



<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/32790/gisborne-divers-ignoring-limits-paua-collection>

## Gisborne divers ignoring limits on paua collection

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Fri, 21 Nov 2008

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Ministry of Fisheries staff seized more than 450 excess and undersized paua from divers in Gisborne over a five-day period ending this week.

From November 13 to 18 fishery officers patrolled the coastline between Sponge Bay and Kaiti beach, on the northeast outskirts of the city.

In one case they caught two offenders, one of whom was too young to be prosecuted, who had taken 177 mainly undersized paua.

One was caught red handed while the other ran off only to come forward after the ministry received a tip off and got in touch with their family.

The daily limit for paua is 10 per diver with a minimum size of 125mm. This did not stop one individual who was nabbed taking 85.

"These people know the rules and think nothing of breaking them, they have no regard for the sustainability of the fishery," compliance manager Tom Teneti said.

He said two people were likely to face charges with a maximum penalty of \$250,000 if it was proven they intended to sell the paua. The ministry said officer patrols would be increased to ensure people followed the rules over summer. Anyone who noticed suspicious activity was asked to contact the ministry on 0800 4 POACHER.

<http://eden.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/jail-for-south-coast-abalone-theft/1365427.aspx>

 Fairfax Digital

## Jail for South Coast abalone theft

20/11/2008 9:27:00 AM

A 31-year-old Batemans Bay man was sentenced to one-month jail and fined \$100 at Batemans Bay Local Court last week for exceeding the recreational bag limit for abalone.

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The charges resulted from a bust by fisheries officers from the NSW Department of Primary Industries at Bittangabee Bay, south of Eden, in May this year.

Minister Macdonald said the sentence sends a clear message to other people involved in illegal abalone activity.

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

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

DPI fisheries officers from the Statewide Operations and Investigations Group conducted a surveillance operation at Bittangabee Bay on a known abalone poaching syndicate on Wednesday 7 May 2008.

"Fisheries officers arrested five persons, well known to them for illegal abalone activity," Minister Macdonald said.

"Over 600 shucked abalone were seized with a value of approximately \$9,000 on the legitimate market."

<http://eden.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/giant-shark-cruises-bay/1365420.aspx>



## Giant shark cruises bay

20/11/2008 9:24:00 AM

An 18-foot great white shark was spotted cruising near the Kiah River mouth by local salmon fishermen Roger Fourter, Peter 'Mozzie' Stevens and fisherwomen Julie Fourter last week.

Mr Stevens said "it was bigger than the fishing boat's net boat which is about 16 feet.

"When we saw it, it was about a third of the way down from the Kiah river mouth to Moutries reef.

"There was wake coming off it and then its fin rose out of the water.

"It was about 15 foot off shore then it turned and went back out to the middle of the bay."

The sighting has deterred Mr Stevens from participating in the annual lobster season.

"I usually go lobster diving this time of year but I leased my quota to a bloke up north."

In a separate report given to National Parks and Wildlife Service the shark was seen inside the river mouth, feeding on Australian salmon.

The sighting comes almost two years after ex-abalone diver Eric Nerhus fought his way from the mouth of a great white after being attacked while abalone diving off Cape Howe, south of Eden.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/32336/paua-restrictions-being-ignored>

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## Paua restrictions being ignored

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Dunedin](#)

By [Rebecca Fox](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2008

[News: Dunedin](#) | [Conservation](#)

Ministry of Fisheries officers are frustrated fishermen are continuing to flout paua catch and size restrictions.

Three fishermen are likely to receive infringement notices after being caught with up to eight more paua than allowed and a similar amount of undersized paua at the weekend, ministry district compliance manager Murray Pridham said.

The episodes come within a week of two serious poaching incidents being discovered by fisheries officers in Otago and Southland.

Canterbury also has a poaching problem.

Dunedin officers were continuing their investigation of 149 shucked paua found hidden in rocks at Tomahawk Beach last week and would make a decision within the next fortnight on whether the three men involved would be prosecuted, Mr Pridham said.

"While the latest incidents were of a lesser nature, it shows people are not abiding by the daily limit and size restriction.

It's a bit frustrating."

People knew about the regulations, but still did not abide by them, Mr Pridham said.

The daily allowance is 10 paua per person, with a minimum legal size of 125mm in shell length.

"They are either not carrying measuring devices or choosing not to use them."

Fishermen faced fines of between \$250 and \$750.

Paua was a valuable resource and fishermen continuing not to abide by the rules could have long-term effects on sustainability, he said.

