



## **LegaSea roundup**

Thanks for your feedback. LegaSea has changed its format to give you broader news coverage from our fisheries, research and advocacy teams. Your ongoing feedback is welcome and can be sent to [info@legasea.co.nz](mailto:info@legasea.co.nz).

### **1.**

#### **Southern blue moki**

Blue moki is a popular table fish taken by shorebased anglers, set netters and spear fishers around the South Island and lower North Island. An estimated 36,000 blue moki were taken in 1999 by recreational anglers fishing off the east coast of the South Island (Area 3). That's around 53 tonnes. Fishers caught another 130 tonnes off the west coast and around the North Island, in Area 1.

Clearly blue moki is a highly valued recreational fishery, so when the Ministry for Primary Industries recently suggested they increase the quota for commercial fishers in Area 3 we said 'no way'.

Set netting has been banned within four nautical miles of the southeastern coast since 2008. Recreational catch has plummeted.

Since 2010 commercial fishers have exceeded their quota limits by 25%, while local families are now denied reasonable access to a staple food.

We are concerned that MPI is incentivising overcatch, by rewarding commercial fishers who exceed their limits.

Blue moki is not the first; there have been previous decisions, including snapper and kingfish, where the Minister has raised quota limits in response to excessive commercial harvest.

Blue moki are long-lived and vulnerable to overfishing. Stock status is unknown so it is risky to start issuing quota based on commercial overcatch, especially when there is little prospect of any new information being made available, and because the North and South Island fisheries are inseparably linked.

Each autumn blue moki migrate from the South Island to the east coast of the North Island. Catch in one area will affect the other. There has been no attempt to assess the likely effects of any catch increases.

MPI propose a new recreational allowance of five or 10 tonnes. A reasonable allowance would be around 50 tonnes.

LegaSea objects to MPI confiscating the recreational allowance and making it available to quota holders. Commercial fishers have already proven they cannot stick to their lawful catch limits.

Our recommendations include:

- That no change to blue moki 3 catch limits be made at this time as there is no measure of abundance.
- Prior to any catch limit increase the Ministry for Primary Industries must urgently undertake at-sea catch research to establish a more reliable estimate of blue moki 3 mortality and catch at age.

We await Nathan Guy's Ministerial decision with interest.

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

## 2.

### **Let's get political**

Fisheries management decisions are political so our dedicated team of experts has carefully crafted five policy recommendations that promote productive fisheries and a healthy marine environment.

We have sent these recommendations to political parties so they can adopt them in their fisheries policies. Then we will give them points out of 20 for each of the recommendations they adopt. 100 points is king!

We want you to be able to see which parties have fisher-friendly policies, so you can make an informed choice come the September 20<sup>th</sup> election.

In brief, the five recommendations are:

1. Reduce wastage. Remove trawling that cannot demonstrate compliance with reasonable selectivity standards and minimal seabed contact, within the 100m contour.
2. Ownership of our fish stocks remains in public hands. Management of recreational fishing remains outside of the quota management system.
3. Manage for abundance. Adopt an ecosystem approach to managing fish stocks, so they rebuild and thrive in a productive, diverse and abundant marine environment.
4. Equal size limits. Standardise commercial and non-commercial minimum sizes for all fish stocks. Default is to increase the minimum size to the highest current limit.
5. Economic valuation. Commit to resourcing full and independent research to establish the economic value of recreational fishing.

We welcome your feedback on these recommendations. [info@legasea.co.nz](mailto:info@legasea.co.nz)

Be on the look out for our campaign launch in early August - We will be calling on your support to let the parties know how important fish are to us, the public of New Zealand. Can you help now? We are always looking for volunteers email us at [help@legasea.co.nz](mailto:help@legasea.co.nz)

### 3.

#### **Hokianga Accord**

On 7 August the Hokianga Accord will be hosting its 16<sup>th</sup> hui, venue is the legendary Bay of Islands Swordfish Club in Paihia. All are welcome to attend.

