

Abalone restocking considered for virus-hit reefs

Posted 4 hours 20 minutes ago

Reefs devastated by a deadly abalone virus, along Victoria's south-west coastline, may soon be restocked.

Australia's top marine ecologists and biologists will gather in Port Fairy next week to discuss the recovery options.

The virus has killed thousands of abalone within an area just west of Portland, and east to the Bay of Islands near Port Campbell.

Harry Peeters from the Western Abalone Divers Association says abalone divers will go along to listen to the scientists' options.

"Possibly translocating adult abalone from uninfected areas into some of the worst hit reefs," he said.

"We will look at possibly re-seeding some of those reefs with baby abalone - it's really about us deciding what areas need whatever particular type of treatment to bring them back and developing a plan so that we can set about and rehabilitate those reefs."

Tags: [fishing-aquaculture](#), [pest-management](#), [ballarat-3350](#), [port-fairy-3284](#), [warnambool](#)

Another abalone bust on NSW south coast

Posted Tue Dec 4, 2007 2:16pm AEDT

- [Map: Narooma 2546](#)

There has been another big abalone bust on the far south coast of New South Wales.

A 31-year-old Batemans Bay man is facing charges after he was caught with nearly 200 times the legal bag limit.

Police uncovered the shellfish after a tip-off from Primary Industries Department officers.

When police at Narooma stopped the man's vehicle they found nearly 400 shucked abalone, several pieces of diving gear and two abalone-removing tools.

The offences carry a maximum penalty of \$11,000 or three months in jail.

The legal recreational bag limit for abalone is two per person.

The Primary Industries Department is clamping down heavily on illegal poachers to reduce the chance of overfishing to ensure adequate stocks for the future.

Substantial rewards are available to people for any information leading to the successful conviction of abalone thieves.



<http://www.cdnn.info/news/eco/e071204.html>

Scuba diving, snorkeling banned off Cape coast

Powered by CDNN - CYBER DIVER News Network

by EVAN T. ALLARD - CDNN Eco News Editor

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (4 Dec 2007) — Authorities in South Africa aim to protect marine resources with a new ban on scuba diving and snorkeling along the Cape coast.

Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk told CDNN the ban will take effect on February 1, 2008.

All diving equipment, including scuba and snorkeling gear, will be forbidden within designated areas.

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs, the areas in which diving will be prohibited include: within the Bird Island marine protected area; Quoin Point to Danger Point, from the west bank of the Ratel River to the eastern boundary of Gansbaai harbour's main breakwater wall; from Venus Pool to Olifantsbos on the Cape Peninsula, extending two nautical miles (3.7km) seaward from the high watermark; and around Robben Island, extending one nautical mile from the high- water mark.

The ban on scuba diving and snorkeling will coincide with suspension of all commercial abalone fishing.

While all commercial and recreational divers will be affected, the primary goal of the ban is to thwart organized crime gangs that profit from abalone poaching in South Africa.

Marine reserves

While only a tiny fraction of scuba divers are involved in criminal activities, governments around the world have been forced to establish marine reserves to protect marine wildlife and shipwrecks from the steady increase of poachers and looters that are often involved with organized crime syndicates.

As incidents of poaching and looting continue to increase around the world, authorities responsible for protecting coastal resources are moving towards "no-take, no-dive" marine protected areas that ban all diving activities.

Man denies illegal abalone trade

Posted December 4, 2007 13:34:00

Updated December 4, 2007 13:33:00

A man from Tasmania's west coast has appeared in the Launceston Magistrates Court charged with illegally possessing and trading in abalone.

27 year old Timothy Andrew Murray from Queenstown has been charged under the state Fisheries Act for possessing and selling more than five abalone without a license.

It is alleged Murray sold a total of 30 kilograms of abalone to a waiter at Launceston's Me-Wah restaurant on two occasions in 2005.

It is also alleged he received more than \$1,200 cash for the abalone.

