

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/14/2335390.htm?site=hobart>

Man fined for abalone dumping

Posted August 14, 2008 14:30:00

A former Tasmanian factory manager has been fined and a conviction recorded against him after he pleaded guilty to dumping \$61,000 worth of abalone.

The Hobart Magistrates Court heard Benjamin Edward O'Brien of Dodges Ferry, was manager at the Dover facility when 1.5 tonnes of abalone in the holding tanks died.

He panicked and dumped the abalone in various bush locations in the area, without telling his interstate employers.

Magistrate, Sam Mollard described the actions as serious, O'Brien was fined more than \$7,000 and a conviction recorded against him.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/its-not-you-its-the-sea-heat-hurts-shellfish-relationships/1244885.aspx>

Fairfax Digital

It's not you, it's the sea: heat hurts shellfish relationships

RICHARD MACEY
15/08/2008 12:00:01 AM

OYSTERS, lobsters, mussels, sea urchins and abalone could be wiped off the menu by global warming, an Australian scientist warned yesterday.

Jane Williamson, a Macquarie University marine ecologist, made the prediction after discovering that climate change is likely to take a dramatic toll on the ability of sperm from many marine creatures to swim to and fertilise eggs shed in the water.

Even if sperm can find and fertilise the eggs, the probability of their surviving long enough to grow into larvae is likely to plunge.

If the decline in reproduction observed in the laboratory is repeated in nature, Dr Williamson said, "it could be enough to tip an ecosystem shift. Whole communities of marine animals could disappear."

As global temperatures rise the oceans are absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, triggering chemical reactions increasing water acidity.

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Scientists have found evidence that increasing ocean acidity is eating into the shells of many marine animals, making them thinner and more fragile. But the new fertility research shows that rising acidity will pose a second serious threat to sea life.

In the laboratory, Dr Williamson's team exposed several species of sea urchins to water with an acidity of 7.7 - the same level that climate-change scientists have predicted the world's oceans will reach by 2100.

Like most marine invertebrates - including oysters, abalone, mussels and lobsters - sea urchins release sperm and eggs into the water. The Sydney scientists, whose research has been published in *Current Biology*, found that when exposed to acidity levels of 7.7, three times today's global sea average, sea urchin sperm swam much more slowly.

The sperm also lost the ability to swim in the spiralling "corkscrew" pattern used to intercept eggs. "They slow down a lot and the corkscrew goes haywire," Dr Williamson said. "It means the sperm aren't meeting the eggs."

Overall, fertilisation fell by 25 per cent, and in almost 26 per cent of cases where the eggs were fertilised they did not survive long enough to develop into larvae.

Dr Williamson and her collaborators, Professor Jon Havenhand and Professor Michael Thorndyke, from Gothenburg University, are testing mussels, sea stars and oysters and finding similar results.

Scientists have warned that the oceans can no longer cope with the uptake of carbon dioxide, and rising acidity "is an urgent scientific and policy challenge".

Dr Will Howard, from Australia's Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Co-operative Research Centre, and Dr Bronte Tilbrook, from the CSIRO, released a statement on behalf of scientists at a Hobart conference in June. "The current trajectory of carbon emissions will cause a change in ocean acidity during this century that is greater in extent than anything likely to have occurred for millions of years," it said.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/08/14/1218307119885>. ...

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2374605,00.html



Perlemoen poaching boats nabbed

12/08/2008 21:44 - (SA)

Johannesburg - Ten boats were confiscated on Tuesday on suspicion they were being used for perlemoen poaching in the Table Mountain National Marine Protected Area, the Environmental Affairs Department said.

Spokesperson Carol Moses said the boats were seized after a joint operation by the department, the SA Police Service, and SA National Parks.

No arrests were made. However, three people were arrested after a perlemoen poaching incident last week.

Moses said officials received a tip-off from the public and rushed to Robben Island where the area was monitored and they assisted in catching the poachers in the water.

They were charged for illegal diving in a protected area.

nelsonmail.co.nz

The Nelson Mail 

Nelson-based paua poachers busted

Nelson | Saturday, 09 August 2008

Fisheries officers have busted a Nelson-based poaching operation in which a family of three allegedly stole \$40,000 worth of paua from the Kaikoura coast, then sold and distributed it to local Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese families.

