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Trout farms risky - Fish & Game

By JOSH REICH - The Nelson Mail
Last updated 13:00 14/01/2010

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Fish and Game has dismissed suggestions that trout be commercially raised, saying the possible risk from disease and impact on those on fishing the species for fun is too great.

In a submission by Federated Farmers on restarting aquaculture, which is being looked at in the light of the release of a report from an aquaculture technical advisory group last year, president Don Nicolson said Federated Farmers believed there was considerable scope for land-based and freshwater aquaculture.

"We're looking to the future in order to generate opportunities to grow farming in all of its guises.

"This includes the farming of whitebait, freshwater mussels, eels as well as freshwater crayfish.

"Even paua can be farmed in land-based operations as is done in Australia.

"The one no-go area seems to be trout, which is odd, given trout is a member of the salmonidae family and there's no qualms about farming salmon."

Mr Nicolson said fly-fishing tourism in Scotland appeared to be unaffected by having sea-run trout sold in British supermarkets, and being able to buy salmon from retail outlets did not prevent others from trying to catch it wild.

He called for the repeal of the non-commercial status of the fish.

"I must ask why isn't New Zealand farming trout as we do salmon?"

"Lifting this ban creates a new business opportunity for the country."

Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game manager Neil Deans said the issue of commercially harvesting trout raised its head from time to time, and was like a "red rag to a bull" for many recreational anglers.

There were many arguments against the commercial farming of trout, including the risk from disease.

"There are a number of diseases which are rare in the wild population of the fish, but are not uncommon in facilities used for commercial growth ... then you start moving the fish around frequently and you can spread it to wild stocks."

Commercialising the resource would fundamentally alter its nature.

"For example, when you want to go fishing now, most landowners are relaxed within reason about access across their place or down a road or lane or something down to the river. If they realise there is money in that it becomes a completely different proposition.

"The resource as a whole becomes valued for a different reason."

Comparing trout and salmon was not a fair comparison.

"So you've got a less valuable product which is more expensive to grow [trout], and until recently the salmon industry in New Zealand was struggling, so you've got to ask yourself, 'Who would want to do it?'"

Ad Feedback

The call from Federated Farmers comes as anglers report huge trout are being caught in the top of the South Island thanks to a boom in the mouse population.

The Marlborough Express reported today that an Australian couple caught two 5.3kg brown trout, 20m apart, in the area. "A big fish like that only has to shake his head, he'll break the line," said Strike Adventure fishing guide Tony Entwistle.

"If they were humans they would be berated by the health professionals as being obese and yet trout fishermen find these fish attractive."

Mr Deans said trout grew quickly when feeding on mice, and he had heard of trout being caught with as many as 15 mice inside them.

"I don't know what goes through the minds of rodents to drive them into rivers, but if they go into the water they are vulnerable."

www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/3230225/Trout-farms-risky-Fish-Game

Fish and Game has dismissed suggestions that trout be commercially raised, saying the possible risk from disease and impact on those on fishing the species for fun is too great.

Chile - Norwegian investment in salmon farming

13 Jan 2010

The Norwegian AKVA group has signed a contract with Sealand Aquaculture S.A. to build a complete new salmon recirculation hatchery in Chile's 10th region. This system is the second recirculation system to be delivered to Sealand Aquaculture S.A.

The first system was delivered last year.

The new system has a capacity to produce 6 million smolts annually in 5 cycles of 1.2 million smolts. The system utilize both freshwater and saltwater sources to create an optimal fish production environment through all stages of the process from egg to smolt with high bio-security standards.

www.meatradenewsdaily.co.uk/news/130110/chile_norwegian_investme...

The Norwegian AKVA group has signed a contract with Sealand Aquaculture S.A. to build a complete new salmon recirculation hatchery in Chile's 10th region

Trout farm idea opposed due to risks | Otago Daily Times Online News

Sunday, 24 January 2010 2:24 PM

Trout farm idea opposed due to risks

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By [Rebecca Fox](#) on Thu, 14 Jan 2010

[News: Dunedin](#) | [Fish and Game](#) | [Fishing](#)

Any benefits from allowing commercial trout farming would be "heavily outweighed" by the risks to New Zealand's wild trout fishery, Otago Fish and Game chief executive, Niall Watson, says.

His comments follow a Federated Farmers call for the prohibition on the commercial farming of trout to be lifted, in its submission to the Government's review of aquaculture law reforms.

Federated Farmers president Don Nicolson said lifting the ban would create a new business opportunity for the country.

In Norway, trout farming was worth half a billion dollars annually to that country.

"The annual European Union harvest of farmed trout is 203,000 tonnes, which is just under half [the weight of] of our lamb exports," he said.

Fly-fishing in Scotland seemed completely unaffected by Loch Etive sea-run trout sold in British supermarkets, he said in a statement.

"Strategically, aquaculture has major economic potential for New Zealand that needs to be harnessed in order to grow our economy."

Mr Watson said the prohibition on trout farming in New Zealand was appropriate and Otago Fish and Game would be supporting a continuation in that policy.

Calls for allowing trout farming failed in the past because of the importance of the country's wild trout fishery as a tourism drawcard and the popularity of trout fishing.

"Most people consider the benefits from allowing trout farming are heavily outweighed by the risks."

Risks came from the commercialisation of what was a non-commercial fish species and would encourage trout poaching in vulnerable spawning streams of the Central North Island lakes.

"Commercial-scale poaching would be a very serious risk in that area as well as elsewhere in the country.

Monitoring and enforcement costs would be considerable and successful protection of wild fish stocks would be difficult."

A proliferation of fish farm operations could mean a much greater risk of disease transfer, he said.

"That carries risks for trout hatcheries used for stocking recreational fisheries and for the relatively dispersed salmon farming operations currently operating in New Zealand, as well as having implications for wild trout stocks."

The only consents for commercial aquaculture granted by the Otago Regional Council since 2004 were for taking seawater for shellfish storage.

rebecca.fox@odt.co.nz

www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/88863/trout-farm-idea-opposed-due-risks

Govt bullish on aquaculture

By Tony Haas - The Marlborough Express
Last updated 13:51 12/01/2010

Marlborough and Tasman have managed their aquaculture growth relatively well – and the government wants to reflect their approach throughout New Zealand, says fisheries minister Phil Heatley.

Submissions will be welcome to select committee hearings on aquaculture reform legislation this year.

In December, Mr Heatley received submissions from significant players on the report of the technical advisory group chaired by former Marlborough MP and fisheries minister Sir Doug Kidd. His assignment ended with the presentation of *Restarting Aquaculture*. Mr Heatley, who considers Sir Doug to have been a most respected fisheries minister, keeps in informal contact, using him as a sounding board.

Cabinet ministers Heatley, Gerry Brownlee and Nick Smith are to take submissions on the proposed reforms to Cabinet shortly and the Government's view about the general policy development can be expected publicly in the first quarter. Mr Heatley wants suggestions in the select committee to improve the proposed law "and to get aquaculture up and running".

He told the parliamentary bureau of Asia Pacific Economic News (Apen) the public will have certainty about the future shape of aquaculture law by mid 2010 and legislative certainty by year end.

Aquaculture aspires to be a billion-dollar industry by 2020, according to the briefing Mr Heatley received as incoming minister just over a year ago. What has changed?

