

FISHING COMP 10KG



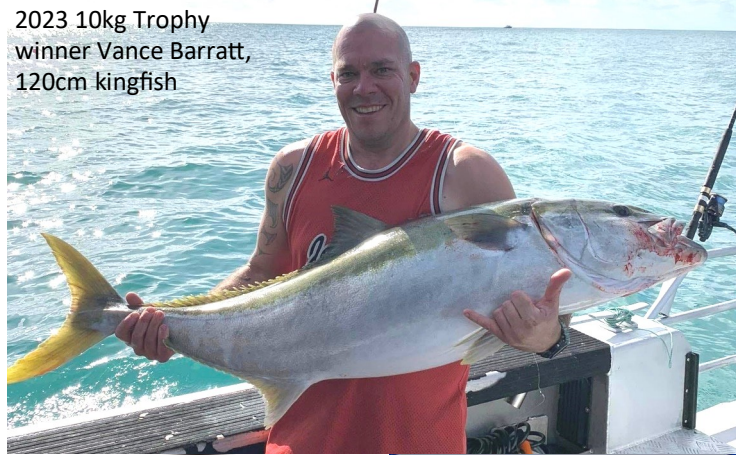
Warkworth Gamefish Club
King's Birthday Weekend
Saturday & Sunday

2023 EVENT REPORT

Hunting & Fishing®

NEW ZEALAND
WARKWORTH

2023 10kg Trophy
winner Vance Barratt,
120cm kingfish



SOLD OUT!

All tickets were sold and there was a waiting list in case of no-shows for the **2023 Warkworth Hunting & Fishing 10kg Tournament**

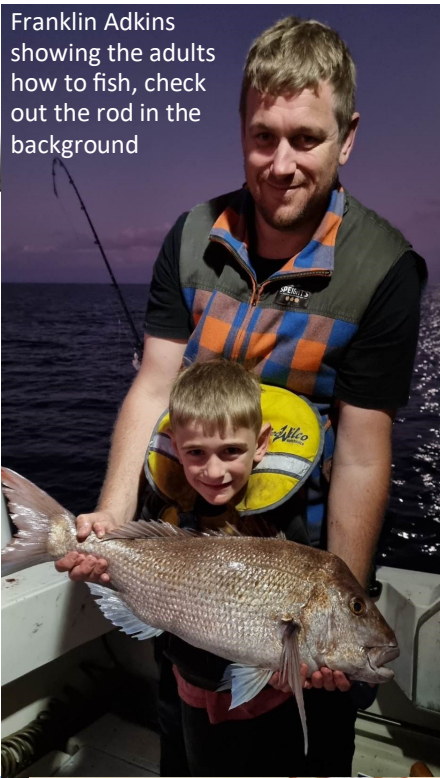
We're restricted to 100 people at the Club, so the ticket scarcity factor should figure in your planning for next years event on **June 1st & 2nd 2024**.

As always, the comp produced some great catches on 10 or less kg strain line, and the 57.5cm average was in line with recent years where a 45cm minimum length and maximum 2 snapper measured in has been set.





Average length snapper prize. Thanks Aaron & Matt at Matakana Marine



Franklin Adkins showing the adults how to fish, check out the rod in the background

Although the average and top 10 snapper look pretty good, it was a common observation that their condition was patchy. Yup, a few of the 'mushy fillet' sort, but a large proportion of snapper and kahawai had a 'hollow' in their belly profile, and filleting knives that would normally be greasy with fat at this time of year were remarkably fat-free.

The snapper and kahawai on the eastern side of Gt Barrier were lean and ravenous, but less so closer to the mainland like around Kawau. Regardless of where blame is directed (it's never just one factor) it's an observable phenomena and a bit scary when you've been fishing for decades and in the space of one season you're rejecting 50cm snapper because they look like greyhounds.

Being a measured comp we can put our hands on our hearts and say we're acting responsibly. The memory of a big snapper swimming off powerfully lasts longer than one of a tail hanging out of a chillybin. Congratulations to all those catching their PB's and other good fish and releasing them.

