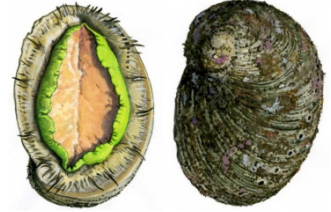


TASMANIAN ABALONE BIOSECURITY PROJECT UPDATE



29 July 2008

The Northern Bass Strait Islands were reopened to commercial abalone fishing on July 6th 2008 after a year and a half closure. Fishing has been allowed following the development of comprehensive mandatory protocols for both fishers and processors.

The mandatory protocols require the disinfection of boats between island groups and prior to leaving the region. Abalone being transported back to the Tasmanian mainland must be drained and held in sealed holding tanks. Boats and boat holds are being disinfected by fishers and inspected by DPIW Animal Health Officers after unloading to ensure that the protocols are being adhered to.

All abalone are required to be processed on landing and are not allowed to be rehydrated. All processors intending to receive abalone from this area are audited and registered as biosecure facilities for processing abalone from this region.

A number of successful fishing trips have landed the Northern Bass Strait abalone with positive feedback from the divers and processors. The adoption of the protocols by industry has mitigated the risk of fishing in this region, allowing them greater access to the resource

If you would like to find out more about the Tasmanian Abalone Biosecurity Project and the draft protocols, please contact Judi Marshall at DPIW on Judi.Marshall@dpiw.tas.gov.au or (03) 6233 6888.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/28/2316432.htm>



Abalone industry backs poachers crackdown

Posted Mon Jul 28, 2008 1:00pm AEST

The New South Wales far south coast abalone industry has welcomed a State Government move to get tough on poachers of the shellfish.

If you have an interesting **Photo, Story, Issue or Report** that you would like included in Abalone Stories send it to: abalone@cbgconsultants.com.au or Fax (03) 8660 2755

A Narooma man was given a four-month jail sentence after he was convicted on two charges of stealing shellfish from what is now described as a "very fragile fishery".

The Primary Industries Department says it has targeted gangs of poachers between Batemans Bay and Eden suspected of supplying abalone to the black market in capital cities.

Industry spokesman John Smythe says the courts are finally handing out stiff penalties.

"It is good to see that they are finally getting serious. They have been running these guys in for years. They are repeat offenders and it is only going to get harder for them," he said.

"There has been a number of apprehensions in the last six months, but with indictable offences coming in it is ramping up the whole offence of fishery offences for valuable products like abalone, lobster, tuna, crabs, oysters, things like that."

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2006-06-01-scorpions-crack-perlemoen-syndicate>

Mail & Guardian online

Scorpions crack perlemoen syndicate

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA Jun 01 2006 17:18

Three men, including two Chinese nationals, are expected to appear in court in June after the Scorpions arrested them and confiscated more than three tonnes of perlemoen (abalone) and R263Â 000 in cash, the elite unit said on Thursday.

In a statement, the Directorate of Special Operations said it acted on a tip-off about a syndicate involved in buying and selling poached perlemoen. They raided premises in Kleinmond, Parklands, Milnerton, Claremont and Woodstock in the Western Cape.

Searching the Big Cedar Fishing Company in Kleinmond on Tuesday, officers from various law-enforcement agencies found documentation, computer equipment and 529kg of dried perlemoen, plus 363kg of wet perlemoen.

No documentation could be presented to prove lawful possession of the abalone. The value of the seized delicacy was estimated to be more than R1-million.

In a simultaneous raid at the other premises, law-enforcement officers arrested Denver Langenhoven, the owner of fish-exporting company Abzurd Seafood Products. At the business location, 2,5 tonnes of perlemoen was confiscated, together with documentation and a computer.

In Parklands, Long Cai Wu was arrested, with police seizing R250Â 000 cash, documentation and a computer. In Milnerton, Zhiming Yuan was arrested and found to be in possession of R13Â 000 cash.

All three appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, facing charges relating to the collection, control and possession of perlemoen.

Langenhoven was released on R50Â 000 bail with strict conditions, including house arrest. Wu was released on

R550 000 bail, secured by R50 000 cash and his house offered as security. He was also placed under house arrest and needs to report to the police station daily. Yuan was not granted bail.