"We can do better – this government offers step change. We are pro-growth within environmental boundaries. We are a can-do government, which sees the aquaculture industry as underperforming," he says.

Additional marine farming space, and more flexible use of existing space in which aquaculture businesses can operate are central to Mr Heatley's approach. He says the focus on better use of existing space had obscured the case for making more space available – and he expects the significant proportion of the new space aquaculture reforms will release is in the North Island.

The restrictions many councils have on aquaculture development are in his sights as he navigates through the legislative process. He wants higher-value species development and the use of technology within environmental boundaries.

Oysters, mussels and salmon are likely to remain important, but additional high-value species can include tuna, Mr Heatley says. Australians farm tuna in ranches. He says his officials would provide a list of other prospective species – the higher-value finfish and shellfish.

In answering the question about public concern that mussels might pollute the seabed over which they are hung on rope, the minister says swimmers can be comfortable farmers will be more concerned than they are that the water is clean enough.

Farmers need also be concerned that oxygen is not over depleted or farms could collapse. He says an environmentally friendly management tool is to periodically shift the farms – much like moving crops so land is fallow for a time.

He seeks to mitigate negative impacts on the environment. Technology is improving for marine farming. Stocking capacity is the issue.

Aquaculture reform will enable aquaculture development in other parts of New Zealand, such as Bay of Plenty, Northland and Napier.

There is limited additional space to allocate in the Marlborough Sounds – and the open sea nearby is probably too rough and windy.

But there are parts of New Zealand's deep water where technology has helped make aquaculture

possible – and consents have been granted in Bay of Plenty and Napier.

Better use of available marine areas is likely to be the Marlborough concern.

Marlborough will be particularly affected by reforms that enable marine space users to switch the use to different species.

Mr Heatley says marine farmers are focused on investments in water, on land and in markets and security of tenure is important.

Usually they obtain 10 to 15-year-long leases but Mr Heatley says he is sympathetic to 20-year leases, as recommended by Sir Doug.

Mr Heatley is also sensitive to the wishes of the Maori Party, What might lie ahead for the Government in aquaculture after the year of reform?

The Government has a role in food safety to give the international quality assurance sought in marketplaces. Europeans are interested in the environmental background to production, and Asian markets are interested in food safety and quality. These are free-trade issues, the fisheries minister says.

Apen's sources say investment by the Japanese Nissui in Sealord during the time of former chief executive Phil Lough had provision for the transfer of significant Japanese technology to New Zealand, but Mr Heatley says he was not informed on the point. Commenting on New Zealand Pacific islands aquaculture potential he says current interest was in co-operation over the wild fishery.

ahaas@decisionmaker.co.nz

www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/3223718/Govt-bullish-on-aq...

Marlborough and Tasman have managed their aquaculture growth relatively well – and the government wants to reflect their approach throughout New Zealand, says fisheries minister Phil Heatley.

☐ Scoop: Aquaculture To Grow The Economy

Sunday, 24 January 2010 2:10 PM

Aquaculture To Grow The Economy

Tuesday, 12 January 2010, 5:16 pm

Press Release: Federated Farmers

Aquaculture Is One Of Three Pillars To Grow The Economy

Federated Farmers believes aquaculture, along with minerals and the agricultural sector, provides three pillars for the transformation of the New Zealand economy.

"It's time for New Zealand to back the sectors that represent the sunrise," says Don Nicolson, President of Federated Farmers.

"By making water storage an infrastructural priority, New Zealand will future proof itself against climate variation. This infrastructure can further create new opportunities by way of in land and freshwater aquaculture.

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"It's not that New Zealand's running out of rain but the rain is literally running out of New Zealand. Northland has swung from floods last April to very dry conditions right now. It's time to smooth these climatic swings out.

"This is also about evolving farm practices and the species we farm commercially. It's about sensibly harvesting the fruits of the environment that benefit every New Zealander. "Federated Farmers is future focused and determined to ensure New Zealand agriculture can meet its many opportunities.

"I can't emphasise enough the strides farmers have made to lift production as well as their environmental performance. I'm pleased to talk any day of the week on how we've slashed the growth of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions through to improving water quality.

"Yet I can't stand the self-serving 'fear' every time the word progress is mentioned. Just look at the reaction to commercial trout farming.

"Fish & Game is, ironically, one of the largest trout farmers in New Zealand through its trout hatcheries. There's no need to import stock and as for poaching, total prohibition often creates a black market rather than prevents one.

"But it's not just trout but native fish species too, such as eels, whitebait, mussels and the freshwater crayfish/koura. This is potentially an environmental and economic win-win. Ready access to water could alleviate periods of low rainfall while potentially building a new industry.

"The solution is self-evident but needs political will behind it. That also extends to marine aquaculture as well as New Zealand's vast sea-floor and terrestrial minerals wealth.

"New Zealand has tremendous natural advantages that many countries don't. In a resource hungry world the demand for protein, fibre and minerals is set to soar but it remains just that, an opportunity, unless it is realised," Mr Nicolson concluded

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1001/S00113.htm>

Federated Farmers believes aquaculture, along with minerals and the agricultural sector, provides three pillars for the transformation of the New Zealand economy.

☐ Ten new marine farms approved in New Zealand

Friday, 8 January 2010 9:44 AM

Ten new marine farms approved in New Zealand

Monday, 21 December 2009 11:31

THE New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries has announced its recent decisions to approve ten new marine farms, totalling 3143 hectares, in the South Island.

A 2695 hectare farm, 14km offshore in Pegasus Bay north of Banks Peninsula in Canterbury forms the majority of this area. Approval has also been given for a 424 hectare marine farm in Clifford Bay on Marlborough's east coast with the remainder being 8 small marine farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

The Pegasus Bay Marine Farm will be New Zealand's second largest once it becomes operational. It will be comprised of four 515 hectare blocks with 500 metre wide 'fairways' between each block to allow boat traffic to pass through the area.

"I had to carefully consider whether each marine farm would unduly affect fishing or the sustainability of any fisheries resources," said Ministry of Fisheries Aquaculture Manager Dan Lees. "I am satisfied the farms will not have an 'undue' adverse effect."

"We paid particular attention to the possible importance of the Clifford Bay site to Hector's dolphins," said Mr Lees. "Three years of dolphin monitoring, however, has satisfied the Ministry the site is not likely to be of particular importance to the lifecycle of Hector's dolphins.

"We run an open process," said Mr Lees. "The Ministry released initial position papers on all of the ten applications, showing the Ministry's views at that stage. Everyone got to see what we were thinking and they were able to provide any extra information they wanted to have considered."

"I did not receive any extra information that gave me cause to change the initial positions and I have given the final approval for marine farming at the ten sites to go ahead."

www.fishnewseu.com/latest-news/world/2534-ten-new-marine-farms-appr...

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☐ Inquiry into seal deaths Tasmania News - The Mercury - The Voice of Tasmania

Friday, 8 January 2010 9:28 AM

Inquiry into seal deaths

PHILIPPA DUNCAN

December 20, 2009 08:18am

THE State Government has raided a farm and dug up dead seals after a tip-off that the protected mammals were killed.

Huon Aquaculture, which is near the farm near Dover where the seals were found, denies killing the

seals, which it says drowned in the fish farm's nets years ago.

The salmon farm's chief executive Peter Bender said Parks and Wildlife staff had arrived unannounced at the farm at Hideaway Bay a few months ago.