Paua poaching was also an issue in Southland, with fishery officers finding 339 paua, of which 316 were undersize, in partially concealed bags in a van travelling from Bluff to Invercargill on Friday.

Invercargill district compliance manager Reece Murphy said fortunately the paua had not been shucked, so after being examined, all were able to be returned to the sea.

Two men faced serious fisheries charges with penalties of up to \$250,000.

Last week, two other men were apprehended at Ocean Beach with 67 paua, including more than 30 which were undersized.

This case was likely to result in court action.

In Canterbury, two or three poachers a week were being caught in the Godley Head area, The Press reported.

Three cases were to be heard in the Christchurch District Court in the next fortnight.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/21/2426634.htm>



# Lobsters help in battle against sea pest

Posted Fri Nov 21, 2008 4:17pm AEDT



It is hoped the crayfish will eat a marine pest. (ABC News: Michael Brooks)

- [Map: St Helens 7216](#)

King-sized rock lobsters are being tagged off Tasmania's east coast in an effort to curb the long-spined sea urchin.

The pest has been decimating stocks of kelp on Tasmania's east coast.

Scientists and fishermen are measuring 100 crayfish and tagging them with a computer chip.

They are also being marked so recreational fishermen know which animals to leave alone.

The lobsters will then be released into the protected research waters of Elephant Rock.

It is hoped the crayfish will eat the long-spined sea urchin, or centrostephanis.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/ministry-fisheries-seizures-gisborne-land-450-paua/5/5687>



## Ministry Of Fisheries Seizures In Gisborne Land 450 Paua

21 November 2008 - Seizures by Ministry of Fisheries fishery officers in Gisborne over the past week have resulted in the confiscation of 450 excess and largely undersized paua.

All these infringements took place between Sponge Bay and Kaiti Beach in Gisborne over a five day period from 13 - 18 November.

In one case, fishery officers pursued 2 offenders who had taken 177 mainly undersized paua, over the hills between Kaiti Beach and Sponge Bay. One of the offenders carrying the paua was apprehended during the chase; the second escaped but later came forward following a tip off on their ID and subsequent enquiries conducted with their family.

In another case an individual was apprehended with 85 paua. The daily limit for paua is 10 per diver with the minimum size being 125mm. All those involved in these infringements will now face prosecution.

"These people know the rules and think nothing of breaking them, they have no regard for the sustainability of the fishery," says Tom Teneti Ministry of Fisheries District Compliance Manager.

"There are signs all along this area outlining the rules, so anyone who takes over the limit or undersized paua knows what they are doing is wrong," says Mr Teneti.

With summer approaching, fishery officers will be lifting their presence on the beaches in the recreational fishery to ensure that the public adhere to the rules.

Bookmark/Search this post with:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/18/2422691.htm>

 ABC News

## Court jails abalone poacher

Posted Tue Nov 18, 2008 11:34am AEDT

One man has been sent to jail and four others issued with fines and penalties after being convicted in court of poaching abalone on the New South Wales far south coast.

A 31-year-old Batemans Bay man was given a one month jail sentence and a \$100 fine at Batemans Bay Local Court after being convicted of exceeding the recreational bag limit for abalone.

Four other men, from Narooma, Queanbeyan, Moruya and Batemans Bay, received fines, community service orders and a good behaviour bond.

The men were arrested during a Department of Primary Industries surveillance operation at Bitangabee Bay, south of Eden, in May this year.

Merimbula-based abalone investigator, Nicholas Schroder, says the department is pushing for even tougher measures against poachers.

"It's all about a deterrent for these guys," he said.

"At the moment, for this result we've got a month's jail, two year good behaviour bond, 150 hours community service and \$1,300 in fines which is a good result, but our department has proposed indictable penalties which would mean far, far tougher penalties and much more of a deterrent effect."

The four men were already known to authorities because of previous illegal abalone fishing.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=25309>



**David Llewellyn, MP**

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

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### Commercial Abalone Fishery Management Arrangements For 2009

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The management of Tasmania's commercial abalone industry continues to be refined with a slightly increased total allowable catch for 2009 and a change to catch zones on the west coast.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, said the 2009 total allowable catch (TAC) for the entire commercial abalone fishery is 2,604 tonnes, 10.6 tonnes more than the 2008 TAC.

"Despite a more than 30 tonne reduction for the west coast, there is a small increase in the overall TAC due to a 5 per cent increase in the catch allowed on the east coast, as part of a strategy to increase the east coast catch by 5 per cent each year provided that research continues to support the increases," he said.

