



NZ Fishing World – Sept-Oct Edition.

Save our Snapper Nathan Guy

By Mandy Kupenga

Firstly I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the caring fishos who united with LegaSea and sent their submission to Save Our Snapper.

So many people from all walks of life went above and beyond to play a critical role rallying support to get our message across to the Ministry for Primary Industries opposing all options. This included fishing and sports clubs, organisations, businesses, concerned citizens and of course NZ Fishing World.

While our opposition to the snapper 1 proposals was resounding, there's a lot more work to be done. If you didn't get a chance to make your submission, you can still have your say now by going to www.legasea.co.nz/sos.

We need to keep the heat on the Minister to do the right thing, only he can Save Our Snapper.

In September Nathan Guy, the Minister for Primary Industries is due to announce his decision that will determine the future of our snapper fishing through the Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, Hauraki Gulf and East Northland.

This is where the rubber hits the road and we find out if the National party, our government, values the people of New Zealand above commercial gains.

Nathan Guy has the discretion to agree to one of the options presented by his own Ministry or choose another solution - a holistic solution to managing this fishery that will prove he does value our support and wants the best outcome for our snapper fishery and our marine environment.

It will be interesting to see if the likes of Peter Goodfellow, the President of the National Party and Board Director for Sanfords (the biggest snapper quota holder) does exert influence on these types of governmental decisions. We will see.

While we clearly stated our opposition with the huge number of submissions put forward, there's more work to be done. We must continue to put pressure on our government to see reason.

To keep the pressure on LegaSea has dedicated a page on our website where you can write to your local MP and tell them to keep the pressure on My Guy to make the right decision.

Tell your local MP abhorrent commercial waste must be addressed by closing nursery areas to commercial fishing, introduce smart trawl technologies that release small fish (now rather than in 5, 10, 20 years time...), count ALL fish caught as part of commercial quota, and start collecting vital information that reports on how many fish are being wasted and dumped each year (it's shocking that this information isn't being collected already!).

Get in touch with your local media, and national publications. Call your local radio station, jump on radio talkback, share posts on Facebook and keep the pressure on!

Our government representatives must understand that we won't sit back and let them erode our rights to fair access to our fishery. The outcome of this decision will set a precedent for all future fishery decisions. Others in trouble right now are crayfish in Gisborne, gurnard in Hawkes Bay, blue cod in Marlborough, paua in Otago, scallops in Coromandel... the list goes on and on.

The sad fact is that the way the snapper fishery is being managed is only one of many poorly managed fisheries in New Zealand, which is why LegaSea exists. This is only one battle in a war on mismanagement of our precious fishing resources that affect all Kiwis, our way of life and our ability to gather wild food and enjoy the wondrous experiences this provides, least of all putting premium food on the table.

This is our best shot to turn the tide on a wave of appalling political agendas that are not about caring for the people, but lining the pockets of a few corporates.

It's not good enough. The people of New Zealand deserve better. This is your chance to demand it. From the people we voted to represent our best interests.

To many people, politics and fishing is a bit like oil and water, it just doesn't mix. Make no mistake, this is a political decision. We must keep the pressure on and keep fighting, it's up to all of us. United we stand strong, divided we fall, condemned to ever reducing bag limits and more commercial exploitation.

Ask yourself, when you help your kids or grandkids catch their first snapper will you tell them you gave your all for this fight, or you forgot to go online and do your bit?

Our ultimate power rests in our united action.

Keep the pressure on, go to www.legasea.co.nz/sos or www.facebook.com/legasea. Go there now!

As the public outreach brand of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council we support and promote your interests for better management of our precious fisheries resources to ensure that there will be abundant fisheries for future generations of Kiwis. By making a modest monthly contribution of \$5 or more (that's one coffee or less than a bag of bait) we can apply the resources required to effectively lobby for better fisheries and management practices.