

FISHING STORIES



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/03/2263190.htm>



Qld Govt restricts traditional fishing rights

Posted Tue Jun 3, 2008 9:00am AEST

The Queensland Government will introduce laws into Parliament today that it says will stop Indigenous Queenslanders abusing their traditional fishing rights.

The Primary Industries Minister says most people are doing the right thing but a small number have been exploiting fish stocks.

Tim Mulherin says the changes should prevent fish from being taken from 15 sensitive areas around Queensland for commercial sale.

"There's 15 fish habitats that are closed to all types of fishing," he said.

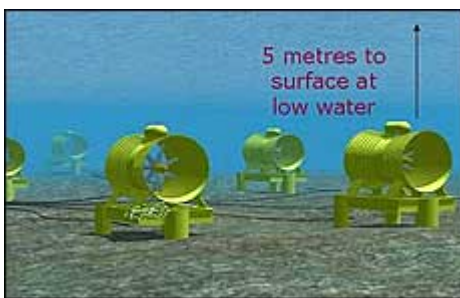
"Previously that was open to Indigenous fishing, so that law's being clarified to ensure no fishing activity occurs in the fish habitat areas.

"These fish habitat areas are areas where the fishes spawn."

Also this week, the State Government will introduce laws to ban anyone under 18 from getting unnecessary cosmetic surgery or from using solariums.

<http://www.northernadvocate.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3774489&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubsection=>

The Northern Advocate



If you have an interesting **Photo, Story, Issue or Report** that you would like included in Fishing Stories send it to: fishing@cbgconsultants.com.au or Fax (03) 8660 2755

\$1.85m grant for tidal plan slated

03.06.2008

By Annette Lambly

Kaipara Mayor Neil Tiller has slammed the Government for granting \$1.85 million to a Crest Energy tidal energy project while a resource application for commercial electricity generation by the company was still under consideration.

Energy Minister David Parker announced the grant to Crest Energy on Thursday at the same time as commissioners met to hear submissions on the Kaipara Harbour entrance tidal turbine proposal on the Waikaretu Marae at Pouto.

Mr Tiller, who chairs the Kaipara Harbour Sustainable Fisheries Study Group, said he was shocked at the timing of the announcement and questioned whether its release was intended to influence the outcome of the resource application. "I see this as Government endorsing the application," he said.

"I have emailed the Environment Minister, Trevor Mallard, to ask if, should consent be granted, money be made available for Te Uri O Hau and other groups to fight for conditions to protect the harbour?"

The \$1.85m grant from the Marine Energy Deployment Fund is subject to resource consents being obtained.

The fund is administered by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and applications for grants are assessed by an independent expert panel.

Environs Holdings manager Juliane Chetham, who is a spokesperson for the Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, said Crest lawyer Sue Simmond had used the grants in her closing summation at the hearings on Thursday to intimate the Environment Ministry had given its seal of approval.

"She (Sue Simmond) said they had received the grant and did not qualify it as conditional to the consent being granted," Ms Cheltham said.

"Her comments were misleading and implied the project had been given the big tick by Government and since the hearings are now adjourned we are unable to speak to the matter."

Ms Chetham said the grant was made to Crest Energy's Pouto Link project to deploy three tidal turbines as the first stage of the company's long-term plan to operate 200 turbines of up to 1MW each in the Kaipara Harbour.

"In all our discussions with Crest we have never heard of the Pouto Link project. Whatever they have applied for is different to what is going down at the hearings," she said.

Environs had continually asked Crest to trial one to three turbines and had received an unequivocal no, with the company saying it wanted a minimum of 20 as pre-commercial deployment.

Ms Chetham expressed concern about the effects of yet unproven technology on the environment, marine life, economy and culture of the harbour resources.

"We feel we have been talked at, rather than talked with," she said.

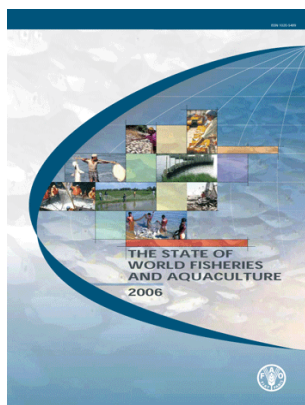
"A request for an independent Maori commissioner to be a member of the hearing panel was denied by the Northland Regional Council, who said Cr Lorraine Hill was of Maori descent and had the ability to take iwi issues onto account."