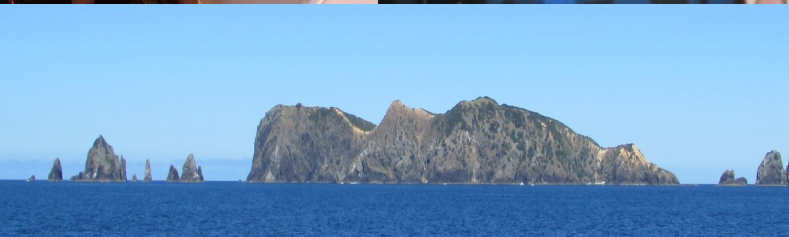
Warkworth Hunting & Fishing store, owned by Colin Barlow again filled the prize racks with top quality gear from you-know-where and cash to bring you arguably the fattest prizepool of any 'small' comp. Next time you're in HnF Warkworth let the team know you appreciate their support for our events thanks.

Matakana Marine and Mahurangi Marine have kept their long term support involvement with generous prizes of a 3.3hp Mercury outboard and IceyTek bin plus voucher rewards respectively. It was great seeing these guys actually fishing the event too. Just don't break down in the 10kg though, because their phones will be off! **That's another great reason to get your boat servicing done in the months BEFORE the 10kg.**

For all our sponsors their support of our event comes off their bottom line, please respect that back by shopping locally.



Captain Trev with dinner



Awesome EarlyBird prize thanks Wayne at Mahurangi Marine



LEGASEA
FISH FOR THE PEOPLE

So the average length snapper was 57.5cm, and this year there was only one fish on the money and it was Vaughan Hodgson, fishing locally. Vaughan has been fishing the 10kg since he was at primary school and is always in the running for one of the major prizes. This year for average length snapper he took away the Matakana Marine 3.3hp Mercury outboard motor. The prize proved too irresistible for someone else, but we got it back and those other fullas won't be fishing our future events.



Like last year, the weekend started out with a Westerly flow. Air temperatures were mild but the sea temp was 15—16 degC, quite a bit cooler than last years by 2 to 3 degrees, depending on where you were.

Radio Channel 01 (Gt Barrier) is in limbo at the mo', currently manned by Coastguard but not 24/7. As a club we are watching this space, as are a couple of other clubs and of course residents of the Island. Surprise, surprise, funding is at the heart of the problem. But it is potentially a life-saving service so hopefully something positive will be sorted soon.

Whether Channel 01 survives or not, a Maritime Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Certificate is of benefit to all mariners and isn't a hard or costly qualification to get. You'll receive your own call sign and then you'll be happy making trip reports—*which might just save you and your crews butts one day*. Double down and do a Boatmaster course too, even if you have been boating all your life. The Coastguard website has the course details, you might even be able to do it remotely.

Compliance with the 10kg breaking strain line restriction was an issue this year. We don't take any joy in disqualifying catches but we will. There's no joy in an event that isn't a level playing field. Our Club has a line tester available to anyone at anytime, subject to availability of someone experienced to test lines. Pre-10kg comp we're very happy to meet you at the Club. It's a good opportunity to test your knots too.

Thanks Colin at Warkworth Hunting & Fishing for the \$5 spool ups of IGFA 10kg line. If you store your line properly it's all good for multiple years usage.

Okay okay, here's the results:

The EarlyBird ticket offer is always well subscribed, and the customary compact chillybin was supersized by Mahurangi Marine this year with a 70litre IceyTek with a padded seat on top. This year the gold coins in the chillybin also got a 50% boost to \$300. Only the bottle of rum remained the same, with Ollie Hogg the winner of the EB draw.

Where there's instances of tied lengths, placings are awarded in the order that people get to the measure-in station.

The juniors got amongst some good fish, great to have the kids out there—thanks to the parents that make this happen.

Junior KAHAWAI:

Franklin Adkins 57cm

Junior TREVALLY:

Henri Buchs 45cm

Junior SNAPPER:

1st Frankiln Adkins 66cm

2nd Quinn Taylor 59cm

3rd Dylan Varty-Stenbeck 56cm



Franklin



Henri



Quinn



Dylan



Senior KAHAWAI:

1st Korbyn Barratt 56cm

2nd Adam Perkins 56cm

3rd Dave Adams 55cm

The consensus was that kahawai were scarce and skinny. Where have they gone?