Murray has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The hearing continues.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/>

Chathams' paua industry wants ban on used wetsuits

Posted at 4:08pm on 03 Dec 2007

The paua industry in the Chatham Islands wants a ban on used wetsuits being brought to the islands.

It hopes to protect the island's paua from the spread of an abalone virus which could devastate paua numbers.

The Abalone Virus Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is wiping out abalone in the Australian state of Victoria.

Biosecurity officials in New Zealand are warning travellers from Australia to thoroughly wash and dry swimwear and diving gear.

The Paua Industry Council says AVG is a serious threat to the commercial paua industry.

Chief executive Jeremy Cooper says paua is primarily harvested from the Chatham Islands and the lower South Island.

He says about 20% of the Chatham Island's income is derived from the paua industry.

Government must act now to protect our native paua

Thursday, 29 November 2007, 1:10 pm

Press Release: NZ Recreational Fishing Council

29 November 2007

Government must act now to protect our native paua

The threat of a major bio security breach of our borders and coastal waters cannot be ignored says Keith Ingram President of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council.

The NZRFC is urging the Government to act swiftly to alert the public to simple but important measures to prevent a serious biosecurity breach, Mr Ingram said. People need to be informed and quickly if we are to keep our paua safe.

"A virus of unknown origin is sweeping the Victorian Coast of Australia. The Abalone Virus Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is wiping out abalone in the Australian state of Victoria. The Australians expect it will be generations before the abalone stocks on infected reefs begin to re-build. MAFBNZ scientists say that while it's not certain the herpes-like virus would affect New Zealand pāua, there's every indication it would, given pāua is a member of the abalone family. If it established here, AVG would have a severe impact on commercial, customary and recreational fishing as well as tourism and export industries associated with paua."

This is serious, and recreational fishers call on the Government to take action now to close our borders to the arrival of untreated ballast water in ships arriving from Australia. All wet dive gear, swimsuits and surf equipment should be seized at our border control points and treated and dried before entering the country, he said. Paua are of significant importance to the public, both amateur and customary fishers as well as supporting a valued commercial fishery.

Mr Ingram said that New Zealand has relied on its isolation as a means of protection, but we can no longer as the recent history of new marine invaders arriving will attest.

To ignore the current risk and threat or to do too little too late is tantamount to professional incompetence, the Government must act now to protect our borders from this AGV threat and the threat of future marine invaders reaching our shores, says Keith Ingram. We are urging fast action with an appropriate public awareness in place before folks head off for their holidays, he said.

"Kiwis will want to do the right thing - but the Government needs to ensure that they know what the right thing is."

ENDS

Abalone thefts busting industry

SOUTH Coast abalone divers say poaching is devastating stocks of the shellfish in local waters.

Two recent busts that saw 1300 abalone seized are just tip of the iceberg, according to the professional licensed divers who have urged everyone to report suspicious activity.

A 31-year-old Batemans Bay man is likely to face several abalone poaching related charges, after he was allegedly caught in Narooma last week with nearly 200 times the legal abalone bag limit.

This was second such bust on the NSW South Coast in recent weeks with fisheries officers also seizing 900 poached abalone in Eden on November 19.

On Tuesday, November 27, NSW police acting on information from the NSW Department of Primary Industry stopped a vehicle on Glasshouse Rocks Road in Narooma.

When the vehicle was searched police officers found 396 shucked abalone, several pieces of diving gear and two abalone removing tools; all items were wet.

The Batemans Bay man may face charges before Narooma court of possessing more than the legal bag limit of abalone and possessing shucked abalone adjacent to waters. The man could face three months in jail and/or an \$11,000 fine.

Down in Eden a lengthy surveillance operation by Fisheries officers last month led to the arrest of an Eden man, and the seizure of nearly 900 abalone.

DPI, with help from local police searched the home of the 53-year-old Eden man and found more than 800 blacklip abalone valued at around \$15,000.

