management options. The scientific advice is that there is no particular advantage or rationale for differential TACC reductions. The proportional reductions based on recent catch within the TACC seem reasonable and are supported, this includes the TACC reductions in TAR 7 even if there is no current agreement on how to restrict fishing effort in that part of Cook Strait (statistical areas 017 and part of 018).

Commercial interests position paper

54. The submitters object to the circulation of the commercial industry's proposal paper alongside the consultation documents produced by Fisheries New Zealand.
55. The simultaneous release of the FNZ and industry's papers is misleading, by making the public believe that Fisheries New Zealand is supporting the commercial industry's proposal.
56. The commercial industry's document that was circulated was neither independently prepared nor peer review through the science working groups, which is standard practice for all fisheries work shared by Fisheries New Zealand.
57. We submit this action by Fisheries New Zealand only serves to increase suspicion of the capture of the consultation process by commercial interests.
58. The submitters recommend that in future a document of this nature is considered and presented as being ONLY supporting information for commercial interests' submission, and clearly not endorsed by FNZ or part of the official consultation process.

**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



Trusted to protect your boating lifestyle for more than 20 years

0800 88 CLUB (2582)

clubmarine.co.nz