While announcing the \$1.85 million grant to Crest Energy in a speech to the Aotearoa Wave and Tidal Energy Association, David Parker said the Pouto Link project would benefit New Zealand by providing practical knowledge that would feed into the larger project and other marine energy projects.

But many in the Kaipara district are now asking what the costs would be to the local community and to the harbour itself.



Title: [The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture - 2006](#)
(SOFIA)...



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http://www.morningtonpeninsulaleader.com.au/article/2008/06/02/36381_mlv_news.html

Leader

Southern peninsula toxic dumping denial

Lisa Habermann

02Jun08

THE smaller dredge Cornelis Zanen, known as CoZa, is cleaning toxic sediment off its hopper and hold with clean sand from Dromana, the Blue Wedges protest group claims.

"The CoZa is dredging the toxic and contaminated clay sediments from the Yarra River and dumping it in the northern spoil ground west of Mordialloc," Blue Wedges president Jenny Warfe said.

She said the Port of Melbourne and the Office of the Environmental Monitor websites had reported that the CoZa was dredging clean sand from the south to assist in cleaning off the sticky Yarra River clay.

"CoZa is sliding down south every day or so, apparently to fill up on clean sand," Ms Warfe said.

"But there doesn't seem to be much information about how PoMC is dealing with the issue of potential contamination of the water down south, either by transfer of toxic or exotic organisms."

Port of Melbourne general manager (environment) Dr Jeff Bazelmans said the cleaning of the little dredge was "routine" and "standard practice".

He said the sand dredged from South Channel was then deposited in the dredge material ground in the north, not the south.

"This process means there is no risk of transferring contaminants or organisms from the north of the bay to south," Dr Bazelmans said.

He said the process was outlined in the project's Environmental Management Plan available on the Channel Deepening Project website.

To see where they are dredging at the moment, click [here](#)

Community Information Sessions

THE Port of Melbourne Corporation is holding another round of community information sessions on Port Phillip Bay dredging.

Peninsula residents can attend the Rosebud session this Thursday, June 5, at Mornington Peninsula Shire offices, or next Tuesday, June 10, at Doyles Bridge Hotel, Mordialloc.

Senior project members will answer questions and talk about its progress.

Details: 1800 731 022.

<http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/city/article/313899>

Steps taken to protect lobster

Published Tuesday June 3rd, 2008

Fishing Group starts education program to warn of dangers of plastic in Bay of Fundy

SAINT JOHN - Think twice about where you put that plastic bottle. It might end up poisoning the Bay of Fundy's lobster population, the Fundy North Fishermen's Association warns.

[ENLARGE PHOTO](#)



photo courtesy of Donna G. Curtis

The Fundy North Fishermen's Association has posted nine of these signs on Bay of Fundy wharves to help protect the lobster population.

The association has started an education program warning fishermen and other waterfront patrons of the dangers of plastics, which are believed to have contributed to a recent epidemic of lobster shell rot in New England.

"Marine debris has been a huge problem in this area for a while," said Maria Recchia, the association's executive director.

"It's coming from all sides - fishing boats, aquaculture sites, recreational boaters, land-based sources. For the population here, I think it's a pretty significant problem."

The risk to the bay's lobsters, however, is a new facet to the pollution problem.

Hans Laufer, a professor at the University of Connecticut, has spent the last four years investigating the link between the plastic byproducts, called alkyphenols, and shell rot.

In recent years, the disease has become an epidemic in Long Island Sound (located between Connecticut and Long Island, N.Y.) affecting up to 70 per cent of some lobster populations at its peak.

"There seems to be a direct relationship between plastic compound breakdown and shell disease," Laufer said.

The alkyphenols are absorbed into the lobster's bloodstream and inhibit the chemicals that keep the shell hard, which makes them more susceptible to bacteria and other infections that eat away at the shell.

"The lobsters try to molt out of the old shell," Laufer said.

"If it's just mild enough, they recover. If it's serious, of course, it kills them."

Although plastics can eventually disintegrate in water, they aren't biodegradable.

The chemicals remain in the water and are eaten or absorbed by marine species.

Laufer adds that lobster aren't the only creatures harmed by the compounds.

"There is evidence that some of these compounds get into fish, and they will reverse the sex of the fish. You can sometimes find fish populations that are maybe five per cent male," Laufer said. "I think it's kind of scary."

