



<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/nelsonmail/4854219a6510.html>

[nelsonmail.co.nz](http://nelsonmail.co.nz)



## Seven convicted for buying paua

Nelson | Friday, 20 February 2009

**A district court judge has told members of Nelson's Asian community that the message needs to go out that anyone who buys paua on the black market will be dealt with severely.**

Judge Tony Zohrab sentenced seven Nelson residents in the Nelson District Court on Thursday on charges of selling and buying paua.

Fisheries prosecutor Megan Alexinas said the charges had been laid following an undercover fisheries investigation, Operation Raro.

She told the court that the principal offenders, Phuoc Van Tang, 49, and Vouch Lim, 40, both of Nelson, had admitted to charges last month.

Court documents show that the pair admitted to making about \$4000 in a six-week period by poaching hundreds of mainly undersized paua from Kaikoura and on-selling it at a cut-price rate to some members of the Asian community in Nelson, Stoke and Richmond.

Ms Alexinas said the people who appeared in court on Thursday had been those who bought the paua from Tang and Lim, who were due for sentencing in March.

Defence lawyers for all seven defendants said none of them had realised they had been breaking the law, or that the paua had been taken illegally, and none had been in trouble with the courts for fisheries matters previously.

Richmond solo mother Phuong Thi Minh Do, 32, admitted two charges of selling paua and one of buying paua.

Defence lawyer Wayne Jones said Do received the domestic purposes benefit and could only afford to pay \$15 to \$20 per week towards a fine.

However, she was convicted and fined \$1800 by Judge Tony Zohrab, who said she had had enough cash to pay \$80 for 2kg of paua.

---

---

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

"It seems like a lot of money to pay for something which doesn't seem like a critical part of your diet when you are purchasing for your children," the judge said.

Stoke woman Sao Thi Lam, 30, admitted one charge of buying illegally obtained paua and was fined \$600.

Defence lawyer John Sandston said she had bought it for her two children and was upset to have learnt that she had broken the law.

Ban Thi Tran, 55, admitted one charge of buying illegally obtained paua and one charge of possessing illegally obtained paua.

Mr Jones said Tran was a sickness beneficiary and would struggle to pay a fine, but he was fined \$1200 by Judge Zohrab.

Beneficiary Ann Quyen Young, 54, admitted a charge of buying illegally obtained paua and one of assisting the sale of illegally obtained paua and was sentenced to 60 hours' community work.

Fish filleter Jie Fie Young, 48, and wife Lang Young, 45, admitted a joint charge of buying illegally obtained paua and were both fined \$600 each.

Judge Zohrab said the couple would have had some idea of the normal market price of paua if they had been prepared to pay \$220 cash for six kilograms.

Hang Thuy Dang, a 26-year-old fish factory worker from Richmond, admitted one charge of selling and one charge of buying illegally obtained paua. He was fined a total of \$700.

Judge Zohrab told the seven that such offending was difficult to detect and paua was a precious resource and New Zealand's fisheries were under threat.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=157&ContentID=124966>

**thewest.com.au** The West Australian

## Check, clean, dry to battle abalone virus

*15th February 2009, 6:00 WST*

Humans are very lucky in comparison to fish these days when it comes to disease.

While we may be crammed together in a skyscraper tower block, fish are often stuck in a river or estuary under threat from humans or in an aquaculture pond or tank.

What this means for both humans and fish is that when a disease occurs it is vital that it can be detected and identified as quickly as possible, in order to try to stop it spreading.

What is equally important is if disease does occur, to carry out procedures that stop the infection spreading.

Over the course of many centuries, humans became aware of the importance of what we call hygiene — of cleanliness and sanitation — when it came to keeping us healthy.

As Brian Jones, head of the Department of Fisheries' fish health unit, says disease is often carried by dirt because virus particles will stick to bigger particles, such as those in dirt. In order to minimise the

possibility of the spread of disease, getting rid of dirt is the most important thing — by doing stuff as simple as using soap and water to clean surfaces and equipment. If you can let them dry naturally, in the wind and the sun, then this also helps.

When it comes to disease, the big worry for several fisheries management agencies around Australia right now — including WA's Department of Fisheries — is keeping out Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG). This is a herpes-like virus that causes ganglioneuritis, inflammation of the tissues in the nervous system of abalone, leading to paralysis of the abalone's foot that it uses to cling on to rocks. This results in weakness and eventual death.

The AVG virus is thought to have escaped from an abalone farm near Port Fairy in Victoria in mid-2006. By early 2007 it had apparently spread over a 90km section of coastline, infecting reefs in the western zone of Victoria's abalone fishery. So far, AVG hasn't been recorded in wild or cultured stocks in any other States but it has the potential to spread.

From what scientists know about AVG, it seems that the virus is carried on the guts and mucus of abalone. What could happen is that AVG could be spread by traces of infected mucus on someone's wet diving gear or washed into the bilges of their boat. The person then drives their boat and diving gear across the Nullarbor without thoroughly washing them and uses them in the ocean in WA, and suddenly we are in big trouble.

