



Generous support for What's Fishing Worth?

Graeme 'Bonze' Fleet was greeted by an enthusiastic group of fishers at a recent fundraiser for the What's Fishing Worth? campaign. His tales of adventure and fishing in exotic locations such as Cape Verde, Africa, and Hawaii were enthralling. Bonze's dedication to detail is reflected in his worldwide fishing success and his range of carefully crafted gamefish lures that he passed around for all to see.

LegaSea appreciates the effort of the Manukau Sport Fishing Club, the Manukau Cruising Club and Mark Kelly to bring Bonze to Auckland to regale the crowd with a range of fishing stories. Bonze then donated the door takings to support the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation's project to measure the contribution that recreational fishing makes to the New Zealand economy.

Bonze's travels have taken him to many destinations that depend on sport fishing to sustain their regional and national economies. Studies of those economies have produced surprising results. After reading those reports the Foundation was inspired to contact Southwick Associates and ask them to look at New Zealand's recreational fishing industry.

That analysis is well underway and the preliminary results are being reviewed for publication in an academic report. That draft report will be submitted to a journal for peer review. That process could take up to a year.

In the meantime, LegaSea will use the research to generate awareness amongst the public and politicians. It is important we all understand how much recreational fishing contributes to the economy through jobs, growth and taxes.

Recreational fishing is an important but unrecognised industry to our nation. We have so much potential for more growth, wealth generation and tax revenue, but these aspirations rely on having abundant fisheries.

We need to give our decision makers the evidence demonstrating why it is important to manage our fisheries at more abundant levels. Overseas studies of multi-million dollar economies have changed the way marine resources are managed, with more emphasis on recreational fishing, conservation and protecting local and regional economies.

LegaSea thanks Bonze and many others for their generosity and support for the Foundation's study. Given overseas experience the results are likely to generate

positive and long-term benefits for our nation and our coastal communities.

Hot Tip

Seabirds use sight and smell to hunt for food. The best way to catch fish instead of birds is not attract them in the first place. Keep fish scraps and old bait in a covered bucket while you fish. To learn more please visit www.legasea.co.nz/seabirds.

ENDS

Call 0800 LEGASEA (534 273)

Email us info@legasea.co.nz

Subscribe at www.legasea.co.nz

Read more at www.facebook.com/legasea



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.