The illness has reached epidemic status in some New England waters, but it is not known if the disease has reached the Bay of Fundy's lobster population.

"In our sampling, we haven't seen any," said David Robichaud, a biologist at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews.

The prevalence of shell disease depends on factors like water temperature, as well as pollution, he said.

"But the fishermen are quite aware of what happened (in Long Island Sound), and want to prevent anything that could happen," he said.

Fundy fishermen need to be mindful of Laufer's findings, since plastic litter is commonly found in the bay.

"Most of the debris we pick up is plastic," Recchia said, adding that plastic rope from fishing boats frequently gets loose and is left floating in the water.

In addition to holding beach cleanups, the association has posted signage at nine of the bay's wharves, indicating the risk to sea creatures and imploring fishermen and other patrons to recycle their plastic products.



Issue 14, June 2008



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA



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www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

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Closed season for Pipi starts 1 June

Fishers are reminded that the annual closed season for pipi (Goolwa cockles) comes into effect from Sunday 1 June and continues through until 31 October across South Australia.

The closed season, for both recreational and commercial fishers, protects the pipi population from fishing pressure during its peak spawning season in South Australia which occurs during September and October.

The closed season is an important management tool that helps ensure the continued health of the pipi population and Fisheries Officers will be patrolling beaches ensuring all fishers comply with the closure.

A quota management system was introduced to the commercial fishery in December 2007 to also assist with the management of this important fishery.

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Some Pipi facts

Pipi (*Donax deltoides*) are a fast growing, short-lived bivalve species that can grow to between 60 and 80 mm and reach sexual maturity at about 13 months of age (about 36 mm shell length). They live to about four years of age.

The pipi population in the Coorong region is thought to be the single largest stock abundance of this species in Australia and has ecological linkages to outflows from the River Murray system.

During the open season, recreational fishers must comply with a minimum size limit of 3.5 cm and a daily bag limit of 600.

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Recreational fishing survey reaches milestone

The year long South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey is now three quarters of the way completed.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister, Rory McEwen has thanked fishers for their excellent co-operation in taking part in the surveys so far.

"More than 95% of people approached have been keen to take part, and their assistance will help us to find out more about how our fishing resources measure up," Mr McEwen said.

"The survey aims to provide PIRSA Fisheries with a better understanding of changes in fish populations and recreational fishing practices throughout the state.

"While it's too early to analyse specific results and trends, King George Whiting and Snapper remain the premium sought-after fish for marine fishers and golden perch for River Murray fishers.

"Fishing is proving to be a tourism drawcard for South Australia with about 10% of those interviewed on-site coming from interstate or overseas. The West Coast, Kangaroo Island and the South East are fishing hot spots for them," Mr McEwen said.

"More than 1300 households are being contacted by phone every month and fishers interviewed. So far more than 1700 fishers have also been interviewed at jetties, major boat ramps and beaches.

"Also, there are more than 120 avid anglers who are keeping log books on their fishing activities, as well as the sizes of fish they retain," Mr McEwen said.

The survey will continue over winter months and information gathering is expected to be completed in September this year.

More information on the survey is available at the [PIRSA recreational fishing survey web site](#).

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Snapper competition caught in survey net

PIRSA Fisheries staff used the recent Australian Snapper Fishing Championship held at Whyalla to collect valuable research data as part of the ongoing 2007-08 Recreational Fishing Survey.

Similar surveys carried out at the competition in 2000 and 2006 provided an excellent snapshot of the size structure of the snapper population and other species in this area at this time of the year.

Data collected at the competition included information on snapper sizes and other species caught and kept, snapper catch rates, and numbers of snapper released by competition participants.

This year the information collected during the championship will be added to other information collected from on-site surveys around the state, as part of the year long survey.



New caulerpa outbreak renews alert

Primary Industries and Resources SA is taking action to remove a patch of the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia* from an area within the North Haven marina near the public boat ramp.

Caulerpa taxifolia was first discovered in 2002 in West Lakes and the upper reaches of the Port River. The weed was successfully eradicated from West Lakes using freshwater.

Despite concerted eradication efforts using salt, chlorine and suction devices, the weed has spread downstream in the Port River with infestations around the old Quarantine Station, Garden Island and into Eastern Passage, North Arm and the southern end of Barker Inlet.

It is likely the weed in the North Haven marina had been caught in boat anchors or other equipment and transferred from the Port River.