The matter was postponed to June 7 for further investigation. -- Sapa

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/Default.aspx?s=3&s1=2&id=4179>

The Gisborne Herald

Large haul of small paua at China Palace

Tuesday, 29 July 2008

Gisborne businessman and former restaurateur Pang Chan said he had no knowledge of 790 paua when they were found by fisheries officers at his premises, and claimed his wife had collected the fish "behind my back" to feed Chinese opera singers.

The two are facing charges in a defended hearing before Judge Robert Woolf in Gisborne District Court. Fisheries officers said they went to the China Palace complex during an operation on March 29, 2007, and found 790 frozen and dried paua in boxes and plastic bags - 79 times the daily limit of paua.

Chin King Pang Chan, 71, has pleaded not guilty to possessing undersize paua, and to possessing paua for the purpose of sale.

His wife Yuen Skui Chan, 69, has pleaded guilty to possessing undersize paua.

Morgan Dunn, counsel for the Ministry of Fisheries, said paua was found in numerous plastic bags of 10 paua each, labelled in Chinese, and in boxes in the kitchen area of Aladdin's Bar and in the basement.

Dried paua was found in the fridge and pantry area of the Chans' residential premises within the same building.

Fisheries officer Tatia Kutia said the paua in the pantry was in plastic bags and "appeared to be extremely undersize".

Chan denied repeatedly that he interfered and spoke to his wife in Chinese as fisheries officers tried to interview her.

He had only asked her if she wanted coffee, he said.

Chan was cross-examined by Judge Woolf and asked to say in Chinese, "do you want coffee?"

Chan replied in Chinese and the judge commented on the difference between that short answer and the comments fisheries officers alleged he had made to his wife.

Chan then said he had been angry at the time and had also asked his wife what had she done.

Mrs Chan, under cross-examination, confirmed her husband's version of their conversations, and said he had told her not to supply paua to the singers.

Chan said he had donated millions of dollars to the Gisborne community in voluntary support and with compulsory gaming machine funds.

Many people returned gifts to him, such as vegetables, eggs and fish.

He was also chairman of the New Zealand Tishan Chinese Association and his wife was arranging a dinner for Chinese opera singers who were coming to perform in New Zealand.

Chan told his wife not to supply paua at the function and said she would get into trouble if she did.

Judge Woolf said he was curious why Chan should immediately assume any paua would be illegally sourced.

Chan said the paua would be given as a gift.

He had later learned his wife had been accumulating paua for 12 months, wrapped up and presented by people as koha.

The paua would be perceived by Chinese diners as a treat for honoured guests, said Chan.

But his wife had acted "behind my back".

He did not know there were large quantities of paua in the basement, or in the pantry.

That was a woman's job in China, he said.

He never ate in the kitchen of his residence, preferring to eat "downstairs", and rarely looked in the kitchen's pantry.

Mr Dunn suggested Chan was like a ghost who floated about, without knowing what was going on.

"I'm the front person, not the boss," said Chan.

Fisheries officers Martin Williams, Grant Dickson and Tatia Kutia said Chan "disappeared" for a short period during their inspection of the China Palace building.

They believed he had made his way to the basement, through a locked door with a toilet sign on it, to hide paua stored in a freezer.

It seemed strange that frozen paua was found hidden behind furniture in the basement on a hot March day, said Mr Dunn.

Chan denied going to the basement and hiding the paua and repeated he did not know what his wife did.

Counsel Adam Simperingham said the issue was whether Chan had the required knowledge and control of the paua.

Mrs Chan would tell the court she accepted paua as koha for a function for Chinese opera singers, without any expectation of payment.

But she had also been told by her daughter Alda Lee that paua could not be consumed after it had been refrozen.

Mr Chan knew little about her business, said Mr Simperingham.

The case will resume on Thursday, when defence evidence will continue.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20080725061124484C167400



Crime unit racks up impressive success rate

July 25 2008 at 10:46AM

By Caryn Dolley

By making breakthroughs in cases of murder, cash-in-transit heists and drug deals, the organised crime unit has arrested more than 326 suspects in two years - and those convicted have been sentenced to a total of nearly 900 years behind bars.

In March two years ago the organised crime unit was revamped and more police officers were brought in to focus on different areas.