Senior KINGFISH:

1st Vance Barratt 120cm (Vance won this section with a 107 last year)

This length k'fish in good condition like Vance's = approx 22kg

2nd Andrew Stanley 101.5cm 3rd Bradley Bowmar 101cm



Korbyn B, 1st place kahawai



Dad Vance Barratt, 1st place kingfish

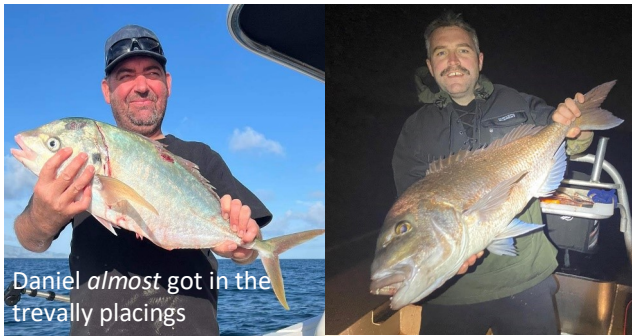
Senior TREVALLY:

- 1st Barry Plumpton 62cm
- 2nd Doron Anderson 62cm
- 3rd Aleks Jajner 61.5cm



2023 WwGFC Ladies Comp Saturday 4th November

Awesome trevally like these are generally caught in the SW corner of Gt Barrier. There is an anchoring prohibition in this zone because of Caulerpa seaweed spread. This is one helluva marine pest and the most serious threat to our marine environment possibly EVER. The damn stuff grows super fast smothering everything in its path, down to 30m deep! In the season or two since arriving in Tryphena it has blanketed the bay and over 100tonnes of it washed up in the recent cyclones — but you still can't see the bottom of the bay because of it. Please take the anchoring prohibition seriously and report any suspicious looking seaweed to MPI, see the last page in this report.



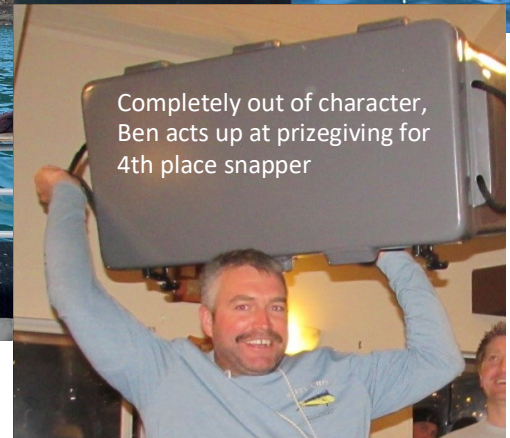
Daniel almost got in the trevally placings



Grant Hamilton, again!

Senior SNAPPER:

- 1st Grant Hamilton 80.5cm (that's approx 9.4kg / 21lb)
- 2nd Andres Blank 79cm
- 3rd Ryan Lazenby 79cm
- 4th Ben Wyatt 78.5cm
- 5th Barry Plumpton 78cm
- 6th Richard Grigg 77cm
- 7th Trevor Ridley 76.5cm
- 8th Chris Adkins 76cm
- 9th Tyler Edwards 75.5cm
- 10th Phil Hughes 75.5cm



Completely out of character, Ben acts up at prizegiving for 4th place snapper

Most of these fish, and many others, got to swim away after a quick photo. The correct handling of all fish is critical to their post-release survival. NEVER lift a fish by its tail—yup it might swim away, but the data is solid that they'll probably suffer a slow death from spinal dislocation. Fingers out of gills, don't squeeze the guts/gill plates, wet hands, rubber nets, get 'em back in the sea quick, you know the drill. There's some great fish handling tips on www.fishcare.co.nz





The **10kg trophy** is awarded on a formula and any of the catch species (snapper, kahawai, trevally, kingfish) can win it. This year Vance Barratt's impressive 120cm kingfish takes the 10kg Trophy. As a matter of course Vance's line was tested and consistently broke at 8kg, making his 22kg kingfish all the more impressive. 3 generations of Barratts were on Bloodline like usual, passing on the skills and knowledge and having a great time doing so. Bloodline is also a bit like a floating restaurant—venison, paua, and a variety of fish—and that was just one meal! The Barratts are regulars in the top 3 of all comp species, and Vance is starting to make the kingfish his own personal division.



