



[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090114\\_abalone.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090114_abalone.html)



## NOAA Grants Endangered Species Status to Black Abalone

### Agency also Seeks Public Input Relevant in Designating Critical Habitat

January 14, 2009



Black abalone.

[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

NOAA's [Fisheries Service](#) today determined black abalone, an edible marine mollusk, should be listed as endangered under the [Endangered Species Act](#). The ruling takes effect on Feb. 13, and comes one year after the fisheries service proposed to list the species.

Once harvested for food, black abalone were plentiful in intertidal waters along the Pacific coast. The species was harvested early in California's history by native Americans and peaked as a commercial fishery in the state in the 1970s. The state of California closed commercial and recreational harvesting of black abalone in 1993.

Since the 1980s, black abalone abundance has plummeted primarily from a bacterial disease known as withering syndrome. The spread of the disease may have been exacerbated by warmer coastal waters caused by factors such as long- and short-term changes in climate or from the warm water effluent of power plants. Other factors that may have led to the rapid population decline are historical overfishing, and poaching.

Coupled with the listing decision, NOAA's Fisheries Service is also soliciting comments and information relevant to the designation of critical habitat for black abalone.

Public comments on black abalone critical habitat may be submitted by:

- Webform at the [Federal Rulemaking Portal](#)
- Fax: 562-980-4027, Attn: Melissa Neuman
- Mail:

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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](mailto:abalone@cbgconsultants.com.au) or Fax (03) 8660 2755

Chief  
Protected Resources Division  
NOAA's Fisheries Service Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

View the [final rule](#) (Click on "View regular filing documents" and scroll down to NOAA).  
[Reference materials](#) regarding this determination.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

<http://thestar.com.my/lifestyle/story.asp?file=/2009/1/13/lifeliving/2974336&sec=lifeliving>

Tuesday January 13, 2009

## How to soften abalone

CULINARY QUERIES

With AMY BEH

**CAN you please advise me on how to soften dried abalone? – Evelyn Lau**

Bring some mineral water to a boil in a saucepan then add the dried abalone. Let it come to a boil again. Take saucepan off the heat and cover the saucepan. Let the abalone soak for a minimum of 8-10 hours or preferably overnight. The next day, clean and rinse the expanded abalone.



The succulent taste and velvety texture of abalone makes a dish stand

out.

**I LOVE prawn dishes and**

[http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/01/12/49251\\_tasmania-news.html](http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/01/12/49251_tasmania-news.html)

## Tassie's history of sharks

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January 12, 2009 08:25am

**SHARKS have been a constant deadly menace lurking in Tasmanian waters.**

There has been a long history of shark sightings and attacks in Tasmanian waters.

**2005:** Two 6m white pointers seen off Tasman Peninsula.

**2000:** A 3m white pointer caught off Bruny Island.

**1998:** A 6m white pointer menaces divers and fishermen off Tasmania's North-East.

**1994:** More than 50 bronze whalers and tiger sharks spotted in shallow water off Bakers Beach in the North-West.

**1993:** A 5m white pointer kills Exeter mother-of-five Therese Cartwright 25km east of Low Head while she was diving at the seal colony of Barrenjoey Island.

**1992:** Shark chases Rosny College student Wayne Fitzpatrick while he surfs at Clifton Beach.

**1989:** Launceston student Steven Jillett spends 20 minutes avoiding a shark that bit his surfboard at Shelley Beach, Scamander. A 3m shark caught at Anderson Bay near Bridport.

**1984:** A 6m white pointer takes an abalone diver's catch from his hands off Cape Raoul. A 6m white pointer pins Hobart abalone diver Jamie Mison to the sea bed for more than an hour.

**1982:** A 5m white pointer takes Hobart snorkeller Geert Talen 25m off South-East Cape.

**1979:** A bronze whaler steals fish from three spear fishermen near Bicheno.

**1978:** A 5m shark attacks Lauderdale abalone diver Jim Scott off Tasman Peninsula. Scott survives by hiding among rocks and stabbing the shark's eyes.

**1975:** Hobart abalone diver Bobby Slack disappears off Fluted Cape on Bruny Island. A shark attack is blamed.

**1972:** Nubeena abalone diver Gordon Johnson fights off 4m shark off Nubeena in the state's South-East. Needs 32 stitches in his gashed foot.

**1959 (Unconfirmed):** Brian Derry dies January 17 about 100m from his ship, swimming in deep water off Safety Cove near Port Arthur. Accounts reported two sharks, 5.2m and 6m long, nearby.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/Default.aspx?s=3&s1=2&id=8508>

## The Gisborne Herald

### 'Shocking' haul a setback for Whangara aspirations

Saturday, 10 January 2009

By **Martin Gibson**

As the people of Whangara work to get a management area so they can feed themselves and their guests, they have suffered a major setback from poachers.

Fisheries officers caught two men with around 270 paua and 40 crayfish - most of them very undersized.

"Our summer compliance campaign was Size Does Matter and this is just shocking," said Ministry of Fisheries district compliance manager Tom Teneti.

The greed of the people and disrespect for the health of the ecosystem would mean the people of Whangara were likely to be displeased, said Mr Teneti.

"The offenders are local which means that apart from the prosecution by the Crown, there are implications for the offenders which are a lot more dire, I would suggest."

People of Whangara had been trying to establish a five kilometre mataitai area open to all recreational fishers to allow them to feed themselves, their manuhiri (guests) and their descendants, and this type of poaching was a set-back for this dream, said Mr Teneti.