The two-month investigation, dubbed Operation Raro, culminated yesterday with a team of 13 staff operating out of Nelson arresting the alleged ringleader, a 48-year-old Vietnamese man, at his home.

He is due to appear in the Nelson District Court on Tuesday on charges of taking and selling in contravention of the Fisheries Act. The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$250,000.

Ministry of Fisheries Nelson-based district compliance manager Geoff Clark said inquiries were continuing and more people were likely to face charges in the coming weeks.

He was unable to say how many others might be involved.

The investigation targeted a family of three who had allegedly poached 500kg of paua from along the coast during the past five months. The paua was not seized during the operation it was an estimate of the amount traded during that time, Mr Clark said.

The current wholesale price for legally sourced and sold shucked paua is about \$80 a kilogram.

Mr Clark said it was believed the paua had not been sold to restaurants or commercial operations.

The ministry was alerted to the alleged offending by a member of the public. It had been one of the most significant investigations of its type ever conducted out of the Nelson office, Mr Clark said.

"The operation reinforces the determination of the Ministry of Fisheries to target and apprehend anyone involved with the poaching and possible black marketing of our fisheries resources.

"Fishery officers can operate at any time of the day and night, and fishers should comply with laws at all times."

Anyone with information on the illegal distribution of paua is urged to call the ministry's office on (03) 548 1069 or call 0800 4 POACHER (0800 476 224).

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4651651a6008.html>

Warning on paua poaching

Jo Gilbert and Fairfax - The Marlborough Express | Monday, 11 August 2008

The sustainability of the Top of the South's paua population is under threat by poachers who take "whatever they can get their hands on", says PauaMac 7 chairman Dave Baker.

Responding to the news that fisheries officers busted an alleged family-run paua poaching ring they believe was responsible for stealing an estimated half-tonne of paua from along the Kaikoura coast, Mr Baker said poaching had a "huge effect" on the fishery.

"Every half tonne they get is a huge loss to the sustainability of the industry, especially when their population is already under threat," he said.

Annually Mr Baker said paua was worth about seven million dollars to the PauaMac 7 area, which stretches from Kahurangi Point in Golden Bay to Clarence on the Kaikoura coast.

The area currently has about 50 quota holders and a total allowable commercial catch rate of 187 tonnes.

The most serious effect poaching had on the fishery's population was that poachers often took juveniles and paua that had not spawned, thus thwarting efforts to rebuild the fishery, he said.

The two-month investigation, dubbed Operation Raro, targeted a Nelson family of three who had allegedly been taking paua illegally along the coast for the past five months.

The paua was thought to be worth about \$40,000. The current wholesale price for legally sourced and sold shucked paua is about \$80 a kilogram.

It is illegal to sell paua without a licence.

Fisheries officers believe the paua was on-sold and distributed within the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese communities in Nelson.

The alleged ringleader, a 48-year-old man, was arrested at his Nelson home on Thursday. He is due to appear in the Nelson District Court tomorrow on charges of taking and selling in contravention of the Fisheries Act. The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$250,000.

Mr Baker said he was concerned paua poaching was growing as both the demand, and New Zealand's population increased.

"We as the people of Aotearoa need to protect our fishery. It's crucial that people are vigilant. If anyone sees anything suspicious, please pass the information on," he said.

"We want to keep the fishery safe. We need to rebuild the population and look after it."

Ministry of Fisheries Nelson-based district compliance manager Geoff Clark said inquiries into the alleged paua ring were continuing and more people were likely to face charges in the coming weeks. He said he could not say how many others might be involved.

The paua was not seized during the operation and was an estimate of the amount traded during that time, Mr Clark said. It was believed the paua had not been sold to restaurants or commercial operations.

The ministry was alerted to the alleged ring by a member of the public, and Mr Clark said it had been one of the most significant investigations of its type ever conducted out of the Nelson office.

"The operation reinforces the determination of the Ministry of Fisheries to target and apprehend anyone involved with the poaching and possible black marketing of our fisheries resources.