The abalone were located in a freezer. The man may also face a hefty fines and a jail term. He is due to appear in the Eden court in January next year.

Abalone theft is having a devastating effect on the sustainability of the abalone resource, according to licensed abalone divers John Smythe of Merimbula and Chris Grover of Bermagui.

Mr Smythe said blatant theft of juvenile abalone has diminished the fishery causing reduction in abalone export income and a loss of jobs in the industry, based mainly on the South Coast.

The legal recreational bag limit for abalone is two per person per day. It is also illegal for a recreational fisher to shuck (remove the meat from the shell), or have shucked abalone in their possession, in, on or adjacent to any NSW waters.

NSW Department of Primary Industries, Manager Fisheries Compliance, Glenn Tritton said abalone were a precious resource that DPI is entrusted with managing for the wider community to ensure its long term sustainability.

"Possession limits are in place to encourage responsible fishing, reduce the chance of over-fishing, and to ensure that stocks remain at a suitable level for future harvest," Mr Tritton said.

"People who take abalone in excess of the bag and size limits have the potential to destroy both the commercial and recreational abalone fishery in NSW.

"Anyone who thinks they can get away with this is on notice - if you break the law you will be caught and you will face heavy fines and or jail."

DPI urges all members of the community who observe illegal abalone actions to call 1800 043 536.



Abalone virus on dirty gear threatens paua

The Dominion Post | Friday, 30 November 2007

Trans-Tasman travellers are being told to wash and dry their togs and other water sports gear amid fears a herpes-like virus attacking Australian abalone could devastate our paua industry.

Biosecurity New Zealand officials are worried Abalone virus ganglioneuritis (AVG) could threaten New Zealand's \$54 million export paua market, and the large recreational paua fishery.

The virus was first discovered in December 2005.

Since then it has spread 200km along the Victorian coast, wiping out between 40 per cent and 95% of abalone stocks.

The virus spreads by direct contact between infected and healthy abalone.

Biosecurity New Zealand border standards director Tim Knox said it was likely AVG would infect paua, a member of the abalone family.

He said Kiwi holiday-makers had a part to play in keeping the virus from spreading to New Zealand.

"It's very important that if people have been swimming or diving on the Victorian coast, they ensure their togs, wetsuits and other diving or surfing gear are thoroughly washed and dried before bringing them home and hopping into New Zealand waters."

He also urged the public to declare if they had been on the Victorian coast and/or were carrying shells or gear for water activities.

Recreational Fishing Council president Keith Ingram said paua was of huge value. --Dominion Post

Abalone stripped

SARAH SCOPELIANOS
November 30, 2007



Vin Gannon moves some healthy abalone.
Picture: ANGELA MILNE.

DIVERS are stripping reefs of abalone in an attempt to stop the spread of a deadly virus crippling the lucrative industry.

Twenty-four boats carrying 31 divers left Warrnambool yesterday on a mission to remove healthy abalone from a two-kilometre section of reef between Peterborough and Port Campbell.

The virus, ganglioneuritis, appeared in south-west abalone farms more than 18 months ago and spread to the ocean.

Millions of dollars have been wiped off abalone licences and quotas reduced by 170 tonnes.

Harvesting ahead of the virus will create a "firebreak" in an attempt to stop the disease from entering the Twelve Apostles Marine Park and other reefs.

Victorian Abalone Divers Association president Vin Gannon said divers from across the central diving zone, which stretches from Warrnambool to Lakes Entrance, were involved in the harvest which will be processed to pay for the project.

Research divers observed the level of the stocks and some abalone were tagged and moved 15km to see if they survived relocation.

"It is imperative action is taken. In August we were told the virus would go Australia-wide if the virus was not stopped," Mr Gannon said.

"We are doing everything to protect what's left."