He said that without being told where to dig, they unearthed three dead seals on his father's nearby farm.

"I think they'd been there a long time," Mr Bender said.

"They don't decompose. It's sand.

"Certainly they [the carcasses] would have been seals that have got tangled up in the net and drifted up on the shore."

The investigators interviewed Mr Bender and some of his staff.

Gary Davies, of Wildlife Management, has confirmed the Parks and Wildlife Department is investigating an allegation seals have been illegally killed.

"As part of the investigation, a number of carcasses have been recovered," he said.

"All seals are protected in Tasmania and it an offence to harm them.

"Persons convicted of harming protected wildlife face penalties up to a maximum of \$12,000."

Huon Aquaculture is Australia's second-largest atlantic salmon grower and has been operating for more than 20 years.

Mr Bender said it was the first time Parks and Wildlife had raided the farm.

"I think someone has rung them. I suspect a disgruntled ex-employee," he said.

"We certainly don't condone the killing of seals. To the best of my knowledge, none of my employees would do that."

Fish farms have a constant battle to keep seals out of their fish pens.

Seals chew through nets and jump into the pens to feast on the salmon, costing the farms millions of dollars a year.

Tasmanian Conservation Trust seal expert Jon Bryan said the mammals loved salmon.

"If you're a seal, a fish like a salmon or trout is like a mixture of the best fast food you've ever had and heroin," he said.

Mr Bender last month told the Sunday Tasmanian seals had reached plague proportions and called for a targeted cull.

He said seals cost the business \$9 million a year in lost stock and cages.

"I don't support an overall cull," he said last month.

"What I do support is a program where seals that have been identified as repeatedly causing problems are destroyed."

Mr Davies said the deliberate harming of seals was an ongoing threat for the species.

He said that between 1998 and 2005, 25 seals had been identified as being shot in Tasmanian waters, accounting for 6 per cent of all reported and investigated seal deaths.

A further 4 per cent of recovered seals died of "injuries consistent with firearm wounds" and were "likely shot".

Mr Bryan said a seal cull would be extremely cruel.

"If you're on a moving platform such as a boat or a cage at say a fish farm and you're aiming at a seal that is 50m away, you have to be a pretty good shot," he said.

"If the animal is lucky it may bleed to death quickly, but it may survive for weeks, in agony."

www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/12/20/116851_tasmania-news.html

Inquiry into seal deaths THE State Government has raided a farm and dug up dead seals after a tip-off that the protected mammals were killed.

☐ Oysters feel the pinch - 17/12/2009

Friday, 8 January 2010 9:10 AM

Oysters feel the pinch

Thursday, 17/12/2009

Thousands of oysters have been stolen off New South Wales oyster farms, in the lead up to Christmas.

Police, Industry and Investment NSW and the NSW Food Authorities have stepped up surveillance through their 'Operation Trident'.

Fisheries officer John Timmins says there have been 14 thefts reported to date.

"I think people are aware that the oysters are out there, they go fishing and they can see them in baskets near the racks and they feel tempted and that's why we're ramping up to Trident to stamp this sort of activity out," he says.

"We've staked out the Wallis Lake and the Macleay area with the Police and we're going to do a lot more prior to Christmas and prior to Easter."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200912/s2774299.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

☐ Radio New Zealand News : Stories : 2009 : 12 : 17 : New marine farms approved

Friday, 8 January 2010 9:06 AM

New marine farms approved

Updated at 4:30pm on 17 December 2009

The Ministry of Fisheries has approved 10 new marine farms, increasing the area allocated to aquaculture by 3143 hectares.

A proposed new off-shore mussel farm at Pegasus Bay in Canterbury, which will be New Zealand's second largest marine farm, will take up most of that space.

A 424 hectare marine farm in Clifford Bay on Marlborough's east coast and eight small operations in the Marlborough Sounds have also been approved.

The ministry's aquaculture manager, Dan Lees, says none of the farms will affect the sustainability of the fishing resource.

He says the one off Pegasus Bay will be split into four areas of 515 hectares each.

Mr Lees says the ministry paid particular attention to protecting the Hector's dolphin before approving the Clifford Bay marine farm.

"A lot of concerns were raised because this area was thought to be important for Hector's dolphins.

"Three years of monitoring has now been conducted and it's looking like the site isn't of any particular significance for the dolphins."

Mr Lees says he expects work on the eight small farms in Marlborough Sounds to start early next year.

Minister wants more aquaculture space

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has welcomed the approvals.

But he says they were applied for years ago under the old aquaculture laws and no new marine farming space has been approved under the 2004 reforms.

Mr Heatley says aquaculture has huge potential for generating economic growth for New Zealand,

but more space must be allocated if the industry is to meet its target of being worth \$1 billion a year by 2025.

He says a technical advisory group is working to address the issue.

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<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2009/12/17/1245d9dc1d17>

☐ Aquaculture experts discuss way forward

Monday, 7 December 2009 10:25 AM

Aquaculture experts discuss way forward

Posted Tue Dec 1, 2009 1:46pm AEDT



Talks on future for aquaculture and bluefin tuna industry

- **Map:** [Adelaide 5000](#)
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- **Related Story:** [Bluefin quota to cost Australian fisheries millions](#)
- **Related Story:** [Warning bluefin fishing cuts will devastate industry](#)

Global aquaculture experts are meeting in Adelaide to discuss strategies and technologies to develop a sustainable bluefin tuna industry.

It was announced recently that Australia's catch quota would be cut by nearly 25 per cent over the next two years.

Port Lincoln fisherman Hagan Stehr says there is now a recognition that aquaculture is the only viable way of meeting a growing global demand for seafood.

"What we are trying to do now is create a sustainable industry for the world," he said.

"This has gone past South Australia or past Australia, this is the world event.

"The scientists came together to learn as much as they can from us, to be able to create a tuna sector which is sustainable for the future."

Mr Stehr says about 100 experts are involved in the meeting.

"Propagation of seafood is the step into the future. There is nothing else," he said.

"That is the only way we will be eating seafood into the years ahead and anyone who invests in sustainable aquaculture practices will make it big time in the future."

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/01/2758604.htm?section=australia

☐ Clean Seas to breed 25,000 tuna

Monday, 7 December 2009 10:20 AM

Clean Seas to breed 25,000 tuna

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NIGEL AUSTIN

December 01, 2009 02:00pm

THE future of the southern bluefin tuna industry lies in the efforts by Clean Seas Tuna to breed the species in captivity, its founder Hagen Stehr said today.

Speaking at an international aquaculture science symposium in Adelaide, Mr Stehr said the company aimed to breed and rear 25,000 southern bluefin tuna juveniles at Arno Bay in the coming year.

"This is a very conservative estimate as we are committed to walking before we run," Mr Stehr said.

"However, it is entirely within possibility that we will far exceed that number in the next few years given the success of our collaboration partner Kinki University in Japan with northern bluefin tuna.

Last month, Kinki University transferred 190,000 aquaculture-bred tuna juveniles from its hatchery into sea cages off Japan.

Kinki is expected to produce a total roughly equivalent to Australia's total adjusted southern bluefin tuna quota of 4015 tonnes.

"It is highly realistic that in the medium term, Clean Seas will achieve the same production levels, effectively duplicating Australia's southern bluefin tuna wild catch quota every year," Mr Stehr said.

