

LegaSea Update

Kookaburra, August 2015



What's Fishing Worth?

A 2012 Auckland Council study valued recreational fishing in the Hauraki Gulf at an estimated \$81 million.

Nationally, we have no idea what recreational fishing is worth because no-one has spent the money to find out. But that is about to change.

For years our representatives have advocated for meaningful research into how much recreational fishers contribute to our national economy through taxes, job creation and GDP growth.

This research has become more relevant after a recent Australian study found recreational fishers contribute an estimated \$2.56 billion to their economy.

In the absence of any government funding, the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation commissioned internationally acclaimed Southwick Associates to quantify the economic contributions per kilo of fish harvested by recreational fishers. This will account for the value generated by retailers, suppliers, boat builders, charter operators, accommodation, tourism, and more.

Why is LegaSea involved?

LegaSea is promoting the "What's Fishing Worth?" fundraising campaign to support this project because this research aligns with our Principle #5: Value recreational fishing.

Also, because this research is essential if we want balanced fisheries management decisions that restore abundance to our coastal waters.

While a lucky few can remember times when our fisheries were abundant, most of us know the feeling of fishing in depleted waters. More fishers and divers are saying, "we've had enough of "sustainability", we want restored abundance!"

If we want to achieve this goal then we need to give Nathan Guy, our Minister for Primary Industries, information that supports more abundant fisheries and a thriving recreational fishing economy; because there is more to fishing than just low-value exports of our precious kai moana.

This important research is underway and results are expected by the end of 2015. Overall project costs are \$400,000. Please go online to www.whatsfishingworth.co.nz

to add a donation. 100% of your donation goes towards the project and is tax deductible because the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation is a registered charity.

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P: 0800 LEGASEA (534 273)

F: www.facebook.com/legasea

E: info@legasea.co.nz

BREAK OUT BOX



LegaSea is the public face 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 provides public-friendly information about a variety of processes that are important to restoring abundance in our fisheries for future generations.