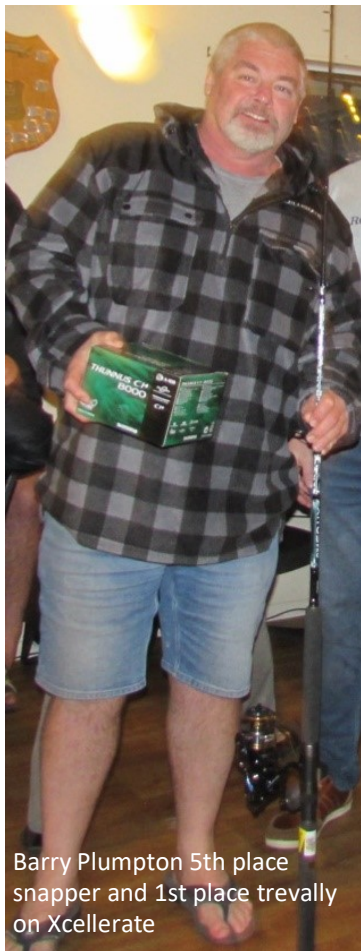
Doron Anderson ALWAYS in the prizes, 2nd place trevally



Tyler Edwards, 9th place snapper



Thank you Daniel, Renee, Luan, Freya, and Leanne for a great nights food and drinks service. Always such a great place for a brunch or dinner or just a drink and fries. Opening hours and bookings syckitchenbar@gmail.com 022 070 0950.



Barry Plumpton 5th place snapper and 1st place trevally on Xcellerate



\$1000 cash longest snapper: Grant Hamilton



Average snappers: 2007/1.94kg,
 2008/2.53kg, 2009/2.37kg,
 2010/2.03kg, 2011/2.01kg,
 2012/2.768kg, 2013/2.520kg,
 2014/2.555kg, 2015/2.467kg ,
 2016/2.699kg, 2017/2.223kg,
 2018/2.557kg, 2019/56.5cm, 2020/
 *55cm, 2021/64cm, 2022/59.5cm
 2023/57.5cm

Biggest snappers: 2007/9.608kg,
 2008/8.722kg, 2009/7.726kg,
 2010/9.994kg, 2011/7.798kg,
 2012/10.200kg, 2013/8.522kg,
 2014/9.929kg, 2015/8.803kg,
 2016/9.466kg, 2017/10.826kg,
 2018/7.276kg, 2019/75cm
 2020/85cm, 2021/80cm, 2022/83.5cm
 2023/80.5cm



Check out wwgfc.co.nz for tournament photos and other tournament dates, and updates on our FaceBook page.

We have over 300 members, and some of us have been on the committee for more than a decade, so please come along to a meeting to see if it's the kinda thing you might like to be involved with. Do something, do nothing, just come along! Thank you committee for putting another great event together, from putting up/down road signs through ticket logistics, rules, website, Fbk, measure-in, taking photos, etc.

The next events are our AGM (provisionally 12th August) and the Ladies Comp 4th November 2023.

Keep an eye on LegaSea updates legasea.co.nz They are us and we are them. Legasea and its predecessors were born out of necessity to defend your right to provide fish for your family, and to protect marine health and diversity. This is a constant battle in the face of commercial pressure and short term tax revenue. Just add new marine pests and an increasing population and the continued support and relevance of Legasea is obvious.

Thanks again to our generous sponsors, and to you awesome fishers for an excellent weekend and successful event. Thanks for all getting back safely, and the pics you sent through.

Tight lines and see you at the 2024 Warkworth Hunting&Fishing 10kg Tournament!



Warkworth Gamefish Club

warkworthgamefish.co.nz



**BAXTER STREET
 PH 4222 308**

Out there doing it!



VOLVO PENTA



MERCURY

sales@matakanamarine.co.nz

09 422 7822



Tom Hatfull
winning styles

**WwGFC One Base
Tournament has
NEW dates for 2024:
Saturday 17th to
Monday 19th
February**

**Yes, it coincides with the first
week of the NZSFC Nationals**



Trevor Ridley 7th
place snapper



Chris Adkins 8th
place snapper



X Factor & Matakana Marine



Phil Hughes 10th
place snapper



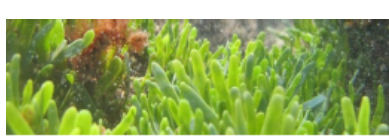


Good to see ya KB!



Above: So good to have the kids here. Great parents raising good little fishers
Also, Arid Island under a big moon.
< Elusive living up to her name
below: Mighty Mo.
Thanks Trev for taking the LunaSea crew when they couldn't get off the start line





Common questions and answers about exotic *Caulerpa* seaweeds

The following are some of the common questions we are asked about the exotic *Caulerpa* seaweeds and our response to their discovery here.

About the species

How did the two exotic *Caulerpa* seaweeds get here?