The good thing about AVG is that the virus only survives for a relatively short time in the water column and is easily killed by disinfection. If fishing and diving gear — from wetsuits to boats — that has been used in an area where AVG is present is simply washed in disinfectant, then the virus is likely to be killed.

In recent years, the Waithanui River in the South Island of New Zealand has been clogged by the algae *Didymosphenia* — "didymo" for short — causing big numbers of fish to stop spawning.

Like AVG, didymo can be killed by disinfection and New Zealand recreational fishos have been highly successful in fighting it, using education and cleaning.

The publicity for the campaign to stop the algae uses the catchy slogan, "Check, Clean, Dry", to reinforce the three crucial steps of disinfection. Check out the upcoming March 2009 edition of *Western Fisheries* for the full story.

GLEN JAKOVICH

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/marlboroughexpress/4838997a6523.html>

## **New tool will aid paua survival**

The Marlborough Express | Thursday, 05 February 2009

**The survival of paua returned to the sea may be increased with a prototype tool the Ministry of Fisheries is developing.**

The blunt-bladed tool will be given out to fishermen and is specifically designed to do the least amount of damage to the shellfish as possible. Paua are prone to injury when taken and many shellfish put back in the sea because they're undersized die anyway.

Blenheim fisheries officer Sean Ryan said the tool was still in development before possibly being distributed to the public. It will probably include information on quota and size of paua.

Mr Ryan said people took anything to pry the shellfish from the rocks including screwdrivers and kitchen knives.

"It's usually whatever they have got in the boot of their car."

The tool is meant to be used at the point when the shellfish are taken from the rocks, so they can be returned as quickly as possible giving them the greatest chance of survival.

Using such a tool, paua takers can measure and take paua in the water. This will eliminate the need to haul 20 or 15 of the shellfish up to the beach - which is illegal - just to get their legal catch of 10, he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/21/2497673.htm?site=hobart>

## Abalone divers hope to re-enter banned fishing zone

Posted February 21, 2009 11:22:00



Divers are hoping to return to harvesting next month. (ABC News)

Tasmanian abalone divers are hoping to be able to harvest fish from the southern end of D'Entrecasteaux Channel by the end of March.

Restrictions on harvesting from the area have been in place for almost six months following the discovery of a wild abalone which returned a weak positive test for the deadly ganglioneuritis virus.

The Chief Executive of the Tasmanian Abalone Council, Dean Lisson, says more samples will be taken from the area over the next few weeks, and providing there's no sign of diseased fish, harvesting of the area will resume.

"And the view that seems to be developing is that this virus may infact be an endemic virus which has always been in our fishery maybe for a millennia and that most of our stocks have a natural immunity to that virus.

[http://www.news24.com/Regional\\_Papers/Components/Category\\_Article\\_Text\\_Template/0,,486\\_2472397~E,00.html](http://www.news24.com/Regional_Papers/Components/Category_Article_Text_Template/0,,486_2472397~E,00.html)

HERMANUS  
**Times**

19/02/2009 09:09 AM - (SA)

# Sorry ... but no choice

In response to a query sent by Hermanus Times to the department of environmental affairs and tourism about the plight of commercial abalone divers, Ishaam Abader, deputy director general of corporate affairs answers as follows:

"It is regrettable that the minister had to make a decision to suspend the harvesting of wild abalone as from 1 February 2008. This decision was not taken lightly and consideration was given to the sustainability of the resource as well as the implications of such a decision on legitimate right holders. There is no doubt that the abalone resource has declined to such an extent that it was not possible to sustain a commercial activity.

Senior managers of the department had met with representatives of the abalone right holders on several occasions to discuss alternative livelihood opportunities. The declining status of the abalone resource was also highlighted in many formal resource management working groups with representatives of the South Africa Abalone Association. It was also made very clear that the opportunities within the marine and coastal environment were extremely limited and of a medium- to long-term nature. Such opportunities include access to boat-based whale watching (BBWW) and white shark cage diving (WSCD), marine aquaculture and opportunities within fishing harbours. Policies for BBWW and WSCD have been developed during 2008 and the rights allocation process is currently underway.

The affected right holders demonstrated little interest in alternative opportunities and demanded that the commercial fishery be re-opened. Unfortunately, because of the depleted status of the resource, this request could not be acceded to.

To assess the needs of rights holders, the department constructed a questionnaire which was sent to COSATU to distribute. The response rate rendered the exercise futile. In order to address the short term needs of the affected persons the department has identified 100 work opportunities, in appropriate areas, which will provide employment at R60 per day until 31 March 2011, through its Working for the Coast Programme, which is one of the department's initiatives under the auspices of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

The Western Cape office the Congress of South African Trade Unions, which acts as the representative of the affected persons, was requested to provide nominations for candidates for such work opportunities by 16 February 2009. To date no nominations have been received. With regard to marine aquaculture, the Minister had announced the availability of R100 million over a period of three years for pilot projects to be launched along the coast in the four coastal provinces. The pilot projects in fact were preceded by feasibility studies on suitable sites and species. Two pilots are to be rolled-out within the 2009/10 financial year, followed by the remaining three. The establishment of these projects is thus a medium- to long-term objective.