"Fishery officers can operate at any time of the day and night, and fishers should comply with laws at all times."

Paua is listed as a concern on the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's website. An assessment of the Paua 7 region showed a "depleted stock".

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4648713a11.html>



Saturday, 09 Aug 2008

Fisheries officers nab alleged paua poachers

By MICHAEL FOX - Stuff.co.nz | Friday, 08 August 2008

Fisheries officers have busted an alleged family-run paua poaching ring they believe is responsible for stealing an estimated half-tonne of paua from along the Kaikoura coast.

Operation Raro targeted a Nelson family of three who have allegedly been taking paua illegally along the coast for the past five months.

It is illegal to sell paua without a licence.

Officers believe the paua has been on-sold and distributed within the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese communities in Nelson.

Fishery officers arrested the alleged ring leader, a 48-year-old Vietnamese man, yesterday at his Nelson home.

He is due to appear in the Nelson District Court on Tuesday facing charges of taking and selling in contravention of the Fisheries Act 1996.

The maximum penalty on conviction is imprisonment of up to five years and or a fine of \$250,000.

Fishery officers are continuing with their enquiries and a number of other people within the network are expected to face charges under the Fisheries Act in the coming weeks.

District Compliance Manager in Nelson, Geoff Clark, says the operation reinforces the determination of the Ministry of Fisheries to apprehend anyone involved with the poaching and possible black marketing of fisheries resources.

“Fishery officers can operate at any time of the day and night, and fishers should comply with the laws at all times,” he says.

<http://www.phdseek.com/phds/55/>

Location	Flinders University, School of Biological Sciences
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biological Sciences > Environmental Science/Ecology• Biological Sciences > Immunology• Biological Sciences > Marine Biology• Biological Sciences > Virology
App. deadline	29/08/2008
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholarship available
Eligibility	Open to international applicants

Australian Seafood CRC: Antiviral activity and resistance to Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is currently decimating populations in Victoria and nationally threatens the abalone fishing and aquaculture industries. This project seeks to address whether abalone can carry this virus without displaying clinical signs and determine whether abalone have differential antiviral activity that correlates with disease resistance. Overall, this project will enhance biosecurity preparedness and response in the abalone industries through the detection and development of AVG-resistant, AVG virus-free populations. The use of virus resistant stock in abalone breeding programs for farming and restocking of field populations will reduce mortality and increase the overall productivity of abalone industries in Australia.

In the first 18 months, green and black lipped abalone (*Haliotis laevis* and *H. rubra*) will be obtained from AVG free locations in South Australia. These will be used to optimise an antiviral screening assay, based on the herpes simplex plaque assay. Abalone collected across a range of size classes, from several natural populations will then be screened for antiviral activity to establish the baseline level of variability. Comparisons of the antiviral properties between species, populations and size classes will help identify animals with strong antiviral resistance for future breeding programs.

In the next 18 months, abalone will be obtained from AVG-affected and AVG-naïve sites through collaboration with the Victorian Abalone Divers Association. The abalone will be visually examined for clinical signs of AVG and then screened for the presence of virus using a recently established PCR-based DNA detection protocol. This will enable determination of any AVG carriers and thus inform biosecurity protocols for the management of healthy looking abalone from post-infected populations. AVG infected abalone, both with and without clinical symptoms, will then be assayed for antiviral activity, alongside AVG negative controls. This will establish whether antiviral responses are up-regulated in resistant AVG carriers and thus facilitate future detection of latent viral infection in disease surveillance and translocation programs.

Further information available by contacting Dr Kirsten Benkendorff and Dr Peter Speck above.

This scholarship will provide an indexed, tax-free, stipend of \$26,140 pa for up to three years subject to satisfactory progress. The scholarship also includes \$5,000 pa for operating costs and the successful candidate will be fully engaged in the Seafood CRC's PhD program which will support the development of the student as a scientist in a number of innovative ways including through annual workshops and a seafood industry mentoring program. The successful applicant will receive a Research Training Scheme place, which provides an exemption from tuition fees.