"It will have a huge impact for an area that is trying to develop an enhancement programme, and also their efforts to provide a customary take for functions on their marae.

"It will also have an impact on the ability of future generations to enjoy a feed of seafood."

The excuses offered to the fisheries officers who made the arrests were that the people were "just trying to get a feed for their family to take back to Auckland".

One of the officers who confiscated the illegal haul, Tatai Kutia, was dismissive of this claim.

"That's not a feed," he said.

"We would have returned the crayfish but many of them had been badly damaged."

The illegally taken kaimoana was to be dumped back at sea.

"We're not left with many options but to return them to the sea, where they at least become food for fish and get returned to the ecosystem . . . although it would have been a lot better if they had been left to grow to legal size, and even more importantly to a size where they would breed."

The number of people caught breaking the laws around size and bag limits had not been decreasing, he said.

"Up the Coast it has actually been increasing, especially high value species like crayfish and paua.

"What has been quite noticeable is that divers don't make a measuring tool part of their equipment - they claim that measuring takes place at their vehicle. That's not good diving practice."

Mr Teneti's message to people who poach seafood is simple and uncompromising.

"We will be out there on every beach on patrol. We have been a lot more active. We will target people who are out there taking undersize seafood or too much.

"We will catch them, and they will face court charges."

It is understood that fisheries officers are going through a seizure process to confiscate a vehicle from the offenders, who face court proceedings and fines of up to \$250,000.

Story by The Gisborne Herald

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<http://www.themercury.co.za/?fSectionId=285&fArticleId=vn20090109063703655C988206#>



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## Abalone poaching up by 300% in Overstrand

**By Melanie Gosling**

There was a 300 percent increase in abalone poaching on the Overstrand coast last year from 2007 - the first increase in the area in six years.

This huge spike in poaching occurred between Rooi Els and Kleinmond.

The increase has been attributed to three factors: the closure of the commercial abalone diving industry, the closure of diving in the Gansbaai region, and the reduction in the number of Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) law enforcement officers in the region from 10 to six.

In the Cape Point reserve on Table Mountain National Park staff and police arrested six people and confiscated 1 198 abalone. Police believe the poachers may have hidden additional bags of perlemoen in the Buffels Bay area of Cape Point.

**Almost all South African abalone is sold overseas** These are the latest incidents in the battle to keep these highly priced shellfish in the sea so they can be harvested sustainably to provide legal livelihoods and foreign income.

Almost all South African abalone is sold overseas, mainly in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Seawatch, an NGO based in the Overstrand that works closely with the anti-poaching law enforcement authorities, has been keeping statistics on poaching incidents since the mid-1990s.

Seawatch spokesperson Mike Tannett, from Betty's Bay, said yesterday there had been 39 poaching incidents between Rooi Els and Kleinmond last month.

"Those are only the ones we are aware of. The 300 percent increase in 2008 has broken a trend because for the (previous) six years it (had) been going down here," he said.

**Many of the poachers were operating in the Seafarm private nature reserve** He said having only six MCM fisheries officers was far too few to patrol the 50km coastline from just east of Gordon's Bay to Kleinmond.

"Six people on the job for 24 hours means there is a maximum of only two people at a time. And the leader has to be in meetings much of the time," Tannett said.

Many of the poachers were operating in the Seafarm private nature reserve, diving in the day and then hiding in the thick bush until nightfall, when they left.

"A UCT researcher spoke to poachers some years ago and 60 percent told her it was easier to poach than to work because they could earn the same diving once a week as they could working for a full week."

The poachers in Cape Point were arrested in a joint operation between the Table Mountain National Park and police.

They were charged with diving in a restricted area, transporting abalone without a permit, transporting abalone not in a whole state (shelled), illegal entry into a national park, and entering a national park outside visiting hours. Their skiboat was confiscated.

Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk temporarily closed the commercial abalone industry because stocks of the shellfish had reached low levels.

Marine and Coastal Management was not available for comment.

melanie.gosling@inl.co.za

- This article was originally published on page 3 of [The Cape Times](#) on January 09, 2009

**CAPE TIMES**

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## **Abalone Aquaculture Dialogue to Meet in South Africa in February**

Creating Standards for Responsible Abalone Farming Will Top the Agenda

Published: 09 January, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC: The development of global standards for certifying farmed abalone will be the focus of the next meeting of the Abalone Aquaculture Dialogue, to be held February 16-17 in Cape Town, South Africa. The standards will help minimize the eight key environmental and social impacts associated with abalone production.

Also at the meeting, participants will identify people to serve on the steering committee that will manage the Dialogue process. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) coordinates the Dialogue but has an equal voice in the roundtable discussions.

"Your voice will be heard if you come to the meeting," said WWF Aquaculture Program Officer Colin Brannen. "The steering committee will use input from participants to build consensus on a set of standards that will encourage innovation and increased sustainability in the abalone industry."

This will be the second meeting of the abalone Dialogue. At the inaugural meeting, held in Australia in April, producers, conservationists, academics and other abalone industry stakeholders identified the key impacts associated with abalone farming and agreed on overarching goals (a.k.a., principles) to address those impacts. The impacts discussed relate to biosecurity, genetics and the ecosystem effects of abalone aquaculture.

Dialogue participants also made significant progress in categorizing criteria, which are specific areas to focus on in order to reduce the impacts of abalone farming. For example, participants identified disease, broodstock/seed procurement, and the translocation of exotics as key criteria in addressing biosecurity issues.

