



MAKE YOUR MARK

PRESSURE FOR EXPORT EARNINGS AND LOBBYING FROM BIG BUSINESS IS REALLY WHAT HAS PLACED THE FISHERY IN THE STATE IT IS TODAY.

Well, it must be election year: the political parties' and lobby groups' press releases are coming in as fast it seems as I can delete them.

Some of the lobby groups' releases are simply a rant ... not shy on telling you who to vote for, and naming politicians who are your enemy. They get deleted. However I presume fishing is one of your passions if you're reading NZ Bay Fisher so it's worth giving a thought to the question - "Will my vote be swayed by a party's fishing policy?"

If the answer is "Yes" - as it is in my case - it would be irresponsible of me to vote without doing some research.

Over the last 20 years the reigning parties' treatment of recreational fishers and species has been very poor and in many cases arrogant. Pressure for export earnings and lobbying from big business is really what has placed the fishery in the state it is today. Our much-lauded QMS is a smokescreen for big business fishing and would be more aptly named the QMMS (Quota Mis-Management System).

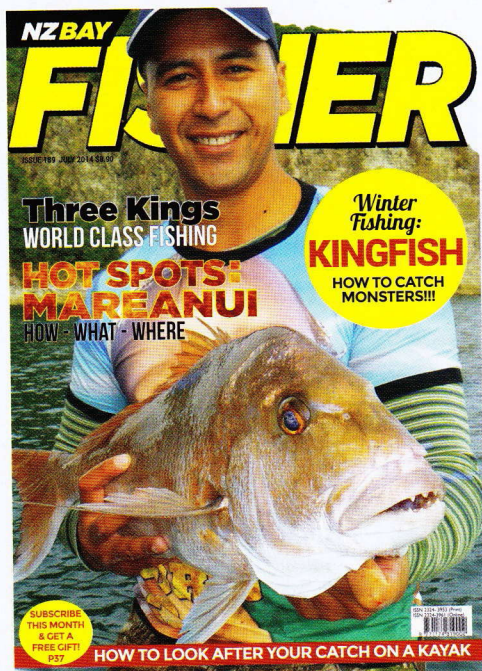
However some of the smaller parties, such as United Future, have produced a very recreation-friendly fisheries policy including recreational-only species and recreational-only areas. Industry and economics would never allow this to happen of course, and only a small party with little political clout and next to no chance of forming a government has the luxury of selling us such an idealistic recreational fishing policy. However any policy in support of recreational fishing is great - particularly if it gains enough traction to become a key political policy issue and raises the profile of recreational fishing interests to the point of influencing our appalling fishing management in the future. For recreational fishers it's clear that the tide is turning slowly and we are starting to be listened to seriously, with the likes of Legasea rallying the general fishing public to fight for their recreational fishing interests.

If fishing policy is going to influence your vote, do the research, choose your party and make your vote count.

Tight Lines,

Kev Power

NZ BAY FISHER Editor



COVER SHOT:
OKUMA CHALLENGE
WINNER CHARLIE SAVAGE
PHOTO CREDIT:
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