This scholarship will only be available to those who: have completed at least four years of tertiary education studies at a high level of achievement and have an appropriate Honours 1 or high 2A (or equivalent) undergraduate degree; and are enrolling as full-time students; and will commence a PhD. The scholarships will not be available to applicants who: are receiving another scholarship or salary to undertake the proposed program; or have already completed a higher degree at the same level as the proposed candidature.

Application kits can be obtained from the Higher Degree Administration and Scholarships Office and can be downloaded from the [scholarships website](#).

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/desire-not-be-named-adds-500-fine/5/1848>



Desire Not To Be Named Adds \$500 To Fine

(6 August 2008)

A man who gave fishery officers a false name after being caught with excess and undersized seafood has been ordered to pay fines and court costs in excess of \$1700.

Robert Te Ariki Salvation, a 26-year-old labourer from Te Kuiti, appeared in the Te Kuiti District Court this week, facing charges of obstructing a fishery officer by providing false name and address details, taking excess paua, taking undersized paua and taking excess kina.

Salvation was convicted on the obstruction charge and fined \$500, plus \$130 court costs. He was also ordered to pay \$250, plus \$130 court costs, on each of the other three charges.

Salvation was a passenger in a car stopped at a fisheries checkpoint at Kiritehere at Marokopa on February 9. In the car, officers found three bags, one of which Salvation admitted was his. It contained 63 kina and 18 paua. All of the paua were undersized and ranged from 84mm to 115mm. The minimum legal size is 125mm.

Salvation admitted gathering all of the seafood in the bag, even though the daily maximum limit for paua is 10 and maximum daily limit for kina is 50.

He told the officers that he knew the daily limit for kina was 50 but didn't know about the legal size or daily limit for paua. He said the seafood was for a party.

He also told the officers his name was Robert Ceiling and gave a false address.

After later being tracked down by fishery officers, Salvation eventually admitted that he had given false name and address details because he did not want his name published in local papers.

Providing false or misleading name and address details to a fishery officer is treated seriously and carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

http://www.mascot.org/mascot_7th/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1



First Announcement

Written by Administrator

2008-07-27



First Announcement

The 7th International Abalone Symposium

Phuket Thailand

July 19 – 24, 2009

Symposium Overview

The tradition of holding international abalone symposia started in La Paz, Mexico in 1989. Symposia were then held at fairly regular intervals, in Tasmania (1994), California (1997), South Africa (2000) China (2003) and Chile (2006). All of these symposia were satisfactory success, and the number of people attending has gradually increased. In continuing with the tradition, the 7th International Abalone Symposium (IAS-2009) will be held during July 19-24, 2009 Phuket Island, Thailand (www.phuket.net , www.phuket.com). Besides the International Abalone Society, this symposium is co-hosted by the Marine Science Association of Thailand in association with many Thai institutes i.e. Faculty of Science, and Aquatic Resources Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University. The program of the IAS-2009 will follow the same manner including invited keynotes, panel presentations, contributed oral and poster presentations, as well as an exhibition. All academics, farmers, suppliers, buyers, distributors, managers, regulators and policy/decision makers currently working or interested in abalone and their issues are all invited to participate in this event. All sessions will be presented in English.

Program Themes

Symposium sessions will focus on the following program themes; examples of topic area for presentation are as follows;

1. International abalone trade
2. Fisheries management
3. Aquaculture technology
4. Larval biology and settlement
5. Pathology and disease
6. Nutrition and feeding
7. Genetics
8. Physiology
9. Biochemistry
10. Ecology
11. Biotechnology

12. Harvests and processing

13. Other related topics

Publications

Papers from this symposium will be peer-reviewed and published in the Journal of Shellfish Research.

Abstract Preparation and Submission

Instructions of the on-line (Web-based) preparation and submission of abstracts for oral and or poster presentations can be found at <http://www.mascot.org>. The abstract submission will start from August 1, 2008 and end on March 30, 2009. **No abstracts will be accepted after March 30, 2009.**

Registration

In order to receive the discount rates as listed below; payment must be received by the date listed.