Currently the unit comprises 90 members.

'Our members working at the airport have had a lot of success'

On Thursday, during the police's weekly press briefing, Piet Viljoen, the unit's acting commander, said it had made a number of breakthroughs in various crimes in its two-year-and-four-month history.

The unit had investigated 63 murders, which had led to 86 arrests. Of the people convicted, 12 had received life sentences and terms totalling 607 years had been dished out.

Viljoen said 83 cases involving cash-in-transit heists, "the most difficult cases you can ever investigate", had been probed and 81 suspects held. He said 25 suspects were still in custody.

With regard to poaching, Viljoen said 36 tons of perlemoen, worth R90-million, had been confiscated and 18 suspects arrested. Those convicted had been sentenced to a total of 58 years behind bars.

In drug-related crimes involving "high-flyers", 74 cases had been investigated and 141 arrests made. Prison sentences totalling 58 years had been handed out to those convicted.

'These guys really do work hard'

Quantities of drugs including 160 000 Mandrax tablets, 15 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (tik) and 90kg of cocaine, totalling R21-million, had also been confiscated.

"Our members working at the airport have had a lot of success. They're getting the couriers who are bringing in (the drugs)."

Viljoen said the unit also had a group of anti-corruption investigators who also probed and sometimes arrested their colleagues.

He said when "high-flyers" were investigated they often tried to implicate police officers in crimes to divert attention from themselves.

When a suspect did try to implicate a police member and this was investigated, the allegations often turned out to be false, Viljoen said.

Although some people had already been convicted, a number of cases were still being dealt with in court and it took years for them to be concluded.

Viljoen said that aside from focusing on specific investigations, "whenever and wherever" other police stations needed assistance, members of the unit stepped in to help.

"We have a very dedicated team. You can go to the offices at 2am or on the weekend and you'll find members there.

"These guys really do work hard."

caryn.dolley@inl.co.za

- This article was originally published on page 4 of [Cape Times](#) on July 25, 2008

Two appear in Bay court after being arrested for poaching

Gareth Wilson HERALD REPORTER

TWO men, arrested on Monday for allegedly poaching perlemoen and trying to ride over a policeman with their boat in a high-speed chase, appeared in the Port Elizabeth magistrate's courts yesterday.

Juan Else of Uitenhage and Basil Landman of Sydneham appeared on charges of possession of perlemoen and defeating the ends of justice.

The police allegedly received information on Monday that there were two rubber ducks in the Bushy Park nature reserve area whose occupants were suspected of poaching perlemoen.

According to the charge sheet Else, who is in his 20s, has three previous convictions for violation of the National Road Traffic Act, as well as a pending case for contravention of the Marine Resources Act.

Landman, 56, has one previous conviction for violation of the National Road Traffic Act.

<http://courtnews.co.nz/story.php?id=1143>

Christchurch Court News

Father says paua poaching fine was too much

► **Opeteia Apinelu: poaching paua**

A Christchurch father-of-seven has asked for reconsideration of the \$1500 fine he got for what a judge termed "looting" Banks Peninsula's paua beds.

The man has seven children in his care and is the sole breadwinner – a food processor earning about \$500 a week – for them and his partner.

Christchurch District Court Judge Stephen Erber was told today that the man, 39-year-old Opeteia Apinelu, could not afford the fine that was imposed in February and was applying for a rehearing.

He had pleaded guilty to charges of taking too many of the shellfish and taking them when they were under-sized.

Judge Erber said at the time that Apinelu had been "not so much taking too many paua but looting the paua beds".

His new defence counsel Ruth Feltham said her client had been "literally left holding the bag" and had only gone along to watch his brother diving at Boulder Bay, near Taylor's Mistake.

She said she had been surprised that Apinelu had been charged as a principal offender rather than as a party.

But Judge Erber said it seemed that Apinelu had been treated as a principal offender because he had been fined while a sentence of 180 hours of community work had been imposed on his brother.