At the February meeting, stakeholders will refine the criteria, then begin to develop indicators (what to measure to determine the extent of each impact). The full suite of principles, criteria and indicators will provide the framework for the final standards, which will be measurable, performance-based and grounded in sound science.

"Although the abalone Dialogue is fairly new, it is pleasing to see an emerging acceptance that international standards will, in the long run, be to the benefit of all, including producers," said Professor Peter Cook of the University of Western Australia, who has participated in several WWF Dialogues. "I applaud WWF for initiating the Dialogue process and I look forward to a time when abalone farms throughout the world subscribe to a single set of international standards."

This is one of eight Dialogues coordinated by WWF to develop standards for certifying aquaculture products. Other Dialogues underway are for salmon, shrimp, freshwater trout, tilapia, bi-valve shellfish, *Seriola/cobia* and pangasius. For more information about the Dialogues, go to [www.worldwildlife.org/aquadialogues](http://www.worldwildlife.org/aquadialogues)

If you are interested in participating in the February meeting, which will be held at the Glen Craig Conference Center in Pringle Bay, contact Colin Brannen at [colin.brannen@wwfus.org](mailto:colin.brannen@wwfus.org) or (202) 778-9534 by January 21st.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200901/s2462201.htm>

## Global crisis eats into abalone profits

Friday, 09/01/2009

Demand for abalone has dropped significantly and it's being blamed on the global financial crisis.

Jim George from Western Abalone Processors in South Australia says he's locked in a contract for the Chinese New Year but it's half of what it was last year.

He says people aren't spending money on luxury items which is making things difficult.

"1994 was a difficult year then we had the SARRS epidemic and now with this financial tsunami it was shaping up really as probably my most difficult year in the last 27, 28 years," he says.

<http://www.standard.net.au/news/local/news/general/hot-target-warns-beef-up-security-or-lose-out/1400178.aspx>

Fairfax Digital

## Hot target warns: beef up security or lose out

BY JARED LYNCH

6/01/2009 1:00:00 AM



Dive Inn Shop owner Mark Woodgate urges businesses to upgrade security after a \$20,000 theft at his store.

090105LP07 Picture: LEANNE PICKETT

A WARRNAMBOOL business- man who was robbed of almost \$20,000 worth of stock is urging other city store owners to upgrade their security systems.

Suspected abalone poachers broke in to Mark Woodgate's Dive Inn shop early Sunday morning before leading police on a high-speed car chase which reached 170kmh along the Great Ocean Road.

Mr Woodgate is surprised many Warrnambool small business have limited or no security.

He said within one minute of the break-in, four police cars were dispatched and were at the Raglan Parade shop within two minutes.

"You can't take second chances with security," Mr Woodgate told The Standard yesterday.

"It literally saves you thousands of dollars. It helped us get a speedy response from police, which resulted in more evidence collected and hopefully it will lead to a conviction.

"I've talked to a few other small-business owners and they have told me they have no security and that they have just been lucky, which I find really surprising."

Warrnambool Criminal Investigation Unit Detective Senior Constable Marty Neagle also urged regional store owners to step-up security.

"CCTV (closed circuit television) is the way to go," Detective Senior Constable Neagle said. "We have made leads into the identity of the people who hired the vehicle.

"The identity of one of the hirers has lead us to believe that he has previously been involved in illegal abalone poaching."

Mr Woodgate said the bandits could only take about 20 wetsuits and several dive tanks, located within three metres from the front door.

"The alarm went off straight away and as a result they didn't have time to get the more expensive items further down the shop."

The thieves escaped in a hired 2007 white Toyota Corolla, with Queensland registration KNK-488.

Police were forced to end the car chase on the Great Ocean Road near Allansford after dangerously high speeds were reached.

People with information should contact Warrnambool Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

<http://portlincoln.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/abalone-season-opens/1400607.aspx>



## Abalone season opens

STACEY DAVIDSON

6/01/2009 12:30:00 AM

THE local abalone industry is feeling the pressure from the global financial crisis in what looks to be the worst year yet for trading.

With the abalone harvest season starting on January 1, Western Abalone Processors manager Jim George has recently visited overseas clients in what he has described his "most difficult trip ever".

"To say the markets in all countries are under stress is not harsh enough, as a better term would be that they are extremely depressed."

The industry has come out of other difficult years, such as 2003 with the SARS virus, but Mr George said the current situation was worse, coming on the back of 2008, which was the best ever year thanks to client support and a 30 metric ton order.

Almost all of Australia's abalone goes overseas, where the markets are hurting.

Chinese restaurants are suffering from a 30 per cent downturn in trade, dried abalone prices have dropped by 30 to 40 per cent and Japan's economy is in recession so consumer spending power has dramatically reduced.

In Taiwan, Mr George found sales had decreased by 30 to 40 per cent for all luxury items, including abalone, but despite this, customers have made offers to Western Abalone Processors.

In Hong Kong there is more abalone in stock because of slow sales, but a promotion will be launched in a bid to lure people into buying abalone again.

"Our client will promote their existing stocks so that they can purchase our January's production at a price to be negotiated, however if the feedback is weak then of course everything will change."

In the United States, the company's buyer still has stocks and his sales of greenlip abalone have been one third of last year, with little chance of recovery.

"In fact I had hoped to sell 5 metric ton to USA this year but we only managed 2.5 metric ton".

Other countries Western Abalone Processors are dealing with have also reported similar scenes, with the depressed economy having a huge effect on abalone.

The abalone industry is looking to the future, with some gains to be made.