The operation to remove the weed from the North Haven Marina, involving divers using underwater equipment to suck up the weed, began on Monday 12 May and is likely to take a few weeks.

They will operate from a small punt moored just off the boat ramp so people are asked to show care in boating operations in this area.

People who use the Port River for fishing, boating or other aquatic activities are urged to continue efforts to keep *Caulerpa taxifolia* contained.

To help stop the spread, it is important that if the weed is caught on boat anchors, fishing lines or diving equipment, that the weed is removed and not returned to the water. Just one small piece of weed can start a new infestation.

If anyone suspects they have seen the weed outside of known areas, please contact Fishwatch on 1800 065 522. More information about *Caulerpa taxifolia* is on the [PIRSA website](#).



Suspended jail sentence for abalone thieves

Two men have been given suspended jail sentences after being found guilty of a number of abalone related fisheries offences.

Appearing recently in the Adelaide Magistrates Court, Mr Loc Huu Vo (49) of Parafield Gardens and Mr Van Lil Mai (47) of Wingfield were found guilty of taking more than 2,700 roei abalone in April 2005 from an area north of Tumbly Bay on the Eyre Peninsula. All of the abalone were undersize.

In addition, Mr Vo was found guilty of possessing an additional 1,339 dried abalone that were located at his house.

As a result, Mr Vo was sentenced to eight months three weeks jail, which was suspended. He was also placed on a three year good behaviour bond. Mr Vo was fined a total of \$14,441.60.

Mr Mai was sentenced to seven months jail, which was suspended. He was also placed on a three year good behaviour bond. Mr Mai was fined a total of \$15,255.

The two men were originally detected by Fisheries Officers following a tip-off from a member of the public to the PIRSA Fishwatch telephone hotline.

Members of the public are encouraged to report any suspected illegal fishing or suspicious activities to the [24 hour Fishwatch number](#) which is 1800 065 522.



Illegal abalone haul results in hefty fines

Two Adelaide men have been fined more than \$15,000 each after pleading guilty to a number of abalone related fisheries offences.

Appearing before the Millicent Magistrates Court last month were Mr Alex Bendikov (19) of Mawson Lakes and Mr Jay Justin Hoklas (20) of Salisbury.

Both were convicted of a number of charges including taking over the bag limit of abalone, taking undersized abalone, failing to carry a measuring device and failing to bring abalone above the high water mark before shucking.

As a result, the men were both fined \$2,300 with an additional penalty of \$12,837.05 each.

The court appearance was as a result of PIRSA Fisheries Officers observing the two men taking a large amount of abalone from Little Dip Conservation Park, near Robe on the Limestone Coast, in August 2007.

At that time, the officers seized 184 shucked abalone as well as a quantity of dive gear. The Court ordered that the abalone and diving gear be forfeited as part of the penalty.



Hands off fishing equipment

All fishers are reminded that it is an offence under the Fisheries Management Act 2007 to interfere with any lawfully set commercial or recreational fishing equipment without the permission of the owner.

The reminder comes after a number of commercial and recreational fishers have reported both accidental and intentional interference with fishing equipment to the Fishwatch telephone hotline recently. In some instances, fish have been removed, floats have been cut or gear has been moved to another location.

Fishers should keep a lookout at all times for floats in the water to avoid accidental entanglement with fishing equipment.

Deliberate interference or "ratting" of fishing gear especially rock lobster pots or commercial crab pots should be reported to the Fishwatch telephone hotline for investigation.

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2008/06/02/13574_hpnews.html

Battle of fishing family

DANIEL BATEMAN

02Jun08

THE North's fishing industry has reached a crisis point with boats not leaving port for six months due to high fuel prices.

While some vessels have remained tied to wharves, the managers of others at sea have had to sack their crew and rediscover their old sea-legs.

Queensland Seafood Industry Association president Neil Green said unless sales increased to match skyrocketing fuel prices, the situation would worsen.

"Queensland fishing families – and the fishing industry in Queensland is mainly made up of family businesses – are being squeezed like never before," Mr Green said.

"It is a combination of the high Australian dollar, cheap imports and now the skyrocketing price of fuel.

"The high Australian dollar makes our seafood exports more expensive on world markets, particularly compared to Third-World seafood produced with far lower labour costs.

"That has lost Queensland a lot of overseas markets."

Townsville commercial fisher Greg Radley said many local seafood businessmen were suffering.