The department has increased its efforts to protect the resource, especially in those traditional abalone areas which have the potential for recovery. However, despite its continuous efforts and the fostering of partnerships with other law enforcement and conservation agencies, poaching remains a challenge to the recoverability of the resource.

In terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) the department is obliged to dispose of any confiscated fish or fish products in a prescribed manner. It must be emphasised that the Marine Living Resources Fund receives revenue from a number of sources, which includes levies, permit and licence fees, fines and proceeds from the sale of fish or fish products.

The department has empathy with the affected right holders, but at the same time it has a national responsibility to ensure the sustainability of the country's marine living resources."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4853235a11.html>

# Haig had hand in murder - QC

By REBECCA PALMER - The Dominion Post | Friday, 20 February 2009



THE PRESS

GETTING SICK OF IT: Rex Haig, right, with lawyer Jonathan Eaton and the report rejecting Mr Haig's claim for compensation.

**Rex Haig and his nephew David Hogan jointly beat fishing boat crewman Mark Roderique to death and threw his body overboard, according to "probable facts" outlined in a new investigation report.**

The report from Robert Fisher, QC, made public yesterday, describes a new version of the events that led to Mr Roderique's death in 1994. It implicates Mr Hogan, who was granted immunity from prosecution in 1995.

Mr Haig's lawyer, Jonathan Eaton, said the findings meant Mr Hogan's immunity should now be scrutinised.

"For many years now, there's been evidence implicating Hogan that has not been investigated."

Mr Haig was "now being denied compensation on the basis he and Hogan together did it". Denying compensation was disappointing. "It reflects just how difficult it is for someone to prove their innocence."

The report says that, during the 1994 fishing trip, an argument developed at Jackson Bay between Mr Roderique and Mr Hogan. Mr Haig intervened, sacked Mr Roderique and told him to get off the boat.

After Mr Roderique threatened Mr Hogan with a knife, Mr Haig beat him with a length of wood or pipe. Mr Hogan later beat him again, tied him up and shut him in the boat's toilet area.

The report says Mr Haig and Mr Hogan were worried he would reveal their involvement in paua poaching to authorities. It describes them jointly killing Mr Roderique in the toilet area.

"They killed him with blows from a sash weight to the head and upper body."

They threw his body over the side of the boat a safe distance from Jackson Bay, the report says.

Mr Fisher also summarises evidence from 11 people who alleged Mr Hogan had told them he was either wholly or partly responsible for the murder. He says determining Mr Hogan's guilt or innocence is not the point of the investigation.

Mr Haig, now 61 and living in Christchurch, said yesterday he was not very surprised his bid for compensation had failed. " "In the end they have shafted me."

He did not believe police would investigate Mr Hogan till the public "put the heat on".

In 2006, Mr Hogan told the Sunday Star-Times he was not the killer. He said: "I've been on trial by media for more than 12 years for not one but two murders" referring to Mr Haig's key defence witness, Anton Sherlock, who was bashed to death nine days before a depositions hearing in the case.

Another man, Nigel Johnstone, was convicted of that murder but also proclaimed his innocence.

A spokeswoman for Solicitor-General David Collins, QC, said Crown Law was considering Mr Fisher's "extensive report".

<http://www.sacbee.com/ourregion/story/1636126.html>

**THE SACRAMENTO BEE** [sacbee.com](http://www.sacbee.com)

## California sea otters do better on abalone diet, scientists find

[ShareThis](#)

By Bill Lindelof

[blindelof@sacbee.com](mailto:blindelof@sacbee.com)

Published: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 - 12:00 am | Page 8B



DAVID MENKE U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

▲ **California sea otters depend on snails, clams, crabs and abalone for food.**

## SEA OTTERS THAT EAT ABALONE FARE BETTER

UC Davis researchers say that California sea otters, a threatened but slowly recovering species, do better when their diet relies more on abalone than on snails and clams. They think this is because snails and clams contain parasites from animal feces washed into the ocean that cause brain infections.

### CALIFORNIA SEA OTTER

**Size:** Up to 4 feet long

**Weight:** 65 pounds

**Life span in the wild:**  
Up to 23 years

▲ **A black abalone, itself an increasingly rare animal.**



Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Geographic, Associated Press, UC Davis



ROBERT DORRELL rdorrell@sacbee.com

Area scientists have found a key to the survival of the endangered California sea otter: abalone.

UC Davis researchers determined that some sea otters are eating bad food – clams and marine snails with pathogens – while those that live on abalone are staying healthier.

The discovery may help explain the struggle of the sea otter to recover along the California coast.

The California sea otter, a threatened species, continues to recover, but the rate of recovery appears to have slowed.

Otters' preferred food is abalone. But when abalone is scarce they resort to clams, crabs and snails.