Judge Erber adjourned the rehearing to August 25 and asked that an affidavit be obtained from the defence lawyer who represented Apinelu in February, about the circumstances under which he had entered his guilty pleas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/22/2310889.htm>



Poacher stole thousands of abalone

Posted Tue Jul 22, 2008 1:42pm AEST

Updated Tue Jul 22, 2008 2:20pm AEST



A gambler and drug user admits to stealing thousands of abalone. (ABC News: Cate Grant)

- [Map: Williamstown 3016](#)

An abalone poacher has pleaded guilty to two charges, in what fisheries officers say is one of the worst cases of its type in Victoria.

Jure Joseph Topic took more than 2,500 abalone from Victorian waters, including Point Hicks in Gippsland, and Williamstown beach.

The court heard the 34 year old was caught by fisheries officers on six separate occasions, sometimes with hundreds of abalone hidden in his car.

The court heard Topic took more than 300 kilograms of the shellfish in 2006 and 2007.

Judge Les Ross described Topic's crime as a calculated plundering of resources, and asked his defence lawyer whether he had ever seen a worse case.

The court heard Topic was a gambler and drug user, who had led an itinerant life.

He will return to court at a later date.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/abalone-poacher-faces-more-jail-time-20080722-3jfl.html>

Fairfax Digital

Abalone poacher faces more jail time

- **Steve Butcher**
- July 23, 2008 - 11:00PM



Poacher ... Jure Joseph Topic, left, and, right, in wetsuit plundering abalone from a marine reserve in Port Phillip Bay.

A POACHER who plundered abalone from the east Gippsland coast and a marine sanctuary in Port Phillip Bay faces a lengthy jail term for trafficking the valuable shellfish.

Authorities also plan to make Jure Joseph Topic, 34, who took more than 2500 abalone from four habitats in 18 months, pay compensation of \$44,000 and ban him indefinitely from Victoria's coast.

The County Court heard that Topic moved into Victorian waters after being banned in NSW from involvement with abalone in 2005.

Prosecutor Diana Piekusis yesterday told the court that Topic and several other men were arrested poaching abalone at Point Hicks, Wingan Inlet and Cape Liptrap between 2006 and 2007.

Ms Piekusis said fisheries officers then intercepted him and two others in a boat after poaching abalone from the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary near Williamstown on July last year.

Topic, who took more than 327 kilograms of abalone, yesterday pleaded guilty to two charges including trafficking a commercial quantity of a priority species, which carries a 10-year maximum jail sentence.

Defence barrister John Saunders said a psychologist reported that Topic was an itinerant and a user of several drugs, who also suffered attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Mr Saunders said Topic, who has been in custody for almost a year, could not pay the compensation and would be bankrupted by the state.

Judge Leslie Ross described Topic's crimes as "sustained plundering" which was close to the worst of its kind.

He adjourned the hearing for a pre-sentence psychiatric report on Topic.

<http://www.news.com.au/business/story/0,27753,24064604-31037,00.html>



Abalone company looking offshore

Article from: AAP /

July 23, 2008 12:16pm

AUSTRALIAN-GROWN abalone fish are destined to end up on Asian plates, fueling the expansion of commercial fish farming, a company says.

Adelaide-based Destiny [Abalone Group](#) (DAG) said today it is expanding its [South Australian](#) land-based operations to meet growing demand in the Asian market.

To satisfy the surging Asian appetite for its abalone, the company said it will base its abalone grow-out ship, the MV Destiny Queen, in Asian waters.

"This is an exciting and natural progression in the development of our company," DAG executive chairman, Peter Wahlqvist, said in a statement.

"It provides us with even greater opportunities to keep this Australian initiative at the forefront of abalone production in the world."

Mr Wahlqvist said Destiny will focus "even more intently" on the production of juvenile abalone for the export market, allowing the company to maintain a high level of commitment as a local employer.

Green Lip abalone will be grown and allowed to mature on board the 6500-tonne [MV Destiny Queen](#) in grow-out tanks.

Destiny said new technologies improves the quality and production of abalone, while markedly decreasing growing times and mortality rates, Destiny said in a statement.

"Our new agreements mean that our principal vessel, the MV Destiny Queen, currently completing her annual refit in Shanghai, will remain in Asia," Mr Wahlqvist said.

"Importantly, the bottom-line result from our expansion means that the benefits from such growth continue to flow back home to Australia."

Destiny Abalone - already the world's largest supplier of commercially farmed abalone - will maintain its headquarters in Australia with its head office at Kent Town in Adelaide.