With a smaller demand for abalone, fishing will be reduced enabling greenlip abalone more time to grow to a bigger size for harvest in March and April.

"If our clients can clear their stock and place a large order then our imposed quota can be increased to accommodate the additional quantity so it is not all doom and gloom but we have to take these measures now," Mr George said.

"In addition we have to mention that we have room to move on pricing due to the Australian dollar depreciating by more than 30 per cent against the US Dollar."

<http://portlincoln.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/fines-for-illegal-abalone-haul/1400609.aspx>



## Fines for illegal abalone haul

STACEY DAVIDSON

6/01/2009 12:30:00 AM

TWO men were fined more than \$7400 after being found guilty in the Port Lincoln Magistrates Court late last year for abalone related fisheries offences.

Daniel Jakob Lauriston, 27, of Port Lincoln and Mark Dale Kingdon, 25, of North Shields were found guilty of taking over the bag limit of abalone, taking undersize abalone and failing to carry an accurate measuring device to measure the abalone.

As a result Mr Kingdon was fined \$4390.72 including additional penalty and court costs.

Mr Lauriston was fined \$3075.72 including additional penalty and court costs.

The charges related to an incident in January, 2008 when Fisheries officers stopped the two men as part of a routine patrol at Point Drummond, west of Cummins.

When officers checked their catch they found the men had about 200 abalone, with 59 undersized.

The daily catch limit for abalone is five per person and it is mandatory to carry a suitable measuring device when fishing for abalone in South Australia.

This comes as a reminder to the public to comply with the rules for recreational and commercial fishing. The Fisheries patrol fleet has recently been bolstered with a new vessel for the West Coast.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=25670>



**David Llewellyn, MP**

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Wednesday, 31 December 2008

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### Protecting Tasmania's Biosecurity

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"Under no circumstances will live foot and mouth virus be allowed into Tasmania," Mr Llewellyn said.

"I understand the only certified facility for such research would be in Geelong.

"I will be raising a number of issues relating to the Beale report with the Federal Minister to ensure we in no way compromise Tasmania's current high level of quarantine and biosecurity.

"I have every confidence in my Department to deal with biosecurity issues, as it has done successfully in recent examples such fruit fly, equine influenza and the abalone virus outbreak.

"It is critical that we maintain Tasmania's quarantine and biosecurity to protect the Tasmania brand and ensure our continuing access to national and international markets," Mr Llewellyn said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4808254a11.html>

## Poachers stripping paua stock

By HELEN MURDOCH - The Press | Saturday, 03 January 2009

**A traditional summer feed of paua fresh from a rocky Kiwi coastline is under threat from poachers.**

Paua is now extinct in many New Zealand bays, with plundering poachers clearing whole populations.

Paua Industry Council chief executive Jeremy Cooper said the industry had the ability to boost paua numbers to pre-commercial levels and carry out rotational farming. However, poachers were taking 40 per cent of the annual commercial 1058-tonne harvest and would make "ocean ranching" uneconomic.

About 400 tonne of paua were being taken by poachers from New Zealand's coastlines every year.

Most was destined for Asian restaurants.

Contrary to their tough appearance, paua were sensitive and easily stressed, Cooper said.

Thriving best in the pounding, high-oxygen surf of a rocky central New Zealand coastline, paua needed to be at least four years old before they climb onto the top of an underwater rock to breed.

Critically, two to four breeding paua are needed per square metre for the successful meeting of egg and sperm any less, and spat never eventuate.

"In the South Island, paua mature just as they are ready to breed and, coincidentally, reach the legal size of 125mm," Cooper said.

"That's the whole story of paua as soon as they reach breeding stage, something wants to eat them."

Freshwater floods, pollution, sedimentation and fast boats also scour and kill paua's essential food, the red-pink coralline algae found on rocks.

All of New Zealand's commercial paua is exported in tinned form to Hong Kong, China or Singapore.

Cooper said a domestic market would provide too easy a black market for poachers.

The industry wanted an accumulation rule, with those holding more than the daily legal limit of 10 125mm paua needing a licence, he said.

"Currently, you can walk through an airport with a chilly bin of paua and fly overseas," Cooper said.

He said the Ministry of Fisheries worked hard to combat poaching, but paua populations were still being stripped to extinction.

Cooper said the public was the best watchdog. "The saddest thing is, poachers do not care and probably do not realise how fragile the fishery is.

"Paua don't breed like rabbits, they are 65 million-year-old snails.

"Unless we look after them the fishery will close to everyone, just as they did in Canada and South Africa when the population got too low to recover."

<http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/NEWSROOM/NEWSRELEASES/DiseaseResistantBlackAbalone.html>

## **Disease-Resistant Black Abalone Discovered**

November 5, 2007

Contact: Christina S. Johnson, [csjohnson@ucsd.edu](mailto:csjohnson@ucsd.edu), 858-822-5334



1986

Biologists have discovered that black abalone on San Nicolas Island in the Santa Barbara Channel are more resistant to the deadly bacterial disease known as withering syndrome than abalone on the mainland. The discovery may help save these now rare intertidal mollusks from extinction, as scientists hope to soon breed these animals in captivity for release in the wild.

San Nicolas Island has been the site of several severe outbreaks of withering syndrome, said Carolyn Friedman, a professor at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, explaining the island abalones' hardiness.



1988

They are the descendants of that one percent of the population that survived.

Friedman and her colleague on the California Sea Grant project, professor Steven Roberts, also at the University of Washington, are now trying to identify which genes are responsible for resistance and the mechanisms by which this resistance is conferred. This work includes studying differences in gene expression between island black abalone and those from Carmel in Monterey, as the animals are subjected to high loads of the withering syndrome pathogen.