The study indicates that when otters eat abalone they have the lowest rate of parasitic infection. Sea otters that live along the coast between San Simeon and Cambria and eat marine snails have the highest rate of infections with *Toxoplasma gondii*. The parasite causes brain infections and likely comes from cat feces washed into the ocean.

Sea otters along southern Monterey Bay near Fisherman's Wharf and Cannery Row eat mostly clams and have high rates of infections with another fatal brain pathogen – *Sarcocystis neurona*. That parasite most likely comes from the feces of opossums.

"Otters that are able to eat abalone were hardly exposed to either pathogen," said Christine Johnson, one of the study's lead authors and a veterinary epidemiologist at UC Davis.

The results of the six-year study were released last week after hundreds of hours of research by several governmental bodies. Volunteers and scientists spent countless hours with spotting scopes searching for the animals among kelp beds and watching them eat.

Key to the research was the use of radio tag transmitters placed in the marine mammals by veterinarians. In much the way scientists question people to find out what they have been eating after they get sick, the researchers were able to discover what otters were consuming to make them ill.

"They bring their food up to the shore, so we could see what they were eating," said Johnson.

Fur traders hunted California sea otters nearly to extinction in the 1800s and 1900s. During the 2008 census, observers counted 2,760.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=25999>



**David Llewellyn, MP**

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Friday, 20 February 2009

---

**Marriage of Convenience on the Move**

---

\*\*\*Embargoed until 5.30pm, Friday, February 20.\*\*\*

Two of Tasmania's major industry organisations are continuing their unusual office romance in a move to new joint premises opened today.

David Llewellyn, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, said that a great example of synergy and co-location is being shown by the Tasmanian Abalone Council Ltd (TAC) and Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc (FGT).

"Being co-located over the last thirteen and a half years means that these two industry bodies can talk through concerns and share strategies and success stories," Mr Llewellyn said.

"Having outgrown their existing shared base, they have decided to continue the relationship by moving into new shared facilities."

Both industries have had to face significant challenges in the recent past. For the abalone industry this includes the threat of viral ganglioneuritis, and for fruit-growers the challenge which New Zealand apple imports pose for fire blight-free Tasmania.

"The abalone and fruit-growing industries are each worth in the order of \$100 million at the beach/farm gate," Mr Llewellyn said.

"They are key brand leaders for Tasmania, exporting to a range of international markets.

"While it may appear that the TAC and FGT are an 'odd couple' with little in common, in fact they both embody successful and dedicated approaches to industry issues and represent diversified industries in this State.

"Tasmanian cherries are now allowed into Japan unfumigated, and nearly all the total allowable abalone catch was harvested in 2008 despite the introduction of biosecurity control measures.

"Both the TAC and FGT adopt highly effective, common-sense approaches to challenges to arrive at successful outcomes for their respective industries."

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/43906/men-caught-with-undersize-paua>

## Men caught with undersize paua

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [National](#)

Wed, 18 Feb 2009

[News: National](#)

Three men with three sacks of mostly undersized paua were caught by Christchurch fishery officers last week.

The men were found near the Sumner boat ramp in Christchurch last Tuesday with 350 paua, Ministry of Fisheries district compliance manager Peter Hyde said.

Sacks of paua were found hidden among rocks, the men were questioned and their car seized.

Fisheries officers were still investigating and had not made a decision on whether to lay charges, Mr Hyde said.

A month ago, eight divers were alleged to have taken more than 500 paua on the south side of Banks Peninsula.

Fishery officers believed the two incidents were connected, he said.

"We will continue our crackdown to catch these people who think they can get away with taking as much paua as they want.

"Hopefully the apprehensions by our fishery officers, and honorary fishery officers, will be a timely reminder that they will not get away with it," Mr Hyde said.

The daily bag limit for paua is 10 per diver with a minimum size of 125mm.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/police-and-fishery-officers-catch-paua-plunderers/5/9014>

## Police And Fishery Officers Catch Paua Plunderers



Voxy News Engine

Monday, 16 February, 2009 - 18:54



Two Auckland men were apprehended in a joint action by police and fishery officers in the Coromandel on the 3 February after a member of the public reported their suspicious activity. Coromandel police stopped the men as they were leaving the Coromandel and a subsequent search uncovered 172 excess and undersize paua.

Local fishery officers then arrived on the scene and seized the men's four wheel drive and assorted dive gear. The men aged between 40 and 43 will now face charges under the Fisheries Act.

"This sends a clear message that we work closely with the community and the police service in apprehending these plunderers", said Ian Bright District Compliance Manager, "If anyone is considering taking illegal sized and amounts of paua should take note that you will be seen, you will be caught, charged and face severe penalties for your actions"

The penalties for taking or possessing excess and undersize paua range from an infringement fine of \$250-\$500 through to prosecution where the fines can be up to \$250,000 and the forfeiture of property, vehicles and a complete ban on fishing.

"I would like to thank our colleagues in the police and our honorary fishery officers for their continued support in assisting our operations in the Coromandel", he said.