Fisheries Victoria executive director Dr Peter Appleford said there was no guarantee the "firebreak method" would work. He said it would be "a matter of time" before results were known.

All divers should clean equipment after use to ensure matter from the infected area which spans west of Portland to the Bay of Islands is not spread to uncontaminated reefs.



Clean And Dry Will Save Our Paua

Thursday, 29 November 2007, 11:29 am

Press Release: Te Ohu Kaimoana

Joint Media Statement

29 November 2007

Clean And Dry Will Save Our Paua

Te Ohu Kaimoana (the Maori Fisheries Trust) and Aotearoa Fisheries Limited are supporting industry calls for Biosecurity New Zealand to implement increased border controls and an education campaign to help stop the devastating Australian Abalone Virus Ganglioneuritis (AVG) from getting to New Zealand.

The two leading Maori fisheries organisations request that Biosecurity NZ tightens border controls to prevent contamination in New Zealand and undertake an education campaign alerting all Kiwis to the threat of AVG before holidaymakers head to Australia for their summer Christmas break.

"Paua has cultural, economic and social values for all New Zealanders. It is a hugely significant fishery for Maori contributing million of dollars a year to our commercial enterprises as well as individual iwi organisations. Paua is a wonderful recreational fishery as well so it is extremely important for everyone

coming into this country take simple steps to protect this valuable resource,” Te Ohu Kaimoana chief executive Peter Douglas said.

“Clean and dry fishing, surfing, diving gear will help stop this Australian virus from entering our pristine coastal waters and is a call every Kiwi must heed. Anyone who has been in waters along the coast of Victoria, Australia, must clean their gear and dry their gear so they can save our paua from the same devastating impact the virus is having on the Australian abalone industry.”

The AVG virus was first discovered in December 2005 and since then has travelled 200km along the Victorian coastline. It kills abalone quickly and is responsible for declines in abalone abundance of between 40 and 95 percent. Some abalone fisheries in Australia have been completely decimated. Scientific information is scant and the origin of the virus is unknown at this stage. Scientists in New Zealand, Australia and France are working to understand the virus and how it is transmitted.

The chief executive of Aotearoa Fisheries Limited (AFL), Jeremy Fleming, said paua was critical to the economic performance of many Maori fishing enterprises. “AFL has significant investments in paua on behalf of iwi and Maori. Iwi organisations also collectively own 10 percent of the paua in the quota management system, so the economic and cultural value of paua to all Maori is huge.”

“The effect of this virus on New Zealand commercial paua enterprises cannot be underestimated. The industry in some parts of Victoria and South Australia has been decimated and in Tasmania, where the virus has not been detected, the market has been downgraded. Kiwis must be vigilant to ensure we protect what we have and ensure that all marine gear is cleaned and dried before coming home.”

“We must do all we can to stop this virus from reaching New Zealand waters,” Mr Fleming said.

Abalone Virus Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

- AVG is a herpes-like virus that was detected in a subpopulation of wild abalone in Taylor’s Bay, Victoria, Australia in May 2006. Since then, the spread of the virus has been closely monitored and is showing consistent movement along the coast of Victoria of 5-10kms a month.

- In less than two years since it was discovered, it has moved almost 200km along the coastline of Victoria and recently been observed infecting black lip and green lip abalone populations.

- Stock abundance surveys conducted since the outbreak of the virus have suggested declines in the abundance of infected populations of between 40 and 95 percent.

- The virus causes inflammation of the nervous tissue resulting in the edges of the foot curling inwards, swelling and protrusion of the mouth and excess mucus production. Active signs of infection include a loss of muscle control, sliding or falling off their home scars on the reef, large amounts of intact moribund abalone, empty shells and loose meats rolling around in the wash.

- The virus is spread through direct contact between infected and healthy abalone. It is not known if or how the virus is excreted from an infected animal.

- The virus can spread without a host through the water column, however, it is not known how long it survives in this medium nor is it known if the virus is transmitted from parent to progeny.

