



Recreational fishing is not a waste

Summer is a hectic time of year for the LegaSea team as there are so many fund raising events, fishing contests and community gatherings to attend. It is such a buzz to see people enjoying the fishing, the camaraderie with their mates, and spending quality time amongst family. And this is just a snapshot of how fishing provides for our wellbeing.

We must all work together to ensure we have abundant fisheries so our kids can enjoy a meaningful fishing experience. While hard to imagine, their lives are likely to be much busier than ours so they will need time-out, and simple pleasures like fishing, just to stay sane.

One of LegaSea's 5 Principles is to value recreational fishing. Our fishing supports a vast array of businesses, from boat builders, tackle dealers, bait and ice suppliers and the assortment of fishing media.

Many coastal communities rely on the summer influx of tourists, including fishing families, to maintain their accommodation, fuel and goods supply businesses.

It is irrefutable that recreational fishing adds value not only to our lifestyle but also to our communities and national wealth.

In 2013 Seafood New Zealand, the lead industry fishing organisation, submitted against the Minister adjusting the recreational allowance for snapper to meet current needs. Instead they submitted, (in part) "we would note that the interests of New Zealand are better served by:

- The generation of export receipts rather than the **high value consumption of imported components**;
- The need to ensure that available savings are channelled into productive investment and **not wasteful consumption**.

So what does this mean? We stop buying tackle and imported fishing gear? We stop building boats and outboards and seaside infrastructure? Forget about coastal communities who thrive during the summer months?

Not likely!

LegaSea is adamant, recreational fishing and the economy of our fishing activities is not "wasteful consumption", it is pure gold.

Fishing contest

A prime example of the value of recreational fishing is the Marsden Cove Fishing Club's Fishos versus Spearos fishing contest held in late November. 170 men, women and children entered the one-day competition. The spearos won the majority of prizes, the stories were longer than any of the fish caught and the kids had a blast!

Best of all they welcomed the LegaSea team and supported the vision of 'more fish in the water so future generations can enjoy a meaningful fishing experience'.

Northlanders have strongly supported LegaSea from the outset and this occasion was no exception. We look forward to developing relationships with the people we met at this event. Go the Taniwha!

Building LegaSea

Westies are a special breed and this was borne out at the Building LegaSea event held at Heritage Tiles in Henderson in late November. This venture out west was made possible by the strong support of Peter Roberts of Heritage Tiles and Brett Davy of Bathroom Systems Ltd. Thanks team.

LegaSea received support for a range of initiatives that are underway. Most valuable was the feedback on plans aimed at small and medium sized businesses. (More on this next issue).

Seabirds and fishing

The Hauraki Gulf has been described as the seabird capital of the world. If fishing in the Gulf this summer please take care to firstly avoid catching birds, and if you do hook them, learn how to release them with as little damage as possible to the animal (and you).

More information next month, but a basic release kit includes items you would most likely have on board anyway:

- Line clippers or scissors
- Towel
- Pliers
- Landing net.

Go online to www.southernseabirds.org and fish smart this summer.

ENDS



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 the sustainable management of fisheries for future generations.

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