It's been a big year for fish production in Australia, as the industry is recovering from a 5.5 per cent dip in sales four years ago.

In 2004, the [Australian Bureau](#) of Agricultural and Resources Economics said the sharp fall in fish production due to lower prices for most species, including tuna, abalone, prawns and rock lobster.

A subdued global trading environment in 2003, combined with the strengthening Australian dollar, SARS, and the drought significantly harmed fish exports.

In June, fish producer [Australis Aquaculture](#) won a license to grow barramundi in Vietnam, while expanding sales in [North America](#) and Europe.

The Perth-based company received an investment license from the [Van Phong Economic Zone](#) in central Vietnam, approving the use of 200 hectares over 25 years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200807/s2311802.htm>

Abalone poaching spreads disease threat

Wednesday, 23/07/2008

A notorious abalone poacher, Jure Topic, has pleaded guilty in a Victorian court to illegally taking two and a half thousand abalone from the state's waters.

Chief executive of Victoria's Eastern Abalone Industry Zone, Geoff Ellis says the plea is a timely reminder of the dangers of abalone theft, including concerns that poaching may spread the fatal abalone disease, ganglio neuritis.

He says poachers could decimate the industry through theft and the spread of disease.

"What also can happen is, if a poacher or a thief goes from the central zone from an infected zone and then goes to the eastern and doesn't properly wash out and clean his gear, because he has disregard for the industry, then dives in our zone, there's every chance the disease will be spread by him."

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/abalone-theft-four-months-gaol>



Abalone theft - man sentenced to four months gaol

21 Jul 2008

A Narooma man has been fined \$900 and sentenced to four months gaol, one of the longest gaol terms handed down for abalone theft to date, Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said today.

Mr Macdonald said the man has a significant history of abalone offences and was caught by Department of Primary Industries fisheries officers in two targeted surveillance operations.

The man was charged with four offences under the Fisheries Management Act 1994, including possessing more than the legal limit, possessing undersized fish and obstructing Fisheries Officers during the hearing at Narooma local court last week.

"This man was caught on two occasions possessing a total of more than 400 illegally caught and undersized abalone," Mr Macdonald said.

"On one occasion, 295 shucked abalone were concealed in bush near Glasshouse Rocks and, thanks to the careful surveillance of fisheries officers, they were able to catch the man returning to the site to collect the illegal catch.

"In the second operation, more than 100 live abalone were safely returned to the water, thanks to the quick work of fisheries officers.

"The total amount of stolen abalone is worth more than \$3,000 on the black market but could be worth much more in securing the future of our abalone industry.

"We also confiscated a quantity of diving gear, ensuring it cannot be used in any future abalone crime.

"Authorities will not tolerate illegal fishing activity and this four month gaol sentence clearly demonstrates this."

The sentence is just part of an ongoing operation by the NSW Government which is targeting illegal fishing and organised syndicates operating along the State's South Coast.

"Our targeted surveillance strategies are working - in the last 12 months alone, our fisheries officers on the South Coast have seized more than 9,900 illegally caught abalone destined for the black market, issued 13 penalty infringement notices and launched court prosecutions for more than 180 abalone offences," Mr Macdonald said.

Mr Macdonald said under new laws, announced earlier this month and due to be introduced to Parliament at the first opportunity, penalties and gaol terms will be substantially increased for illegal fishing activity.

"Under the new laws, poachers could face a maximum penalty of up to \$500,000 and 10 years in jail," he said.

"Trafficking priority species will soon be made an indictable offence and repeat offenders can have their penalty doubled for committing the same offence twice.

"For the first time illegal fishers can also be made to pay additional fines of up to 10 times the value of the illegal catch for high value species.

"We'll also give courts the power to seize assets and money gained through illegal fishing, and bring certain serious fisheries offences under the Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997.

"The lemma Government is committed to enforcing tough penalties for fishery crimes, to protect our valuable natural resources so that they remain at sustainable levels."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/21/2310133.htm>



Fisheries net 10,000 abalone in poaching crackdown

Posted Mon Jul 21, 2008 8:06pm AEST

A crackdown on abalone poaching on the New South Wales south coast has netted 10,000 illegally caught abalone this year and at least one repeat offender has been jailed.