- The spread of the virus along the Victoria coastline raises the risk of this virus infecting New Zealand's abalone population. The green lip, black lip and hybrid species of abalone in Australia appear to show equal susceptibility to the virus. The Ministry of Fisheries says there is no reason to suspect that New Zealand species are not susceptible to infection.

- New Zealand's best defence is to prevent any incursion into this country through increased border protection and an education campaign.

- Water sports equipment that has been used in the area of infection along the Victoria coastline and would include surfboards, wetsuits, diving and snorkelling gear, fishing gear, among others, must be cleaned and dried before leaving the infected area or before it gets to New Zealand;

- Footwear and clothing that has been worn on a land-based aquaculture facilities in Victoria or South Australia must be cleaned and dried before leaving the infected area or before getting to New Zealand;

- Any live or dead abalone from the infected area must not enter New Zealand;

- Any shells, stones or other beach material that has been collected from along the Victoria coastline must also be confiscated.



Big penalties for abalone cartel

Steve Butcher
November 27, 2007

TEN people and nine companies involved in a Victorian abalone cartel did not intend to be dishonest, but yesterday they were penalised more than \$900,000 and ordered to pay costs totalling \$161,000.

A Federal Court judge in Melbourne said it was an unusual aspect of the case that the 19 offenders had acted openly at all times.

Justice Mark Weinberg said they had documented their actions, meetings and resolutions and there was no secrecy in what they did.

In his judgement, Justice Weinberg noted that it was even more remarkable that a bevy of lawyers and accountants had cast their eyes over the documents and failed to see any possible breaches of the law.

The individuals, who included a lawyer, believed what they were doing was lawful and had no idea they were engaging in price fixing, he said.

However, in imposing penalties totalling \$927,500, Justice Weinberg found that while the cartel's conduct was at the less serious end of the scale, his orders should send a message to others.

Billionaire Richard Pratt and his Visy group were fined a record \$36 million in the Federal Court earlier this month for price-fixing in the cardboard market.

The respondents to the abalone action brought by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission included holders or former holders of abalone access fishery licences, or quota holders, for Victoria's central zone.

The licences and the amount of abalone allowed to be caught in the zone is limited and is subject to a quota.

Two respondents were quota holders, five were involved in the management and control of corporate quota holders and six others were connected with Australian Abalone Pty Ltd through which the breaches occurred.

Justice Weinberg said that leading up to October, 2003, some quota holders in the zone had become increasingly frustrated at what they believed were low returns for their catch.

He said they blamed the abalone processors, to whom they had to supply their catch, and felt the processors were using their dominant position to keep prices down. Under the abalone cartel arrangement, a quota holder would not

supply a processor unless the processor was prepared to pay a "premium" on top of the market price that was nominated by Australian Abalone.

The ACCC told the court that the offending was likely to have caused loss or damage to unnamed processors and to have harmed competition for abalone supply.

Justice Weinberg noted that the cartel arrangement lasted about six months, but Australian Abalone did not make any significant profit.



Friday, November 23, 2007

[Print This Page](#)

Sites close and surveillance increases in Chile's ISA-ravaged waters

CHILE - Five new outbreaks of infectious salmon anaemia virus have been reported in Chile. More than 5.5 million have been affected and a major culling operation has been underway on affected sites in a bid to contain the disease.

Dr Claudio Ternicier Gonzáles, of Chile's Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Division, confirmed that two outbreaks of the virus were on Isla Lemuy and Los Lagos, with further outbreaks on Isla Tranqui, LinLin, and Islas Butachauques.

The disease was found in Salmón del Atlántico (*Salmo salar*), which were being farmed in semi-open salt water coastal areas. The initial outbreak, of the disease was reported in June, measures were put in place to reduce the potential spread of infection, but the infection, but the disease is now getting a stronghold and causing massive financial hardship to Chile's US\$2.4 billion farmed salmon sector.

