

## Our Fishing Future Inc. Presidents Report 2018.

Change often generates feelings of both fear and hope. This was most certainly the case when the FishnFutureSearch was held some 5 years ago. In spite of our inability to attract some sections of recreational fishing interests, Our Fishing Future Inc. was formed and we looked forward with some hope to the future. Despite having attracted good support from Government agencies, politicians, other fishing sectors and the media, real progress on reform has been difficult to achieve. We have had many amicable meetings with Government ministers and others with interests in fishing, often getting agreement of the need for change. Over the last few years of the National Government it became clear nothing was going to change for the better in fisheries other than a strengthening of the big corporates.

With a change of Government hope has been renewed and noises of positive changes began to circulate. Although there has been something of a “back to the future” re-organisation of the Fisheries Ministry, we are yet to see any real proposals regarding recreational representation and governance. Perhaps the next few months will see change but given the pressure Government appears to be under from virtually every sector of society, we may well struggle to make it onto the agenda. While we watch numerous minority groups seek and get autonomy with rights to self determination, but recreational fishers still seem stuck in a time warp!

Despite the challenges Our Fishing Future Inc. Has made a number of submissions on policy issues. We took part in the Technical Advisory Group process, but are unsure if anything will progress from it. I was invited to the Fisher Exchange in Western Australia organised by the New Zealand Initiative. This trip highlighted the progress made by Recfishwest in improving the stewardship of marine resources in Western Australia. It certainly provided an organisational model worthy of more study. We have also been involved with The Nature Conservancy who now have offices in Wellington. You can expect to see them working to improve our marine environment.

I would like to thank those who have continued to shoulder responsibilities within the organisation and look forward to a more productive future. We will continue to seek change over the coming year.

Geoff Rowling

President