"The catch increases on the east coast are only possible as a result of hard decisions being made to tackle issues in that area in previous years.

"The slight increase in TAC has the support of the Fishery Resource Advisory Group (FRAG) as well as the Tasmanian Abalone Council and Abalone Fishery Advisory Committee (AbFAC)."

Mr Llewellyn said that a more significant change to the commercial abalone fishery management arrangements in 2009 is the split of the western fishing zone into two separate zones to spread the commercial take of abalone more evenly between the south-west and central west.

"This change to the special management of the commercial abalone fishery will help ensure that no one area receives a disproportionate level of fishing activity which may result in localised depletion."

The Minister said Tasmania's commercial abalone fishery is carefully managed with strong research evidence required to make educated decisions that support the future of the fishery.

"As such, a research trial is currently underway to assess the sustainability of a reduction in the commercial minimum size for abalone on the north-west coast.

"The trial involves commercial fishers taking the growth-stunted, 127mm plus abalone, using a depth logger and GPS unit so that fine-scale spatial catch rate data can be collected.

"Despite challenges, including the threat of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis, Tasmania's commercial abalone fishery remains one of the most sustainably managed abalone fisheries with a strong future ahead of it," he said.

**From:** Vin Gannon [mailto:vin@vada.com.au]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2008 6:18 PM

**To:** Vin Gannon

**Subject:** **AVG Virus Update in Victoria**

Hi All,

Just bringing you up to date with the current situation in Victoria in relation to the spread of the AVG virus along the coast. As reported on Friday, 6 abalone samples showing signs of being infected with Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis were collected from the White Cliffs area. Each of the 6 abalone samples have returned a positive result for AVG.

On Saturday morning (15-11-08) buoys marking the area that the samples were taken from. In addition to this the Rock Lobster fishers and SIV were notified of the location of the virus and given the GPS marks. There has been commitments from the other sectors to avoid putting gear and equipment into the area.

VADA has been developing AVG impact survey methods for assessing the impacts on abalone stocks. As a result of this, today we sent in two research divers to assess the impacts on the abalone as the virus moves through an area. I will let you know how this progresses over time. As usual the divers have very strict bio-security protocols they have to adopt, between dive sites and at the end of each day.

I have had the VADA website updated with the current information. See the links below. If you need any further information you can contact me on the numbers below.

I have attached a few Photos above of the abalone that were sent in for samples and pictures of the buoys.

**All commercial and recreational fishers should ensure that they clean their fishing gear and equipment between prior to changing fishing locations. This includes using detergent to wash down fishing vessels, equipment and dive gear.**

VADA recommends that there should be no human activity in areas known to have active AVG virus in them.

The VADA website keeps an up to date map of the virus location and people can check the website if unsure.

Codes of Practice and bio-security information can be located on the VADA website at <http://www.vada.com.au/> and follow the links.

For further information you can contact Vincent Gannon on 0418 292 004 or at [vin@vada.com.au](mailto:vin@vada.com.au)





**From:** Vin Gannon [mailto:vin@vada.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 November 2008 9:20 PM  
**To:** Vin Gannon

## **Subject:** AVG Virus Update in Victoria

Hi All,

Today a commercial abalone diver located sick and dying abalone exhibiting signs of the AVG Virus at the White Cliffs area. (see attached Maps) There was small amounts of fresh abalone shell, some bleached abalone meat, and small numbers of weak and dead abalone. There was still large numbers of healthy abalone at this location and it appears that the active front has only just reached this area. Samples have been taken and submitted for testing to confirm or otherwise the presence of the virus. Consistent with our code of practise once a diver locates a suspect area, diving is to stop and they are to return to port. This means that the extent of the front is unknown. An experienced dive team will be sent in too try and assess the extent of spread as soon as weather permits. There is to be no diving in the area tomorrow and full bio-security wash downs were undertaken by all divers on returning to Apollo Bay.

For those of you monitoring the spread etc of the virus, the front was last located in mid July, 08 and it appears to have travelled about 7 kilometres in 4 months. It appears that there is going to be some good diving days mid next week, after which I will be able to give you a more accurate picture

The virus is now on the boundary of the area that was voluntarily closed for in order to stop human activity in the vicinity of the virus.

