

# FISHING STORIES

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=99523>



## Quota call for lobster industry

*25th September 2008, 6:00 WST*

WA's biggest rock lobster processor has warned that the State's \$300 million fishery is at risk of permanent damage unless urgent reductions in the annual catch are made.

Wayne Hosking, chief executive of the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative which processes about 65 per cent of the State's catch, said yesterday that new information indicating a record low haul in four years time meant significant reductions were needed to shore up future stocks.

Fishermen have already been directed by the State Government to ease pressure on the fishery for the coming season by reducing the number of pots and not operating on Sundays, which is expected to reduce the catch by more than 20 per cent.

The move has been based on official surveys of larval-stage lobster known as puerulus, which are used to predict numbers three to four years in advance, which point to the fisheries' lowest allowable catch in 40 years.

But Mr Hosking said yesterday that a further reduction was needed following the release of concerning survey results over the past two months, which point to very little or no puerulus settlement at key fishing locations which would have an impact on the 2011-12 catch.

"The worst thing that can happen if we take a conservative approach to management is that we leave a few more crayfish in the water for another day," he said. "The worst thing that can happen if we go too hard is we do permanent damage to the fishery."

Mr Hosking said fishermen were operating within guidelines set by the Department of Fisheries, but a growing number of operators had been concerned for some time that the total catch pressure on the fishery was too high.

"The key problem at the moment is that our exploitation rates are far too high and therefore the risks of getting anything wrong are far too high as well," he said.

"Industry needs to act quickly because the next year or two there is a reasonable catch expected.

"That's the chance to leave some extra breeders in the water to reduce some of those risks."

---

---

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

He believed cuts could be made in a way that helped the bottom lines of fishermen and processors by improving efficiencies, reducing costs and increasing market returns.

Researchers are investigating possible causes behind the slump in the puerulus count, including climate change, overfishing or settlement outside their usual areas.

Peak settlement occurs between August and December, so while the first two monthly surveys had revealed record low counts, there were another four months of sampling to be undertaken before the low level of settlement was confirmed, Department of Fisheries supervising scientist Nick Caputi said this week.

JODIE THOMSON

<http://portlincoln.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/getting-more-from-prawns/1282759.aspx>



## Getting more from prawns

25/09/2008 3:25:00 PM

SPENCER Gulf and West Coast prawn fishers need to think more about what consumers want to get the most out of their product, according to Adelaide thinker in residence professor Andrew Fearn.

Prof Fearn, an expert in food marketing and supply chain management, spoke to fishers from the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association on Friday to encourage them to take the next step in a value chain analysis project to look at ways to increase profits without increasing fishing time.

Prof Fearn said the industry promoted itself as the best fishery of its kind, producing the best product of its kind in the world but the supply chain to get the prawns to consumers was not what people would expect for something that is the best in the world.

He said the fishers needed to change their attitude of catching the prawns then offloading them to a buyer as soon as possible, and instead look along the supply chain to develop a better understanding of what happens to their product and how they can make more money by giving consumers what they want.

He said fishers within the association should work together more to compete against other prawn fisheries instead of competing against each other.

Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association president Barry Evans said he believed there needed to be change but there needed to be support for it from the industry.

"If we keep doing the same, we'll keep getting the same."

Executive officer Karen Hollamby said fishers she spoke to after the session were interested and thought it was a good time to change.

Ms Hollamby said she would work with Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) to decide whether to further develop the draft value chain analysis and then apply for funding to do it.



<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=146&ContentID=99552>



# Geographe Bay fisherman fined \$25,000 over crab catch fraud

25th September 2008, 7:30 WST

A South-West fisherman who carried out a sophisticated fraud to get more than \$20,000 from the Department of Fisheries has received a hefty fine in Bunbury District Court.

Nicolas Emanuel Soulos, 53, is set to be stripped of his commercial fishing licence after he was fined \$25,000 for claiming an inflated amount of compensation for his father and himself when crab fishing was banned in Geographe Bay in 2005.

Soulos pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud.

The court was told that Soulos inflated his catch figures and got \$13,000 more for himself and \$11,000 more for his father than either was entitled to.