NSW Fisheries says poaching has been on the rise particularly since recreational bag limits and commercial quotas were drastically cut.

Fisheries investigator Nick Schroder says there is a healthy black market for the shellfish.

"Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne all have thriving black markets, they're paying as much as \$75 a kilo for black market fish," he said.

"We're dealing with very well-organised syndicates, they learn from each time we apprehend them.

"They're using methods such as dummy runs, getting dropped off, they're paying what we call cockatoos or lookouts, on the rocks."

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/415135.html>

Posted on Thu, Jul. 17, 2008



ABALONE FARMERS BANK ON A REVIVAL

Once near extinction, the abalone is coming back thanks to aquafarms on California's coast

Once near extinction, the abalone is coming back thanks to aquafarms on California's coast



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Matt Steinke, a manager at the Carlsbad Aquafarm, points out characteristics of green-red abalone hybrids, also pictured up close below, cultured at his aquafarm north of San Diego.

Carlsbad Aquafarm is growing a multimillion-dollar investment in a row of tanks alongside a tidal lagoon just outside San Diego.

In a process that has taken years to complete, microscopic abalone larvae have finally grown into fist-sized mollusks that can fetch \$30 a pound from top-shelf restaurants and other buyers.

The operation is one of a dozen or so aquafarms along the California coast betting on the culinary comeback of the puck-shaped mollusks that were led to the brink of extinction by overfishing.

“It’s very slow, growing abalone. You spend two or three years of work until you have something large enough to sell,” said Matt Steinke, a manager at Carlsbad Aquafarm.

But the wait has its reward.

“It’s more or less an endless market,” Steinke said.

Abalone production in the U. S.—most of it in California — roughly doubled to about 522,000 pounds in 2005 from about 254,000 pounds in 1999, the last year Ray Fields, owner of the Cayucos-based grower, Abalone Farm, surveyed the nation’s output for the International Abalone Symposium. The rapid growth came as abalone consumers expanded from a core group of older Californians, nostalgic for the days when the delicacy could be gathered by the sack-full along the beach or ordered as steaks or burgers at fish shacks, to today’s adventurous, well-heeled diners hungry for something different and quintessentially Californian said H. Roy Gordon, president of the abalone consulting firm Fishtech Inc.

“From a flavor standpoint, it’s hard not to like it,” said Corey Lee, executive chef at the French Laundry in Napa Valley. “We’re talking about a sweet, clammy shellfish.”

Along California’s coast

Decades ago, abalone could be found littering beaches at low tide or clinging to rocks in underwater coves. These days, however, most of the nation’s abalone grows in sea water- filled tanks amid the hum of pumps and generators.

At Carlsbad Aquafarm, thousands of abalone cling to vertical plastic panels stacked in waist-deep tanks the size of large kiddie pools.

The complex also houses gurgling tubs where workers clean and process oysters, clams and mussels raised in the nearby lagoon. The shellfish sales bankrolled the company’s abalone operation as the mollusks reached marketable size, Steinke said.

In Cayucos, the Abalone Farm grows and sells nearly 1 million abalone annually, much of which is exported to Asia.

Farther north along the coast, Monterey Abalone Co. grows the mollusks in cages suspended from a municipal wharf into Monterey Bay. The company hopes to add as many as 70 new cages next year to the roughly 200 it currently uses, co-owner Trevor Fay said.

Fay said the biggest challenge has been securing a year-round supply of the wild kelp that it feeds the creatures. Experiments are under way to preserve kelp harvested in summer for use during winter, he said.

“If there’s a lot of demand and you’ve got a good outlook, which we currently do for growing abalone, then you’ve got to take advantage,” said Art Seavey, Fay’s partner.

Popularity, depletion

Abalone was helped into the California culinary culture by late 19th century Japanese immigrants who dove for the mollusks and exported them to their home country, where they had long been a delicacy, said Tim Thomas, a historian at the Maritime Museum of Monterey.

In the early 1900s, a German restaurateur in Monterey known as “Pop” Ernest Doelter began experimenting with the exotic catch. He devised a recipe that involved prying the meat from the shell and pounding it into steaks that were breaded and pan-fried, Thomas said.