Other divers worked the Rotten Point area and Cape Otway area which are 5.5 kilometres and 15 kilometres respectively to the East. All abalone at these locations appearing healthy and strong. There is some large areas of

sand and beaches in the vicinity of the virus totalling approximately 15 kilometres with a small area of reef (Rotten Point) in the middle.

**Consistent with the approach undertaken to date, I have advised the Rock Lobster industry reps (as the season commences on Saturday 15-11-08) of the virus location, with a request to voluntarily avoid dropping fishing equipment etc into the areas known to have active AVG virus in them. I have notified SIV and I have also notified DPI of the virus location for their information.**

**Additionally I have voluntarily closed the area from the active AVG front to Rotten Point including the beach areas to the East of Rotten Point. This will effectively give a 16 kilometre buffer from the front to Cape Otway. This means that in the Central Zone of Victoria, Abalone Reef Codes 4.01, 4.02, 5.01, 5.02, 5.03 6.01, 6.02 and 6.03 are now voluntarily closed to commercial abalone diving until further notice.**

As I have indicated previously we request all people not to dive or have any activity in the areas known to have active AVG virus in them. The area to the east of Cape Otway to Queenscliff at distance of over 100 kilometres has very low number of abalone, and it is unlikely that the virus could naturally progress through this area. The biggest fear is that human activity will transport the virus over that 100 kilometre area into the high density abalone populations surrounding Melbourne. It should be remembered that the largest un explained jump of the virus has been up to 140 kilometres.

If you would like a copy of the AVG virus spread and jumps presentation you can contact me on the numbers below.

**There has been no further reports of the AVG virus spreading west from the Discovery Bay Marine Park since 30-12-07. As everyone is aware there is 30 odd kilometres of sand between the Discovery Bay Marine Park and South Australia with, very few patches of reef in between.**

**Divers have recently (3 weeks ago) taken quite reasonable catches from the Glenelg River area and other areas closer to South Australia. They have reported that all abalone are strong and healthy.**

**Map 1** shows the virus location relative to Victoria, South Australia and King Island

**Map 2** Shows the virus location relatively to the western area of the State of Victoria

**Map 3** shows the virus location relative to Rotten Point and Cape Otway

**Map 4** shows the Virus location relative to White cliffs and Rotten point

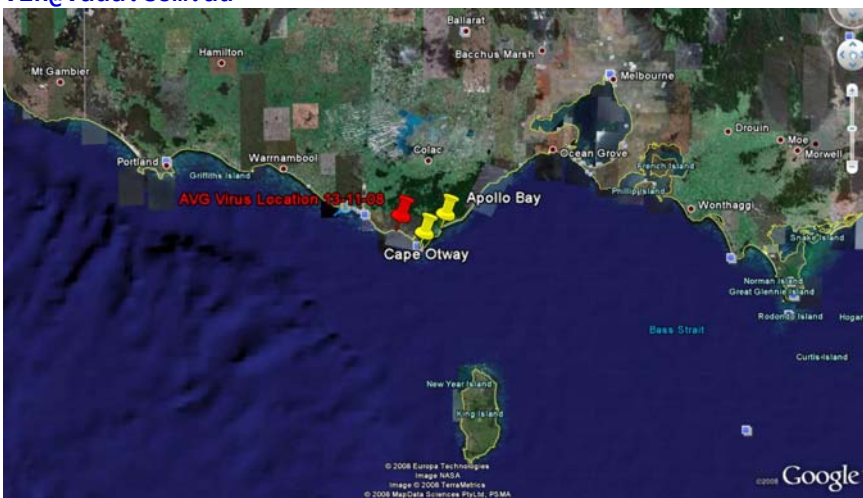
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<http://www.stuff.co.nz/southlandtimes/4764153a6568.html>



## Paua seizure biggest in years

Southland | Tuesday, 18 November 2008



CAUGHT OUT: Fishery officer Stephen Logie, of Invercargill, with a paua catch seized on Friday.

#### Related Links

### **Two Southland men could face fines of up to \$250,000 after being caught with more than 16 times the legal daily limit of paua.**

Fishery officers seized the catch on Friday night as the men were travelling from Bluff to Invercargill.

Fisheries Ministry district compliance manager Reece Murphy said the men initially denied paua gathering but a search of the van they were in revealed three partially concealed bags containing 339 paua. Of those, 316 were undersized, he said.

The daily limit per person is 10 paua with a minimum legal shell length of 125mm.

The seizure was the most significant in Southland for several years, he said.

"That's an awful lot of paua."

While there was a definite blackmarket for paua, there was no evidence that was where Friday's lot was bound, he said.

