

Working for you

All the AGMs for the year are now over and your fisheries organisations are attacking another year of work on your behalf.

Much of the work builds on our previous work with an ongoing emphasis on the need to demonstrate that our activities are positive. This work is critical – it will determine not just costs but also our ongoing access to fishing and the level of reward in the market.

The level of effort on monitoring is increasing and we must be sure that any proposals are well thought through with fit for purpose systems and all done cost effectively.

There is little choice in this. Fisheries Inshore is aware for us to achieve our vision both our customers will need to recognise, value and seek out our fish because of their quality and the broader public needs to be both reassured of our performance – whether it's about sustainability or the effect of our activities on protected species or valued ecosystems.

Proposals that could affect our ongoing access to critical fishing grounds are increasing eg. Marine Protected Areas programme (most recently announced—Otago), others seeking exclusive access to areas – including pipelines, mining or aquaculture, some councils (eg. Marlborough) looking to advance protection of marine biodiversity through the Resource Management Act or broader community initiatives such as Te Korowai in Kaikoura and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

All this work seems to be accelerating. To assist us, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand is currently looking across the range of activities that could affect our access and will develop a consistent approach.

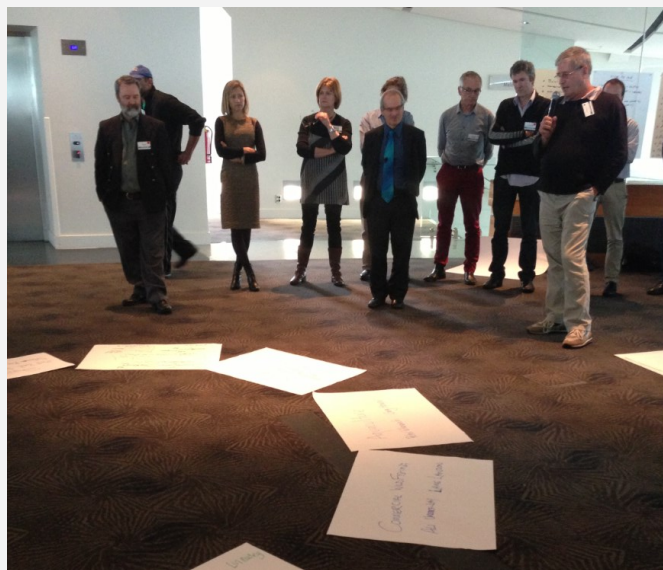
There is little choice for us as fishers, quota owners or your organisations. Ignoring any initiative by others won't stop the processes continuing and the cumulative effect will choke us all. However, reacting to so many debates could also overwhelm us.

Your fisheries organisations all understand the pressures you are under running your businesses. We also understand there is a real need to provide value for money in using your contributions and we are working together on both individual issues and across the whole programme. One example of this was the recent responses to the latest proposal to further restrict access in Taranaki waters to protect Maui dolphins – see [SFNZ](#), [FINZ](#), and [Egmont Seafoods Limited submissions](#).

Fisheries Inshore CE
Laws Lawson

We welcome our newest members!

40 Degrees South Limited
South Pacific Trollers Limited



Getting from 540 to 15 lucky people

Over the past week the Auckland and Waikato Councils have held stakeholder meetings to choose 15 people to work with them on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

Over 540 groups were identified as having an interest in the plan. Councils invited representatives from these groups to meetings in Auckland and Thames. About 150 turned up in Auckland of which 18 of us wore a title that loosely connected us to the seafood industry.

The process to get to 'the lucky 15' was interesting – after hearing about governance and decision making the facilitators invited us to match up with like-minded groups. From each group two people were put forward to go into another selection process, to be held 14 November.

On 14 November we were told the criteria for selection would be **interconnectedness** (ability to represent more than one interest); **consensus building** (capacity to leave behind your advocacy role and find middle ground with others); **time to invest** – (willingness to give 1000 voluntary hours), **representativeness** (reach to a lot of people).

Putting aside the challenge of finding 1000 hours of voluntary time, the big question in my head was, who from all those groups stood to lose their jobs and income from the spatial plan OTHER than commercial fishers.

Commercial fishers and aquaculture farmers should be invited to make up six of the 15 places; land based farmers (because water quality and non-source run off will be a big issue) should have two places and three places given to environmentalists (seabirds, marine mammals). One place to island communities, another place to recreational boaties and recreational fishers should get two places. Manawhenua Maori were keen to be represented, but already they have 8 of the 16 places on the governance board.

Over the next 2 years, at a cost of \$2 million, the Hauraki Gulf Spatial Plan is bound to incite passionate views – let's hope it builds stronger community and brings us closer together around a plentiful seafood basket rather than tear us apart.