1999  
Going, going, gone—Three pictures from the same location on Santa Cruz Island in 1986 (top), 1988 (center) and 1999 clearly show the dramatic loss of black abalone populations that has occurred throughout California, due to over-harvesting and the deadly withering syndrome disease. Photos courtesy Brian Tissot, Washington State University, Vancouver

“The hypothesis is that these resistant populations have been subject to intense selective pressure,” Roberts said. “The animals we have tested from Carmel have had little or no withering syndrome selective pressure.”

Withering syndrome, which causes severe atrophy of the animal’s foot muscle and is caused by a water-borne pathogen excreted in abalone feces, occurs in relatively warm water, such as those found in the Santa Barbara Channel. Until recently, waters off the more northerly Carmel have been too cold to trigger outbreaks. As a result, abalone in Carmel have little natural protection against the disease.

Although harvesting black abalone is now banned, ecologist Hunter Lenihan, a professor at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara, believes the species will have difficulty recovering on their own. Poaching remains an issue, disease another, he said. The species has become so rare it is now a candidate for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act.

With California Sea Grant support, Lenihan and graduate students are trying to identify the conditions necessary to spawn black abalone in a laboratory setting. The goal is to be able to breed disease-resistant animals for release in the wild.

Captive breeding would seem a relatively simple task given that red abalone are already farmed commercially. This is not the case, however, as black abalone are an intertidal species, red abalone a subtidal one. Black abalone reproduction seems to require a complex set of conditions that may depend on winds, waves and sea level, Lenihan said.

“The females are strong,” Lenihan said. “We have gotten them to spawn. The problem is the males. To get the males to spawn, we are going to have to play the right music and find the right wine.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/24/2454655.htm>

# Victorian fisheries 'going well'

Posted Wed Dec 24, 2008 1:21pm AEDT

Fisheries Victoria says the state's fisheries are in good condition and are being well managed.

The Government has released a report this week, detailing the status of recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries production.

The executive director of Fisheries Victoria, Peter Appleford, says export industries such as rock lobster and abalone have had a tough year.

But he says the domestic fresh fish market continues to do well, largely due to good management of fisheries resources.

"Most of them are either fully utilised, which means they're at their maximum sustainable harvest rate, or they're under-utilised," he said.

"There's a few that we term as environmentally limited, which means that it's the other aspects of the environment that's controlling the number of fish, like the fishing pressure, and then we have to manage the consequences of that, but overall the fisheries are going well, given the state of the environment."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4798275a7693.html>

## Shark attack survivor

By MICHAEL FOX - Stuff.co.nz | Friday, 19 December 2008

### **Kina Scollay knows better than most the dangers of a shark attack.**

Thirteen years ago, aged 22, Scollay was diving off the coast of the Chatham Islands when he was attacked by a five-metre great white.

He had been diving for paua when he accepted a dare to dive to the seafloor 18m below. He grabbed a rock from the bottom to prove he had made it.

On his way back to the surface he was attacked. The shark's first bite hit his weight belt, and the second struck his leg.

He managed to beat the shark off with the rock and get to the surface where he was helped into the boat by his friends who administered first aid. He received extensive gashes and was flown to Christchurch Hospital for emergency surgery.

Yet Scollay refused to let the experience cower him and he has dedicated much of his time to documenting sharks, where he specialises in filming them underwater.

He has worked on the shark tagging project with NIWA and the Conservation Department, and made a documentary film describing the then unheard-of behaviour of great white sharks hunting in packs.

Now 35, Scollay does not want to talk about his attack, but wants to emphasise the low risk and the promising research being conducted into the behaviour of great whites.

"I'd hate to put a kid off swimming," he said.

"I still dive and I'm more aware of the risks than probably anyone and know a hell of a lot about white sharks - I've been working with them for twelve years ... I wouldn't dive if I thought it was unsafe and people can feel safe going swimming," he said.

"Your chances of getting attacked by a shark in New Zealand waters are absolutely bloody low no matter where you are."

Scollay said that, while many shark sightings would be a case of mistaken identity, people should be wary of certain situations.

"Obviously people should be sensible if there is a shark sighting or if there is a whale stranding or something like that, perhaps you should be careful, but other than that I think the risks are absolutely minimal for most people on most beaches."

"All the New Zealand shark attacks, including mine ... have all been in high risk places that most people will never be," he said.

Scollay said people should not be alarmed by an increase in shark sightings over summer.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4798504a12855.html>



## Six people sentenced for breaking fisheries rules

NZPA | Friday, 19 December 2008

**Three court cases in the Auckland and Hauraki districts have seen six people sentenced to either community work or fined for fisheries-related offences this week.**

A husband and wife were sentenced to community work in the Manukau District Court on Wednesday for selling flounder and grey mullet on the black market.

Imelata Longtime, 40, and Tuuri Longtime, 48, were caught selling fish they had caught from Port Waikato from their home in Manurewa.

The arrest came after a tip-off from someone who saw a 'fish for sale' sign outside the Longtimes' home.

The tip-off resulted in a month-long surveillance operation by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Mr Longtime was sentenced to 250 hours' community work, while his wife was ordered to complete 150 hours' community work on each of the four joint charges.

Three men were fined in the Auckland District Court on Tuesday for possessing 196 undersize paua, more than six times over the legal daily paua limit of 10 per person.

