

Six held in R10m abalone swoop

April 12 2007 at 10:24AM

More than R10-million worth of abalone, the shellfish found mainly in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape, was seized at Camperdown on Wednesday, making it the biggest abalone bust in KwaZulu-Natal.

Teams from the SA Police Service, the SA Revenue Service, the Directorate of Special Operations, Maritime and Coastal Management and the department of environmental affairs and tourism raided a farm early on Wednesday and arrested six men.

One of the men is South African, four are Chinese and the other is a Mexican.

The raid followed investigations by authorities.

Information led them to the farmhouse. Wet, or shucked, abalone was found in the garage. Fans were being used to dry the abalone. Between five and six tons of dried and wet abalone was uncovered. Its value was said to be between R10-million and R12-million.

KwaZulu-Natal is not traditionally associated with abalone smuggling, but authorities said they had reason to believe other smuggling networks could be operational.

The men are due to appear in the Camperdown magistrate's court on Thursday and face charges of contravening the Marine Living Resource Act. - Mercury Reporter



<http://www.theage.com.au/>

Court pleas for abalone dealer

Steve Butcher

April 13, 2007

ONE of Victoria's biggest illegal abalone dealers has enlisted a state Liberal MP and a former Labor Party counterpart as character referees as he tries to avoid prison.

Written references by Murray Thompson, the member for Sandringham, and Noel Pullen, the former member for Higginbotham Province, were tendered yesterday in the County Court in support of Hue Kha.

The Sandringham restaurateur and father of six initially posed as his long-dead brother when he was caught buying abalone from an undercover policeman.

Kha, 56, pleaded guilty to three charges, including a count of dealing in the proceeds of crime — 556 kilograms of abalone worth almost \$80,000 — which has a maximum penalty of 15 years' jail.

He also admitted possessing false documents in the business names of licensed abalone traders that included false receipts that would have allowed sales worth \$1.1 million.

Defence counsel John Lavery tendered a number of character references and named the authors. Judge Williams will sentence Kha next week.

ABC Radio

Exchange rate impacts on seafood exporters

Thursday, 12/04/2007

The Australian dollar's 17-year high is hurting Tasmanian seafood exporters.

This dollar is trading above 82 US cents, pushing up the cost of Australian exports.

Though the Chinese abalone market is not badly affected, Adrain Cuthbertson from Seafood Traders says they are starting to see resistance from live abalone buyers in Taiwan, the US and Japan.

"They'll look for alternatives outside of Australian product where it's a little bit cheaper," he said.

"With live abalone they'd be looking at farmed abalone from Chile.

"Because abalone is in the premium end of the market they would probably look at lobsters from South Africa and Cuba and places like that."



Australia: \$4million for "world-class" research facilities

11 April, 2007 -

THE Queensland Government has announced a \$4million redevelopment of the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Station.

This week Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries Tim Mulherin said planning is underway for the redevelopment.

"The \$4 million redevelopment at Bribie comprises a state-of-the-art tank and aquarium building and office accommodation to be used by fisheries scientists to conduct world-class research," Mr Mulherin said.

"Fisheries scientists from the Southern Fisheries Centre at Deception Bay will be relocated to the revamped facility.

"Scientists will be able to use the new facilities to continue their existing research on a range of freshwater and marine species.

"The new and improved facilities will allow important research such as pest fish control



Tim Mulherin

strategies and also stocking strategies for Murray-cod, silver perch and eel-tailed catfish." Mr Mulherin said research would continue on fisheries resource sustainability, stock assessment and breeding and grow out technologies for aquaculture species and fish stocking.

Construction of the new facilities is expected to begin by the end of the year with tenders for the first stage of construction to be called later this year.

The BIARC redevelopment is being conducted in conjunction with the Government's Knowledge Based Research and Business (KBRB) project which involves construction of a major Ecosciences precinct at the old Boggo Road jail site and other smaller projects at Coopers Plains and Gatton.

"When completed the 650 m² tank and aquarium building will be able to withstand the harsh beachside environment at Woorim," Mr Mulherin said.

"The new building will have room to house up to 64 tanks with up to 10,000 litres and 30 glass aquaria, two temperature controlled experimental rooms, a wet laboratory, a cold room and walk in freezer, a quarantine area and other features to ensure strict bio-security is maintained between projects on site."

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries BIARC station manager Michael Cosgrove said the new complex will also include the latest high technology built in recirculation systems and portable systems allowing re-use of both seawater and freshwater.

"Plant operations will involve ozone treatment of wastewater before discharge, and as a means of reducing operating and other costs, a roof designed to house a future installation of solar collectors or other renewable energy equipment," he said.