The world's leading aquaculture scientists endorse his view with global leaders lining up to help and learn, he said.

Dusseldorf University Professor Chris Bridges said Clean Seas is on the same trajectory as Kinki University, while the future of European tuna production lay in similar aquaculture programs.

"The challenges faced by the Mediterranean fishery and the nature of solutions being developed by Kinki and Clean Seas extend both to other fisheries around the world and to other species," he said.

"It explains the high level of interest from around the world in this symposium and in the results being achieved by Clean Seas."

Mr Stehr said Clean Seas had achieved in three years, what Kinki had pioneered with northern bluefin tuna in the past 36 years.

He praised the global view on food security demonstrated by Kinki and the Japanese government through their provision of technical support to Clean Seas breeding program.

Mr Stehr said aquaculture was the only viable means of meeting the growing demand for protein-rich seafood with aquaculture predicted to supply more than 50 per cent of global production within two to three years.

The second Global Centre of Excellence Symposium of Kinki University is being hosted by the Adelaide-based Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre and Clean Seas Tuna.

More than 100 aquaculture scientists, academics and technicians are attending the symposium at the South Australian Research and Development Institute at West Beach.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26425917-913,00.html>

☐ Clean Seas presses on with tuna farm

Monday, 7 December 2009 10:19 AM

Clean Seas presses on with tuna farm

- Gavin Lower
- From: [The Australian](#)
- December 02, 2009 12:00AM
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CAPITALISING on world-leading science, South Australian tuna magnate Hagen Stehr is to commercially farm southern bluefin tuna.

Mr Stehr, whose successful spawning of the fish in captivity was named Time Magazine's second best invention this year, said his company, Clean Seas Tuna, was preparing to spawn 25,000 of the prized fish and planned to replace, within five years, Australia's entire 23 per cent quota cut (1250 tonnes).

Australia's tuna quota was cut from 5265 tonnes to 4015 tonnes in October, after a meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. The cut was part of a 20 per cent worldwide reduction in the catch, amid fears stocks could collapse.

Last month, Time declared Clean Seas's achievement of getting the notoriously fussy southern bluefin tuna to spawn in tanks at its facility on the Eyre Peninsula was second only to NASA's Ares 1 rocket for world's best invention.

Start of sidebar. [Skip to end of sidebar.](#)

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- [Clean Seas to breed 25,000 tuna](#) *Adelaide Now, 5 days ago*
- [Clean Seas hopes to be \\$1bn big fish](#) *Adelaide Now, 5 days ago*
- [Up there in stratosphere with NASA](#) *The Australian, 20 Nov 2009*
- [NASA pips Aussie fisho as best inventor](#) *The Australian, 17 Nov 2009*
- [Bluefin fame for Hagen's farm](#) *Adelaide Now, 17 Nov 2009*

End of sidebar. [Return to start of sidebar.](#)

Mr Stehr said the company's broodstock, with individual specimens weighing 200kg, were being prepared to spawn again.

"The cycle at this stage is looking extremely well," he said.

"It looks a lot lot better than it looked in past years and the fish are in immaculate condition."

Mr Stehr said when spawned fish were about a month old they were moved from the land-based tanks into sea cages where they were grown for consumption.

"The payback time is just coming now," he said.

Marine biologist Chris Bridges, of Dusseldorf University, said it was "highly realistic" that Clean Seas would achieve the same production levels as its project partner, Kinki University in Japan, which is propagating northern bluefin tuna.

Kinki University transferred last month 190,000 aquaculture-bred northern bluefin tuna juveniles from its hatchery into sea cages off Japan.

"While Clean Seas is targeting lower production initially, the sophistication of its unique land-based facility . . . should allow greater control over accelerating its production trajectory," Professor Bridges said

www.theaustralian.com.au/clean-seas-presses-on-with-tuna-farm/story...

CUBA: Sponge Farms - New Source of Bounty from the Sea

By Patricia Grogg*

CARAHATAS, Cuba, Nov 30 (Tierramérica) - The ocean punishes Carahatas every time a hurricane tears through the region. The sea combines with the flow of a nearby river, and floods the houses with water a metre and a half deep, or more. Nevertheless, the residents of this Cuban town are deeply attached to the sea.

"When I go several days without seeing the ocean, I get upset. If a cyclone comes and tears down the house, as long as one wall is left standing and I can put up as much as a tent, I'm staying here. And there are many more like me," said Neldys Vivero, 50, born and raised in this fishing village on Cuba's northeast coast, in the province of Villa Clara.



Neldys Vivero says there will be jobs for women on the new sponge farms.

Credit: Patricia Grogg/IPS

In 1985, Hurricane Kate left her parents and many other residents of Carahatas homeless. They were taken to Lutgardita, a community built four kilometres away. "Now I go to see them, and I can't stay more than 20 minutes because it is so small, and it's just not for me," she said in a conversation with Tierramérica.

Estrella Machado, 88, says the reason for her deep love for the sea is simple: "It's what there is most of. At least when it comes to jobs, what there is most is fishing."

The "only fisherwoman" in the community until 1985, Machado points out that "there used to be more fish."

Vivero agrees. She began fishing as a child with Machado and her husband. "I remember that between the three of us we would pull up a basket with 40, 50, even 70 pounds (18, 23 and 32 kilograms) of 'pagro' (red porgy). Today, at the most, you'll find five or six pagros in a basket," she said.

Most of the 300 families in Carahatas are aware of at least some of the causes of the decline in marine life. "The big bottom trawlers finish off the young. We never used the trawler nets. We fished with baskets or with hook and line," Machado said.

According to Vivero, the bottom trawler technique - and its negative impacts on undersea vegetation and fish stocks - was introduced in the area in the 1970s. "We didn't have a clear notion of the harm it was causing."

A natural community leader who was re-elected many times as citizen representative for one of the two administrative districts in the area, Vivero says that most local fishers now recognise how aggressive trawling is, although it is currently regulated.

Trawlers are used to catch the fish species that gather in undersea channels and in seaweed beds before they migrate in schools to their breeding areas. The result is that the fish are caught before they can reproduce, thus compromising future stocks.

But that isn't the only challenge in Carahatas, which neighbours Las Picúas-Cayo Cristo Wildlife Refuge, a protected area of 40,250 marine hectares and 15,720 land hectares.

The liquid and solid waste that the local population dumps along the coast, as well as deforestation, also affect the marine habitat and are among the problems to be tackled in a plan outlined by a project financed by the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility.

Channelled through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the project for the "Alternative Use of Natural Resources in the Coastal Community of Carahatas" proposes, among

other aims, the cultivation of sea sponges as an employment option for fisherfolk committed to methods other than trawler fishing.

Felisberto Rodríguez, 45, one of the first local residents to understand the need for alternatives, explained that the Carahatas fishers never thought that sea sponges could be farmed. But now that they have seen the initial results they are just waiting for the farms to be expanded so they can join the initiative.

Rodríguez worked on the experimental cultivation of two sea hectares in the effort overseen by Ángel Quirós, an expert from the marine ecology group of the government's Centre for Environmental Studies and Services (CESAM) of Villa Clara, 276 km from Havana.