Soulos' father was unaware of his son's fraudulent actions.

Defence counsel Phillip Laskaris said Soulos had inflated the catch figures in a bid to persuade the Department of Fisheries to allow fishing.

"It was not to get an ex gratia payment, but was solely to persuade authorities in charge of Geographe Bay that the fishery could sustain a commercial catch," he said.

State prosecutor David Lima rejected the claim, pointing out that Soulos had gone to considerable lengths to falsify documents.

It was a more sophisticated example than most fraud cases, Mr Lima said.

The court was told that Soulos would now not be able to work as a commercial fisherman.

He had paid back the illegally obtained money.

In July, Soulos was fined \$40,000 for filing false catch returns and selling specimen shells illegally.

GEORGIA LONEY

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24403324-2863,00.html>

## Time to spring into action

Article from: **Herald Sun**

Steve Cooper

September 26, 2008 12:00am

**FOR many anglers, spring heralds a new season of fishing, with new classes of migratory fish reinventing the marine environment.**

So here is a general guide to what you can expect to catch:

**SILVER** trevally are generally at their best right now. Most bay piers will produce silvers and they are also caught in good numbers from rock ledges such as Artillery Rocks and Mt Defiance on the Great Ocean Rd.

Places to fish include Apollo Bay Harbour, Lorne Pier, Queenscliff Harbour, Lakes Entrance and Docklands.

**SNAPPER** are moving into the bay and are being caught along the eastern seaboard and Corio Bay outer harbour along the channel, and off Corinella.

Fish from Carrum to Mornington, including Mornington Pier, and Clifton Springs to Pt Richards. St Leonards and Pt Lonsdale piers should also produce reasonable catches.

**CALAMARI** squid are being caught in the Lonsdale Bight up to 3kg but averaging 1kg. They'll pick up next month. Fishing early mornings from Portsea Pier is bringing success.

Top spots: Lonsdale Bight, Portsea, Mornington and Beaumaris Bay in Port Phillip. Flinders Pier, Stony Pier, Cowes and Ventnor in Western Port.

**SALMON** will be starting to enter Port Phillip Bay in larger numbers and can be expected to move up the bay as far as Black Rock as they hunt anchovies. Top spots include: Port Phillip Heads, Pt Henry in Corio Bay, the eastern entrance to Western Port and Anderson Inlet.

**BARRACOUTA** arrive in Bass Strait during spring after the pilchard migration. Small numbers of large couta will make it into the bays, but the bulk of the fish will be found offshore in 30-50m of water.

**BREAM** in the 1kg to 2kg class arrive in numbers. Top spots: In Gippsland try the Tambo and Mitchell Rivers, Marlo, Bemm River and the Wallagaraugh River, above Gypsy Pt in Mallacoota Inlet. In the west, the Aire, Gellibrand, Curdies, Hopkins, Fitzroy and Glenelg Rivers will fish well.

Melburnians need travel no farther than the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, Patterson River at Carrum and the Werribee River.

**KING** George Whiting will be small and slow early up the bays, but anglers fishing off Queenscliff and the Lonsdale Bight, and from Sorrento to Portsea, often take whiting to 50cm in late spring.

Which means there is still plenty of action to come.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=99338>



## WA's \$300m lobster industry facing disaster as numbers fall

*24th September 2008, 6:00 WST*

The State's \$300 million western rock lobster fishery is on the verge of crisis with official monitoring revealing there are almost no baby lobsters in prime fishing locations.

Department of Fisheries surveys over the past two months found virtually no larval-stage lobsters in many areas expected to be awash with newborn stocks at this time of year.

The results have stunned WA's lucrative lobster fishing industry, which warned yesterday that unless there was a dramatic turnaround in the numbers in the next four months, the 2011-2012 season would be a total disaster.

Department researchers have no idea what has caused the alarming findings and are investigating whether climate change or over-fishing is to blame or if the larvae have settled outside their usual areas.

At worst, it could herald the fishery's total collapse. Counts of larvalstage lobster, known as puerulus, are used to predict rock lobster numbers in three to four years time.

