



March 2016

Celebrating Chester's generosity

By Trish Rea, LegaSea Liaison

LegaSea celebrates receiving another \$5000 from Chesters Plumbing and Bathroom, New Lynn after their annual Fanatical Fishos fishing contest. This donation represents 26 years of support for fishers and fisheries throughout New Zealand.

In addition to the generous annual donation from Chesters, money raised from the auction of contest fish went to the Manukau Volunteer Coastguard. The crew was very pleased to receive \$5000 and stood alongside LegaSea to thank the plumbers, drain layers, roofers and builders of west Auckland for their ongoing support.

Marine protected areas (MPAs)

LegaSea is also celebrating the ongoing monthly contributions from people committed to the LegaSea Legends programme. With their support the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council submitted a comprehensive response to the Marine Protected Areas Act proposals. The Ministry for the Environment is now collating all submissions and new legislation is expected later this year.

The submission emphasised our support for a more integrated approach to marine protection, recognising the need for different MPA categories to suit the specific environmental needs of an area, while taking into account existing and future values and uses.

For example, it is all very well to talk about protecting biodiversity in pockets of no-take marine reserves, but if we don't look to reduce current, overall fishing catch and effort it is inevitable that biodiversity in neighbouring areas will degrade as more effort is displaced to these areas.

We have an international and a generational obligation to ensure protection and restoration of marine biodiversity inside and outside any proposed protected areas.

Considerations also needs to be given to an MPA category that would conserve resident finfish species and seabed biodiversity while allowing for low impact, surface trolling for highly migratory species.

Trolling for marlin and tuna has minimal impact on biodiversity, and most areas out to 12 nautical miles are important and popular with Kiwi fishers at some time of the year.

A simple cost-benefit analysis and examination of overseas experience would reveal the current and future potential gains from enabling low impact troll fisheries within an MPA.

Another issue canvassed was the need to make the use of mobile, bottom contact fishing gear in territorial waters a discretionary activity. This means trawling, Danish seining and dredging would be subject to greater scrutiny and verification of its impacts before being allowed within the 12-nmile limit.

Having such a regime would enable all coastal communities to have meaningful say in how their marine resources are used, what gear is appropriate and ultimately how much is extracted from their local waters.

There is so much potential to be gained from having abundant fisheries and a diverse marine environment. All we need now is sensible governance and the ability to empower local communities to have a greater say in the future state of their marine space.

Take action

We need you to stand up for more abundant fisheries. It's easy. Sign up to be a LegaSea Legend at www.legasea.co.nz/legend.

ENDS

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LegaSea Legends: www.legasea.co.nz/legend



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.