Duane Sands, 38, James Moon, 25, and Sepeti Lupeuvea, 22, were caught by a fishery officer after gathering seafood at Pauanui, on the Coromandel Peninsula, in October.

All 196 of the paua were undersized and measured between 49mm and 102mm. The minimum length for paua is 125mm.

Each defendant was fined a total of \$2000 plus court costs of \$260. Sands' 1989 Mazda 323 car was confiscated.

A 40-year-old man appeared in the Thames District Court yesterday after being caught with four times the daily limit of paua and an undersized crayfish.

Thanasis Katsarelias was caught by fishery officers at Karo Bay, Tairua, in September with 44 undersized paua and an undersized female crayfish carrying eggs (berried).

The paua measured between 82mm and 110mm.

It is an offence to catch a berried rock lobster and it is also an offence to kill rock lobster with a spear fishing gun.

Katsarelias was fined a total of \$2400 including court costs, his dive gear was seized.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=25636>



**Rod Andrewartha**

Chief Veterinary Officer

Monday, 22 December 2008

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## **Recreational Abalone Restrictions Eased in D'Entrecasteaux Channel**

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Restrictions on recreational abalone fishing in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel have been lifted, although restrictions still apply to commercial abalone fishing there.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Rod Andrewartha, said that while recent experimental work indicates the presence of AVG virus in the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel area, there were no signs of disease in that region or anywhere else in Tasmanian waters.

"The experimental work also suggests that the virus does not spread as easily to other abalone as the Victorian virus," Dr Andrewartha said.

"These findings are consistent with the very low prevalence of virus detected in our survey work. The survey found only one positive abalone out of 1774 wild abalone tested.

"The good news is that even though this virus was likely to be in the area in September, there were no signs of the disease.

"When divers checked again in mid-December there were still no signs of disease."

Dr Andrewartha said it is not known if the virus detected in Tasmania is identical to the one causing disease in Victoria, or how significant it may be to the Tasmanian fishery.

"Work is being undertaken to find answers to these questions and, in the meantime, we need to take a cautious

approach.”

Restrictions are still in place on the commercial abalone fishery in this area of the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel. These measures are aimed at preventing the movement of abalone from the area and then holding them alive in another area.

While recreational abalone fishers may now fish in the restricted area, they are still required to decontaminate their equipment before diving in another area.

In addition, they must not hold abalone alive in holding tanks and must not place abalone into any natural water body. All abalone waste, such as shell and viscera, should be placed in normal waste which goes to landfill and should not be discarded into a natural water body.

“There is still a risk and it is important that we remain vigilant.

“Any abalone fisher who sees something that suggests that the disease may be present should report it to DPIW for investigation.”

Details are available at [www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalonedisease](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalonedisease)

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/1-scary-start-summer-local-shellfish-beds/5/7036>



## 1 Scary Start To Summer For Local Shellfish Beds

Monday, 22 December, 2008 - 17:33



Ministry of Fisheries officers are alarmed at the high rate of offending at our local shellfish beds, even though summer has only just begun.

Bay of Plenty District Compliance Manager Brendon Mikkelsen says six prosecutions are already pending and two vehicles have been seized and will likely be automatically forfeited to the Crown if the offenders are found guilty.

The worst area for offending is near Maketu, although offending has also been detected at Little Waihi and Mount Maunganui.

One of the worst offences occurred on December 14 at Maketu when a Rotorua man and associate were caught at a checkpoint after earlier refusing to stop for fishery officers. The pair was discovered with 94 paua, all of which were well below (83-106mm) the minimum size limit of 125mm. The daily legal limit for paua is 10 per person gathering. The pair also had 372 green lipped mussel more than seven times the daily legal limit for that area of 50 per person.

The driver is likely to be prosecuted for obstructing a fishery officer (failing to stop) and together with his associate is likely to be prosecuted for what is termed "serious non-commercial offending", which carries a maximum fine of \$20,000. His vehicle has been seized and will likely be forfeited upon conviction.

Just four days earlier, in another checkpoint at the same beach, fishery officers caught three adults with 567 green-lipped mussels. This meant the three all had well over three times their legal limit of 50 mussels each and all three are now facing prosecution in the Tauranga District Court. If convicted they, too, will face fines up to \$20,000 and the likely automatic forfeiture of their vehicle, a Toyota Land cruiser.

In a third incident at Maketu, this time on December 12, two adults caught with 238 mussels will likely each receive Infringement Notices of \$500.

At Little Waihi on November 29, a man who had been collecting shellfish with his two children was caught with 1348 pipi. Each of the three gathering, was entitled to 150 pipi, a total of just 450. This means the man was caught in possession of more than three times his daily legal limit and he, too, is now facing prosecution in the Tauranga District Court and a maximum fine of up to \$20,000.

Also at Little Waihi, on the same day, a man collecting with a group of others was found in possession of a staggering 3476 pipi, an incredible 23 times the daily limit! He is also being prosecuted in the Tauranga District Court and faces a maximum fine of up to \$20,000.

Finally, a man caught at Mount Maunganui with 16 paua, all of which were undersized, will likely receive Infringement Notices totalling \$500 (\$250 for having more than his legal daily of 10 and \$250 for having undersized paua).

Brendon Mikkelsen says it is concerning to see offending on such a scale and so early in the summer season.

"It is very disappointing that some members of the public are simply not getting the message that this sort of behaviour is not acceptable to the rest of the community," he says.

"Offending at this level may jeopardise the future sustainability of these shellfish beds, impacting on the rights of other members of the public and on future generations' ability to gather shellfish.

