



## WHITEBAIT ARE YOU READY FOR THEM?

Netting Supplies have been manufacturing whitebait nets in New Zealand for over 35 years, so they know their business and what works when it comes to whitebaiting. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced whitebaiter Netting Supplies has the gear for you.

They also stock a good supply of aluminium mesh and English Ulstron netting. Because of its construction the English Ulstron has superior strength whilst still being a lighter material meaning minimal interference with the current and minimal effort when moving your nets. If you know your whitebait gear you will already know English Ulstron is the best netting for the job. They also stock their Kiwi range which is made from NZ made

netting which is also a very strong and durable material and is a good option for the more casual whitebaiter.

Now is the best time to get your nets out of storage and give them a checkover to ensure they are ready for the start of the season.

To keep your nets in top condition, all nets should be rinsed and dried before storing in a cool dark place. Some customers who have looked after their nets carefully have had them for 8-12 years.

View their full range of New Zealand made nets, accessories, materials and stockists at [www.nettingsupplies.co.nz](http://www.nettingsupplies.co.nz)

Get online and secure your NZ made net now!

[www.nettingsupplies.co.nz](http://www.nettingsupplies.co.nz)

**Deluxe Floating Screen**

**Set Nets**

**Akura Sock**

**Waitoto Sock**

**Belt Bag**

**Scoop Nets**

**FREE Bucket Bag**  
with every Netting Supplies sock net purchased - just mention this ad!

\*Bucket not included

**HURRY! This offer ends 31 August.**

Suppliers of aluminium mesh and English Ulstron netting. For more info on sizes and models visit [www.nettingsupplies.co.nz](http://www.nettingsupplies.co.nz)

**NETTING SUPPLIES**  
QUALITY NEW ZEALAND MADE WHITEBAIT NETS

Phone 027 668 7378

# The future of New Zealand's recreational fisheries

In 2016, the Wellington-based think tank The New Zealand Initiative began a research project into how to improve New Zealand's recreational fisheries and the fishing experience.

Dr Randall Bess is the Research Fellow for this project. Randall is a former commercial fisherman and long-time recreational fisherman. For 13 years, he worked in fisheries management at the former Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Randall has written two reports for this project. The first report, What's the Catch? The state of recreational fisheries management in New Zealand, sets out the situation in New Zealand and the problem we are facing with recreational fishing.

That is, as demand increases for shared fisheries (those with commercial, recreational and customary interests), there will be increasing pressure to continue shrinking daily bag limits, increase minimum legal sizes and, if things get really bad, decrease season length. Randall's project aims to find solutions that will reverse this scenario.

The second report, The Overseas Catch, The state of recreational fisheries abroad, covers the observations that Randall made last year when visiting recreational fisheries in northern California, British Columbia, Texas and Western Australia. This report provides new ideas that could be useful in debating the future state that we want for New Zealand's recreational fisheries.

The next step in the project saw the New Zealand Initiative and the US-based Environmental Defense Fund lead a group of New Zealanders involved in recreational, commercial and customary fisheries to Western Australia to learn more about how they manage their fisheries.

This exchange brought the New Zealanders together with representatives of the Western Australia Department of Fisheries (Department), Recfishwest and the Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC).

"What stands out about Western Australia

is their unique governance arrangements for managing fisheries. There are clearly defined roles for Recfishwest, the group representing recreational fishing interests, and WAFIC, which represents commercial interests.

These arrangements include both organisations receiving funds to carry out their roles. This means they are recognised by the government as the peak bodies or central points of contact and referral for sector-level issues. Most importantly, these arrangements have changed intersectoral dynamics for the better," said Randall

Randall will be releasing a consultation document for his next report in early August. In it he will set out policy recommendations that reflect the views of the New Zealanders who participated in the Western Australia exchange. They are intended to stimulate public debate.

This is where the public comes in. Randall says that while the exchange participants have some shared views about how to change fisheries management for the better, any meaningful change needs to reflect the views of the wider public.

The New Zealand Initiative and the exchange participants will be meeting with fishing clubs and holding public meetings up and down the country until early October. These meetings will provide opportunities for the public to have a say about the future of recreational fishing.

"We want to hear the public's views about the proposed policy recommendations, and any other ideas that can bring about the type of change that has the public's support," said Randall

Details about the public meetings will be provided in local newspapers and to fishing clubs.

After hearing from the public, Randall, with input

from the exchange participants, will update and finalise policy recommendations to present to the Government in late 2017.

The New Zealand Initiative received funding for their fisheries project from the late Sir Douglas Myers and the Aotearoa Foundation. Sir Douglas, a successful businessman, was passionate about recreational fishing and wanted to improve the fishing experience.

## THE NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE

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Western Australia exchange participants.