Registration fee	IAS member	Non-member
Early registration (1 Aug, 2008-31 Dec, 2008)	300 USD	350 USD
Regular registration (1 Jan, 2008-30 Mar, 2009)	350 USD	400 USD
Late registration (1 Apr, 2009-24 Jul, 2009)	450 USD	500 USD

Note:

1. The IAS membership fee is 50 USD/person. <https://shellfish.org/join.htm>
2. The registration fee includes access to the scientific sessions, exhibition, the opening reception, the committee banquet dinner, lunch, morning and afternoon tea/coffee break, and symposium documents. However, the post-symposium tours and accommodation are not included.

Sponsorship

Sponsors are welcomed. It is a great opportunity to promote your product, services and /or your company to a worldwide aquaculture and fisheries audiences. An exhibition is considered in the event.

Discount rate for member

As of the meeting in Chile, membership fees for 2009-2012 are due. To encourage participants to be members of the society, those who pay for the membership will have an IAS member registration rate. Membership benefits include discounts and ABNET special abalone web network participation.

Important datelines

Symposium: 19-24 July, 2009

Abstract submission: 1 August, 2008-30 March, 2009

(No abstracts will be accepted after March 30, 2009.)

Early registration: 1 August, 2008-31 December, 2009

Regular registration: 1 January, 2009-30 March, 2009

Late registration: 1 April, 2009-24 July, 2009

For more information please contact our web site: <http://www.mascot.org>

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/Default.aspx?s=3&s1=2&id=4287>

The Gisborne Herald

Fined \$10,000 each for illegal paua possession

Saturday, 2 August 2008

HIGH-profile businessman Pang Chan and his wife have been fined \$10,000 each after what the Ministry of Fisheries describe as the biggest known illegal paua operation in the district's history, after fisheries officers found 790 paua on their premises worth up to \$8000.

Chin King Pang Chan, 74, was found guilty by Judge Robert Woolf of possessing undersize paua, and possessing paua for the purpose of sale, after a two-day defended hearing in Gisborne District Court.

His wife, Yuen Skui Chan, 69, had earlier pleaded guilty to a joint charge of possessing undersize paua.

Judge Woolf said the ministry could have also charged Mrs Chan with possessing paua for the purpose of sale.

If they had done so, she too would have been convicted.

For that reason, it was unfair to fine Mr Chan a second time, said the judge. He convicted him on the second offence but did not impose an additional fine.

Counsel for the ministry, Morgan Dunn, said the 790 frozen and dried paua, found in the Chans' business premises and apartment, when in shells, would have weighed 100 kilograms, and consisted of 40kg of meat.

The meat, if bought from a paua farm, would cost \$6891, while a licensed fish retailer would sell it for \$8000, said Mr Dunn.

Mr Chan's defence was that his wife had ignored his instructions not to supply paua for a dinner for Chinese opera singers, and had done so behind his back, and without his knowledge or involvement.

But Judge Woolf said he found that "frankly, impossible to believe".

Ms Chan had acted out of a noble, "wondersome even" loyalty to protect her husband.

But he had found the verdict "unavoidable, inevitable and logical" from the presented evidence.

The judge said he accepted the ministry's account that Mr Chan tried to delay searching fisheries officers when they wanted to visit the basement and he had "suddenly disappeared".

He believed Mr Chan was responsible for moving paua from the basement freezer and attempting to hide it.

Mrs Chan's explanation that she started defrosting the paua three days before, on her daughter's advice, and intended to throw it out on rubbish collection day, was "a most curious explanation" and "does not accord with my common sense and my experience of the world".

It was highly likely that Mr Chan told his wife to take the blame for the paua when he interrupted her interview with fisheries officers and spoke to her in Chinese.

Judge Woolf said he found the idea difficult to believe that the Gisborne community should choose to give paua that was all illegal and in such large quantities, to the Chans.

In terms of the possession for sale charge, Judge Woolf said Mr Chan had been found with 79 times the legal daily limit, packed in a way that suggested commercial activities.

That put the onus of proof on the defence to show he did not intend to sell paua.

The judge said he accepted that Mrs Chan intended to serve paua to Chinese singers.

But if Mr Chan accepted that he intended to feed the singers with paua - which he had not - would that be sufficient to persuade the court he did not possess the paua to sell it?