"It obviously also impacts on the offenders' families as they face large fines and the forfeiture of their family vehicles."

Fishery officers will continue to patrol the region's beaches and mount checkpoints throughout the summer in a concerted effort to deter and catch those flouting the fisheries rules.

Brendon Mikkelsen is also urging anyone who sees other shellfish gatherers or fishers breaking the law to ring the Ministry's popular 0800 4 Poacher number: (0800 4 76224).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/10/2442475.htm>

## Abalone surveys begin

Posted Wed Dec 10, 2008 11:37am AEDT

Scientists from the Department of Fisheries will this week begin reef-top surveys of abalone stock, after the closure of the season on the weekend.

Nathan Harrison from the department says each year researchers conduct the surveys to evaluate stock levels and the need for further measures to manage the fishery.

He says officers will survey reefs along the west coast from Busselton Jetty to the Greenough River mouth.

"The research scientists will be out there monitoring the level of abundance in those transects and that's quite critical for looking at the health of the fishery and really looking at sort of the appropriateness of the current set of rules in place and whether or not they need to be altered," he said.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/abalone-restrictions-fail-to-stop-law-breakers-20081209-6une.html>



## Abalone restrictions fail to stop law breakers

- **Claire Kelly**
- December 9, 2008

Western Australia's strict abalone fishing season ended at the weekend, with more than 250 fishers accused of breaking the rules in the six-week season.

The Fisheries Department estimates about 30 tonnes of the prized catch were caught off the coast from Busselton to Greenough during the season.

Despite strong penalties for overfishing the rock-dwelling marine snails, 16 people will face court in coming weeks charged with a range of offences, including having undersized abalone, fishing outside of prescribed hours and being in excess of limits.

More than 175 people were issued with cautions for breaching fishing restrictions and 79 fishers were issued fines of up to \$200 at fishing sites.

A department spokesman said the fishers facing court could be fined up to \$5000 depending on the offence.

He said a mandatory penalty also applied which cost offenders 10 times the prescribed value of the fish.

"The prescribed value for Roe's abalone is \$80 per kilo or \$3 per fish so when you times that by 10 it can become quite a significant penalty," he said.

Fisheries Department principal policy officer Nathan Harrison said the 30 tonnes of abalone caught during the season was a sustainable amount but the department would now start its annual assessment of the overall impact on abalone stocks.

"Perth is probably the only city in the world to enjoy a sustainable abalone fishery on its doorstep, however, as abalone stocks are vulnerable to overfishing the fishery requires careful management," Mr Harrison said.

He said Perth's six-hour abalone fishing season over six weeks was one of the shortest in the world.

More than 20,000 recreational abalone fishing licences were issued for this year's season.

Thousands of fishers could be seen converging on Perth beaches for the one-hour fishing period each Sunday morning during the season.

[http://sa.psnews.com.au/Page\\_spsn00212.html](http://sa.psnews.com.au/Page_spsn00212.html)

**PSnews**

## Aquatic agreement goes to water

**South Australia and Victoria** have entered an historic alliance to share their research capability in the aquatic sciences.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Rory McEwen joined Victoria's Minister for Fisheries, Joe Helper to sign the agreement which will see the two jurisdictions share complementary resources and pursue opportunities to deliver high quality science.

**Historic  
research  
contract  
signed**

Mr McEwen said the Alliance between South Australia's Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) was designed to deliver more effective and efficient aquatic sciences research, improved networks and better science outcomes.

He said the SA research would be conducted by PIRSA's South Australian Research and Development Institute, SARDI.

"The Alliance will also strengthen our ability to attract funding for new infrastructure and research," Mr McEwen said.

"Fisheries biology, assessment and modeling, aquaculture, climate change, oceanography, and marine and freshwater ecological research and development will be areas of particular focus."

He said the agreement would significantly boost aquatic sciences research capability providing each State with the opportunity to expand and enrich their current efforts.

"It will lead to a broader understanding of oceanic and freshwater ecosystems, better management of fish stocks and more cohesive development of management strategies for aquaculture in southern Australia," Mr McEwen said.

"South Australia will benefit from Victoria's capabilities in the areas of freshwater research, reproduction of native freshwater fish and recreational fisheries research."

He said Victoria would also benefit from SA's expertise in oceanography, wild fisheries management, aquatic biosecurity and marine aquaculture.

The Ministers said a governing board of representatives from both Agencies was being formed to oversee the Alliance's development of collaborative research programs.

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=15&art\\_id=vn20081201053009370C462285](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20081201053009370C462285)



## 'Two-thirds of perlemoen exports illegal'



Melanie Gosling  
December 01 2008 at 08:23AM

About 3 000 tons of South African perlemoen (abalone) were landed in Asian countries last year - although the local commercial perlemoen industry produced only 1 000 tons and the quota for wild perlemoen was a mere 125 tons.

Close on two-thirds of the South African exported perlemoen was probably illegal.

Some was exported from South Africa, but a substantial amount was exported from Mozambique and Namibia, where abalone does not occur naturally, and from landlocked Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

These figures, from research by the international NGO Traffic, which monitors trade in threatened wild animals and plants, show the illegal trade is using the "soft" borders of these countries. The figures also show the lack of effective South African anti-poaching measures.

The 3 000 tons were imported in 2007 by Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

Commercial perlemoen farmers say poaching has been facilitated by unendorsed permits from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites). Environment Affairs Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk introduced Cites permitting to help stop the illegal trade, but because Environment Affairs and Tourism does not have the capacity to be at airports and harbours to endorse the permits, they have asked importing countries to accept abalone with unendorsed permits. These are apparently being reused by poaching syndicates.