The mollusk’s popularity grew and eventually led to its near-depletion.

In 1997, California Department of Fish and Game officials imposed a complete ban on abalone harvesting south of the San Francisco Bay and severely restricted diving for the mollusks north of the bay.

The first abalone farms appeared in the early 1970s, as the natural supply diminished. Since then, farmers have been experimenting to find the best ways to breed them in captivity.

In recent years, abalone has slithered onto the menus of a number of pricey restaurants.

"I am so surprised that so many people are ordering it, and the feedback is so beautiful," said Mo Tabib, chef at the Fish Hopper in Monterey, which sells potato chip-sized disks of seared abalone as an appetizer for \$22. "It's a luxury."

<http://www.legalbrief.co.za/article.php?story=20080718061235641>



Six abalone poachers appear following two busts

Published in: Legalbrief Today

Date: Fri 18 July 2008

Category: In Court

Issue No: 2113

Six suspected abalone dealers appeared in court yesterday relating to a police haul of nearly 10 000 abalone in premises in Strand, with another to appear today on the same charge.

Donovan Dickson (37), Intiyaz Coovadia (39), Leon Maasdorp (37), Nathan Joseph (33), Llewellyn Sharneck (30) and Pete Mbiba appeared in the **Strand Magistrates' Court** facing perlemoen dealing charges. After Dickson had allegedly sold 150kg of perlemoen during a transaction police had set up, he was arrested and officers had searched the premises, says a *Cape Times* report. Three freezers, 9 950 shucked and two unshucked perlemoen had been confiscated and the five other suspects had been arrested.



TASMANIAN ABALONE BIOSECURITY PROJECT UPDATE



30 June 2008

The Reference Group for the Tasmanian Abalone Biosecurity Project met for the first time on Thursday June 26, 2008 at the TFIC (now Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council) offices. Reference Group members are the interface between the Department's Abalone Biosecurity Project team and industry stakeholders.

The Project Team consists of Andrew Sharman (DPIW Fisheries), Kevin Ellard (DPIW Animal Health) and Judi Marshall (DPIW Fisheries). Rob Gott is also part of the Reference Group representing DPIW Marine Farming.

The industry stakeholder representatives include Nick Savva (Tasmanian Abalone Growers Association), Mark Nikoli (TARFish), Dean Lisson (Tasmanian Abalone Council Divers), Mark Daft (Tasmanian Abalone Council Processors) and Neil Stump (Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council) representing rock lobster, scallop and scalefish fishers.

The purpose of the Abalone Biosecurity Reference group is to:

- Bring issues from stakeholders that need discussion to the Project team and feed information back out to stakeholders;
- Review progress on the project including biosecurity protocols;
- Act as a conduit and sign off on activities; and
- Help manage the expectations of stakeholders.

After a successful first meeting, information on the initial draft protocols will soon be available for industry stakeholders to comment on and be part of maintaining Tasmania's marine environment disease free status. Protocols will be available on the DPIW website as they are developed (www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalone).

If you would like to find out more about the Tasmanian Abalone Biosecurity Project and the draft protocols, please contact your stakeholder representative or contact Judi Marshall at DPIW on Judi.Marshall@dpiw.tas.gov.au or (03) 6233 6888.

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Topics/HMUJ-67P894?open>

Sea Fishing & Aquaculture

Department of Primary Industries and Water

[Home](#) > [Sea Fishing & Aquaculture](#) > [Fishing](#) > [Abalone](#)

Abalone Fishery

The Tasmanian abalone industry is a major contributor to the Tasmanian economy. The Tasmanian abalone fishery is the largest wild abalone fishery in the world, providing approximately 25% of the annual world harvest.



Government is responsible for managing the Tasmanian abalone fishery under the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*. Management under the Act is through formal management plans. The management plan is constantly being refined as management of this fishery becomes increasingly sophisticated.

■ [Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis and Biosecurity](#)

Information on Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis and biosecurity protocols for protecting Tasmania's abalone.

■ [Abalone Fishery Changes - 2008](#)

An explanation of changes to abalone fishery quotas and catch targets for 2008

■ [Abalone - Explanation of Key Issues 2007 Quota Year](#)

Details 2007 total allowable catch, trigger closures (caps), alternations to size limits, research areas and additional information.

