



1.

Potential benefits from abundant fisheries

Having six internationally renowned speakers at the recent fisheries Symposium focused on defining the economy of abundance was a real boost for LegaSea and the vision of more abundant fisheries for all New Zealanders.

Around 100 attendees from various backgrounds welcomed the presentations from Daniel Pauly, Dr. Evelyn Pinkerton, Rob Southwick, Dr. Glenn Simmons, Bruce Hartill and John Holdsworth.

After two days of discussions at Snells Beach the overwhelming outcome was the collective commitment to identify the existing management and policy gaps and then communicate the need and benefits of restoring abundance and productivity to New Zealand's coastal waters.

Presentations

Daniel Pauly is a Canadian-based award winning marine biologist specialising in studying human impacts on global fisheries. In 1995 he observed much of the historical or anecdotal information on fish abundance was not used by the next generation of scientists and managers. He called this 'shifting baseline syndrome', where each generation of scientists accepts the state of depletion at the beginning of their career when evaluating change.

His more recent work highlights the risks associated with the worldwide increase in fishing efficiency and effort that is masking the drop in catch rates, the depletion of top species, and the effects on the foodchain. Due to the rapid industrialisation of fishing over the past 50 years catch rates can no longer be considered to represent the abundance of a species.

Co-management is Dr. Evelyn Pinkerton's specialty. Her revelations on how successful co-management has been achieved between the authorities and indigenous people of British Columbia were inspiring. Success is dependent on coastal communities having direct control of, and access to, their fisheries and marine resources.

Rob Southwick, from Florida, presented results from the just-released report: Recreational Fishing in New Zealand. A Billion Dollar industry. More than two year's

work went into the study to measure the contribution that recreational fishing makes to the New Zealand economy.

Recreational fishers spend \$946 million each year on their fishing and this generates around \$1.7 billion in economic activity in New Zealand. He explained how similar studies overseas have been used to both influence decision-makers to implement policies that have restored inshore fisheries, and instigated programmes to clean up coastal waters. These and other measures have led to a resurgence in tourism and economic activity in regional communities.

Dr. Glenn Simmons of Auckland University has been working with Daniel Pauly on the Sea Around Us project. Many countries, including New Zealand, were guilty of under-reporting their total catch to the United Nations. There are solutions available in New Zealand to better measure catch and rebuild fisheries. To be economically, environmentally and socially viable managers needed to adopt a more responsive management regime, apply more input controls and adopt kaitiakitanga, more active stewardship of our fisheries.

Bruce Hartill is a scientist who has spent 25 years researching New Zealand's fisheries. The amateur harvest estimates from his aerial and boat ramp surveys in 2011-12 were very similar to those from the telephone based National Panel Survey. Both projects have been acknowledged internationally as being of a high standard. In his view compulsory self-reporting of recreational catch would not be reliable, cost effective or politically acceptable.

John Holdsworth is a fisheries scientist with 30 years of management and research experience. He described how kingfish was the first fishery in New Zealand to be managed above the baseline standards, to achieve a more abundant fishery. After the Kahawai Legal Challenge the Minister applied a similar conservative approach to managing kahawai. Information collected from recreational fishers is used to monitor these stocks and the data indicates these fisheries are slowly rebuilding.

Summary

There was a wealth of knowledge and goodwill exchanged at this Symposium. There is a need for change and good economic studies can provide a new lens for examining risks and opportunities. For those that participated the inescapable conclusion is that restored abundance will deliver:

- Greater biodiversity;
- Fish stocks that are more resilient to threats;
- A healthier more productive marine environment over time; and
- Opportunities to develop high value low impact marine activities

Together these elements will deliver greater economic benefits to New Zealand and our future generations.

2.

Symposium Facts

Event: New Zealand Fisheries Symposium 2016

When: 8-10 April 2016

Where: Snells Beach, Warkworth.

Why: To define the Economy of Abundance and discuss objectives and policy settings that will deliver much greater benefits to New Zealand from our inshore fisheries.

What next: Publish a summary of discussions and continue dialogue to refine the business case for restored abundance in our inshore waters. Thank our supporters whose generous donations made this event a success. And importantly, talk with politicians, tourism leaders and resource decision-makers about the economic opportunities available from more abundant fisheries.

What can you do: Get involved with a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council club, or sign up to be a LegaSea Legend. www.legasea.co.nz/legend

Your support is vitally important for these teams as they strive to educate the public and our decision-makers about the potential economic, social and cultural benefits associated with having more abundant fisheries and a thriving marine environment.

Symposium presentations: www.abundancesymposium.nz/schedule

3.

Symposium Chairman

Barry Torkington was chairman of the New Zealand Fisheries Symposium 2016. His commitment to these discussions is underpinned by his concern about the lost economic opportunities due to the depleted state of our inshore fisheries.

“Having abundant fisheries is the key to our future fishing interests and potentially our nation’s next growth cycle”.

Barry’s key attributes are his clear thinking, his ability to analyse policy and management proposals and articulate the core issues. For the past five years he has committed his time and resources to programmes that seek to restore abundance and productivity to our inshore marine environment.

He hopes this event is the catalyst for ongoing constructive dialogue to achieve the next major policy shift in New Zealand fisheries management.



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.