

First AGM a great success

I was extremely pleased with the unanimous recognition by members and guests at Monday's Fisheries Inshore Annual General Meeting for our sector to be coordinated, responsive and cohesive. All present agreed that we needed a national finfish voice and that our interests across the inshore and pelagic sector are more aligned than they are different.

It was also encouraging to hear strong support for Fisheries Inshore to take the lead on challenges to our collective permission to fish. Members accepted that during the establishment phase of Fisheries Inshore it is likely that they would have to contribute more than what they were historically paying under the SeaFIC model but all acknowledged that if they shied from this investment the long term costs of anti-fishing policies would be a far greater burden.

Our new website www.inshore.co.nz is now live. The website and newsletter will be the main communication links to members.

Nga mihi,

Carl Carrington—Chairman

Video Observers in Timaru

Since October 2013 the Ministry of Primary Industries has had observers and video cameras on set net vessels in Timaru assessing 'alternative and cost effective ways of monitoring inshore fisheries'. The Ministry has been using cameras from both Canadian and New Zealand companies to film the setting and hauling of nets.

Be assured that Fisheries Inshore are taking part at both a regional and national level – we are taking a keen and active interest in how video observation footage will be used, who gets access and what kind of changes are needed to the Fisheries Act to make this a useful tool rather than a potential problem.

We know that human observers are expensive and can be difficult to accommodate on smaller vessels that are licensed to carry a low number of crew.

Fisheries Inshore expects the Ministry's experiences' in Timaru and what is being learnt in the Taranaki set net fishery will be influencing the soon-to-be-released decisions on the Threat Management Plan for both Maui and the upcoming review for Hector dolphins. We are talking to government officials and are intending to be very proactive; to be part of our conversation please register your interest by emailing us at info@inshore.co.nz.

Members voice:

It is vital for the inshore industry that we have all parts of it working together.

We need hear the collective viewpoints to issues and use our combined talents to agree and implement solutions that work for us and our communities.

Fisheries Inshore offers us the opportunity to have quota owners, fishers, LFRs, combined quota owner groups as all part of it. We applaud and encourage that and intend to positively contribute.



*John Urwin - Fisheries Inshore
New Zealand Member from
Invercargill*

If you're not already a member—download the [application form here](#)



[FLA 3]

Its good news for inshore fishers on the South Island's east coast. At a recent meeting in Timaru MPI announced that it was looking like there may be a 20% in-season TACC increase for Flatfish 3. This will make ACE easier to obtain and fishing efforts not be as constrained. There appears to be a good abundance of these fish this season and the extra 300 tonne would be welcomed. Flatfish are fast growing and short lived, generally surviving only 3 – 4 years so it makes good sense to be able to fine tune the TACC.