The exotic *Caulerpa* seaweeds (*Caulerpa parvifolia* and *Caulerpa brachypus*) are both likely to have arrived in New Zealand attached to uncleaned gear (e.g. anchor, chain) on a vessel from Australia or the Pacific Islands where these species are present. It is considered quite likely that both types of *Caulerpa* arrived at the same time.

How did they get to Aotea Great Barrier Island specifically?

Recreational vessels are most likely to have spread exotic *Caulerpa* to Aotea – either directly on a vessel arriving at Aotea from overseas, or on a domestic vessel that spread it from a currently unknown population somewhere else in New Zealand. Aotea is not a Port of First Arrival for international vessels. These are locations where international craft are required to arrive to complete legal entry processes.

Based on the extent of exotic *Caulerpa* in Blind Bay, it is likely that it arrived more than two years ago.

How big are the areas of infestation?

We have had our research provider NIWA carry out a number of surveillance dives in the affected areas and these have shown that exotic *Caulerpa* is growing over large areas that vary from at least 5360m² up to 880,000m² in Blind Bay.

Location	Footprint of <i>Caulerpa</i> (minimum size)
Aotea Blind Bay (Okupu)	880,000m ² (88Ha)
Tryphena	22,700m ² (2.27Ha)
Whangaparapara	5,366m ² (0.53Ha)
Ahuahu Western Bay	32,380m ² (3.23Ha)

The CAN and rāhui

Can we have some clarity on the CAN requirements, especially about permits?

Full information about the CAN is here.

In short:

- The CAN is currently in place until 30 June 2022. It is being reviewed and it is possible this timeframe may be extended and there may be some changes to the requirements. The CAN restricts any collection of sea creatures or kai moana (such as fish, seaweed, crayfish, or shellfish). You cannot remove marine life from the areas under the CAN.
- You can't move vessels or equipment (e.g. crabs, nets) into the CAN areas for the purpose of gathering seafood or kai moana (such as fishing, dredging, collecting shellfish, or putting down crayfish pots).
- If you bring any equipment into the zones for water-based activities (including, but not limited to, diving, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, snorkelling, free diving and paddling) including footwear, wetsuits, diving equipment, and boat-trailers and associated vehicles you must clean the equipment (remove any sign of marine life or seaweed and rinse it thoroughly) before you leave the area.
- You MAY anchor in the Controlled Area at Aotea. However, if you wish to leave the zone, you must have a permit in order to LIFT your anchor and leave the area. This permit requires you to submit evidence (a photo) that you have thoroughly cleaned your anchor and chain within 24 hours of leaving the zone.
- At Ahuahu Great Mercury Island, the CAN restrictions are the same EXCEPT there is no permitting required for lifting anchor. Instead, the CAN requires people to ensure the anchor and chain are free of seaweed and thoroughly cleaned before moving from the site.

Why is launching a boat within the area okay but fishing from that boat not allowed?

Launching a boat will not increase the chance of spreading exotic *Caulerpa* if it is not anchoring. Exotic *Caulerpa* fragments are drifting on water currents within the bays naturally. The key is to manage any activity that interacts with the seafloor and can allow exotic *Caulerpa* to become entangled in equipment and then moved to a new location.

When will we be able to fish again in the CAN and rāhui areas?

The CAN and rāhui cover Blind Bay and Tryphena and Whangaparapara Harbours at Aotea Great Barrier Island and the western bays area at Ahuahu Great Mercury Island. It prohibits taking kai moana from these areas due to the

Is the exotic *Caulerpa* edible?

No.

Can this *Caulerpa* be composted or used on gardens?

Many seaweeds act as a great fertiliser. In fact, there's a research programme currently under consideration that would look at the role of native *Caulerpa* in the New Zealand environment and uses for it such as fertiliser.

However, the two introduced (known as exotic) *Caulerpa*s – *Caulerpa brachypus* and *Caulerpa parvifolia* – are classified as Unwanted Organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This means you can't move these seaweeds without a permit.

The response to date

What have you been doing over the past 10 months since its discovery?

Much of the work has been determining what's happening with this pest – how widespread it is and will it respond to any treatments. This has involved extensive science research – both on the ground and through international groups bringing their expertise. Treatments have been thoroughly researched, including a trial of the recommended treatment – the application of coarse salt to the *Caulerpa* beds and covering them with tarpaulins. In addition, we've been focused on keeping the affected communities informed and involved with the situation and our work.