"It will also include office accommodation for up to 10 fisheries staff, extra vessel storage and wash down facilities, car parking spaces, an expansion of existing seminar facilities and an upgrading of existing security, fire management and electrical systems.

"The new development will allow DPI&F to take on a new league of research capabilities and continue to remain at the forefront of fisheries science in Queensland."

www.fishfarmer-magazine.com is published by Special Publications. Special Publications also publishes FISHupdate.com, FISHupdate magazine, Fish Farmer, the Fish Industry Yearbook, the Scottish Seafood Processors Federation Diary, the Fish Farmer Handbook and a range of wallplanners.

[Heart Of Greed](#)

Posted by [animes](#) on April 11th, 2007



This is the new TVB drama ~~to be on air~~ airing since April 09 2007 replacing Life Art. I haven't completed watching that yet. So far only manage to watch a couple of episode while waiting for the tow truck to come over when my car broke down a week back. This new drama, "Heart Of Greed" is about family feud where they fight over the family business which deals in abalone and dried goods business.

All was well in this big family till after the dad passes away and we see the family members fight over the assets to protect their own self-interests. Seems like another old story line... Anyway, with Moses and Bosco acting in it, hopefully this will be a good watch.

Watch "Heart Of Greed" Full Main Theme Song MV sung by Susanna Kwan (Says Does Not Make Noise)

Abalone worth millions seized in biggest bust



April 11, 2007, 12:30

Abalone worth an estimated R12 million was seized at a farm in Camperdown between Durban and Pietermaritzburg today. Police say this is one of the biggest busts of abalone in the country.

Five tons were removed in a joint operation between the police, the South African Revenue Service (Sars) and Marine and Coastal Management. Adrian Lackay, the Sars spokesperson, says six suspects have been arrested. They are reportedly of Chinese and Mexican origin.

Millions worth of abalone have been seized and six suspects were arrested

Lackay says the abalone harvested in the Western and Eastern Cape was being dried on the farm to be exported to East Asian countries. He says the six suspects will appear in court within 48 hours.

Herald Sun
Australia's biggest-selling daily newspaper

Locals ramp up poaching fight

Carly Crawford

April 11, 2007 12:00am

Article from: [Herald Sun](#)

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INTERSTATE pirates are plundering Victoria's abalone at night while patrols are being hampered by a decaying boat ramp, it has been claimed.

Divers at Mallacoota believe New South Wales poachers are raiding the valuable shellfish.

The region's abalone catch accounts for about one-third of Victoria's \$80 million annual haul.

Mallacoota's Abalone Fishermen's Co-operative boss Alex Ziolkowski said he believed poachers were entering from NSW waters.

"There is anecdotal evidence they're doing it and we know fisheries (officers) can't get out off the ramp," he said.

He said the Department of Primary Industries, responsible for policing the waters, had to borrow trucks and trailers from which to launch their boats at the swimming beach, Bastion Point.

"It's also the safety issue that worries me," Mr Ziolkowski said.

"You've got trucks and tractors on what is effectively the only beach in town that the kids can go to."

Retired abalone fisherman John Black said poachers were robbing locals of their livelihood.

"We know it happens on the other side of the island and we know they're from interstate," he said. "If we could get out to police it, that would be a start."

"They do it because they know that fisheries can't get out."

The industry employs up to 250 people in the Mallacoota area and locals have been campaigning for a new ramp for 17 years.

Plans for a new \$3 million ramp 150m from the existing site are before the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

A Department of Primary Industries spokesman rejected suggestions that the ramp impeded patrols, saying four men were charged after an operation in Wingan Inlet last month.

Shell ban to halt virus

GREG BEST
April 2, 2007



Natalie Bayard, 12, from Killarney, with a collection of shells which now brings hefty fines.

Picture: JEMMA WALLACE

BEACHGOERS who take shells and rocks will face fines of more than \$5000 under tough new measures to cut the spread of a deadly virus wiping out south-west abalone.

Fisheries Victoria has banned the taking of abalone, all other shellfish and sea urchins between the Craggs, west of Port Fairy, and Killarney Beach for the next six months.

While applauding the move, Western Abalone Divers' Association executive officer Harry Peeters said his group would be pushing for the ban to be extended to Warrnambool's breakwater as soon as possible.

The ban, which will be vigilantly policed, comes after a herpes-like virus destroyed lucrative abalone stocks between Yambuk and Warrnambool.

Fisheries Victoria executive director Peter Appleford said the ban, which started yesterday and runs to the end of September, outlawed the collection and removal of any "rock substrate".

The Department of Primary Industries confirmed to The Standard that "rock substrate" included shells, rocks, seaweed and bits of reef.

"We are not sure how this (disease) is moving around and we want to minimise the risk in case the disease is carried on," a DPI spokesman said.

