

# NZSFC MONTHLY REPORT

NEW ZEALAND  
SPORT FISHING

August 2025

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## Introduction

What a good time of year to be President. The Board and I have been looking back and celebrating so many amazing catches and achievements throughout New Zealand as we make tough decisions on who secures our Council annual awards. This really hits home for me the commitment, professionalism and endurance required to secure these remarkable catches. Hearty congratulations to all of you who made the short lists and the thousands of you who put in the time and effort to catch the whopper or simply help the next generation to learn the craft.

Another bonus is the opportunity to reflect on the volunteerism that characterises our clubs and governance. So many people selflessly serve their clubs, their communities and the fishing that we love so much. Thank you to the countless committees and cleaners, the weighmasters and event organisers. This is what makes our clubs and the council so unique.

Huge congratulations to Brock Johnson for being appointed a IGFA representative for NZ at 17 years old! As incredible as his fishing achievements in the last few years. This a testament to Counties Sport Fishing Club, who I am sure are very proud.

You will agree that bringing home a reasonable catch to feed your family and share with friends is an intrinsic link to your cultural identity. It's what makes us Kiwi. Yet year after year we have to deal with indifferent officials defending the indefensible – over allocated fisheries, the ongoing use of indiscriminate and destructive mobile bottom contact fishing methods and the constant threat of being forced into the dysfunctional and failing Quota Management System as a minor shareholder with some sort of quota allocation scheme.

We have had our hands full coming to terms with the political landscape. The post election MMP coalition negotiation process has been particularly harsh as far as our precious marine environment is concerned. Here are the 21 words agreed upon in the [Coalition Agreement](#) between National and New Zealand First. ***'Deliver longer durations for marine farming permits and remove regulations that impede the productivity and enormous potential of the seafood sector'***

I wish they would stop [conflating](#) aquaculture and fisheries – this only serves to further confuse already extremely complex matters. There is no connection other than quite a lot of common ownership.

Fisheries get a mere 13 words ***'... remove regulations that impede the productivity and enormous potential of the seafood sector'***

On 6th August 2025, the Minister released the [plan for legislative amendment](#). We have subsequently been advised by the Deputy Director General of Fisheries NZ *'The goal is for the Bill to be drafted and introduced into Parliament by the end of 2025'*. In good faith we asked for a copy of the Ministry's Advice Paper to the Minister. Sadly and predictably this was instantly bounced into the Official Information Act request process and time delay. More gamesmanship, no goodwill here. What is there to hide?

Meanwhile, I strongly recommend you carefully read our/your remarkable and generous [submission to the draft proposals](#) to help understand how ridiculous and scary this is. We are maintaining a [comprehensive record of this process](#).

A whopper thank you to the [Standing Committees](#) who are keeping the home fires burning on Fishing, Finance, Youth, Communications, Governance and, more latterly, our efforts to establish a Safety workstream we can all be proud of.

All of this effort is anchored by you, our affiliated clubs and your members' ongoing commitment to making this Council the steady and reliable source of solid advice that it is today.

Your Board, executive and I are looking forward to a productive and fun AGM on September 25th, 26th and 27th hosted by the Kaikoura Boating & Recreational Fishing Club. Helen and Mike, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

## Administration

### Annual General Meeting and Conference what you need to know:

- If you have not registered as yet please do so urgently. We need the numbers to confirm food and bookings for events.
- If you want a polo shirt you must order one, please contact Helen. There will not be extra shirts available at the AGM for purchase.
- Winners of annual awards are encouraged and invited to attend the Annual Prizegiving in Kaikoura. See the list of winners in the Fishing report below.

### Usual Club House Keeping:

- This year is the first time juniors are included in each category of our first and heaviest records. Please make sure that these are forwarded to me so they don't miss out.
- First and heaviest for the season reminder please get your results to me as soon as possible and make sure that you check the website to ensure your catches are there. I would recommend you check them monthly and I will be sending out reminders.
- Club annual returns are now due. Could you please get these to Helen as soon as possible so that we can ensure the yearbook is updated and correct.

## Fishing Standing Committee (FSC)

### 2024–2025 Council Trophy Winners

1. **First Marlin of the Season Tagged** – 7 Dec 2024 – Helen Horrocks, Striped Marlin, Ahipara Gamefish Club
2. **First Marlin of the Season Weighed** – 22 Dec 2024 – David Smith, Striped Marlin, Hawkes Bay Sports Fishing Club
3. **Rob Dinsdale Trophy – First Marlin overall** – 7 Dec 2024 – Helen Horrocks, Striped Marlin, Ahipara Gamefish Club
4. **Saul Trophy – Most Tagged Game Fish** – 44 Striped Marlin and 1 Yellowfin Tuna – Mel Brown, Kawhia Boating and Angling Club
5. **Lord Norrie Gold Cup – Heaviest Striped Marlin of the Season** – 7 February 2025 – John Van Bussel, 137.65kg, Tauranga Sport Fishing Club
6. **Fisherman of the Year – Heaviest Game Fish of the Season** – 17 Feb 2024 – Broadbill, 320.00 kg, Graham Beaufill, Tauranga Sport Fishing Club
7. **The Peter & Noeline Short Memorial Trophy – Most Tagged Billfish** – 44 Striped Marlin – Melanie Brown, Kawhia Boating and Angling Club
8. **The Old Man & the Sea Cup – Most Meritorious** – Graham Beaufill, Tauranga Sport Fishing Club
9. **The Top Junior Angler – Most Meritorious** – Tyler Speed, Mt Maunganui Sportfishing Club
10. **The Hart Trophy – Best Live Marine Photo (Amateur)** – Ben Brown, Kawhia Boating & Angling Club
11. **Volunteer of the Year** – John Ballard, Gisborne Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club
12. **Club of the Year** – Whakatane Sportfishing Club
13. **Angler of the Year** – Melanie Brown, Kawhia Boating & Angling Club