Other alarming survey results mean below-average catches are expected in coming seasons, with the department forecasting the amount of lobster available to be caught in 2010-11 will fall to 7200 tonnes, the smallest in 40 years and well below the annual average of 11,000 tonnes.

Puerulus settlement surveys have been used for more than 40 years and are considered an accurate indicator of future rock lobster stocks.

Peak settlement occurs between August and December but the past two monthly surveys, which will determine the 2011-12 catch, recorded zero counts in several locations.

Western Rock Lobster Council chairman Dexter Davies said the data was pointing to two disastrous seasons for fishermen.

"Unless there is conclusive evidence to demonstrate that the low count won't lead to record low catches, there has got to be serious doubt about the industry's ability to maintain anywhere near long-term average catch levels in the near future," he said.

Researchers are attempting to determine what has caused the sudden drop, which followed above average settlement figures at some sample sites in 2005-06. Possible causes include climate change effects on water temperature and wind strength, excess fishing in some regions or puerulus settling in deeper water outside sample areas.

Crayfishermen Bruce Cockman said he was seeing less breeding stock in the waters just south of Geraldton and the big bank region, north of the Abrolhos Islands.

"If over-fishing is the issue, at least that can be fixed," he said.

"If it is environmental, then we are in trouble. I don't know if you would call this a collapse, but it's getting close."

Mr Cockman said stock sustainability was critical and the introduction of a quota system to stop over-fishing had to be considered.

Department of Fisheries supervising scientist Nick Caputi said last season's low puerulus count was blamed on a weak Leeuwin Current, which is needed to move the larvae hundreds of kilometres to inshore reefs.

But researchers were struggling to explain this year's record low settlement figures because the



current had been strong. Oceanographic modelling was planned to determine whether the low strength of westerly winds in late winter affected this year's settlement.

About 500 commercial boats operate within the fishery.

Ledge Point fishermen Mal Millard said the rock lobster industry was heading for uncharted territory and environmental factors were more likely the cause than over-fishing.

JODIE THOMSON

<http://eden.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-marine-park/1283460.aspx>



## No marine park

26/09/2008 9:19:00 AM

More than 70 Eden residents, fishermen, seafood processors and abalone divers gave a clear "no thanks" response to the possibility of a marine park for the Twofold Bay bioregion at a meeting last Thursday night.

The meeting, called by Member for Bega Andrew Constance at the Eden Fishermen's Club, concluded with two unanimously supported motions.

The first called on NSW Premier Nathan Rees to guarantee in writing that the State Government would not proceed with a marine park off Eden (Tathra to the Victorian border) in order to provide certainty to the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

The second supported the formation of a committee of local people to provide a written submission to the State Government opposing any plans for a marine park.

Mr Constance told the meeting that the scientific process of creating a marine park was currently under State Government review.

Present at the meeting were representatives from Eden's three fish processors, fishers from the trawl, purse seine, trap and abalone industry and recreational fishing clubs in Eden and Pambula, Bega Valley Shire councillor Adrian Sandrey and residents.

Dr Phillip Creagh, chairman of the Narooma Port Committee, spoke on his objections to the scientific process behind existing marine parks and in particular the Batemans Marine Park (BMP), which opened in December 2006.

Other speakers were Fritz Drenkhahn, chair of the Twofold Bay Fishermen's Co-Operative, and Steve Buckless, CEO of Southlands Fish Supplies.

Dr Creagh said that the BMP had been a political tool used by the State Labor Government to win the green vote and hold power rather than being based on sound science.

"It was driven by political desire for the Labor Government to stay in power," he said.

"It was all done and dusted inside six months, in time for the March 2007 state election."

He was concerned that a socio-economic impact study showed a loss of some \$30 million dollars in the first 12 months.

Mr Drenkhahn said the impacts on the Eden community, which had already undergone major restructuring since the Heinz Cannery closure in 1999 and the Federal Government's Fishing Buy Back, would be "devastating".

"Between all three fish receivers (in Eden) there are over 80 full-time job equivalents, plus the flow on effect to other businesses.

"I can't understand why this would happen," he said.

"The State Government is committed to 20/30 per cent coverage of the coastline as marine parks, the easy target is

our coastline."

Mr Buckless said, "We have 14 marine protected areas introduced in just three years.