The plan now is to cultivate 12 hectares, which in one year are expected to yield one tonne of sponges that would sell for more than 15,000 dollars on the international market. According to calculations by Quirós, the area has the potential for about 15 sponge farms, each run by two people.

"I already have planted three areas of more than 100 square metres each. The sea itself provides the 'seed'," said Rodríguez. "Each sponge can be divided into 30 pieces, and that has to be done in the water. I like to be in the ocean depths. Sponge growth is slow, but when the harvests begin, everyone will see the results."

Quirós defends this unique crop as a sustainable, inexpensive and environmentally friendly option because it does not create pollution, alter the habitat or produce waste - nor does it suffer the effects of climate change. Furthermore, he assures that these invertebrates have a secure market, primarily in Europe.

"The sponges remain submerged even if the sea level decreases or increases. Because they grow in areas of stronger water circulation, they aren't affected by fluctuations in temperature. In addition, the farms create shelters for small organisms and for the offspring of larger animals," said the marine biologist.

Neldys Vivero admits that in the beginning she didn't see the potential of sponge farming. But now she is convinced that the Carahatas coast "is very suitable, with many good sites for this crop," which will provide employment for many women and men in this small town.

"Interest will increase as the commercialisation begins and expands," she said. With stable production, industrial processing of the sea sponge would turn into a good source of employment for women, according to Vivero. Here, 67 percent of the women work in their homes, and of those, "35 or 36 percent are asking for jobs," she said.

The initiative, coordinated by María Elena Perdomo, of CESAM, has included workshops on environmental education, reforestation, and proposals for reducing pollution, such as creating a dump outside the town.

It also produced a guide for growing sea sponges and a manual of best environmental practices in coastal zones.

"We were able to convince people of the importance of taking care of resources and how to use them in a better way. They also gave us a lot of information... Now the people feel ownership for what they are doing," said Vivero.

(*This story was originally published by Latin American newspapers that are part of the Tierramérica network. Tierramérica is a specialised news service produced by IPS with the backing of the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank.) (END/2009)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=49474>

Greenlip Abalone Offers Refreshing Opportunities To Restaurants For Creation Of New

Monday, 7 December 2009 9:47 AM

Greenlip Abalone Offers Refreshing Opportunities To Restaurants For Creation Of

New Signature Dishes

Posted: 29-11-2009 , 08:50 GMT

The versatility of the well known delicacy called Greenlip Abalone inspired Top Chef's Chef Christophe Prudhomme (Executive Chef Al Bustan Rotana Hotel) and Chef Jordi Servalls Bonilla (Executive Sous Chef Marriott Harbour Hotel & Residence) to create new signature dishes prepared especially to celebrate the introduction of this first class mollusc to the Gulf Region by Western Australian Abalone Ltd. today at the Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai.

"Abalones are highly sought after by Chinese and Japanese Chefs for sushi and other Asian dishes, it is so versatile you can create a lot of culinary masterpieces from it - also European dishes", says Chef Christophe Prudhomme, who created 15 surprising new dishes tasted by more than twenty chefs from upper level restaurants participating in workshops spearheaded by Chef Christophe Prudhomme and Chef Jordi Servalls Bonilla. During the workshops the culinary colleagues discussed the interesting possibilities of incorporating Abalones into their cuisine.

Besides the much appreciated support from the Al Bustan Rotana Hotel and its sister hotels across the United Arab Emirates, the Chefs of the following hotels & restaurants participated in the workshops Sheraton, Radisson Blu, The Edge, The Capital Club, Courtyard Marriott, Kitsune, Cavalli Club, Dubai Golf Creek, Raffles and many more.

Page 2/more

"Abalone is a type of shellfish, a gastropod mollusk", explains Tony Howard, Chief Executive Officer of WAA. "The inside of a shell is brilliantly coloured with iridescent blues, greens and pinks. The meat of this mollusk is considered a delicacy in certain parts of Latin America (especially Chile), France, New Zealand, South East Asia, and East Asia (especially in China, Japan, and Korea). What is Caviar to the Russians, is Abalone to the Chinese. It is considered a luxury item, and is traditionally reserved for special occasions such as weddings and other celebrations. Receiving an Abalone gift back for Chinese New year is the highest honour one can receive in Chinese Culinary Culture".

Western Australian Abalone Ltd. (WAA) produces first grade greenlip abalone from the pristine waters of southern Western Australia. They have created a world class facility that is producing large quantities of premium grade green lip abalone to supply the ever increasing demand for high quality abalone. They successfully supply to the Australian domestic market and export to Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Macau, mainland China and now as well to the Gulf region.

For the distribution of the Greenlip Abalone for the Gulf Region, WAA partnered up with SAHAM Hospitality Supply Chain services, a service provider and one-stop-shop situated in Al Quoz, Dubai, part of the Belselah Group of Companies. The office will have stock available year round to cater for short notice deliveries of abalone products throughout the Gulf region

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French oyster farmers suffer from wave of thefts

A shortage of shellfish created by a virus has led rogue growers to steal from their colleagues

- [Buzz up!](#)
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- [Lizzy Davies](#)
- [The Observer](#), Sunday 29 November 2009
- [Article history](#)

The run-up to Christmas should be a time of big business and high spirits for the oyster farmers of France. In anticipation of the lavish plates that will be served up and savoured in dining rooms from Paris to Perpignan, demand is soaring and orders are flooding in.

But the mood among beleaguered producers in the Bay of Arcachon is far from celebratory. They know that many of this year's delicacies will have been stolen from their harvesters – and they suspect that rogue members of the profession are the culprits. Local police say some 15-16 tonnes of oysters have been stolen this year from under the noses of the farmers in the *bassin* – a threefold increase on last year.

The sharp increase in thefts, a familiar problem in the world's fourth-largest oyster producer, is blamed on the herpes-like virus that has blighted the shellfish for the past two years. The rarer the product, insiders say, the more tempting is its theft.

But what makes the trend particularly unpleasant for the farmers in the Bay of Arcachon, France's leading oyster-farming area on the southwestern Atlantic coast, is that they do not believe that outsiders are responsible for the rustling. Instead they point the finger at some of their colleagues.

"As there has been a high rate of mortality, the producers are lacking shells. And as businesses have been more than affected in recent years, some of them no longer hesitate to replenish their stocks by helping themselves to their neighbours'," said Olivier Laban, president of the Arcachon oyster farmers.

As a result, festive cheer is in short supply in the bay, a crucial location for France's €1bn (£908m) per year industry. "It's a big disappointment and I'm almost ashamed to say it," Laban told *La Dépêche*. "It's awful because it creates a kind of suspicion and a bad atmosphere among us. If it goes on, soon we'll be hiding our oyster sacks like you hide gold bars."

Vincent Eyquem, a farmer from the village of Gujan-Mestras who fell victim to the thieves in October, agreed. "Next year we're going to have to have a padlock on each sack," he said, explaining that two tonnes of oysters that he had packed and were ready for delivery "vanished" overnight. He estimates the loss at €8,500 – a high price to pay in an industry already struggling to cope with the effects of the OshV-1 virus, which is believed to have killed billions of young oysters in French waters since last year.

A spokesman for the Arcachon nautical police brigade, whose job it is to patrol the coastline and keep a watch out for unusual activity in the *parcs*, or farms, agreed that most of the time the thefts were carried out by professionals. "You can't be an amateur sailor. To steal oysters in those quantities you've got to have a proper boat," he said.