The ban on taking items like shells and rocks is also designed to narrow down how the disease spreads after it started at Yambuk and moved to Port Fairy, Killarney, Levys Point (west of Warrnambool), Warrnambool's breakwater and Devils Kitchen near Portland after the first outbreak in June last year.

The new measures apply to commercial and recreation fishers and anyone caught removing any of the items faces fines of \$5350.

Those would be on top of the usual fines if there were bag limit and licence breaches.

"We need community support to help manage the disease outbreak.

"It is vital that good biosecurity practices are adopted by commercial and recreational divers," Mr Appleford said.

Mr Peeters said the ban was critical to the future of the abalone industry, saying it would give the species extra time to breed and regenerate.

"The thing that must be remembered here is that the abalone stocks are the community's resource," he said.

"The abalone stocks have taken an enormous blow from the virus and I am sure that the people of the south-west are keen for everything possible to be done to return the marine environment to its former pristine condition, if that means a short period of not taking abalone I am certain that the community will support it."

The decision to introduce the six-month ban comes after the Victorian Abalone Divers' Association voluntarily closed the Port Campbell and Warrnambool boat ramps to its members in a bid to stop the disease spreading.

It had pushed for a ban on all boats dropping anchor between the two ramps but that had been rejected.

San Francisco Chronicle

OUTDOORS NOTEBOOK

Want a challenge? Try diving for abalone

[Tom Stienstra, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)

Sunday, April 1, 2007

The sport-diving season for abalone opens this weekend in coastal waters north of San Francisco Bay. The best prospects, from all accounts, are in the vicinity of Salt Point State Park on the Sonoma County coast.

Sport diving for abalone with a snorkel is one of the most challenging outdoor sports in California. Divers must swim, locate, pry and pop off abalone amid swirling currents while holding their breath.

This year's regulations: Season open April 1 through June 30, closed in July, then open Aug. 1 through Nov. 30; limit 3 per day, 24 per year, 7-inch minimum size; abalone punch card required.

Where's Ed Rice?

In an example of the East Coast snobbery so prevalent in publishing, the magazine *Salt Water Sportsman* named "the most influential salt water fishermen of all time," and of course, only 2 of 14 are from the Western United States. Those two, George Farnsworth, who developed tuna fishing at Catalina Island, and Zane Grey, the novelist who caught the first 1,000-pound fish on rod and reel, were both born in the 1800s.

The omission of California's Ed Rice is unfathomable. Rice has caught more saltwater species on a fly rod than any person in history, is the only flyfisher to catch the Caribbean Grand Slam in back-to-back days, and invented the template for sports shows now copied across America. If Rice lived in Florida, where the magazine and International Game Fish Association is based, he'd be heralded around the world.

Rattlers warming up

Hikers should stay alert for rattlesnakes. With warming spring temperatures, rattlesnakes are popping to life, often in unexpected places. That is what happened last week to Tom Walsh, out with his 5-year-old son and dog, at the northernmost peak at Mori Point in Pacifica, when they encountered a 4-foot rattlesnake. "I could see the rattles on its tail flicking back and forth," Walsh said. "If this makes your column, I hope it will prevent someone from getting bit."

Notes of note

Smith is open: The state fishing rulebook says the Smith River closes to fishing on March 31, but that's a mistake. The main stem Smith is open through April 30, notes the Department of Fish and Game in a press release.

Speaking of the Smith: I just posted a photo of one of the prettiest fish I've ever seen, a 20-pound steelhead caught on the Smith River by Kevin Brock; [TomStienstra.com](#).

Lead showdown: A big fight is looming over the use of lead in bullets and the threat it poses when ingested by endangered California condors in the dead animals they eat. The 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch banned lead bullets last month, followed by a recommendation from DFG biologists that lead bullets be banned as ammunition in 20 counties in condor range.

A big halibut year?: Remember last year's heavy rains in March, April and May, and how they lowered the salinity of San Francisco Bay? That is likely why so few anchovies and halibut entered the Bay last year. This year, with less rain, the Bay is salty again, and anchovies and halibut are starting to arrive. Looks like a big year.

Secret waterfall: Hidden in a secret canyon in rugged terrain in the Tri-Valley area of the East Bay foothills is a virtually unknown 60-foot Tehan Falls, says field scout Roger Halunen. The land was acquired by the East Bay Park District in November, but it is still off limits. Stay tuned for more on this one. If we get a big spring rain, I'll track it down.

10 bass, 74 pounds: At Clear Lake, locals Mark Crutcher and Greg McCosker set a record for largest two-day, 10-fish limit caught by a two-person team in a tournament, 74.2 pounds, reports field scout Terry Knight in Lakeport. Though national records are not held, this could be biggest 10-fish limit ever verified in a tournament.

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