While this progressed, we put measures in place to reduce the risk of the exotic *Caulerpa* spreading out of the known locations and minimise potential impacts on the environment, communities and visitors. These have included a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) putting legal restrictions on certain water-based activities in the affected areas, and rāhui imposed by local mana whenua for Aotea and Ahuahu.

risk of disturbing the seafloor and any exotic *Caulerpa* that may be growing there. As above, the CAN is under review and there may be some changes to its conditions, including those around fishing.

What is being done to improve compliance with the CAN and ensure people know about it?

There has already been considerable communications and marketing work to reach locals and visitors using these waters. This has been designed to increase knowledge of the CAN and its conditions within boating audiences outside of Aotea Great Barrier Island and Ahuahu Great Mercury Island. In addition, it is to ensure people continue to be informed about response developments.

We are working with Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, mana whenua, the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board and various marine interests in both areas to ensure targeted education reaches the right people. Work has included social media, mainstream media, newsletters, signage at boat ramps and marinas, advertising on websites used by boaters and divers.

This approach has complemented the on-island compliance monitoring to ensure everyone visiting the CAN areas is aware of their responsibilities.

We plan to continue this effort in future as the response focus is likely to shift to managing the spread of *Caulerpa* and preventing its movement out of the four known locations at Aotea and Ahuahu.

Are local people being used in this operation?

There is a huge amount of community skill, expertise and knowledge and we've been able to deploy local people in a range of roles. We have representatives of mana whenua and the Local Board on the Governance of the response. Local people have been working as 'ambassadors' providing information about the pest and the rāhui/controls to both visitors and residents. In addition, we have had local companies supplying vessels for on-water education work. As the work progresses into long-term management of *Caulerpa*, we will work closely with local people to ensure their expertise continues to be used within any agreed programme.

Looking to the future

Is it able to be eradicated or controlled?

Our research, along with the advice of a panel of international experts and mātauranga Māori specialists, has concluded that the populations, particularly in Blind Bay, are well-established and beyond eradication.

Yeah, kind of depressing reading. But it sounds like a small, new, infected area could be treated if identified early enough. So stay vigilant. All info here was stolen from the MPI website for educational purposes, jump on www.mpi.govt.nz for the real deal.



Our trials using the recommended coarse salt treatment found that while it worked over a small area, the populations are too large to treat with this method. Treating only a portion of the population within any of the affected locations would likely result in the death of all other species in the area, including ecologically and culturally important species (e.g., seagrass, shellfish). After treatment the seafloor would be laid bare and subject to rapid reinvasion of exotic *Caulerpa*, likely at higher densities than before, due to a lack of competition for space with native species.

Considering this, it has been determined that the most appropriate course of action is to manage the spread of exotic *Caulerpa* outside of the four known locations and any subsequently detected locations.

It must be noted that final decisions have yet to be made on the approach to adopt.

What could this longer-term management entail?

It could look like an extension of the CAN, updating the existing Ambassador programme, continuing surveillance to determine presence of the pest, some limited treatment where feasible, research and an ongoing programme of education on good biosecurity behaviours for boaters. Again, the future activities have yet to be confirmed.

What is likely to happen to the *Caulerpa* if it's just left?

In areas where exotic *Caulerpa* is present, it is likely to remain as part of the ecosystem. Internationally we see that introduced species tend to 'boom' when they first

establish in a new environment and after several years there is a 'bust' or decline in abundance. It is difficult to predict what causes this or if it will happen with exotic *Caulerpa*. Despite this uncertainty, we know that even where exotic *Caulerpa* is at high densities, there are still diverse species present and a patchwork of habitats for other marine species to inhabit.

Will we look at any treatment at all?

Any treatment will only be considered for new populations found that meet specific criteria. In particular, if treatment was to be carried out, these criteria will minimise the likelihood of reinvasion from other known populations. This would include through fragments spreading by water currents which can't be managed. This is because we know that treated areas can leave the seafloor bare for recolonisation by exotic *Caulerpa*.

If eradication is not an option for Biosecurity New Zealand, can local people look at doing it themselves through some other funding source?

The technical advisory group which was formed to give independent advice to the Governance Group has stated that eradication is not technically possible. This advice did not consider the financial cost of eradication. This is not a question of funding, but rather feasibility. Eradication is not currently possible with the treatment tools available.

For more information
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa
Email caulerpa@mpi.govt.nz
Call 0800 80 99 66 for help.