The Ministry of Fisheries is appealing to the public that if they see suspicious or illegal fishing activity please call 0800 4 POACHER with as much detail as you possible.

"We need your help to catch these people who want to take from us, and from our future generations", said Mr Bright.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/5-northland-men-nabbed-paua-sting/5/8754>



## 5 Northland Men Nabbed In Paua Sting

Wednesday, 11 February, 2009 - 16:11



11 February 2009 - Five local Northland men will be facing serious charges after fishery officers conducted a surveillance operation targeting paua divers taking excess and undersize stocks on Northland's west coast, which took place on Thursday 5 February.

In the most serious of the incidents two Hokianga men aged in their 20's were arrested after running from fishery officers and dumping their illegal catch of paua back into the sea. As a result, the pair have been charged with obstructing a fishery officer, and taking fish contrary to the Fisheries Act, both extremely serious offences.

3 other local Hokianga men aged in their 30's also face serious Fisheries Act charges after being observed taking 237 paua most of which were undersize.

"What is extremely disappointing is the fact that all involved are local men who are plundering their local paua fishery", said Darren Edwards District Compliance Manager Ministry of Fisheries, "These fish stocks are coming under extreme pressure and actions like this only takes from not just other people in the community, but future generations"

The public are reminded that the daily bag limit for paua is 10 per diver with a minimum size of 125mm. For more information on all fishing rules and regulations contact your local MFish office or visit fish.govt.nz.

"Our fishery officers cannot be everywhere and we are appealing to the public to call our 0800 4 POACHER with as much detail as possible should they see any suspicious activity", said Mr Edwards.

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=13&art\\_id=vn20090210020407760C969923](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=13&art_id=vn20090210020407760C969923)



## Perlemoen syndicate suspect eludes cops

Related Articles

- Court refuses more details for defence
- 'Monster' indictment in perlemoen trial
- Marathon trial looms for suspected syndicate

By Karen Breytenbach

Local police and Interpol have launched a search for a Chinese national with a South African work permit who failed to appear in the Cape High Court with 18 other alleged members of a perlemoen syndicate.

The state suspects Johannesburg-based Yen-Chang Ku packed his bags in the second week of December. He is out on R40 000 bail.

He is ranked third on the charge sheet in terms of alleged importance in the operation.

The top seven of the 19 are suspected not only of participating in organised crime, but also occupying managerial positions in the alleged syndicate.

The names lower down are suspected to have worked in perlemoen processing plants and warehouses.

The accused are listed as Yu-Chen Chao, Phillip James Miller, Ku, Willem Jacobus van Rensburg, Adriaan Gavin Wildschutt, Tony Peter du Toit, Johannes Emil Liebenberg, Jerry Witbooi, Jerome Browne, Ashley Browne, Rodney Onkruid, Jason Damon, Dereck Bailey, Dereck Wildschutt, Hendrik Riet, Stanley Sifiso Dlamini, Wei-Liu Liu, Desmond David Pienaar and Gregory Abrahams.

It is not known whether Ku is still in South Africa, but home affairs told the prosecution he had not left the country via any airports or harbours on his official passport.

Ku has also been blacklisted by Interpol, who are searching for him abroad.

Advocate William King has withdrawn as his legal counsel, because he had not received any instructions from his client since his disappearance.

At the 18 co-accused's return to the Cape High Court on Monday, NPA prosecutor Helene Booysen asked Judge Nathan Erasmus for a postponement to give the investigating officer time to trace Ku.

March 2 was set as the provisional date for a report back to the court on the investigating officer's progress.

May 4 was fixed as the date on which the trial would start.

Earlier court appearances have been for the purpose of ironing out issues regarding the upcoming trial.

Erasmus has dismissed a number of applications, among others for the charges to be quashed, the accused to be tried separately and for the case to be heard under the Criminal Procedure Act and not the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (Poca).

The state can only bring racketeering charges under Poca.

The accused are facing up to 114 charges related to conducting an "enterprise" through a "pattern of racketeering activities".

The group allegedly worked in several different places, including a farm in Koelenhof outside Stellenbosch, and illegally exported perlemoen, hidden under frozen fish, in containers bound for the Far East under the names of RapiTrade 109 (Pty) Ltd or Syroun Exports (Pty) Ltd.

karen.breytenbach@inl.co.za

<http://www.qciobserver.com/Article.aspx?Id=3701>

**qciobserver**  
.com

## Abalone aren't recovering

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

Submitted by Haida Gwaii Abalone Stewards--Abalone are not recovering around Haida Gwaii despite a coast-wide closure to all fishing in December 1990.

