

Fisheries stock modelling

The science behind fisheries stock modeling (mostly statistics), is all well and good but it's still only mathematics. Though it is done by scientists experienced in unraveling the factors behind changes in fisheries, there is nothing that can equal being out on the water and the experience of the catch. Good fisheries science includes an analysis of market factors like consumer demands, understanding gear changes along with knowledge that by-catch requirements driven by ACE prices and catch packages change how, where and when we fish. When they do, their analysis can take account of these changes.

For our fishers working in FMA 1, snapper are now so easy to catch fishers have to constrain their effort by fishing in areas where there are chances of hauling in a mixed species bag.

Fisheries Inshore has contracted Seafood New Zealand scientists to attend the MPI inshore science working groups in both the North and South Islands. Our scientists will keep a close watch on how the stock assessment statistics are being interpreted. We are paying them to work for you – but equally we need you to be telling us what's going on out there on your vessels. The key to good science is to get the model inputs right and then to sit at a round table and interpret the data collaboratively. Put your hand up and get involved with us by emailing info@inshore.co.nz.

Nga mihi, Carl Carrington—Chairman



Diary date:

We're currently planning the **first Fisheries Inshore Workshop** with the objective being to inform, debate and agree on a number of key policy issues. The result of this workshop will set a framework and outline tasks for Fisheries Inshore to undertake on behalf of members; make sure you have your say.

Save the date, more information to follow.

14th May 2013, 11am at Sanford Auction Room, Auckland.

Fisheries Inshore collaborates with government

Following on from work started over a year ago where we lobbied for a more collaborative approach with government about how our levy money was being spent, Fisheries Inshore met this week with both Ministry and DOC to discuss the Conservation Services Plan (CSP) and the Aquatic Environment research projects.

Projects like estimating protected species capture, collecting information on the success of live-releases and gathering data on Hector and Maui dolphin, all carry hefty price tags and we're keen to ensure that they offer us value for money. Both the CSP and Aquatic Environment work will be out for consultation soon (expect an email sometime in April) but in the meantime, we strongly applaud these collaborative round table discussions with officials during its drafting.

Inshore observer coverage

Fisheries Inshore was invited by MPI to attend a planning session for allocating the 2014-2015 inshore observer days. Up to 1200 days are being budgeted for (and will be levied against quota owners).

The meeting was a joint MPI and DOC session aimed at co-ordinating government efforts and addressing key issues. With a charge of well in excess of \$500 a day, human observers don't come cheap. The position that Fisheries Inshore took to the meeting was:

1. how to reduce the perceived risk of fishing related mortality of seabirds and protected marine mammals,
2. consideration of areas where cameras (instead of human observation) could be as effective and save us all money.

Fisheries Inshore will take a very active role in the Ministry's proposed MES (Minimum Economic Size) trial. This proposes to advance the review of the QMS discards policy developed by an industry / ministry working group.

All decisions around the use of observers (human or electronic) in the South and North Island's set net fishery and West Coast North Island / East Coast South Island inshore trawl days are stalled while everyone waits for the Minister's decisions for Maui and Hector dolphins. Rest assured we are poised with our response – if you are a fisher or quota owner with an interest in this issue please register your interest at info@inshore.co.nz.

WE'RE PLEASED WITH OVER 200 SUBSCRIBERS AFTER JUST TWO ISSUES—BUT WE'RE STILL LOOKING TO GROW—REMEMBER TO PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON.

Members voice:

Gavin Mackenzie, from Raglan Trawling is working in W.A. on a gas pipeline project where he's experiencing "Environment and Industry working together". Towing barges out to Barrow Island, 5 weeks on 5 weeks off he's often working around humpbacks, turtles and dolphin and can't see any reason why its any different over here. In a letter he's sent off to Raglan Chronicle he reminded locals that fishing and protected species can co-exist and the threats facing Maui dolphin are not commercial trawl nets.



Gavin Mackenzie - Raglan Trawling