Unknown source

The latest ISA outbreaks were reported to the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) this week. The source of the infection is unknown, although the OIE Reference Laboratories has the ISA strain to be the European genotype.

Infectious salmon anaemia was detected in Chile in 1999, but in this incident only Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) were infected. The current ISA outbreak is affecting Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

The Chilean authorities have now established a 5-km-radius navigable quarantine zone around the affected culture premises. All channels bordering Lemuy Island, Butachauques Island, Lin Lin Island and the area of Queilén Channel have been placed under surveillance.

The National Fisheries Service is also investigating five other suspected cases in the Chiloe Islands.

Sites to close

Marine Harvest, the world's largest farmed salmon company, says it plans to close several of its salmon farms in this area and move operations toward the less-crowded waters of Region XI (Aysén).

Commercial interests now believe that the level of infection in Chilean stocks is more serious than either the government or the country's major salmon producers have been willing to admit. Many are re-evaluating their position and introducing measures to curb losses.

ISA poses a serious; it is highly contagious and spreads very easily in confined production systems.. Marine Harvest says it has now had six or seven cases and feel it has no option but to close certain sites and move operations to unaffected waters.

Marine Harvest says it is not the only salmon producer affected by the disease. The ISA epidemic is also crippling other aquaculture companies in the region.

BUSINESS REPORT

Abalone poachers prove difficult for law to net

November 22, 2007

By Ronnie Morris

Cape Town - Marine Coastal Management (MCM) "has not been able to get on top of abalone poaching" because of the accessibility of the resource and the high prices it attracted, Monde Mayekiso, the deputy director-general of MCM, said yesterday.

Asked about the state decision to ban abalone fishing, he said if a resource was in trouble, there was only one way for it to recover: cut the total allowable catch (TAC).

Between 1995 and 1996 the TAC was 600 tons. By last year it was slashed to 200 tons. So a person who caught two tons in 2000 is now expected to catch one-tenth of that.

Mayekiso said there was monitoring in place, but law enforcement officials had to deal with poachers as well as monitor legal permit holders.

"It is a nightmare for law enforcement officials," said Mayekiso.

"The catching of abalone is now a criminal activity, which I believe can only be fully addressed if we have good co-operation between ourselves and law enforcement agencies, such as the police, justice and the Scorpions."

The decision to close abalone fishery was motivated by the fact that the resource was in dire straits.

Mayekiso said: "Our expectation, and we have not researched this, is that as the TAC is reduced, people are seeking alternatives.

"I do not want to sound insensitive, but we have had in the same area the growth of tourism-related activities such as shark cage diving and whale watching.

"The abalone aquaculture industry has grown from 20 jobs in 1996 to 1 300 last year," he said.

About 17 percent of the abalone rights holders also had rights to catch rock lobster, said Mayekiso.

His organisation was working on a social plan. It wanted to work with the labour department to identify and support activities that would provide job opportunities.

He said there were no foreign fishing vessels in the hake sector.

"Hake is the backbone of the South African fishing industry," Mayekiso said. "We cannot be irresponsible with it, despite what our detractors say."



Sanitation issues have caused the closures of Streamline and other companies
Max Alarcon, Santiago Times

SECOND MAJOR SALMON COMPANY ADMITS CHILE ISA PROBLEMS

(Nov. 22, 2007) Following the example of industry leader Marine Harvest, a second major salmon company has now broken a virtual vow of silence that for months shrouded ongoing sanitary problems in Chile's US\$2.4 billion farmed fish sector.

In an interview that appeared Wednesday in the Chilean daily La Tercera, Francisco Atiza, the top Chilean representative of the salmon company Mainstream, said Chile's sanitary problems are "real" but by no means limited to just Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), a highly contagious fish virus detected this past July on several Chiloé fish farms. Mainstream, an affiliate of Norway's Cermaq, is the world's second largest farmed salmon company.

