



## **Make your vote count**

Last year's snapper debate proved that fisheries management is political, and that the outcome of decisions can be heavily influenced by how many of us stand up for ourselves. This year we have a prime opportunity to advocate for improved fisheries management. That chance is available at the ballot box on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Make your vote count.

Earlier this year LegaSea made itself available to all the political parties, offering input so they could develop public-friendly fisheries policies. Some parties took the bait while others ignored us.

In June we sent those parties five key policy recommendations that promote productive fisheries and a healthy marine environment. We asked them to include the key recommendations in their party's fisheries policies, and again offered our assistance.

From early August we called on you to support our five key policy recommendations. These policy points, explanation and background material are online at [www.legasea.co.nz/tipthescales.co.nz](http://www.legasea.co.nz/tipthescales.co.nz).

In brief, the key policy recommendations include:

1. Public ownership of natural resources.
2. Keeping recreational fishing out of the quota management system.
3. Managing our fisheries cautiously so they rebuild to abundant levels, providing for future needs and protecting the environment.
4. Banning trawling from areas if there are high rates of bycatch or seabed contact.
5. Investing in public education so we can better conserve fish.
6. Standardise size differences to recreational sizes because lower commercial size limits advantages commercial fishing at the expense of public access.
7. Resourcing comprehensive research to establish the economic value of recreational fishing and how that contributes to the national economy.

From September we will be showcasing how each party's fisheries policy rates against our recommendations.

Each party could earn up to 20 points for adopting each of the policy points, and a bonus 20 points for other policies that promote achievable and affordable measures that give fair consideration of our interests in the fisheries.

LegaSea has adopted this approach to satisfy increasing demand for help and a clear, unambiguous analysis of party policies.

We understand it's not easy for people to make a judgment when there is so much electoral banter going on.

LegaSea is doing its best to keep you informed. We need you to stand up for yourself and future generations' interests by using your vote wisely and getting in behind LegaSea.

Please, a simple, monthly contribution will help keep LegaSea active. Together we can Tip the Scales.

## **ENDS**

P: 0800 LEGASEA (534 273)

E: [info@legasea.co.nz](mailto:info@legasea.co.nz)

W: [www.legasea.co.nz](http://www.legasea.co.nz)

FB: [www.facebook.com/legasea](https://www.facebook.com/legasea)