Instead, it was likely the men were just "greedy," he said.

The seizure followed one earlier in the week where two men were caught at Ocean Beach with 67 paua. More than 30 of those were undersized, Mr Murphy said.

All four men were likely to face charges under the Fisheries Act, he said.

The seizures were disappointing because the number of people illegally taking paua in Southland had lessened in the past few years. Most of those caught recently were found with fewer than three times the daily legal limit, meaning they escaped with infringement notices rather than court action, he said.

The previous significant seizure was in 2007 when a person was caught with 190 paua, he said.

"This is one of the more significant paua seizures in Southland for quite some time. It's disappointing, because paua theft on this scale can result in localised depletion of stocks and places paua accessibility for future generations in jeopardy," Mr Murphy said.

He encouraged anyone who saw any suspicious or illegal fishing to contact the Fisheries Ministry.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2008/11/17/12437fdae9d1>

## Paua poaching worries Fisheries Ministry

*Updated at 4:24pm on 17 November 2008*

**Ministry of Fisheries officers in Northland are concerned seafood poaching is on the increase as more people feel the economic pinch.**

Officers caught 12 people over five days with big hauls of undersize paua.

Northland locals seem to be poaching paua because they are feeling the economic pinch, says a Ministry of Fisheries officer in the area.

Officers caught 12 people over five days with big hauls of undersize paua on Northland's west coast.

Darren Edwards, the Ministry's Northland manager, says that includes two Kaitia men caught with 140 paua. The men have had their vehicle seized. Four Hokianga men were caught with nearly 300 paua.

Mr Edwards says the daily limit of 10 paua per diver is plenty to put on the family table.

He says people may turn to the ocean for food as they come under financial pressure.

He says the pillaging by locals is disappointing and officers will be stepping up their patrols over the holidays.

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<http://www.theage.com.au/national/tracked-from-above-great-white-sharks-are-moving-in-less-mysterious-ways-20081114-67c5.html?page=-1>



## Tracked from above, great white sharks are moving in less mysterious ways

- **Lorna Edwards**
- November 15, 2008



The world of great white sharks has long been a murky one, but satellites and acoustic tags, such as those implanted by CSIRO researchers, are shedding light on their secrets.

ABALONE diver John Rudge does not muck around when he enters the domain of the great white shark.

When diving near seal colonies, he spends as little time as possible on the surface forming a silhouette to any great whites that might be hunting below.

"They are the top of the food chain to us, an absolutely brilliant predator and something to be respected," he said. Four of his industry colleagues have had encounters in Victorian waters in the past year.

"I figure if one comes along, I'll either see it and have an encounter or I won't see it and that will be the end of me," he said.

Mr Rudge, a second-generation diver from Mallacoota, and Blairgowrie surfer Kent Stannard are helping the CSIRO place listening devices along the Victorian coastline to track the movements of tagged great white sharks.

The abalone industry has a vested interest in knowing more about the seasonal movements of the sharks they share their "office" with. Already the research is paying dividends.

Victorian waters appear to be the pupping grounds for the species, along with the Great Australian Bight. Sharks tagged in NSW and South Australia have been tracked using a Bass Strait corridor, travelling as far north as Rockhampton and south to Tasmania.

Barry Bruce, Australia's eminent white shark expert from the CSIRO in Hobart, said satellite tracking and acoustic tags implanted under sharks' skin were offering a glimpse into a species that had been largely a mystery. "It is incredible how the movements of these animals are linked," he said.

The tracking has helped dispel some myths. Great whites were believed to follow the migration of humpback whales, but they appear to follow the whales' route only along the east coast of Australia. On the west coast they move in the opposite direction. Great whites were also thought to live at seal colonies, but are only occasional visitors.

A 2.1-metre juvenile shark was tracked swimming the Tasman Sea to New Zealand and diving to nearly 1000 metres.

"It's extraordinary — we knew that large white sharks made open ocean crossings but we never knew the little ones did as well," Mr Bruce said.

"If we know what is driving their movements and where they like to hang out, we can start understanding what areas are critical to their survival and use that information to minimise the risks we pose to them and the risks they sometimes pose to us."

The CSIRO has tagged about 500 white sharks since the late 1980s. The newer acoustic tags last up to 10 years and have been implanted in juveniles, which will give an insight into their movements for years.

In Victoria, listening stations have been placed underwater near Wilsons Promontory, Seal Rocks on Phillip Island and the Skerries near Mallacoota.