"The industry has a real sanitary problem that affects the development of the fish and contributes to poor production results. But the problem began long before ISA showed up. Ultimately this virus is a symptom, not the source of the problem," he said.

The comments by Artiza follow closely on the heels of statements made Tuesday by Leif Frode Onarheim, the acting president and CEO of Norwegian-owned Marine Harvest. In a telephone interview with the Santiago Times' sister newspaper, the Patagonia Times, Onarheim described the ISA situation as "serious" and confirmed his company's plans to close several infected salmon farms near Chiloé, Region X (ST, Nov. 21).

"It is serious, because when you get one case it's manageable. But it's very easy for ISA to spread to the closest sites. And that's what happened. We have had, I think, six or seven cases and so of course it is serious. We feel that as the sites are very close in Chile, in Region X, we are sure this has hurt a lot of companies," he said.

To escape the over-crowded and disease-ridden waters of Chiloé, Marine Harvest is planning to move its operations south toward the less-crowded, disease-free waters of Region XI (Aysén).

In his interview with La Tercera, Francisco Artiza criticized that strategy, calling the planned move to Aysén a "simple solution" that fails to tackle the more fundamental problems. "It's a bad strategy and it does nothing to solve the problems that we now face in the traditional farming zones," said the Mainstream executive, arguing that Region X's numerous salmon companies should instead improve their aquaculture practices and agree to periodically rotate farms. "There's more to it than just changing neighborhoods," he said.

Artiza's comments echo what environmental critics of Chile's booming salmon industry have been saying for years – that the industry is overcrowded, polluting and - ultimately - unsustainable.

"The solution can't be just moving the nets and cages, because ultimately that just means moving the problem elsewhere. That's not a solution to the problems of over-concentration of farms, of the excessive use of antibiotics, of the presence of vectors (sea lice). As long as they don't take all that into account, they're going to have serious problems," Cristian Pérez, a veterinarian and representative of the Washington D.C.-based NGO Pure Salmon Campaign told the Patagonia Times earlier this week.

ISA, not dissimilar to influenza, is a deadly virus that spreads easily and quickly. Symptoms include a paling of the salmon's gills, swelling of the liver and spleen, and internal bleeding. The illness was first discovered in 1984 on fish farms in Norway. In 1996 ISA was detected in Canada, where it devastated New Brunswick's then-budding farmed salmon industry. Scotland, another important salmon producing country, has had problems with the disease as well.

ISA was detected in Chile this past July, when scientists confirmed outbreaks on four Chiloé-area salmon farms – three of which belong to Marine Harvest (ST, Aug. 1, 6, 10, 15). To combat the problem the Chilean government's National Fish Service (SERNAPESCA) implemented an extensive quarantine of the area and ordered all infected fish to be slaughtered. The World Organization for Animal Health later reported that approximately 1 million fish were sacrificed.

By mid August, SERNAPESCA and SalmonChile (the country's private producers association) declared the outbreak all but resolved. Three months later, however, it's increasingly clear that's not the case. But even with Marine Harvest and Mainstream now acknowledging the industry's sanitary problems, SERNAPESCA and SalmonChile continue to be closed mouthed on the issue.

Earlier this week the two bodies brought together numerous international experts for an ISA-focused workshop in Puerto Varas, Region X. The event was not only off limits to various environmental NGOs, who staged a parallel gathering, but also to members of the press.

"The Chilean government is aiding and abetting the closed door policy of its salmon industry by refusing to provide access to information. This blind eye toward environmental mismanagement and the refusal of Chile's government to take action against the industry will continue to hurt all those connected to this industry, from consumers to investors in these companies," Pure Salmon Campaign Director Andrea Kavanagh said in a press release.

By Benjamin Witte (benwitte@santiagotimes.cl)



Another major abalone seizure on the far South Coast

20 Nov 2007

A lengthy surveillance operation by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Officers has resulted in the arrest of an Eden man, and the seizure of nearly 900 abalone.