Given his "lack of frankness on other matters", Judge Woolf said he was not satisfied all of the paua was to be served to opera singers.

It was important to record the extent of Mrs Chan's involvement.

The defence still advised that she was primarily responsible.

But Judge Woolf said he had reached "a terrible conclusion" to disbelieve Mr Chan - a Justice of the Peace - and Mrs Chan.

She continued to try to deceive the court, at her husband's request, about the extent of his involvement.

The judge said he was not happy about a submission to discharge her without conviction.

If Mr Chan had accepted his lapsed judgement and his illegal conduct, and had been able to persuade the court he had acted as he had done for cultural reasons, such a submission could have been considered.

Mr Chan was equally responsible or even more responsible than his wife.

The conviction would have consequences for Mr Chan, said Judge Woolf.

That was unfortunate but it showed that everyone had to be vigilant in their conduct.

http://www.theherald.co.za/herald/news/n19_01082008.htm



Suspended sentence for man caught with perlemoen

Gareth Wilson HERALD REPORTER

A MAN aged 55 who was caught with more than 590 units of illegal perlemoen on his boat in 2006 was yesterday found guilty in the Port Elizabeth magistrate's court and given a suspended sentence.

Ignund "Igie" Welgemoed was caught outside his Swartkops house in his car while towing his boat, with thousands of rands worth of perlemoen aboard.

Police said they had received information that the man would be arriving at his house with perlemoen. The premises were watched, and when he returned after being out at sea, he was stopped and searched.

Police said more than 590 units of illegal perlemoen were found on the boat.

Magistrate Deon Bender sentenced Welgemoed to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for five years.

http://www.theherald.co.za/herald/news/n04_29072008.htm



New police squad nabs nine in busy weekend of crime

Gareth Wilson HERALD REPORTER

PORT Elizabeth's new police rapid response task team cracked down fast on crime at the weekend, arresting nine suspects.

The team, which forms part of a division under flying squad command, was established last week under instructions from the provincial police commissioner's office in Bhisho.

The 12-man team was set up to react only to high-profile crimes in the greater Port Elizabeth area.

Reaction task team spokesman Captain Rassie Erasmus said: "The idea of the unit is to curb things like cash-in-transit robberies and other high-contact crimes."

Weekend successes for the team included three stolen cars recovered, one person arrested in a stolen car, three arrested for fraud, one for perlemoen poaching and three more who were wanted for armed robbery in various areas around Port Elizabeth.

He said one dangerous situation his team had managed to defuse had been on Friday night when they received a call from an off-duty Atlas Security response officer to help apprehend car hijackers in Mount Pleasant.

Two armed men held two young girls at gunpoint as they were leaving a dance lesson in the early evening.

The Atlas officer was driving past and heard cries for help. "He then got into a scuffle with one suspect and arrested him," Erasmus said. "The team responded and was there within seconds and assisted with the arrest," he said.

One of the team's goals is to work hand-in-hand with security companies under dangerous circumstances.

"We are equipped to respond quickly to situations where people require fast back-up as well as to any robbery or dangerous crime taking place," Erasmus said. "If there is an attack on a cash transit vehicle, we will be there."

At present, the task team is using normal flying squad vehicles, but is hoping to acquire new cars soon.

"The goal is to have at least one rapid response team vehicle in every suburb in Port Elizabeth," Erasmus said.

"When a priority complaint comes through, all vehicles will respond, ensuring a fast and mass reaction."

He said all the vehicles were equipped with car-tracking devices which allowed for fast recovery of vehicles as well as making sure the thieves were arrested.

"Our success with vehicle recoveries is already good and with new task team on the road it will only get better," added Erasmus.

DA spokesman Bobby Stevenson welcomed the formation of crack police teams to deal with violent crimes in the Bay area, saying the party had been requesting the reinstatement of specialised task teams in the Eastern Cape for some time.

"What we need in this province is a shift in policing techniques to crime reduction," he said. "One of the crime reduction techniques that can be employed is the establishment of specialised units such as a rapid response unit that can go after criminals."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/30/2318447.htm>



Chief vet doubts dive ban would stop abalone virus

30-7-08

Australia's chief veterinarian, Andrew Carroll, doubts a scuba diving ban would stop the spread of a costly abalone virus.