"It's just impossible to get out (of the industry)," Mr Radley said.

"There's just no one who is in the market to buy.

"The price of boats and quota has crashed, and it is a very difficult place to be in at this moment in time.

"There are boats which have been tied to the wharf all year, which haven't left yet.

"It's just a gradual decline through every port."

Trawler owners, who managed their businesses from the land, were being forced to sack their crews.

"You've got owners of vessels who let their sons drive the boats, but there is a growing trend of these guys having to get back on their boats ... they're sacking skippers because they can't afford to go back to sea, so they are cutting back on their crew," Mr Radley said.

"Others are refinancing their businesses. There are all sorts of things going on.

"It really is a crisis."

Fuel is the biggest expense for fishing businesses, particularly the price of diesel. Mr Radley's three vessels go through about 800L a day.

"Every time the product goes up four or five cents or 20 cents, multiply that by 800L a day, and it adds up to a lot of money," he said.

The QSIA has been discussing a solution to the fuel issue with the State and Federal governments.

In the meantime, Mr Green said one solution was for Queenslanders to buy more local seafood.

"Queensland seafood lovers can help fishing families and they can do it today, right away: go out and buy Queensland seafood," he said.

"Ask for Queensland seafood and demand local product wherever you live in the state.

"That way you'll be getting top-quality seafood and supporting fellow Queenslanders."

<http://www.thedaily.com.au/news/2008/jun/01/familys-livelihood-crushed/>

Sunshine Coast Daily Online



Fishing family's livelihood under threat

8:39p.m. 1 June 2008

The story of local fishing couple Bill and Joanne Henebery is just one of many across the Coast.

On Saturday, Mr Henebery was forced to travel to Mackay to find someone who would buy his 450-kilogram prime catch of top-quality eastern king prawns.

Mrs Henebery said they had begged their friends to put all they could into cold storage because there was no other choice.

"The wholesalers are saying there is no demand for our product. We can't compete with the imports. We've got this great wonderful seafood we can't get rid of it," she said.

"We could've unloaded ours at under \$10 a kilo but we can't afford to – we need to get at least \$17 a kilo to cover fuel.

"We're getting offered prices from 25 years ago, it's that bad.

"My husband is a burly man but he was reduced to tears having to leave the port.

"He won't come home until the end of this month, or the end of next month. He's leaving the family unit.

"He left because he found someone to take the prawns up north but once he got there he called me really depressed because they wouldn't take them.

"He eventually found someone who decided to take them; I don't know what we would've done otherwise."

Like the Burnetts, Mrs Henebery has lost hope.

"Personally, I don't see much of a future at all.

"We steered our children away from fishing because it's been so tough for us over the past 10 years and we don't want them to go through that.

"We've got such a clean, green product and I don't think the public know we're having such a tough time selling them.

"We really need people to demand Queensland wild-caught seafood rather than buy overseas-imported seafood."

<http://www.thedaily.com.au/news/2008/jun/02/coast-prawn-industry-cant-survive/>

Sunshine Coast Daily Online



Coast prawn industry can't survive

12:00a.m. 2 June 2008

| By **Jane Gardner**

Local prawns will soon be only a fond memory as the Sunshine Coast trawling industry, already in its death throes, is crushed by high diesel prices, a flooded market and record low demand.

Large eastern king prawns are in abundance off the Coast but trawler operators say they are having to travel hundreds of kilometres to sell them.

Industry advocates are warning the once-flourishing Sunshine Coast industry has as little as a year before it collapses completely, [putting dozens of families, who have fished for generations](#), out of work.

With diesel prices at an all-time high of around \$1.70 a litre, it is costing them an average of \$30,000 a month to fish for product they cannot sell because buyers and consumers are cashing in on imported prawns which have hit rock-bottom price because of the high Australian dollar.

The great irony, according to Bli Bli trawler owner Terry Burnett, is beautiful big tiger prawns are in abundance because of the recent rain but they simply cannot be sold.

A local fisherman for 30 years, he says he has never seen the situation so bleak.

"If fuel prices keep going up, I can't see any future for us," he said.

"Everything else has gone up but our prawn price hasn't and that's the saddest part about it all.

"In the last four years the boats have dropped off dramatically – this port is meant to be the biggest in Queensland and now there are only 27 (trawlers) left."