In 2007 a crew of three Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and three Haida Fisheries Program divers onboard the MV Vector surveyed 82 regularly monitored (every 5 years) abalone index sites on the east coast of Moresby Island. A most troubling finding was the significant decrease in mature abalone over the last 17 years - in 1990, 0.27 abalone per square metre were observed, declining to almost half that density in 2007 at 0.15 abalone per square metre. The 2007 abalone densities are about one-third of the levels present in the late 1970s when the commercial abalone dive fishery was active. In addition, there were more samples without any large abalone in 2007 compared to 1990. Both these observations suggest that the spawning population of abalone has decreased since 1990. Poaching is suspected to be the major cause of abalone decline. DFO proposes that abalone densities need to reach an average of 0.5 mature abalone per square metre for recovery to be considered successful, and their recent analysis concludes that this could take 50 to 70 years.

The Haida Gwaii Abalone Stewards have been monitoring abalone and educating the public about the problems facing abalone recovery since 2000. Their efforts are supported by the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program. Ron Williams, Chair of the Haida Fisheries Committee of the Council of the Haida Nation states that, "All of us, islanders and visitors alike, need to be vigilant if abalone are to recover. Even small levels of fishing are affecting abalone recovery." The abalone stewards are implementing a Community Action Plan with a goal of rebuilding abalone to a level that will support a food fishery. They also coordinate a volunteer Coast Watch Program with the support of DFO enforcement staff.

The key to increasing the abalone population is to reduce mortality (either natural or from fishing), and increase reproductive success. The Haida Fisheries Program has been monitoring trends in juvenile abalone abundance and size around the Islands using monitoring units called 'abalone condos,' built from crab pots filled with split concrete cinder blocks, and placed on the seafloor in abalone habitat. Annual surveys record the number and size of all abalone sheltering within each condo. Although abalone of all sizes can be found in the condos, 79 percent of the inhabitants are juveniles less than 50mm long, making the condos an effective way of assessing juvenile abundance. Years with good abalone recruitment, when many new abalone survive, are reflected by more small abalone in the condos.

The Haida Fisheries Program has surveyed condo sites for 6 years, and measured over 4,300 abalone in that time. While much data analysis remains to be completed, it seems that juvenile abalone abundance is different around

the Islands and different between years. With the help of our partners in the community and volunteer Coast Watch Program, we hope to see many more years of high juvenile abundance and good survival to maturity, so that the abalone population will one day recover.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0901/S00161.htm>

## Vehicles seized in paua poaching bust

Monday, 26 January 2009, 10:26 am

Press Release: Ministry of Fisheries

Vehicles seized in paua poaching bust - MFish press release

Vehicles seized in paua poaching bust Ministry of Fisheries press release - 23 January 2009

Members of a Canterbury paua poaching ring have had their vehicles seized by the Ministry of Fisheries after fishery officers busted the group with more than 500 undersized paua allegedly destined for the black market.

The houses of eight men from Christchurch were searched on Wednesday and the two vehicles allegedly involved in the poaching were seized.

The alleged poaching team were recently busted by fishery officers on the south coast of Banks Peninsula where they had hidden their catch after seeing the officers. The fishery officers later found 517 freshly shelled paua stashed in the surrounding bush.

"The real concern was the very small size of the paua, they had simply taken every paua they saw," said Christchurch fishery officer, John Griffiths.

"This is the largest haul of paua this summer and it's suspected the paua, mostly undersized, were destined for the black market.

"The favourable weather in Canterbury this summer has provided ideal conditions for poachers. There have been some very calm sea conditions which are perfect for collecting paua.

"The best thing the public can do is call our 0800 4 POACHER hotline if they see any suspicious fishing activity. In particular we need vehicle registration numbers which are extremely helpful in tracking potential poachers," said John.

No charges have been laid yet but it's expected the eight men will face serious charges under the Fisheries Act 1996.

ENDS

<http://www.emol.com/noticias/ingles/detalle/detallenoticias.asp?idnoticia=341448#>

## Chacalluta launches operation to combat illegal abalone trafficking

**The service, which seized over three tons of the mollusks in 2008, will work conjointly with Customs, SAG, as well as the police, and will even make use of a specially-trained detecting dog.**

El Mercurio Online

Friday, January 23, 2009

ARICA.- A Labrador that has spent eight months training for a unique task is the “star official” that the National Fishing Service (SERNAPESCA) will be working with to regulate the Chacalluta border complex as part of a pilot program that aims to combat the large amount of illegal abalone trafficking to Peru.

Unlike the dogs trained to work with Customs and Investigations, “Baster” will not be searching for drugs in the suitcases and vehicles that cross the border. Rather, the pooch has been specifically trained to search for clandestine loads of Chilean abalones known as “locos”.

According to Governor Luis Gutiérrez, the SERNAPESCA operation at the border, which will also include an officer and instructor to accompany the canine, will begin in two weeks.

Chilean abalones have been classified as an endangered species since 1998. There is evidence however that suggests there is a large amount the shellfish being illegally transported to Peru, where they are later distributed to canned sea food producers in Tacna. “The mollusks are even sent back to Chile as a processed product”, stated the national SERNAPESCA director, Félix Inojosa.

Employing operations similar to those of drug-trafficking, abalone contraband travels in only one direction: south to north. The shellfish are hidden in compartments that are created inside the vehicles or sent by way of ships that illegally cross the maritime border.

