



## **Hot topics thrashed at Accord hui**

Leading up to the election LegaSea reiterated the need for our decision makers to implement policy that supports abundant fisheries and fairer management decisions.

If you registered your online support for the recent LegaSea Tip the Scales campaign, thank you. It was good to make fisheries an election issue, because fishing is important to us and our communities.

### **Hokianga Accord**

Another positive development has been the rekindling of relationships through the Hokianga Accord. For nine years the Accord has brought together mid north iwi, including Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua, various hapu, whanau and community groups.

In early August the Accord held its 17<sup>th</sup> public hui, this time at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club. Over 60 people attended the meeting, an interesting mix of Club members, local fishers, iwi, hapu, New Zealand Sport Fishing Council executive, Greenpeace and Fish Forever, a community based group seeking to establish two marine reserves in the Bay of Islands.

All of the morning's discussions revolved around marine protection for the Bay. Fish Forever presented their comprehensive marine reserve proposal and tangata whenua outlined their aspirations for implementing customary conservation tools, including mataitai and rahui, in the Bay.

All agreed that the inshore waters of the Bay are highly valued and need protecting for the benefit of future generations.

In the afternoon crayfish management was the hot topic. The hui heard how the Minister's recent decision for CRA2, between Pakiri and East Cape, condemns the public to ever decreasing catches just to protect commercial quota.

Northerners were warned to be vigilant as a management review for CRA1, north from Pakiri around North Cape and down to the Kaipara, was expected at the end of the year.

Consents have been granted to enable oil and gas exploration off the northwest coast of New Zealand. Mike Smith from Greenpeace outlined the risks associated with deepsea operations. He also highlighted how our government agencies and coastal communities are ill prepared to react to any major incident. Effects from

the 2011 grounding of the container ship MV Rena and subsequent oil spill are still impacting on Bay of Plenty communities.

LegaSea encouraged Northlanders to support the Tip the Scales pre-election campaign at [LegaSea.co.nz/tipthescales](http://LegaSea.co.nz/tipthescales).

Whatever the outcome, let's hope the election result means more abundant fisheries and fairer management decisions in the future.

## **ENDS**

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