He said each month they catch about three to four tonne of prawn they are forced to freeze or ship to Brisbane because only two buyers remain on the Sunshine Coast.

Even then, they only offer \$10 per kilogram – hardly enough to cover the cost of 600 litres of diesel required per fishing night.

Consumers, hard hit by fuel prices and inflated groceries, are opting to cut prawns out altogether or buy cheap imports from Vietnam and Thailand which are getting cheaper as the Aussie dollar strengthens.

According to Neil Green, president of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, 10 trawlers in Queensland will go bust.

In only two years, the state's fleet of trawlers, worth \$190 million to the economy, has dropped from 600 to 350. Fifteen years ago, it was 1500.

The Sunshine Coast is Queensland's second biggest fishing port after Cairns.

In 1982, the government introduced a 38-cent a litre subsidy for fishers, however, this subsidy has not risen in line with fuel prices.

Mr Green said he was inundated with sad stories of family businesses folding on a weekly basis.

"They go in to depression, alcoholism, suicide, the whole lot. It's a very sad story.

"We are farmers of the sea. We don't just go out at harvest time, we need fuel to catch product.

"I would think if fuel prices continue to escalate and prices do not lift, we will not see this year out, let alone five years.

"I've had calls from fishermen who have sold their houses, they're trying to hang in there but they can't any longer."

He said the only solution was to get the message to the public they must buy Queensland seafood if the industry is to survive, and consider the environmental impacts of eating imports.

"We're looking at carbon footprints around the world yet here we are, shipping something from overseas with a huge carbon footprint, and there are local vessels catching it. We're not making a mark on the environment compared to them.

"Queensland seafood lovers can help fishing families and they can do it today, right away," he said.

"Demand local product wherever you live in the state.

"With demand up again and wholesalers back in the market paying decent prices for Queensland seafood rather than imports, fishing families will have a chance of selling enough product to cope with fuel costs."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/02/2262397.htm>



Cray fishing outcome being checked

Posted Mon Jun 2, 2008 1:04pm AEST

Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) says it should know this week how many south-east cray fishermen struggled to fill their quotas this season.

The southern zone rock lobster season closed on Saturday, with south-east fishermen weighing in their catch for the last time.

The figures are being collated by PIRSA's fisheries division, with early feedback suggesting that the number of licence holders who were unable to fill their quota will be higher than normal.

What impact that will have on next season's total allowable catch remains to be seen.

Some fishermen have called for the quota to be reduced, but Fisheries Minister Rory McEwen says a decision will not be made until closer to next season.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/02/2262166.htm>



Bike gangs not linked to fishing industry: police

Posted Mon Jun 2, 2008 11:08am AEST

- [Map: Darwin 0800](#)

Northern Territory police say they have no evidence to suggest organised criminal activity is occurring in the NT fishing industry.

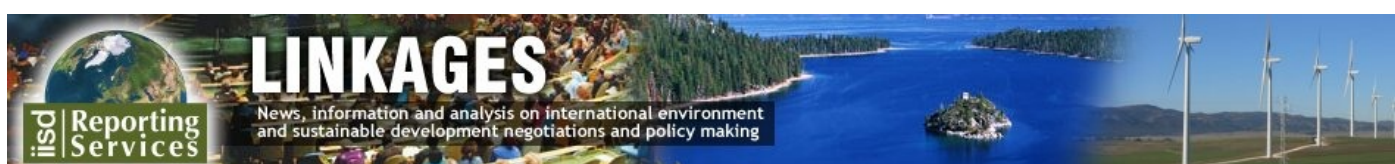
A national report on illegal fishing made public last month raised concerns about the vulnerability of the fishing industry to organised crime.

Study author Judy Putt collected anecdotal reports about an outlaw motorcycle gang buying a fishing licence in the Northern Territory.

The report also links bikie gangs with the theft of pearls in Western Australia and the illegal abalone trade.

Police say they are aware several years ago a commercial fishing licence was obtained by a person with links to a gang but the licence has never been used.

<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/wfs/html/yimbvol150num1e.html>



High-Level Conference on World Food Security Bulletin

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in collaboration with FAO

PDF Version: - <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/yimbvol150num1e.pdf>

Volume 150 Number 1 - Tuesday, 3 June 2008

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOENERGY ROME, ITALY

3-5 JUNE 2008

The High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy opened on 3 June and will continue until 5 June at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy. The Conference will comprise a High-Level Segment and a Committee of the Whole. In preparation for the Conference, a number of expert meetings and stakeholder consultations were convened from January to April 2008, at the same venue. A Synthesis Document emerged from these meetings and consultations, which pulls together identified response options, as well as a number of technical documents. This Bulletin summarizes

this preparatory process, as well as other relevant international meetings.