DPI, with the assistance of local Police Officers, executed a search warrant on the home of a 53 year old Eden man yesterday afternoon (Monday 19th November 2007).

During the search a total of 862 blacklip abalone were found, with an estimated value of around \$15,000. The abalone were located in a freezer found at the residence

In addition to the abalone Fisheries Officers also seized a chest freezer, a set of scales, abalone tools and a large quantity of dive gear.

The recreational bag limit for abalone is two per person.

The 53 year old man was charged under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 with possessing more than the maximum permitted quantity of fish. This offence carries a maximum penalty of \$11,000, three months imprisonment or both.

The man, who is known to DPI, is due to appear in the Eden Local Court on 9th January 2008.

Recreational bag and size limits are in place in NSW to ensure the sustainability of stocks, so the resource can be enjoyed by fishers both now and in the future.

DPI urges all members of the community who observe abalone thieves in action or who know of people involved in the illegal trade of abalone to contact the Fisher's Watch Line on 1800 043 536 or their local [Fisheries Officer](#). All information received is kept strictly confidential.

Photos are available.

Media contact: Kelly Stevens (02) 4640 6579 or 0438 247 571



Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Print This Page

Tassie toughens law to contain abalone threat

AUSTRALIA - Tasmania is to toughen protocols in Parliament today on abalone handling in an attempt to strengthen the state's capacity to deal with a deadly ganglioneuritis abalone virus outbreak in Victorian waters.

The move is a part of the Tasmanian Government's steps to increase its Fisheries Department's biosecurity powers.

A bill is expected to be tabled by David Llewellyn, Tasmanian Minister for Primary Industry and Waters, giving him the authority to introduce protocols and processes to help prevent the virus taking hold in Tasmania.

Abalone Council spokesman, Dean Lisson from the says the changes are essential to protect the

state's abalone industry. Mr Lisson claimed the proposed protection measures will cover the entire range of abalone industry activities from the transport and storage to the treatment of fish farm effluent.

"We understand and appreciate that for the minister to adequately deal with the risk of this disease he needs to have a suite of protocols and procedures that can be implemented and complied with 100 percent," he was reported as having said.

"And we can't really expect him to do that unless he has the mandatory powers that enable him to enforce compliance."

"Unless people follow the new sets of rules and procedures that are developed then they can be prosecuted or dealt with in some way."

TheFishSite News Desk

<http://aroundchina-2008life.blogspot.com/2007/11/abalone-in-oyster-sauce.html>

TURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

Abalone in Oyster Sauce

What You'll Need:- 454g can abalone- 30g (1oz) dried mushrooms- 1 red pepper- 6 shallots- 1 cucumber- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce- 1 tablespoon white vinegar- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 chicken stock cube- 1 tablespoon dry sherry- 2 teaspoon soy sauce- 1 cup water- 3 teaspoons corn flour- 1 teaspoon sesame oil- 1 teaspoon green ginger- 4 tablespoons oil

1. Drain liquid from can of abalone. With sharp knife, cut abalone into thin slices.
2. put dried mushrooms into bowl, cover with hot water, stand 15 minutes. Drain, remove tough stalks, slice mushrooms thinly. Cut shallots into diagonal slices. Cut pepper in half, remove seeds cut into thin strips. Peel cucumber, cut in quarters, length-wise, scoop out seeds, then cut each quarter into three or four strips.
3. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in frying pan or wok. Add abalone and toss for one minute. Remove, keep warm.
4. Heat remaining oil in pan, add ginger, mushrooms, pepper, shallots and cucumber. Toss in pan 1 minute, add combined oyster sauce, vinegar, sugar, crumbled stock cube, dry sherry, soy sauce, water, corn flour and sesame oil. Toss mixture over high heat until sauce boils and thickens. Add abalone, allow to