■ [2006 Abalone Operational Information](#)


Contents include a description of the zones, size limits, maps and reporting requirements for the commercial fishery.

■ Abalone Catch Updates

Monthly updates of the amount of the TAC taken in each fishing zone.

■ Industry Profile - Abalone

A review of the breadth, scope and value of the abalone industry.

For information on the abalone industry, such as where to purchase abalone, see the Tasmanian Abalone Council website at www.tasabalone.com.au/ .

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<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20081707-17668.html>



Gene test breeds pedigree abalone

Thursday, 17 July 2008

[Fresh Science](#)



Tim Lucas, growing abalone in the lab.

The world's fastest growing abalone—the tropical donkey's ear abalone, *Haliotis asinina*—can be bred to grow rapidly and reliably for aquaculture, Queensland biologists have found. And that makes it potentially a

high value alternative crop for struggling prawn farmers.

The researchers looked at whether they could speed up breeding of abalone for aquaculture using modern technology to identify and select genes that are activated in fast-growing animals. By linking the abundance of specific genes with fast growth rates, they have now shown their proposal is practical.

“If we can select breeding individuals who grow rapidly, the chances are that they have the right underlying genetic instruction manual, which can be passed on, ensuring their progeny grow fast as well,” says Tim Lucas from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, who worked on the project with Prof Bernie Degnan of the University of Queensland.

The work has already demonstrated that growth rate is highly heritable—that fast-growing animals from the wild are likely to lead to fast-growing progeny in aquaculture. And the researchers have also developed methods for a simple blood test to measure the abundance of rapid-growth genes in wild abalone. This opens the possibility of pre-selecting fast-growing broodstock, reducing the level of undesirable genes from the start.

“Using these molecular techniques to select individuals for breeding rather than traditional physical traits, we can get one step closer to the fundamental genetic differences that control growth rate,” Tim says.

“It is difficult to go out onto the reef, tag and release abalone, and physically measure growth as it’s occurring. Using these molecular tools, however, we can take a blood sample and determine the activity of the growth genes. That immediately provides us with a snapshot of how fast individuals are growing at a particular point in time.”

The availability of these molecular tools increases the feasibility of farming donkey’s ear abalone in Australia, leading to rapid improvements in profitability.

“Not only are donkey’s ear abalone potentially of high value, but they are also plant-eaters,” Tim says. “This is important because it means they could provide a sustainable alternative option for tropical prawn farmers who are currently struggling to compete with cheaper imports and the soaring price of fishmeal.”

Because all abalone species are closely related and share most of their genes, says Degnan, it is likely the findings of the research team could also be applied to the more lucrative temperate abalone aquaculture industries in Australia and around the world.

Tim Lucas is one of 16 early-career scientists chosen for Fresh Science, a national program sponsored by the Federal and Victorian governments. He is presenting his research to the public for the first time.

<http://myallcoast.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/virus-impact-finally-recognised/811455.aspx>



Virus impact finally recognised

15/07/2008 1:16:00 PM

One of the objectives of the Pindimar Bundabah Community Association is to protect the flora and fauna that live in the pristine waters of Port Stephens for ourselves, visitors and future generations.

Consequently the association was successful in opposing the land-based development of an abalone farm on the sensitive and fragile foreshores of Port Stephens.

"In an article put out by the Department of Primary Industries the public is finally aware of the severity of this virus, which developed and escaped from a land-based abalone farm in Victoria," Pindimar Bundabah Community Association publicity officer Peter Economos said.

Many kilometres of coastal waters were closed to abalone fishermen and it devastated the abalone industry and restricted marine activities in the southern coastal waters.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has banned the use of abalone gut for bait or burley in all NSW waters after the incident in Victoria.

The virus can spread through the water column so infected bait does not need to come into direct contact with live abalone for the disease to be transferred. It affects the abalone's nervous system causing swelling of the mouth, curling of the foot, weakness and eventually death.

"The association applauds the department for making the public aware of this virus even though it is around three years after its existence became known," Mr Economos said.

The Pindimar Bundabah community was aware of the dangers involved in intensive land-based aquaculture on sensitive, estuary foreshore areas and therefore opposed the development.