Mr Bruce will discuss his findings on white sharks in Victorian waters at a talk at Melbourne Museum on Friday.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/31726/149-paua-seized-tomahawk>

## 149 paua seized at Tomahawk

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Dunedin](#)

By [Debbie Porteous](#) on Fri, 14 Nov 2008

[News: Dunedin](#)

Three Dunedin men are likely to face prosecution after fishery officers located and seized two bags containing 149 shucked paua hidden in rocks at Tomahawk beach in Dunedin on Monday.

The seizure was the biggest officers in the district, which covers the coast from the Rangitata River mouth to Long Point in the Catlins, had made in recent times, Ministry of Fisheries district compliance manager Murray Pridham, of Dunedin, said.

After being tipped off by members of the public, the officers intercepted the three men, one aged 23 and the other two in their 30s, as they left the beach.

The men, who were known to have been diving in the area that day and were said to be acting suspiciously, were spoken to and had their fishing boat seized.

It is believed the 40kg of paua was taken from further around the Otago Peninsula.

The quantity involved was concerning because it was "getting beyond a big feed", which raised the question of what it was intended for, Mr Pridham said.

The daily limit for paua is 10 per person.

The maximum penalty for exceeding the daily paua limit is a \$250,000 fine plus forfeiture of any property used to obtain the paua.



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

Friday, 14 November, 2008

## **ABALONE THIEF PROMISES TO STAY OUT OF VICTORIA**

A New South Wales man, extradited to Victoria this week to face abalone trafficking charges, has told the Morwell Magistrates Court he won't offend again.

36 year old Timothy Scott Gleeson from Candello, near Bega, was given a three month jail term, suspended for 2 years, after pleading guilty to four charges relating to stealing abalone. Prosecutor Dan Flynn told the court Mr Gleeson was seen with two co-offenders, at Williamstown in July 2007, taking abalone from one offender and passing it on to the other. Mr Gleeson's Counsel told the court his client was not aware he had been recruited to help steal abalone until the day the offences occurred.

Magistrate Edward Batt said Mr Gleeson was now well aware the offences were very serious with severe consequences.

Mr Gleeson then told Mr Batt "you will never see my head down here again Sir".

The court awarded costs of \$1,040 against Mr Gleeson and imposed a 5 year order prohibiting him from any dealings with abalone or being within 1 km of Victorian Coastal waters.

Mr Gleeson is one of eight offenders to have faced charges arising from Fisheries Victoria's Operation Algebra.

Operation Algebra began in March 2007 and targeted offenders from New South Wales who had turned their attention to Victorian waters.

Executive Director Fisheries Victoria Dr Peter Appleford said that the verdict should send a clear warning to would-be abalone thieves that if they attempt to steal abalone they will be caught and subjected to the full extent of the law.

"The extradition of this offender, and another from Western Australia recently, clearly demonstrates the lengths Fisheries Victoria will go to in bringing fisheries offenders to justice through our interagency partnerships," Dr Appleford said.

"This type of theft threatens the sustainability of the abalone fishery and the legitimate business and recreational diving opportunities of Victorians."

Members of the public who observe illegal fishing activity are urged to call the 24 hour reporting line, 13-FISH 13 3474 and leave details.

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/oie/downloads/aahc-case-avm-77-mar08%20.rtf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/oie/downloads/aahc-case-avm-77-mar08%20.rtf)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report - March 2008

"aahc-case-avm-77-mar08 "

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report - March 2008

## **CASE DEFINITION FOR ABALONE VIRAL MORTALITY (AVM) COMPLEX**

### **General Description**

Within the AVM complex, two syndromes have emerged over the past ~15 years: one has an acute course (herpes-like virus disease, HLVD) and the other has a more sub-acute to chronic course (crack-shell-amyotrophia-virus disease, CSAVD). Both syndromes impact multiple abalone species in Australasia (China, Japan, Taiwan, and Australia) with

significant losses. However, different clinical courses and presentations lead to currently require different case definitions. Upon comparison of nucleic acid sequences and development of molecular tests, case definitions may change.

### **Abalone herpes-like virus (AHLV) disease**

Known affected species - to date, primarily observed in both subspecies of *Haliotis diversicolor* (*aquatilis* and *supertexta*) and in *Haliotis laevegata*, *H. rubra* and hybrids of *H. laevegata* x *H. rubra*.