[http://www.fishfarmer-magazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/1789/Abalone\\_Aquaculture\\_Dialogue\\_to\\_Meet\\_in\\_South\\_Africa\\_in\\_February.html](http://www.fishfarmer-magazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/1789/Abalone_Aquaculture_Dialogue_to_Meet_in_South_Africa_in_February.html)



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

Creating Standards for Responsible Abalone Farming Will Top the Agenda

**22 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.stuff.co.nz/4826706a11.html>



By KIRAN CHUG - The Nelson Mail | Thursday, 22 January 2009

## More facing charges over paua ring

**More people have been charged over a black market paua ring in Nelson, run by a couple who poached the seafood during night-time missions so they could allegedly pay lawyers to help one of them gain residency.**

The Ministry of Fisheries says Phuoc Van Tang, 49, and Vouch Lim, 40, both of Nelson, made about \$4000 in a six-week period by poaching hundreds of paua - many of them undersized - and on-selling it at a cut-price rate to some members of the Asian community in Nelson, Stoke and Richmond.

Tang, together with Lim's 15-year-old son, would often gather paua by feel in the darkness, in cold conditions and rough seas along the Kaikoura coast, before returning to Nelson where the boy would then go to school, according to the ministry's summary of facts.

Tang, a Vietnamese national with New Zealand residency, and Lim, a Cambodian national living in New Zealand unlawfully, appeared in the Nelson District Court on Wednesday and pleaded guilty to charges laid in August after an undercover fisheries investigation, Operation Raro.

A further six people from Nelson, Stoke and Richmond have now been charged with either buying, selling or possessing paua as a result of the operation.

Sickness beneficiary Tang on Wednesday admitted one charge of obtaining a benefit by taking paua in a way which breached the Fisheries Act, and one charge of obtaining a benefit by selling paua in a way which breached the act.

Lim, a beneficiary, admitted a charge of obtaining a benefit by knowingly selling paua in a way which breached the act.

According to the ministry's summary, fisheries officers monitored the couple's Washington Rd house by installing a video camera on June 11 last year, after receiving information about the pair operating a black market paua business from their home.

Between June 28 and August 6, the couple drove nine times to a secluded area known as "Black Miller" on the Kaikoura coast with their two children, to gather paua in the dark.

They would often return after midnight through to the early hours of the morning, and after Tang had removed the meat, they would dump the shells in various locations, including the Nelson waterfront.

At one spot, fisheries officers found 298 shells from which the meat had been shucked the previous night, 78 per cent of which were undersized.

The maximum number of paua amateur fishers may take on one day is 10.

The summary states the couple had regular buyers who made phone orders and Lim would actively seek buyers by calling members of Nelson's Asian community.

The ministry said the couple took and sold an estimated 100kg of paua meat, selling it for between \$30 and \$50 per kilogram. Paua wholesales at between \$85 and \$130 per kilogram.

The summary said that when interviewed, Tang, who had lived in New Zealand for 13 years, admitted the facts and said he did not know that taking excess or undersized paua was illegal. He dived at night as he was too busy during the day, he said.

The couple needed the money to pay for lawyers to assist Lim's residency application, he said.

The summary said Lim admitted being present when the paua was taken and to helping with the bagging, weighing and selling of the meat.

She used the cash for living expenses and sent the remainder to relatives in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Judge Tony Zohrab delayed convicting the pair until forfeiture arrangements were made, and remanded them on bail for sentencing on March 4.

As a result of Operation Raro Phuong Do, 32, and Hang Dang, 26, both from Richmond, have each been charged with buying and selling paua in Nelson last July.

Nelsonians Jie Fie Young, 48, and Lang Young, 46, have been charged jointly with purchasing paua.

Thi Bich Kieu Quach, 28, from Richmond, has been charged with buying paua.

Ban Thi Tran, 56, from Stoke, has been charged with buying and possessing paua.

Soa Thi Lam, 30, of Nelson, has been charged with purchasing paua. They have all been remanded to February 19.

You may not copy, republish or distribute this page or the content from it without having obtained written permission from the copyright owner. To enquire about copyright clearances contact [clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz](mailto:clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz).

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4826615a6008.html>

**stuff**.co.nz

The Marlborough Express | Thursday, 22 January 2009

## Illegal paua gains were for residency expenses

**More people have been charged over a black market paua ring working off Kaikoura and run by a Nelson couple who took the paua in night-time raids so they could pay lawyers to help one of them gain residency.**

The Ministry of Fisheries says Phuoc Van Tang, 49, and Vouch Lim, 40, both of Nelson, made about \$4000 in a six-week period by poaching hundreds of paua many of them undersized and onselling it at a cut-price to the Asian community in Nelson, Stoke and Richmond.

Tang, together with Lim's 15-year-old son, would often gather paua by feel in the darkness, in cold conditions and rough seas along the Kaikoura coast, before returning to Nelson, where the boy would then go to school, according to the ministry's summary of facts.