The herpes-like virus has affected the industry along the western coast and was recently found to have spread further east.

The Victorian Abalone Divers Association has renewed calls to ban recreational diving in virus affected waters.

The divers' association discussed the idea with Dr Carroll, but he says quarantining a marine area probably will not work.

"We at the Commonwealth level don't have the expertise on how you would make such a thing work or whether you could make such a thing work," he said.

"Certainly the less opportunity for spreading it the better, but enforced quarantine zones in the marine environment, there are difficulties with that."

<http://www.hawkesbay.co.nz/index.php/200807292952/Locals/Local-News/79-times-the-limit-of-Paua..blame-the-wife.html>

79 times the limit of Paua..blame the wife!



Posted by Issy

Tuesday, 29 July 2008

NZPA - A Gisborne businessman and former restaurateur blamed his elderly wife after 79 times the daily limit of paua were found on his premises, a court has been told

Chin King Pang Chan, 71, told fishery officers that his wife had collected the shellfish -- behind his back -- to feed

Chinese opera singers.

In a defended hearing before Judge Robert Woolf in Gisborne District Court, Chan has pleaded not guilty to possessing paua, and possessing paua for sale.

His wife Yuen Skui Chan, 69, pleaded guilty to possessing paua. The court was told fisheries officers went to Chan's China Palace complex during Operation Phooey on March 29, 2007, and found 790 frozen and dried paua in boxes and plastic bags -- 79 times the daily limit of paua.

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

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

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

The trial is continuing.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/Default.aspx?s=3&s1=2&id=4209>

The Gisborne Herald

China Palace not involved in illegal paua case

Wednesday, 30 July 2008

Gisborne restaurateurs Lee and Chris Fong are devastated that China Palace restaurant has been incorrectly connected to a court case involving an illegal paua bust associated with their landlords, Pang and Nita Chan.

The Fongs bought the China Palace business 11 years ago from the Chans and lease their premises in the Chans' building.

The building was wrongly described by the Ministry of Fisheries as the China Palace building when the ministry outlined its case against the Chans in Gisborne District Court this week.

The Ministry incorrectly named as the China Palace the three-storey building housing the Aladdin Gaming Bar, a Chinese takeaway and the Westlake Hotel.

The building containing China Palace is called the Townley building and China Palace is one of several tenants.

The Fongs operate China Palace absolutely independently from the Chans and have nothing to do with the illegal paua case.

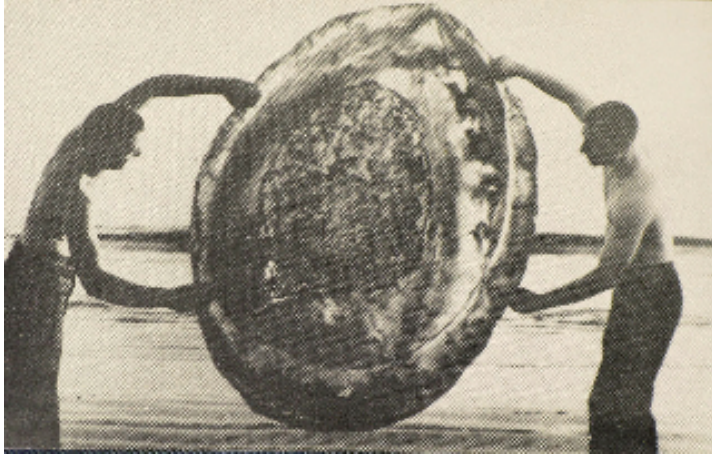
Fisheries officers found 790 undersize paua in the kitchen of Aladdin's Gaming Bar, owned and operated by the Chans in the neighbouring building, formerly Zame's clothing factory, in the basement of that building and in the Chans' apartment in the Townley building.

Fisheries officers inspected the entire complex.

No paua were found in the China Palace restaurant or takeaway bar.

In the early days divers used to only catch 2 or 3 abalone a day

But with the increase in diver numbers, the size of the abalone fell.



Supplied by Dr. Prince