PREPARATORY PROCESS

EXPERT MEETINGS: Climate Change and Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture: This expert meeting, which took place from 13-14 February 2008, aimed to identify key issues relating to climate change and biodiversity, and contribute to developing a policy on climate change adaptation with regard to biodiversity for food and agriculture. Participants agreed on a number of suggestions for future action on: developing the knowledge base to monitor biodiversity trends and associated risks; inter-sectorial cooperation and integrated planning; building adaptive capacity through biodiversity management in farming systems; and developing climate change informed plans and policies for genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Bioenergy Policy, Markets and Trade, and Food Security; and Global Perspectives on Food and Fuel Security: These two expert meetings, which were held jointly from 18-20 February 2008, aimed to take stock of global bioenergy policies and their nature and rationale. Participants focused on the current situation and future prospects for biofuels, and identified priority action areas to address the impacts of climate change and biofuel production on food security. They identified the potential opportunities that biofuel production presents for agricultural and rural development, which they summarized in a set of twelve key messages. These messages include the need for:

- further analysis of the impacts of current biofuel policies;
- integration and coherence of policies between national and global levels and between public and private sectors;
- a common methodology for life-cycle analysis of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- internationally agreed standards for addressing the global environmental impacts of bioenergy production;
- guidelines on the estimation and reporting of GHGs, World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and avoidance of trade barriers;
- policies for linking food and biofuel production;
- expansion of the knowledge base regarding issues of certification, compliance and the cost of their application;
- considering biofuels in the context of the total energy mix; and
- the integration of local, regional or international policies that affect the agricultural sector and the rural economy.

Climate-Related Transboundary Pests and Diseases, Including Relevant Aquatic Species: This expert meeting, which took place from 25-27 February 2008, reviewed existing knowledge on the linkages between climate change and changes in plant and animal pest and disease risks, and related human health and food security. Participants recognized the need for a better assessment of climate change impacts on animal and plant pests and diseases, and the spread of invasive alien aquatic species. They outlined requirements for capacity building, as well as priorities for national, regional and international action.

Climate Change, Water and Food Security: This expert meeting, which took place from 26-28 February 2008, reviewed scenarios for the impact of climate change on the global hydrologic regime and possible impacts on water management for food production. Participants identified the need to: alleviate resource scarcity; maintain production capacity; mainstream adaptation; address knowledge gaps and capacity needs; and enable financial mechanisms.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management: This expert meeting, which took place from 28-29 February 2008, considered the cross-sectorial linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, with a particular focus on implications for agriculture and food security. The meeting concentrated on those aspects of climate change related to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climate events such as droughts, floods, windstorms and wildfires. Participants identified a series of priorities for action, namely: systematic national and

local risk assessment; integration of risk mitigation and climate change adaptation in climate sensitive sectors; improved use of climate information; enhanced people-centered early warning systems and rapid alert mechanisms to trigger early action; strengthened preparedness for effective response; and increased resources and political commitment for vulnerability reduction.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: This expert meeting, which took place from 5-7 March 2008, reviewed various mitigation and gender-sensitive adaptation options and implementation strategies that have significant potential to maintain or enhance food security in a sustainable and economically viable manner. Participants agreed on options for decision makers for a number of topics, including carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry, climate-related capacities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and policy development and financial instruments.

Climate Change and Fisheries and Aquaculture: This expert meeting, which took place from 5-7 March 2008, reviewed the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture, and examined options for climate change mitigation. Participants agreed on options for policy makers on: development of a knowledge base; policy, legal and implementation frameworks at all levels; technical and organizational structures for capacity building; and inclusion of food security concerns in existing and new financial mechanisms.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS: Civil Society Consultation: This consultation took place on 15-16 February 2008, in connection with the Farmers' Forum organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 11-12 February 2008. It was attended by 91 participants from 66 organizations representing farmers' organizations, environmental and development non-governmental organizations (NGOs), indigenous peoples' organizations, human rights-based organizations, women's organizations, international NGO networks and academic institutions. Participants identified several areas that require further analysis and monitoring, and made recommendations regarding the development of biofuel sustainability standards, gender responsive climate strategies and alternative food security paradigms. Stakeholders argued that biofuels should be evaluated within overall energy options and called for a shift towards alternative, more sustainable, energy sources.

