

LegaSea Update 5

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Growing support for LegaSea

Thank you to all the volunteers who manned the LegaSea stand at the recent Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show in Auckland. They gathered several hundred enrolments and sold many LegaSea tee shirts and hoodies. Most of all they enjoyed the opportunity to pass information onto anyone seeking a better fishing future.

Having such a broad vision of 'more fish in the water and a healthy marine environment' seems to make it easy for people to share their concerns and aspirations.

Show organisers Dave Gibbs and Mike Rose were great. Their guidance and encouragement makes it easy for us to say yes, we will back in 2013.

Murray Little of 'Capn Hooks NoEqI Fishing Rigs' fame proactively offered a rig valued at \$12.00 to anyone presenting a LegaSea receipt to him on the Top Catch stand. This very generous initiative saw many people heading his way whilst Murray sent lots our way. What a fantastic way to support the future of our fishing.

Together we can deliver an effective voluntary advocacy model that we can all be proud of.

Getting in behind LegaSea

To everyone who has contributed directly into the bank account, via a coupon or enrolled through the website over the past month, thank you.

For those who haven't done so yet, don't wait. Your contribution is vital to ensuring the NZ Sport Fishing Council can continue to advocate for our recreational fishing interests.

These interests span a broad spectrum from protecting juvenile fish and habitats, improved harvesting techniques, ensuring relevant science projects are undertaken, and advocating for higher abundance levels so there are fish available for the future and when we go fishing on our days off.

Where does your money go?

LegaSea funds are tagged to one of four work streams:

- ADVOCACY
- RESEARCH
- EDUCATION
- working TOGETHER

At this stage most of the resources have been channelled into ADVOCACY, because that is where it is most needed and effective.

Industry and our "fisheries managers" never seem to sleep when it comes to wringing the maximum economic value out of our fisheries. The latest phase is "removing headroom". This is where recreational bag limits are cut because most people weren't close to catching them. These reductions are applied in case the fishery improves and amateur fishers start taking more.

Usually some commercial "headroom" is removed at the same time, as was the case in some blue cod fisheries last year. But unlike quota, it's a one-way, downward spiral for recreational interests. Amateur bag limits have been cut but not increased.

Clearly, it's up to our representatives to stake a claim for the public's fishing interests.

Reducing recreational interests

In recent years many people have been enjoying better snapper fishing in the Hauraki Gulf. No need to worry about “headroom” here, you may think. Not so.

Work is already underway to determine future management options for this valuable fishery, including bag limit changes.

If we want to protect our interests in snapper and other fisheries we will need more money in the tin.

Now is your opportunity to show your commitment to retaining and improving access to our fisheries. If you do, future generations of New Zealanders will have a lot to thank you for.

How to get involved

W: www.legasea.co.nz – sign up for e-news, buy great merchandise and make an easy, secure contribution

E: info@legasea.co.nz - we have a new batch of brochures & business cards for you to distribute to family, friends & colleagues.

P: 0800 LEGASEA (534 273).

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube – Search for LegaSea & watch Matt Watson’s clip, ‘What is fishing worth?’