LegaSea is keen to participate in a wide ranging discussion on the Fish Forever proposal for two marine and one “scientific” reserve in the Bay of Islands. A community group, the Bay of Islands Maritime Park Inc, released their proposal in May. Their objective is to protect 10% of the enclosed BOI waters with no-take marine reserves.

It is unfortunate this proposal has been released without the support of the Swordfish Club or tangata whenua. The Hokianga Accord hui will be a good opportunity to discuss alternative management strategies, including the use of customary area management tools and potential sites that warrant the statutory protection of a no-take zone.

August 7<sup>th</sup> will also be the first opportunity to celebrate together the approval of Te Puna Mataitai, in the northern Bay of Islands. This was a hard-won initiative by local hapu and Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi, supported by recreational interests, to protect the northern waters from over-exploitation. The objective is to enable local Maori to implement measures to restore the local marine environment, so it is sufficiently abundant to provide for our future environmental, customary and recreational interests.

Please email us if you plan to be at the hui [info@legasea.co.nz](mailto:info@legasea.co.nz).

### 4.

#### **Snapper 1 Strategy Group**

Five meetings of the Snapper 1 Strategy Group have now been held. There has also been a number of meetings between the Ministry for Primary Industries and representatives of the various stakeholder groups.

Our dedicated team has been flat out developing reference documents that present a best-case scenario for future management of our fisheries, not just northern snapper.

There are broad considerations that need to be applied to all our important inshore fisheries, and most critical is to take an ecosystem-wide view when managing our precious marine resources. After all, our snapper, gurnard, crayfish and kahawai need a variety of habitat and food sources as they grow.

We will only achieve abundant, productive and diverse fisheries if we apply the Fisheries Act 1996 in its fullest. The Act has all the tools available. What we need is a Minister willing to apply the precaution necessary to achieve that abundant state.

There are many factors, including land run-off and biosecurity, that impact on our marine environment so it is unrealistic to expect restoration to its unfished state. However, we are doing our best to achieve better understanding of what the Minister needs, and to clarify how we envisage achieving rebuilt fisheries and a healthier marine ecosystem.

## **5. Building LegaSea**

"I BUILD THEREFORE I FISH"

Builders, plumbers, electricians, blocklayers and others involved in the building and construction industry tend to have a passion for fishing.

This has been well reinforced through the feedback LegaSea is receiving from its new corporate and public engagement product under the "Building LegaSea" name.

Building LegaSea offers the opportunity for business owners from New Zealand's construction industry to step up and support LegaSea financially, verbally and through their available media channels.

The LegaSea team has been holding presentations and attending conferences to promote this new funding and support initiative with great success.

"We are pleased at the level of support we have received from the many construction industry leaders we have spoken to during the launch period", says Building LegaSea Project leader Simon Yates.

"We have already received excellent support from many companies that provide goods and services to the recreational fishing community. Now that we have "Building LegaSea" we have a solid programme that companies outside the tackle and service industry can buy into.

"For a relatively affordable fee, construction companies, big and small, can receive a range of materials and rewards from LegaSea which hero their support for the recreational fishing public of New Zealand."

The Building LegaSea team has recently been invited to exhibit at the Registered Master Builders and Certified Builders conferences where they have been well received. There are now well over 30 building and construction industry companies joined up to the Building LegaSea programme.

"Our goal in the first year is to have over 350 Building LegaSea companies on board with us", says Yates.

"With New Zealand's construction industry behind us we are in a far better position to have the fishing industry and Ministry for Primary Industry take note of how

concerned we are about the current state of our commercial fishing practices and overall fisheries management”.

With this level of support the Building LegaSea team is confident of driving change for the public good.

For more information on how to join the Building LegaSea initiative visit [www.legasea.co.nz/building](http://www.legasea.co.nz/building)

## **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](http://www.facebook.com/legasea)