Private Sector Consultation: This consultation was held from 27-28 March 2008, under the umbrella of the Rome 2007 Initiative, a public-private sector working group initiated in 2007 by FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Global Mechanism. Participants included several private sector companies and representatives from these Rome-based agencies. Three working groups discussed policy options, recommendations and the potential of public-private sector partnerships in response to the food security challenges posed by climate change and bioenergy. The topics covered were agriculture and agribusinesses, the financial sector and technology transfer, and energy needs. Focusing on identifying opportunities to use existing and emerging climate change finance mechanisms, each group identified: policy options for national, regional and international action in the context of the post-2012 negotiations; areas of common work; proposals for cooperation and partnerships; and possibilities for further areas of collaboration among the private sector and UN agencies and institutions.

The Synthesis Document: The Synthesis Document, World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (HLC/08/INF/5), reviews the current state of knowledge regarding major challenges facing the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, including: changing vulnerabilities in the food system; impacts on food supply and demand; commodity prices; nutrition and food safety; and the stability of the food supply system. Participants at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security will review the strategies, policies and programmes proposed in that Document, with a view to identifying relevant recommendations for the Report of the High-Level Conference.

DRAFT DECLARATION: An Informal Open-Ended Contact Group was established to prepare a draft declaration for adoption by the High-Level Conference. The Group first met on 9 May 2008 and

convened nine times during the subsequent three weeks. The Group produced a draft declaration containing some bracketed text, which will be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole during the Conference (HLC/08/3).

OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS

First FAO Technical Consultation on Bioenergy and Food Security: Specialists from around the world gathered at FAO's headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 16-18 April 2007 to discuss bioenergy production and the related opportunities and risks for food security and the environment. Participants agreed that governments can use bioenergy as a positive force for rural development, if environmental and food security concerns are taken into account. The meeting recommended that FAO's International Bioenergy Platform draw up a set of guidelines for governments and potential investors to use in dealing with the biofuels industry.

International Conference on Biofuels: This high-level meeting, which convened on 5-6 July 2007, in Brussels, Belgium, launched discussion on the development of an international approach to biofuels and how to reap potential benefits while ensuring sustainable development and avoiding new risks. Speakers, including Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, addressed the development of international trade in biofuels, and related environmental and development issues.

Second FAO Technical Consultation on Bioenergy and Food Security: This round of consultations took place in Rome, Italy on 5-6 February 2008, with the aim of peer reviewing and finalizing the Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) framework that assesses the bioenergy development and food security nexus. Participants endorsed the comprehensive BEFS analytical framework to assess the impacts of different types of bioenergy on food security and called for its rapid deployment at the national level. They also recognized that GHG balance assessments would be essential for countries wishing to export biofuels and that the harmonization of calculation methods should be accelerated. Meeting outcomes underline the need to tailor bioenergy development to country-specific conditions, agricultural systems, cropping traditions, local knowledge and rural livelihoods. The experts requested that the outcomes of the consultation be brought to the attention of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security.

Semi-annual meeting between UN AGENCIES heads and UN Secretary-General: During the semi-annual meeting of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with UN agency heads on 28-29 April 2008, Ban announced plans to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the global food crisis. A task force coordinated by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes and UN System Avian and Human Influenza Coordinator David Nabarro was created. The task force, which is chaired by Ban and includes the heads of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the WFP, FAO, IFAD, and the WTO, has developed an action plan for discussion at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security.

CSD-16: The 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) was held from 5-16 May 2008 in New York, US, to review the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. Participants highlighted the connections between the session's thematic agenda and both the current food crisis and climate change. CSD-16 identified key drivers of food prices, including land degradation, high energy costs, climate change, poor harvests, speculation in agricultural commodities, inequitable terms of trade, decline of investments in agricultural development, and increased production of biofuels from food crops.

ECOSOC's Special meeting on the Global Food Crisis: The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a Special Meeting on the Global Food Crisis from 20-22 May 2008 at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Participants agreed on short-term priorities, including immediate actions by donors and governments to allow farmers to meet production demands. They also identified medium- and long-term measures to tackle the food crisis, including a re-examination of

the amount of official development aid dedicated to agriculture.

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