But he emphasised the difficulty in catching the culprits. "We know that they go out either well before low tide or well after low tide," he said. "But it's very hard to know which boat, at which location, at which time."

To combat the rise in thefts, police have stepped up their presence at sea this season and have increased their helicopter surveillance of the area. They are also trying to carry out checks on any boats returning to shore unusually late at night.

Laban and other farmers, however, are pushing for more effective action to discourage the thieves, including harsher penalties for those caught. They say they would like to see those found guilty "thrown out of the profession for life".

At the moment those found guilty are subject to a fine; a prison sentence is only applicable to re-offenders. Three oyster farmers, successfully prosecuted by police at the beginning of this year, are still working in the *bassin* having paid their fines, much to the annoyance of other producers.

Full steam ahead for tuna hatchery

Sunday, 29 November 2009 5:57 PM

Full steam ahead for tuna hatchery

CHRISTOPHER COOTE

26 Nov, 2009 12:30 AM

CLEAN Seas has contractors working "flat to the board" to prepare its new southern bluefin tuna hatchery in time to have fingerlings ready to shift to sea cages early next year.

Five cranes were used to lift the roof of the new hatchery into place on Monday, which is expected to be finished by the middle of February next year.

The hatchery, which is larger than the existing tuna facility, is one of two being built at the moment.

Clean Seas is building a temporary facility as well in case the tuna broodstock produce fertilised eggs before the permanent hatchery is ready.

Company chairman Hagen Stehr, who will step down from the role at the annual general meeting next Monday, said the new hatchery is a lot larger than the existing facility, and it being built in such a way that it can be added on to as the company grows.

Adding to the urgent need for infrastructure is that Clean Seas also needs to spawn its yellowtail kingfish at the same time so those eggs can be used to feed the tuna as they grow into fingerlings, before they are put into sea cages.

"We're coming up to a very busy but exciting time for the company," Mr Stehr said.

"It is crucial we get this right so Australia can continue to supply tuna to the rest of the world."

A small number of surviving southern blufin tuna that were bred by Clean Seas earlier this year have been shifted to an onshore dam at the Arno Bay facility and have grown substantially

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/full-steam-ah...

Abalone farm's \$270,000 grant

Sunday, 29 November 2009 5:56 PM

Abalone farm's \$270,000 grant

26 Nov, 2009 04:41 PM

Kangaroo Island Abalone has received a State Government grant of \$270,000 to upgrade electricity infrastructure at its east farm.

The farm has been run solely on diesel generated power since 2005 and general manager Justin Harman said the new infrastructure could halve the company's annual diesel fuel bill for that farm. The company spends about \$250,000 a year on diesel.

The innovative new system will connect the farm to the main electricity grid but have the capacity to disconnect it when the load reaches network limit on Kangaroo Island. Diesel generation would then automatically kick in.

Mr Harman said the business had grown stronger since it was placed into administration two years ago.

The business came out of administration in July last year and was sold to South Seas Abalone which also runs farms at Port Lincoln and Portland, Victoria.

"Having the other farms in the groups has given us the ability to have more expertise and to benchmark ourselves," Mr Harman said.

The abalone industry had been affected by the global financial crisis which had forced the Kangaroo Island farm to diversify its markets.

It had worked in the past two years on expanding its market beyond Japan into China, the east coast of the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

It is almost ready to launch its new value-added product. The ready-to-eat flavoured packaged abalone was in the final stages of development.

Meanwhile, the island's other major abalone business Island Abalone, has been placed into voluntary administration.

Director Bill Marmion said a failed sale contract with Destiny Abalone had forced the group's hand.

"We found ourselves in a difficult position with mounting debts after the sale fell through," Mr Marmion said. "We are looking at a plan to move forward."

Manager Tim Pengilly and six staff would continue to be employed.

Shauna Black

www.theislanderonline.com.au/news/local/news/general/abalone-farms-...

☐ According to WWF Chile, around 1.7 million salmon annually escape from farms.

Sunday, 29 November 2009 5:56 PM



According to WWF Chile, around 1.7 million salmon annually escape from farms. (Photo: WWF)

WWF study warns of salmon escapes



CHILE

Thursday, November 26, 2009, 15:30 (GMT + 9)

Up to 1.7 million salmon escape from farms every year in Chile, according to a report from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) about salmon escapes in the country and the negative consequences that they can have socially and environmentally.

The report, titled Salmon escapes in Chile, events, impacts, mitigation and prevention, was created through an agreement signed between WWF-Chile and the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO).

In the document, the investigators Maritza Sepúlveda (University of Valparaíso), Francisca Farías and Eduardo Soto, emphasise that salmon escapes in Chile surpass those countries with similar production, such as Norway, by 15 times.

According to the coordinator of the Aquaculture Program of WWF Chile, Paula Moreno, the publication is the first in which Chile is the focus of salmon escapes from farms.

According to Sepúlveda, the main causes of escapes in the regions of Los Lagos and Aysén are to do with climactic conditions and factors associated with the manipulation of the fish, such as harvest.

Factors such as lack of maintenance in structures, the changing of nets and the influence of predators also affect escapes.

The WWF study also shows that only 3 per cent of the

escaped salmon are then recaptured.

For this reason, Sepúlveda stresses the need to focus efforts on the prevention of these cases, rather than mitigation or recapture.

Some of the main environmental impacts of salmon escapes include:

- Destruction of native fauna by salmon
- Competition with other species which require similar nutrients;
- Situations which alter the composition, diversity and function of marine ecosystems;
- The establishment of reproductive populations in Chilean rivers and lakes;
- An increased danger of the transmission of pathogens and illnesses produced by the interaction of salmon with wild fauna.



*WWF Chile presenting its report.
(Photo: WWF Chile)*

The social impacts include the risk caused to the health of people who eat escaped salmon, which can cause the generation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The Chilean branch of the NGO puts emphasis on the prevention of escapes with the need to modify the design of structures, nets and finances, taking into account the oceanographic conditions in cultivation sites.

The WWF also recommends a greater control over and an improvement on the everyday practices in Chilean salmon centres, and suggests that companies take a more active role in the prevention of escapes.

Finally, the study indicates the need for the state to be able to count on a robust and integrated information system, which can register large and small escapes, with control mechanisms and verification for the data entered.

Related articles:

- [Salmon farms investigated for fish escapes](#)
- [Salmon escape from Mainstream farm in the thousands](#)

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☐ Confusion over special licence and the 40,000 fish question

Sunday, 29 November 2009 5:46 PM

Confusion over special licence and the 40,000 fish question

By Dan MacLennan, Courier-Islander November 25, 2009

Special licences allowing fish farmers to fish for escaped Atlantic salmon were implemented to speed up recapture efforts, says a Department of Fisheries and Oceans manager.

But it appears confusion surrounding DFO licensing policy may have hindered efforts to recapture the 40,000 Atlantics that escaped Marine Harvest's Port Elizabeth farm last month. Reports say thousands of the escaped fish schooled just outside the fish farm pens for hours on Oct. 21 but the fish had largely dispersed by the time Marine Harvest brought a seiner up from Campbell River the following afternoon. Marine Harvest said another seiner already on scene was not asked to attempt

recapture because it was not approved on the company's ZZA license. Less than 1,200 of the escaped fish were recaptured.

