



## **Advocacy gets solid support**

Team LegaSea received positive feedback during the recent Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council held in Gisborne. Council delegates appreciated the effort being made to increase public awareness of fisheries issues and the need to rebuild abundance in our nearshore waters.

Also encouraging was the affirmation of three policies to restore marine ecosystems and local fisheries around the northeast coast, Gisborne and Hawkes Bay.

A healthier ecosystem means more fish in our coastal waters and brighter prospects for future generations to enjoy a meaningful fishing experience.

As LegaSea is the public face of the Council these policies are a valuable aid to our advocates, describing our aspirations for the future management of the marine environment.

LegaSea encourages others seeking abundance, diversity and productivity gains in our marine system to adopt these policies.

The policies ratified at the AGM were:

- Area 1 policy
- Crayfish 3 policy
- Gurnard 2 policy.

Historical management has focused on single stocks such as snapper or kahawai. Little consideration has been given to dependent species, the ecosystem in which those fish live, and our environmental impacts. Existing legislation and international best practice demands consideration of these factors.

### **Area 1 policy**

Our policy explains the need to rebuild productivity and diversity by considering the entire ecosystem, including people that have an impact in Fisheries Management Area 1 (FMA1), between North Cape and the eastern Bay of Plenty.

We must manage our marine environment to ensure we provide future generations the opportunities and resources we so gratefully inherited.

<http://nzsportfishing.org.nz/index.cfm/PageID/412/ViewPage/FMA-1-Policy>

### **Crayfish 3 policy**

Crayfish 3 (CRA3) extends south from East Cape to the Wairoa River. Management of CRA3 has been highly controversial and there are serious concerns about depletion.

Gisborne locals are denied access to reasonable numbers and size of crayfish, averaging 580g per cray, the lowest nationally.

Our CRA3 policy seeks to increase the size and abundance of crayfish and ensure the community's needs are met.

<http://nzsportfishing.org.nz/index.cfm/PagelD/411/ViewPage/Crayfish-3-policy>

### **Gurnard 2 policy**

In Gurnard 2 (GUR2), between East Cape and Wellington, gurnard used to be a staple recreational catch. Gurnard catch is plummeting and many Hawkes Bay fishers despair at the declining abundance of other species.

The GUR2 policy seeks to double the existing stock size, by applying a range of strategies to reduce the mortality of small fish.

An immediate and effective response would be regulations making 125mm mesh codends and approved escapement panels mandatory for trawlers operating in Area 2.

<http://nzsportfishing.org.nz/index.cfm/PagelD/389/ViewPage/Gurnard-2-Policy>

### **ENDS**

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