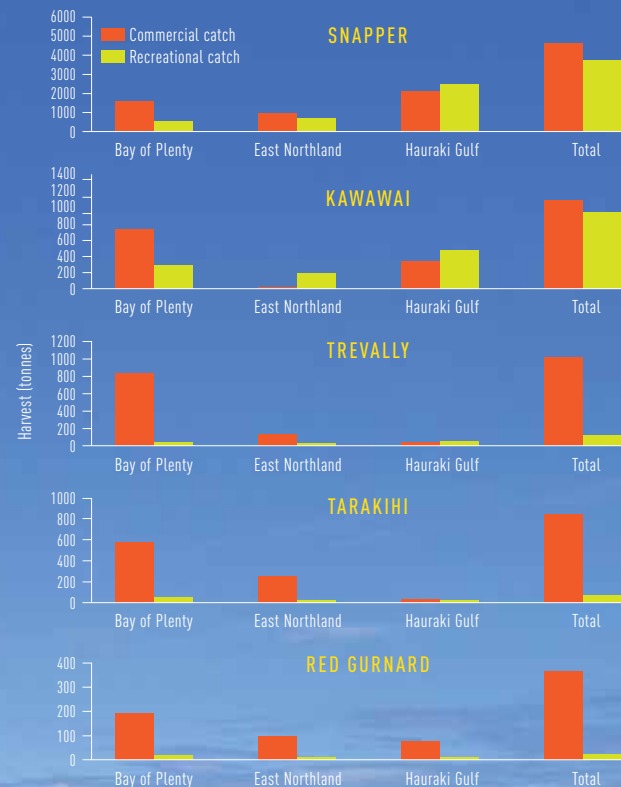


# YOU'RE DOING YOUR BIT FOR THE FUTURE OF RECREATIONAL FISHING IN NEW ZEALAND

We also combine interview data with other information sources such as aerial surveys, to estimate the recreational harvest. While the overall commercial catch of commonly caught species is usually greater than the recreational catch, there are some areas where recreational fishers can take the majority of the catch, such as in the Hauraki Gulf in 2011–12.

## COMMERCIAL versus RECREATIONAL CATCH IN 2011–12



## Find out more

Email [bruce.hartill@niwa.co.nz](mailto:bruce.hartill@niwa.co.nz)

Phone (09) 375 2067

For more information about fisheries science see [www.niwa.co.nz](http://www.niwa.co.nz)

Receive fishing related updates in your area. Email [recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:recfishingteam@mpi.govt.nz) to sign up

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



SHARED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR THE FUTURE

enhancing the benefits of  
New Zealand's natural resources



# WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

## FOR A BRIGHT FISHING FUTURE

Recreational fisheries surveys explained



**NIWA**  
Taihoro Nukurangi

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



SHARED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR THE FUTURE



# THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY

Each year, NIWA is contracted by MPI to gather information about recreational fishing practices and catch from popular fishing locations around the north-eastern coast of the North Island.

We use the information to track how the number, size and age distribution of fish species are changing over time. MPI uses this information to manage and conserve stocks, ensuring enough fish remain for future generations to enjoy.

You'll often come across our surveyors after you return from a day's fishing. They'll ask you where, when and how you fished, and count and measure your catch. It takes just a few minutes.

**NIWA and MPI really appreciate your support. You're doing your bit for the future of recreational fishing in New Zealand.**



## HOW IS YOUR INFORMATION USED?

*How many, how big, how old ...*

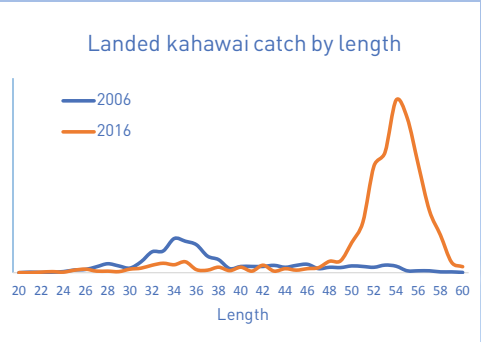
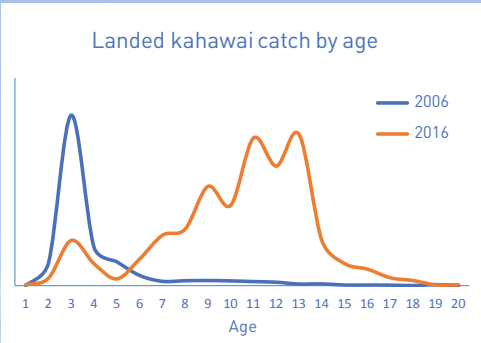
Using the data we collect from you, NIWA's scientists can identify trends in the populations of key recreational species.

We began collecting data in 1991, so we're building a lengthening picture of population changes. This crucial information is used by MPI for the ongoing management of fisheries.

Our long-term goal is to make latest data available online, for each of the country's key recreational fishing regions. *Watch this space!*

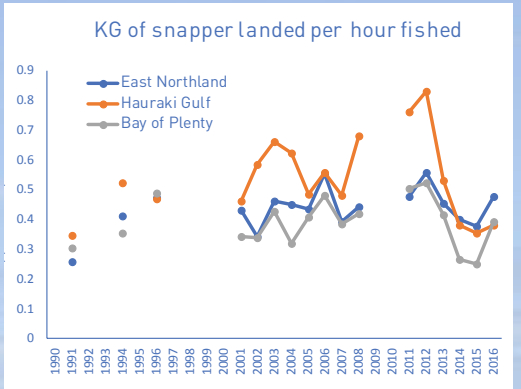
Here are examples of the information we can extract from the survey data:

### Hauraki Gulf kahawai *A healthier fishery*



*More kahawai are reaching sexual maturity, supporting future productivity and better fishing.*

### Snapper catch rates *Eastern Northland, Hauraki Gulf, Bay of Plenty*



## HOW DO YOU AGE A FISH?

By looking at its earbone (otolith) under a microscope!



A fish's earbone, much like a tree trunk, has annual growth rings. We examine a thin slice of the bone, and it's a simple case of counting the rings to work out the age of the fish.