Gross observations - rapid onset of mortality in tanks or ponds with no visible change in abalone feeding habits prior to onset. During outbreaks, tank water is typically turbid and frothy with several reports of suspended, presumably regurgitated, food particles and mucus in water. Affected abalone with clinical signs varying from none to having a stiff pedal muscle with darkened lateral mantle, increased mucus production reported in many cases and may present swollen, prolapsed mouth with everted radula in some cases (noted in Australian abalone species). Mortalities typically observed within 3 days of onset of clinical signs, and dead abalone may remain adhered to substrata. Losses often complete within 9-14d. Losses typically occur when water temperatures are <22C and often range from 16-19C.

Microscopic observations - when used light microscopic observations have suggested that the main pathological change is ganglioneuritis with lesions prominent in cerebral and pedal ganglia<sup>1</sup>. Lesions characterized by nerve tissue necrosis accompanied by hemocytosis in the parenchyma and extend into neurolemma. These lesions can also be observed in nerves under mucosa of esophagus and intestine. No Cowdry type A inclusions were observed; however neuronal cells may contain marginated chromatin.

Transmission electron microscopic (TEM) observations illustrate spherical, enveloped virus (~100nm) with icosahedral (hexagonal) nucleocapsid and dense core. Naked virions observed in nucleus and particles with smooth envelope in cytoplasm. Negative-contrast electron microscopy also reveals hexagonal particles with single, smooth envelope (~100nm).

Presumptive diagnosis – a combination of clinical signs and microscopic features as described above.

Confirmatory diagnosis – presumptive diagnosis in conjunction with the presence of spherical virus containing an icosahedral nucleocapsid and dense core using TEM<sup>2</sup>. Occasionally only empty capsids are visible in nucleus of infected cells.

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<sup>1</sup> To date descriptions of the AHLV from China have not included histopathology.

<sup>2</sup> Molecular tests for AHLV are currently under development.

### **Crack-shell-amyotrophia-virus (CSAV) disease**

Known affected species - to date, primarily observed in *Haliotis discus discus* and *H. discus hannai*, and, to a lesser extent, *Haliotis madaka*.

Gross observations – reduced growth and/or abnormal shell deposition, sub-acute or slow losses with up to 50% mortality in 20 days. Affected abalone lethargic with retracted mantle, abnormal shell deposition often poses a thin, cracked shell. Anorexia reported in many cases. Juveniles typically more susceptible than older animals. Water temperature modulates disease with losses often at 18-20C.

Microscopic observations - light microscopic observations suggest the main pathological change in symptomatic animals includes the presence of tumor-like masses presented as whorls or spheres of lightly basophilic cells within nerve trunks of

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<sup>1</sup> To date descriptions of the AHLV from China have not included histopathology.

pedal ganglia and transverse commissures ('gliomas'). Nuclei of affected cells may be contracted and tumor centers necrotic<sup>3</sup>.

Transmission electron microscopic (TEM) observation may reveal 90-140nm spherical, enveloped virions with an icosahedral nucleocapsid in cells near nerves and in the cytoplasm of hemocytes and connective tissue cells of a variety of organs.

Presumptive diagnosis – a combination of clinical signs and microscopic features as described above.

Confirmatory diagnosis – presumptive diagnosis in conjunction with the presence of 90-140nm spherical, enveloped virions with an icosahedral nucleocapsid in infected cells.

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<sup>3</sup> To date descriptions of the CSAV from China have not included histopathology

[http://www.sabcnews.com/south\\_africa/crime1justice/0,2172,179715,00.html](http://www.sabcnews.com/south_africa/crime1justice/0,2172,179715,00.html)



## Police seize abalone worth R7.5m in southern Cape

November 11, 2008, 20:45

Police have seized illegal abalone worth a massive R7.5 million in Rivierseind in the southern Cape. Two Chinese nationals and a South African have been arrested.

Police spokesperson, Bernadine Steyn, says the suspects will appear in the Caledon Magistrate's Court tomorrow.

As part of the ongoing investigation into illegal abalone production, police gathered information that led to the obtaining and executing of a search warrant at a house on a farm, says Steyn.

Police confiscated 32 700 dried abalone found in a room in the house.