Andrew Thomson, DFO's Pacific Region director of aquaculture management, says the ZZA licence was created to allow companies to begin recapture immediately, without the need to contact DFO for permission to fish.

"(For) example, if there was an escape in the middle of the night, it's very difficult of course, to get a hold of somebody from Fisheries and Oceans to allow for a recapture fishery to occur," he said. "They have this licence in hand and can action a fishery without that permission because we've already pre-authorized it."

Thomson said the ZZA licence allows for one pre-authorized seine boat to fish within one nautical mile of the escape site, within 24 hours of the escape. The seiner must have a live brailing ability - the capacity to separate and release any wild fish that may be caught, known as 'by-catch'.

But he said regulations around recapture efforts are more flexible than some people, or fish farm companies might understand.

"We have the ability to issue a fishing permit as a special collection permit to allow recapture of fish, when requested to do so," he said. "The other thing we can do is upon request we can change the conditions of the ZZA, if Fisheries and Oceans feels there's not much chance of an impact to wild stocks and if the company that's applying thinks there's a reasonable chance for recapture of farm fish."

So Marine Harvest could have asked for a change in the conditions of its ZZA licence.

"Certainly, there is that mechanism to do so," Thomson said. "I'm not sure if the company understood that or not, but there is more flexibility in the system than maybe some people understand. In a case beyond the conditions of the ZZA licence, we do have to assess whether there's going to be an impact to wild stocks. That's our primary concern. Recapture is a good thing but we don't want to do it and impact a lot of wild stock."

On Monday, Marine Harvest's Clare Backman said he hadn't yet had a chance to talk to Thomson about that "so (I) really can't comment on that until we've had an opportunity to go through it with DFO.

"We've asked for some meetings in that regard so we're looking forward to going through all that with them," he told the Courier-Islander.

Thomson said DFO is open to improvements. "If there's better ways of getting at the problem without incurring an impact to wild resources, that's exactly what we want to be doing," he said.


The irony of the situation is not lost on biologist Alexandra Morton. She sees Marine Harvest's interpretation of the ZZA licence as a hindrance to the recapture of the Port Elizabeth escapees, while DFO describes the ZZA licence as a means to assist recapture efforts.

"Like every other experience I've had around salmon farms and Fisheries Act infractions, it's very confusing," she said. "Nobody really seems to know what's going on.

"My question again to Marine Harvest is did you really do your best to get these fish back or was it that you did not want them back? What I'm hearing right now is that Marine Harvest could have recovered these fish and did not. I really encourage DFO to investigate this and think about laying some charges because that is how you get people to comply with the law."

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www.canada.com/Confusion+over+special+licence+fish+question/2262627...

 Fish farmers hit by salmon disease to benefit from new European funding

Sunday, 29 November 2009 5:45 PM

Fish farmers hit by salmon disease to benefit from new European funding

November 25th, 2009 by [Louise Thomason](#)  [Leave A Comment](#)

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Salmon farms off the west of Shetland were hit by the ISA outbreak. Click on image to enlarge.

Fish farmers in Shetland who were affected by the outbreak of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) in the past year are among those to benefit from the latest round of European fisheries grants worth more than £9 million.

There have been six cases of ISA since January, most recently at a site owned by Skelda Salmon Farms Ltd. That company is to receive a grant of £346,248 towards a £466,000 project to trial mooring grids to test strains in different environmental conditions.

Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd, three of whose fish farms were hit by ISA, will get £615,218 to put towards equipment for a new site, upgrading of existing equipment, protecting against seal predation and pilot projects to improve the accuracy of determining biomass data within cages and evaluate feed formulations. The company is investing a total of over £1.2 million.

Lakeland Unst Freshwater, which is based at Haroldswick in Unst, is to receive £7,350 towards a £30,000 project to renew oxygen injection and supply at its hatchery; the NAFC Marine Centre in Scalloway will collect £84,000 towards a pilot project to evaluate and monitor sea lice resistance to chemical treatments; and umbrella organisation Shetland

Aquaculture will get almost £130,000 towards developing a sustainable area/farm management structure in the fin fish sector and developing and delivering a course on fish welfare.

In all, Shetland businesses and organisations will receive just over £2 million of the £9.3 million awarded by the European Fisheries Fund.

Shetland fishing boats *Guardian Angell*, *Quiet Waters*, *Renown*, *Valhalla* and *Venturous* will receive more than £60,000 between them for various improvements.

In the shellfish sector, Demlane Ltd has been awarded £220,910 in development costs while Olnafirth Seafarm Ltd. will get more than £15,000 for improvements to existing mussel farms. Langsound Shellfish will get £20,000 towards a new shore station and Lakeland Unst Freshwater will get £30,000 for improvement works.

Whalsay Fish Processors Ltd., which was recently kept afloat by a council loan and placed under new management, will receive £137,000 for a new freezer and defroster.

Finally, Shetland Seafood Auctions is to get £27,000 towards its electronic auction system; Lerwick Harbour is to collect more than £50,000 for power outlets at Morrison Dock; and R H Henderson Ltd. is to get £31,000 for enhancement work on its ice plant.

Scottish environment minister Roseanna Cunningham said: "The aquaculture industry is the lifeblood of many rural and coastal communities and widely regarded as the only way of meeting the growing global demand for seafood.

"Our new ministerial group on aquaculture is reviewing the containment and treatment of ISA. We are backing this up with substantial investment to help those firms affected by the outbreak get back on their feet. I am also pleased that Scotland's growing shellfish sector stands to benefit from this latest round of funding."

Fisheries minister Richard Lochhead said he hoped the grants would help the fishing industry get over what he said had been a "difficult year" and create positive opportunities for the future.

Mr Lochhead said: "Fishing is a key industry for Scotland supporting many coastal and rural communities. Taken together, fisheries, fish farming and processing generate over £1 billion each year for the Scottish economy.

"There is no question that 2009 has been a difficult year for some fleets, and 2010 will also be challenging. This funding provides further evidence that we will stand shoulder to shoulder with our fishing industry and processors and are determined to maximise the value of the catch and help them to achieve greater profitability.

"The substantial funding to improve training and encourage more young skippers into the industry is particularly encouraging."

www.shetlandtimes.co.uk/2009/11/25/fish-farmers-hit-by-salmon-disea...

☐ Aquaculture changes will come at cost - experts

Tuesday, 24 November 2009 6:20 PM

Aquaculture changes will come at cost - experts

By JOSH REICH and NZPA - The Nelson Mail

Last updated 13:00 24/11/2009

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Recreational and commercial fishermen are concerned about the possible loss of water space if plans to expand the marine farming industry take off.

Among the proposals in the aquaculture technical advisory group report released in Nelson by Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley earlier this month are the creation of an aquaculture agency within the Ministry of Fisheries, the appointment of a minister of aquaculture, lifting the ban on industry development outside aquaculture management areas and redesign of the undue adverse effects test on fishing.

The aquaculture industry, which is hoping to be a billion-dollar industry by 2025, has supported many of the recommendations, saying development has stagnated because of the regulatory environment.

However, Mariri's Geoff Rowling, president of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council, said he was alarmed by how the changes may affect amateur fishermen.

"It sounds like we're going back to the bad old days where anyone can apply for a piece of aquaculture anywhere they like and then the rest of us have to try to defend that sea space.