Tang, a Vietnamese national with New Zealand residency, and Lim, a Cambodian national living in New Zealand unlawfully, appeared in the Nelson District Court yesterday and pleaded guilty to charges laid in August after an undercover fisheries investigation, Operation Raro.

Six more people from Nelson, Stoke and Richmond have now been charged with either buying, selling or possessing paua as a result of the operation.

Sickness beneficiary Tang yesterday admitted one charge of obtaining a benefit by taking paua in a way which breached the Fisheries Act, and one charge of obtaining a benefit by selling paua in a way which breached the act.

Lim, a beneficiary, admitted a charge of obtaining a benefit by knowingly selling paua in a way which breached the act.

According to the ministry's summary, fisheries officers monitored the couple's Washington Rd house by installing a video camera on June 11 last year, after receiving information about them operating a black-market paua business from their home.

Between June 28 and August 6, the couple drove nine times to a secluded area known as Black Miller on the Kaikoura coast with their two children, to gather paua in the dark.

They would often return in the early hours and, after Tang had removed the meat, they would throw the shells in various locations, including the Nelson waterfront.

At one spot, fisheries officers found 298 paua shells taken the previous night, 78 per cent of which were undersized. The maximum number of paua amateur fishers may take on one day is 10.

The summary said they had regular buyers who made phone orders and Lim would actively seek buyers by calling members of Nelson's Asian community.

The ministry said they took and sold about 100kg of paua meat, selling it for between \$30 and \$50 per kilogram. Paua wholesales at between \$85 and \$130 per kilogram.

When interviewed, Tang, who had lived in New Zealand for 13 years, admitted the facts but said he did not know that taking excess or undersized paua was illegal. He dived at night as he was too busy during the day, he said.

They needed the money to pay for lawyers to assist Lim's residency application, he said.

The summary said Lim admitted being present when the paua was taken and to helping bag, weigh and sell the meat. She used the cash for living expenses and sent the remainder to relatives.

Judge Tony Zohrab delayed convicting the pair until forfeiture arrangements were made, and remanded them on bail for sentencing on March 4. Fairfax

You may not copy, republish or distribute this page or the content from it without having obtained written permission from the copyright owner. To enquire about copyright clearances contact [clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz](mailto:clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz).

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/dominionpost/4827051a23918.html>

**stuff**.co.nz

The Dominion Post | Friday, 23 January 2009

## Paua sting revealed

**A former Stokes Valley takeaway shop owner acting as a middleman for blackmarket paua buyers bought thousands of dollars worth of paua from an undercover fisheries officer.**

Saravuthy Mao, 50, of Upper Hutt, is charged with 16 counts of illegally obtaining a benefit by buying or selling paua. He has pleaded not guilty.

Mao told the undercover officer, who used the name Brett Stevens, that he would take as much paua as the officer could supply. Hundreds of kilograms were sold to Mao.

Crown prosecutor Kate Feltham said Mao initially denied any involvement but later admitted buying and selling paua.

Mao's lawyer, Paul Paino, said part of the defence was that the Crown had encouraged the scale of Mao's offending by continually supplying the paua. The case is expected to finish today.

You may not copy, republish or distribute this page or the content from it without having obtained written permission from the copyright owner. To enquire about copyright clearances contact [clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz](mailto:clearance@fairfaxnz.co.nz).

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU0901/S00133.htm>

## Thumbs Up for Fisheries Officers

Wednesday, 14 January 2009, 4:55 pm

Press Release: Seafood Industry Council

14 January 2009

Thumbs Up for Fisheries Officers

The New Zealand Seafood Industry Council congratulates fisheries officers for their success in decreasing fishing offences in 2008.

The Ministry of Fisheries said millions of dollars worth of boats, vehicles and other fishing gear was seized by fisheries officers from greedy recreational thieves, organised fish thieves and commercial fishers breaking the law.

Owen Symmans, New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Chief Executive said it was great to see poachers being brought to justice, especially in cases of commercially valuable paua and rock lobster poaching.

“There are over 800,000 recreational fishers in New Zealand and if everyone takes a few more than allowed, or purposely steals these natural resources, we will all lose out. Our seafood resource is not only carefully managed for commercial benefit (seafood is New Zealand’s fifth largest export earner) but also so future generations can enjoy catching and eating New Zealand seafood.

“We are delighted with the work the Ministry of Fisheries has done over the past year, especially by showing that anyone involved in illegal fishing will be caught and severely punished. The New Zealand Seafood Industry Council supports MFish’s summer campaign ‘Size Does Matter’.”

Paua poachers rob New Zealanders of up to 400 tonnes of the valuable meat each year. In 2006 the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries ran the ‘Poaching is Theft’ campaign with great results.

“It is very important that we all understand the consequences of taking more than our share,” said Mr Symmans.

“The commercial fishing industry operates under the Quota Management System and by the philosophy that fishermen ‘fish to fish another day’. Non-compliance within our industry is not tolerated,” he said.

ENDS