<http://www.hospitalitymagazine.com.au/Article/What-the-papers-said/430256.aspx>

## Abalone's new taste

Graeme Phillips

After a reasonably long life of eating lots of this and that around the world, the last thing you might expect is to come across a totally new product, one you'd not heard of, even in your reading, with a taste and texture like nothing you'd ever experienced before. This new discovery is reconstituted dried abalone. Apparently the Japanese have been producing it for about 1000 years and historically supplying it to China's ruling Mandarin classes and more recently to that country's multi-millionaires. For the Chinese, and Japanese too I understand, dried abalone is the top of the already highly valued abalone tree, a rare, \$2000-a-kilo-plus luxury. Now Mark Daft, of Tas Live Abalone in Mornington, is producing it here. After years of hard work, lots of dollars and highly secretive R&D, Daft says he's now perfected the difficult job of drying the fish while importantly retaining its original shape, as well as the intricate four-day process of reconstituting it ready for the plate. *Sunday Tasmanian*, November 9.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/gisborne-man-eats-evidence/5/5135>



## Gisborne Man Eats Evidence

7 November 2008)

A Gisborne man's vehicle has been forfeit to the Crown after he ignored a Ministry of Fisheries check-point and later consumed his illegal paua catch in an effort to hide the evidence.

Ivan Harrison, 51, was this week convicted of obstruction of a fishery officer in the Gisborne District Court, and sentenced to 100 hours of community service and had his vehicle forfeit.

In July this year, three uniformed fishery officers at Kaiti Beach, Gisborne, observed the defendant and an associate carrying sacks of seafood to a parked vehicle.

When the defendant left the beach he observed the fishery officers who, at this stage, had set up a check-point.

Harrison revved his vehicle and drove directly towards the fishery officers before swerving around them and speeding off.

Fishery officers went to Harrison's home and when spoken to he told them he had thrown the sack, containing undersized paua, from his vehicle as he left the beach.

A subsequent search of the beach to locate the sack was unsuccessful and it was later confirmed that Harrison had returned to the beach, located the sack and consumed its contents before fishery officers returned with a search warrant.

The Judge presiding over the case, Judge Wolff, said that plundering and taking undersize paua never gives fish stocks a chance to recover. And, aggravating matters was the manner in which Harrison used the vehicle and subsequently returned to the beach to collect the undersize paua.

Gisborne District Compliance Manager, Tom Teneti, says he hopes the apprehension of this poacher serves as a deterrent to anyone planning on plundering our fisheries resources.

"People considering taking illegal seafood should remember - if you offend there is a good chance you will be caught."

If you see any suspicious activity please contact the Ministry of Fisheries 0800 4 POACHER hotline (0800 4 76224).

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<http://nowra.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/crackdown-targets-organised-crime-and-abalone-poaching/1352191.aspx>

# Crackdown targets organised crime and abalone poaching

5/11/2008 9:22:00 AM

PLANS to beef up penalties for abalone theft offences could be the only way to slow a burgeoning black market industry.

Abalone poaching on the South Coast was linked with organised crime earlier this year. Industry and police stated that penalties in NSW weren't sufficient to deter poachers and protect the multi-million dollar export industry.

Repeat offenders, some armed with firearms or homemade weapons and knives, are on the increase, prompting those involved in the prevention of illegal fishing to speak out about the threat of organised crime syndicates to the safety of officers and the sustainability of the industry.

Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said legislation is currently being drafted to increase penalties for illegal fishing activity.

"We want to protect our valuable natural resources, so that they remain at sustainable levels.

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

"Currently the maximum fine is \$11,000 and three months' jail.

"Second time offenders for violations of bag and size limits will also be hit harder, with the maximum penalty proposed to be doubled from \$11,000 to \$22,000."

Industry representative Duncan Worthington said Fisheries officers were doing a great job and needed more help.

"Unfortunately, despite the best effort of the fisheries officers in NSW they're still just not able to address the scale of this crime in NSW."

In all other states, Fisheries offences are indictable.

Sergeant Jim Hinckley of Eden Water Police said poaching in NSW had changed since recreational catch limits were imposed – two abalone of at least 11.5 centimetres per person – and was often linked to organised crime.

He was one of many who believed that poaching abalone was a way organised criminals raised money for their illegal activities, particularly those who had completed jail terms.

"Abalone poaching involves a high value crop and what we've found over the years is that there is an increased level of organisation in the collection and distribution of the product and it fits all the criteria of organised crime," he said.

Fisheries investigator Nick Schroder said one of the biggest black markets in Australia was in Sydney.

"It's like an underground black market and they're predominantly going to an Asian market, because they're the ones willing to pay money for illegal abalone.

He said a lot of the black market is small product.

"The poachers are not adhering to size limits and that affects the resource itself.

"Stronger penalties would really help our cause, it has had an effect in Victoria, and you can tell it's already having an effect."