Markus Burgener, from the local branch of Traffic, said on Sunday: "South Africa has to get this right. At the very least, if the authorities can't check the consignments, they need a stamp to say "used", so the Cites permit cannot be used again to launder illegal abalone."

Wayne Barnes, chief executive of the Abalone Farmers' Association of SA, said the Cites permitting system served no purpose and should be thrown out.

"But if the Environment Affairs is committed to Cites permits, and if they ever get around to checking consignments, then live abalone exports must be exempt. Live abalone are in a controlled environment for temperature and oxygen, and if they are opened, they will die. Either that, or there must be inspectors at our packing sheds to check live consignments when they are packed," Barnes said.

Asked to comment, Environment Affairs spokesperson Ishaam Abader said: "Cites permits are not being endorsed so as to accommodate the concerns of the abalone industry with regard to potential damage to live abalone."

The department was working out ways to address this. It had "negotiated with several role players" to develop a procedure to facilitate endorsing Cites permits. Abader said their "preliminary investigations" showed that Cites permits were not being re-used by the illegal trade.

[melanie.gosling@iol.co.za](mailto:melanie.gosling@iol.co.za)

<http://www.times->

[age.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3791260&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubjecton=](http://www.times-age.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3791260&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubjecton=)

# Wairarapa Times-Age

## Closed areas 'not answer' to paua poaching

27.11.2008

By Don Farmer

Stopping the commercial harvesting of paua by creating closed areas, or mataitai, off the Wairarapa coast is not the answer to sustainable cropping of the seafood delicacy, South Wairarapa district councillors were told yesterday.

Tony Craig, chairman of Paua 2 Industry Association, spoke to full council meetings in South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton in response to two mataitai applications affecting Pukaroro and Cape Palliser on the South Wairarapa Coast.

He told the councils, where closing off areas might seem like a good concept it is flawed and simply pressure is put on areas outside the mataitai boundaries.

"Closed areas are not good fishery management."

Mr Craig said creating two substantial reserves as proposed could have major impacts on the sustainability of the remaining fishery and therefore the industry.

As it is proper monitoring of reef- by-reef cropping prevents too much stress going on any one area and he is confident the needs of customary, commercial and recreational fishers could be met without the need for the exclusion zones.

Paua 2 Industry Association divers used highly-visible, sign-written vehicles to show they were legitimate divers and harvesting that involved the taking of around 40kg of legal paua and hour overall was carefully monitored and recorded.

South Wairarapa District Council has already sent a submission through its rural service committee to the Minister of Fisheries that stops short of supporting the setting-up of the mataitai areas.

Mr Craig said an area known as area four, on the Wellington coast, was closed for political reasons and ironically had the biggest paua- poaching problem in the whole of the country.

"About 120 tonnes of paua are poached each year from that area alone out of 1000 tonne throughout the whole of New Zealand."

He said, in reply to questions from councillors, that poaching is a "massive problem".

"I know of students who paid their way through university on the proceeds of paua-poaching."

<http://eden.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/abalone-thieves-fined-in-orbost/1371558.aspx>



## Abalone thieves fined in Orbost

27/11/2008 9:09:00 AM

Four men from New South Wales were fined a total of \$3000 in the Orbost Magistrates Court last week after pleading guilty to taking abalone from a Marine National Park.

The court heard Victorian fisheries officers based at Mallacoota had observed the quartet from shore as they began diving from two boats on the boundary of the Cape Howe Marine Park in July last year.

The men were observed for about five hours and were intercepted as they returned to Eden.

Magistrate J.P Dugdale told the men's counsel that, as commercial divers, they should have been aware of the legal issues and risks of diving so close to the park.

Ryan John Morris and his father, Leslie James Morris, both of Concord were fined \$750 each; the men in the second boat, Lee David Miller of Tura Beach and Peter Thomas McCrory of Eden, were fined \$900 and \$600 respectively.

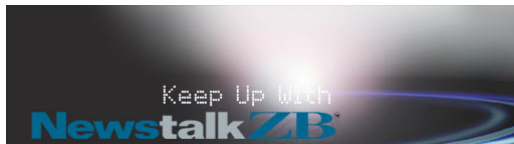
Senior fisheries officer David Bull said the illegal take of abalone by interstate-based divers from Victorian waters which adjoin New South Wales, including the Cape Howe Marine National Park, has been a serious problem for some time.

"We will continue to address that problem with every means at our disposal," Mr Bull said.

"Fishers must be familiar with marine park boundaries and should be reminded that taking or attempting to take any fish from a marine park is prohibited."

People who see or suspect illegal fishing activity are urged to call the 24-hour reporting line 13 FISH (13 3474)

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/newsdetail1.asp?storyID=148518>



## More than 1,200 paua seized in Hawke's Bay

25/11/2008 16:36:16

More than 1,200 illegal and largely undersized paua have been seized by fisheries officers in Hawke's Bay.

Five divers face charges after they were caught with 562 paua, of which 463 were undersized, at Ocean Beach.

During a patrol in Central Hawke's Bay, two people were found in possession of 522 paua, and again, most were undersized.

Fishery officers are also investigating an incident at Blackhead Beach, where 173 paua were found abandoned.

Ministry of Fisheries District Compliance manager, Ray McKay says the offenders have done considerable damage in exploiting the region's fishery. He hopes the apprehension of the divers will serve as a deterrent to others considering taking illegal seafood.