



1.

What's Fishing Worth update

Changing the way people view the ocean and creating a more positive attitude towards conservation is an outcome of overseas research into the value of recreational fishing.

LegaSea believes the same positive benefits could apply to New Zealand when the results of the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation's research valuation project are made public and given effect through policy changes.

Those policy changes will only come about through all of us understanding both the benefits of having more fish available to local communities, and the potential earnings for the country as a whole.

For example, a study of one area in Mexico, Cabo San Lucas, found sportfishing generated over \$245 million in new local and federal taxes. And, the total economic activity associated with 345,000 visiting anglers was estimated to be approximately USD\$1.125 billion.

Here in NZ, after 30 years of the quota management system we still have our precious kahawai being exported for \$1.45 per kilo and 25-29cm snapper earning \$9.00 per kilo in Australia. It's time to smarten up.

We can do so much better with our current marine resources, and more importantly we can rebuild our inshore fisheries to more abundant levels.

When we as individuals and our politicians realise how much a single kahawai can earn by being left in the water we all might collectively pump with excitement!

We don't have to look far. A charter operator working out of Waiheke Island, not far from Auckland central, takes one or two high-end anglers fishing for a few hours, for several hundred dollars. Fly fishing and catch and release is the main attraction. Occasionally the fisher wants to take a fish ashore. If so, the fish and successful angler is taken to a classy restaurant on the island where they have the chef cook their own fish and pay good dollars to do so!

In general, these anglers spend many hundreds of dollars on the island, on accommodation, entertainment and imbibing local wines before leaving to visit other

scenic spots around Aotearoa. Meanwhile, the charter operator has taken another couple of anglers out and given them an experience of a lifetime.

Does it get any better?

In New Zealand we have so much potential for job growth, wealth generation and tax revenues, but that all depends on having fish available.

The New Zealand Marine Research Foundation is determined to complete the study measuring the contribution that recreational fishing makes to the New Zealand economy. Preliminary research results are expected by December and a full blown peer-reviewed report by mid 2016.

LegaSea is helping with to raise the \$400,000 to support the research and subsequent publicity programme, because building a business case and high public awareness seems to be the only way to convince our politicians that we need more fish in the water.

LegaSea urges you to get in behind the Foundation and contribute as much as you can to the fundraising effort. www.whatsfishingworth.co.nz.

All contributions are tax deductible because the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation is a registered charitable trust.

2.

Improving recreational fishing in Hawke's Bay

LegaSea Hawkes Bay is a group working to improve the recreational fishing experience around Napier and the wider southeast coastal region, called Area 2.

Recreational fishing success has collapsed and these locals are determined to have meaningful measures put in place to rebuild the fisheries.

Abundant fisheries are essential to enable current and future generations to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeings.

Concerns about the lack of fish are not new. Colin Murray and members of the local Hawke's Bay Sports Fishing Club have spent thousands of hours over nine years conducting interviews and counting fish being landed by recreational anglers at the main boat ramp.

Their catch graphs show a dramatic and steady decline in numbers of snapper, gurnard, trevally, tarakihi and groper/hapuku. It now takes more than two days of

fishing to catch a snapper, one gurnard per person per angler day is being landed and it takes, on average, more than three days fishing to catch one tarakihi.

It's no wonder locals are complaining. Interest and participation in recreational fishing is diminishing and that is a major concern. At a recent meeting parents were complaining their kids wouldn't go fishing with them any more because there were no fish to catch!

The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council, the New Zealand Angling and Casting Association and LegaSea are all pitching in to help LegaSea Hawkes Bay achieve a successful outcome from meetings with industry and Ministry for Primary Industries officials.

This issue is not unique to Hawkes Bay, there are many coastal communities suffering from the impacts of depleted fisheries. Let's hope that a resolution is found to rebuild Area 2 fisheries soon because it is unthinkable that our next generation of Kiwi kids don't go fishing simply because there were no fish to catch.

3.

LegaSea backs Review of Fisheries Act but focus has to include recreational fishing

Media release

27/08/2015

Recreational fishing advocacy group LegaSea is pleased to hear the Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy announce a major review of the Fisheries Act, but spokesman Scott Macindoe says the government needs to broaden its focus to take into account the value of recreational fishing.

"We congratulate Minister Nathan Guy for having the courage and clarity to acknowledge the need for review, because even after 30 years under the quota management system many of our most precious fish stocks are well below where they should be," Mr Macindoe said.

"The government has called for seafood revenue to double by 2025 but we're already at the maximum amount of fish we can take out of the sea, so if we want to hit that target we need to change our focus away from taking as much as we can from the ocean and move towards higher- value activities," Mr Macindoe said.

LegaSea believes recreational fishing has a substantial economic value despite only taking six per cent of New Zealand's total catch each year, and this needs to be recognised in any overhaul of the Fisheries Act.

“Recreational fishing is hugely popular in New Zealand,” he said, “Over 900,000 Kiwis and 100,000 international visitors give it a go here each year and that has a big impact on the economy yet the government doesn’t know how large that impact is because it’s never been studied as a whole.”

To help address this, LegaSea is getting behind the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation’s recently commissioned study on the economic contribution of recreational fishing in New Zealand, which will take into account what Kiwis buy, rent and catch as well as indirect benefits such as tourism and fishing media.

“The ground breaking research commissioned by the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation couldn’t be more timely – it will at last give New Zealand a true steer as to where real value opportunities lie in our inshore fisheries,” Mr Macindoe said.

The study will be conducted by Florida-based Southwick Associates, who have over 25 years experience as specialists in the economics of recreational fishing and have carried out a number of similar studies around the world. Southwick Associates has retained two local research providers; Blue Water Marine Research and Moana Consultants to ensure the global methodology is appropriately tailored to NZ conditions.

LegaSea has launched a crowd funding campaign on Give a Little to help pay for the study, calling on lovers of recreational fishing around New Zealand to help out.

New Zealand Marine Research Foundation will receive 100% of the net funds raised through the crowd-funding effort, for the costs of conducting the research and promoting the findings of the research, ultimately to support healthier and more abundant fisheries in New Zealand.

“This isn’t a tug of war between recreational and commercial fishing over fishing quotas, this is about making sure we can hand a healthy fishery down to our grandchildren,” Mr Macindoe said.

Money can be donated to the campaign at www.whatsfishingworth.co.nz



LegaSea is a public outreach initiative 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 raises funds and provides public-friendly information about a variety of processes that are important to restoring abundance in our fisheries for future generations.