

Understanding fishing in the Marlborough Sounds



Jojo Jackson greets fishers in the Marlborough Sounds

“The information will help to protect things about Marlborough Sounds fishing that are so important to recreational fishers”

A survey to help understand what makes a good fishing experience in the Marlborough Sounds started in December last year.

The ‘Why We Fish’ survey aims to get a comprehensive picture of what recreational fishers hope to get out of their fishing experience, by looking at what the ingredients of a good fishing experience are.

Questions include what fishers think about ways to reduce accidental fish deaths when fishing for species regulated by size and bag limits, and what sort of management they would like to see in place.

The first stage of the survey, being run by the Cawthron Institute, involves Cawthron researcher, Jojo Jackson, gathering names of recreational fishers in the Marlborough Sounds who want to later participate in the online survey.

Jojo says she is really enjoying her time in the Sounds speaking to fishers. “The vast majority of people are very receptive to the survey – they are keen to have their voices heard,” says Jojo.

“It’s been great being out on the water with the MFish compliance team and getting to talk with all sorts of different people who fish in the Sounds.”

MFish inshore fisheries manager, Scott Williamson, says the survey results will be used to improve the management of the Marlborough Sounds fishery.

“In order to make choices on how the community wants to manage the Marlborough Sounds we need to know who the fishers are, and what responses they might make to different management options.”

The survey takes a comprehensive look at the opinions of the people who fish recreationally in the Marlborough Sounds.

“The information will help to protect things about Marlborough Sounds fishing that are so important to recreational fishers,” says Jim Sinner, sustainable business group manager at Cawthron.

Members of the public are also welcome to participate in this survey. Simply visit the Cawthron website for more information: www.cawthron.org.nz/surveys.

The results of the ‘Why We Fish’ survey will be available on the Cawthron website in June.

The Cawthron Institute has been commissioned to do this survey by MFish.