Before a moratorium was placed on the development of new aquaculture space at the start of the decade, there was a rash of applications for marine farms that took up productive fishing grounds in Tasman and Golden bays, and the Marlborough Sounds, Mr Rowling said.

"Well, if we're going to revert to that kind of regime it will just be total disaster."

He said there was the chance of conflict if aquaculture space was granted over productive scallop beds as commercial fishermen would try to assert rights over areas they now allowed recreational fishermen to use.

"Is that the way Government and the marine farming industry wants us to be in our marine environment? Do we want to be fighting each other?"

"It's hugely unproductive."

Motueka-based Federation of Commercial Fishermen president Doug Saunders-Loder said any change to the undue adverse effects test would be of concern as at present it allowed commercial interests to protect their fishing rights: "To lose that would simply mean we would have no negotiating power."

Mr Saunders-Loder said the advancement of the aquaculture industry was positive, provided it did not impact on other users of marine space and resources.

Environmental Defence Society coastal policy researcher Raewyn Peart questioned the credibility of the proposed changes. Some recommendations were sensible, she said, such as a per-hectare levy on marine farms to help cover costs and avoid a "gold-rush" for free space.

But the advisory group's dual role as industry watchdog and industry promoter were incompatible, she said.

www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/3092400/Aquaculture-changes-will-c...

☐ Salmon farming fury

Tuesday, 24 November 2009 8:55 AM

Salmon farming fury



[Wild pink salmon infected with sea lice near a salmon farm in British Columbia](#)

Photograph: Alexandra Morton

DEREK EVANS

NORWAY HAS closed 100 of its fjords to salmon farming to protect its wild stock, John Mulcahy, chairman of Save the Swilly (Ireland) told a packed audience following the screening of *Farmed Salmon Exposed: The Global Reach of the Norwegian Salmon Farming Industry* in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.

The 23-minute documentary lifts the lid on the problems caused by open net cage salmon farms worldwide and reveals the pervasive nature of the issues plaguing salmon aquaculture today. As part of a Global Week of Action, premieres took place in Edinburgh, Dundonnell and Oban in Scotland; Santiago in Chile; Washington; Vancouver; and Oslo and Bergen in Norway. Further screenings in Orkney, Shetland, Arran, London, Las Vegas, Santa Cruz, Puerto Varas, Ancud and Vancouver Island

are planned.

The film features ghillie Brian Fraser from Scotland; John Mulcahy; Orri Vigfusson from North Atlantic Salmon Fund in Iceland; Alexandra Morton and Dr Daniel Pauly from British Columbia; Dr Matthias Gorny from Oceana in Chile as well as Sven Helge Pedersen, King Harald and Vegard Heggem in Norway.

Dr Roderick O'Sullivan, a long-standing campaigner against salmon farming, said he stood up at a meeting in Co Kerry 20 years ago and said more or less what we saw today; nothing has changed.

"When the Norwegians came here at the invitation of the Irish government they were well aware of the problems in Norway – lice and genetic contamination – and yet they remained silent," said Dr O'Sullivan. "It was a considerable amount of time before the real facts became obvious, and now we see it. These aren't new facts – they have been there all the time. The government scientists know about it, the fish farms know about it, but why they are allowed to continue is beyond my comprehension. In my 30 years in fighting for this cause and banging my head against a wall I have come to a personal conclusion: when you see something that cries in the face of common sense, and it seems all environmental laws are thrown out the window, there must be another reason.

"Perhaps those that hold the reins of power or who are able to tweak the reins can help. I have done all I can and there is very little we as concerned citizens can do. I just hope that something will change by those in power."

Dr O'Sullivan thanked Don Stanford for putting on the fascinating show. "It is through people like him that we know what is going on today," he said.

The Pure Salmon Campaign (PSC) is a global project with partners in Scotland, Ireland, Norway, United States, Canada, Australia and Chile all working to raise standards on salmon farms. For more information about PSC and the fourth annual Global Week of Action, go to puresalmon.org and farmedsalmonexposed.org

The Salmon Watch Ireland annual conference will be held in the Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick at 2.30pm this Saturday, November 28th. This year's theme is "What is the future for our spring salmon?" The speakers are Dr Philip Mc Ginnity, University College Cork; Dr Niall O'Maoileidigh, Marine Institute and Dr Paddy Gargan, Central Fisheries Board.

This is a topic of abiding interest for salmon anglers, fishery managers and conservationists generally, and is expected to encompass the distilled knowledge and wisdom of three of Ireland's most eminent salmon scientists. All are welcome and admission is free.

Irish Angler magazine is pleased to announce the Irish Open Fly Tying Championships. Tyers will be challenged to tie examples of four traditional Irish flies, plus a salmon fly on the theme of the River Blackwater and a saltwater pattern of their choice.

The flies will be judged by Peter Dunne, Mike Shanks and Peter Kealey, and medals will be awarded in each category along with valuable prizes.

Further details available at irishangler.com.

www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/1123/1224259295178.html

☐ Australia - Fish farming

Monday, 23 November 2009 9:18 PM

Australia - Fish farming

23 Nov 2009

An Australian company's breakthrough in the breeding of Southern Bluefin Tuna in captivity has been named as the world's second best invention of the year by international magazine Time.

Time magazine has named the work of Australian aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna Limited and its founder Hagen Stehr at the top of its 50 Best Inventions of 2009.

The company's propagation of aquaculture bred Southern Bluefin Tuna at its purpose built hatchery at Arno Bay, South Australia came second on Time's list of the 50 Best Inventions of 2009 behind "the best and smartest and coolest thing built in 2009" – NASA's Ares 1 rocket – and ahead of the AIDS vaccine.

Commenting on Clean Seas' breakthrough breeding programme, Time magazine says "by coaxing the notoriously fussy Southern Bluefin to breed in landlocked tanks, Clean Seas may finally have given the future of bluefin aquaculture legs (or at least a tail.)"

Mr Stehr said the Clean Seas team and its collaborators were delighted by international recognition of the company's breakthrough and excited by its commercial potential and its potential to provide a sustainable source of quality seafood for a protein hungry world – particularly at a time when wild tuna stocks are under threat from over-fishing.

Last month, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna agreed to a net 20 per cent cut in worldwide wild catch quota for SBT over 2010 and 2011. Australia's share of the worldwide quota will be reduced from 5,265 tonnes to 4,015 tonnes (a decrease of 23.4 per cent).

In the past few days, member nations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas agreed to cut the annual quota for Atlantic bluefin tuna by one third.

"Our achievement is a world first, and a major stepping stone to presenting the world with a sustainable food resource for the future. It is with confidence that Clean Seas Tuna will shortly commence commercialising its achievements to grow and produce Southern Bluefin Tuna," Mr Stehr said.

"Australia – and South Australia particularly – has been seen as a clean and reliable supplier of premium quality seafood products for some time.

"The emergence of a reliable and significant source of high quality propagated fish, grown independently of wild catch in the clean waters of the Spencer Gulf at the same time as Northern Hemisphere fish stocks are declining will make our seafood even more attractive in world markets."

Over the next few months, Clean Seas will commence a commercial propagation and grow-out programme for Southern Bluefin Tuna after becoming the first organisation in the world to close the life-cycle of SBT in April this year

www.meatradenewsdaily.co.uk/news/231109/australia_fish_farming.aspx

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Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



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