Winning photo by Ben Brown, Kawhia Boating & Angling Club

- NZSFC is helping AUT with a survey about recreational boaters who assist others on the water. We will share it with clubs to gather responses in the near future.
- The board has approved a new Disability Fishing Policy with two categories. Category One is for anglers with a disability who can fish independently under IGFA rules and be eligible for all standard prizes and records. Category Two is for anglers who require assistance to fish and will have their catches recorded in a separate category. This will be presented at the AGM, with Bryce Dineen (Wish for Fish) and Heyden Johnston speaking to delegates.
- Bar crossing seminars are back. These practical sessions will help anglers prepare for safer crossings. Dates will be shared with clubs soon.
- VHF discussions are continuing with the intent of freeing up black spots in the Hawkes Bay/Gisborne east coast region. This includes funding repeater stations in Mahia.

## Youth Standing Committee (YSC)

- All Youth Nationals prizes have now been delivered to winners.
- Work is still underway on adding freshwater species to the Youth Nationals. The junior committee will be consulted for their ideas.
- Brock Johnson has been recognised as the youngest IGFA representative. A remarkable feat for a dedicated young angler who gives so much back to his club and the sport.



*Brock Johnson – the youngest IGFA representative*

## Communications Standing Committee (CSC)

- Our recent TVNZ Seven Sharp story reached a large audience, valued at about \$50,000 in media coverage on winter fishing safety messages. We are planning future stories on youth events and disability fishing.
- Make sure you check out the NZSFC “Pod & Reel” Podcast, we have had great feedback on this. We have done this work in partnership with Maritime NZ. <https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/pod-and-reel-the-nzsfc-podcast/>
- Three more podcasts are in production, covering offshore fishing, the Chathams, and rock fishing.

Ten information boards are ready for the pilot club trial. They will include fisheries management handbooks, bluefin tuna information, monthly reports, and delegate contact details.

- The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has introduced a **new online complaints process** to make it easier for clubs and members to raise concerns.
- If you experience an issue, or if your club needs to formally lodge a complaint, you can now do so directly via our website: <https://www.nzsportfishing.co.nz/make-a-complaint/> We encourage club committees to be aware of this process.

## Fisheries Management Standing Committee (FMSC)

1. In July, NZSFC submitted in response to Fisheries NZ proposals to review catch limits for 15 fish stocks, as part of the annual October stock review. We have summarised each of our comprehensive submissions below.

a. [Blue mackerel \(EMA 7\)](#)

b. [Blue cod \(BCO 8\)](#)

c. [Blue cod \(BCO 3\)](#)

d. [Blue cod \(BCO 5\)](#)

e. [Snapper & rig \(SNA 7 & SPO 7\)](#)

f. [Blue mackerel \(EMA 7\)](#)

g. [Pāua \(PAU 5A\)](#)

h. [Pāua \(PAU 2\)](#)

i. [Jack mackerel \(JMA 1\)](#)

j. [Blue mackerel \(EMA 1\)](#)

k. [Forage fish](#) – Anchovy (ANC 1), Garfish (GAR 1), Sprat (SPR 1), Yellow-eyed mullet (YEM 1)

2. Fisheries NZ is [consulting on](#) the future management of crayfish in the Hauraki Gulf, Bay of Plenty (CRA 2) and Wellington, Wairarapa region (CRA 4). Our team is working through the proposals and will develop a submission on behalf of the NZSFC by 8 September 2025.
3. Fisheries NZ is [consulting on](#) the future management of the collapsed Northland crayfish stock. Proposed options include closures in CRA 1 and options to reduce the recreational daily bag limit for spiny red rock lobster in CRA 1 and part of CRA 2. There is also a proposal to halve the nationwide recreational daily limit for packhorse crays from 6 to 3.
  - a. The FMSC is working with affected Zone 1 and Zone 2 clubs to prepare a detailed submission in response to the crayfish proposals by 22 September 2025.
  - b. You can read our December 2024 submission [here](#).
4. Earlier in August, the [Minister for Oceans and Fisheries confirmed](#) the government is drafting a Fisheries Act Amendment Bill. The Minister intends to introduce a Bill in time for it to be enacted in 2026. Officials have ignored our [comprehensive submission](#) sent in April this year.
  - a. The NZSFC will need to prepare solid arguments to counter proposals in the Bill, when it goes to the Select Committee.
  - b. The NZSFC will need to resource a campaign and secure a hearing with the Select Committee.
  - c. Some helpful articles are online at NZSFC here, in particular, this article '[How the fishing industry captured Shane Jones](#)', is worth a read.
  - d. As the public outreach for NZSFC, LegaSea will continue developing an extensive public awareness campaign – [The Fisheries Reform Scam](#).
  - e. You can read/listen to what the media is saying about Jones' proposals below.
    - i. [NZ Herald article, 6 Aug 2025](#)
    - ii. [Newsroom article, 6 Aug 2025](#)
    - iii. [Radio NZ interview with Shane Jones, 6 Aug 2025](#)

Photo: Alice St George