"We must stand together if we are to avert another disaster for Eden."

He said recent studies showed that fish stocks were being sustainably fished.

Healthy sea life has been well documented in Twofold Bay for many years including many species of fish, weedy sea dragons, killer whales, feeding whales, seals and bird life.

Concerns were also raised at the meeting over the issue of ongoing ocean outfalls at Eden, Pambula and Merimbula beaches, which have been increasingly problematic over recent years.

Submissions to support the campaign against any new marine park off Eden can be addressed to Andrew Constance, 122 Carp Street, Bega NSW 2550 or the NSW Premier Nathan Rees, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001.

<http://blacktown.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/its-a-fishy-business/1280298.aspx>



## It's a fishy business

23/09/2008 3:27:00 PM

FOR Reno Costi, seafood was always on the menu.

His father opened a seafood store as a 16-year-old in 1958, and worked with his brother and father to make it a success.

"It has been in the family ever since. It's what we know best," said Reno Costi, who started his own store three years ago called Costi's @ Westpoint.

Winning the NSW/ACT Australian Small Business Champion Award for Fresh Food is a testament to the customer service and quality of seafood Mr Costi provides. "Seafood has always got to be very fresh, and very good," he said.

"My dad always said, "If it is something you wouldn't eat yourself, you shouldn't sell it"."

The store sells a large selection of fresh seafood, as well as pre-cooked options such as prawns, lobsters and smoked salmon.

Because some people have difficulty knowing the best way to cook seafood, the friendly staff will also suggest recipes and marinades.

And if customers want more information about the fish itself and where it was caught, Mr Costi has no problem answering their questions.

"Credibility is a big thing," he said.

"People like to know and trust the people who sell them their seafood.

"Our standard is what sets us apart."

Details: Costi's @ Westpoint, Level One, Westpoint Shopping Centre, 17 Patrick Street Blacktown. Phone: 96224900.

For weekly specials visit:

[www.westpointblacktown.](http://www.westpointblacktown.com.au)

[com.au](http://www.westpointblacktown.com.au)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/24/2372651.htm>



## The fingerprint on the headstone

By Gilly Llewellyn

Posted Wed Sep 24, 2008 8:54am AEST

Updated Wed Sep 24, 2008 9:08am AEST



A shark caught in the lens of a tourism diver is worth far more than the same shark caught in a hook or net. (Eco Divers, file photo)

Can you imagine what would happen if Australian scientists discovered 100 new species of whales and dolphins in our seas? The wires would be buzzing with the news.

It's not whales and dolphins that have been under the scrutiny of the scientists, but those more ancient and mysterious ocean predators, sharks and their close relatives, rays. Over the last year more than 100 new species have been unveiled by CSIRO scientists. Many are rare and elusive, or live in remote and isolated places like the Coral Sea, a world-renowned marine predator hotspot.

While the scientists in Hobart are busy adding to the list of Australia sharks and rays and advancing the understanding of the top marine predators in our waters, fisheries managers in Brisbane are drawing up plans to issue licenses for the taking of hundreds of tonnes of sharks from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. As science furthers our knowledge of these key ocean predators, managers are planning more dedicated shark fisheries - it is like we are writing the fingerprint on the headstone while we send them to extinction, and it is literally playing out before our eyes.

The state of nature reflects a government's ability to manage responsibly for future generations. Fisheries are a classic example of a renewable natural resource that is difficult to manage responsibly. At worst, in the

absence of management, there is serial depletion as the 'tragedy of the commons' takes hold, with the highest value species vanishing first, followed by the next most valuable and so on.

Even where management structures are in place, decision making can often be characterised as being driven by delusional optimism, based not on precautionary science but on the need to appease industry stakeholders. The result is the same, with stocks dwindling and fishers switching to different products as high value species vanish.

Sharks provide early warnings of this type of effect. While their fins command a high price on the seafood market, their slow reproductive rates - more akin to whales and dolphins than fish - mean populations are slow to recover from fishing.

As a result, sharks are literally vanishing from our waters. While the CSIRO adds new species to the list, the sharks we already know about, like the hammerheads, thresher sharks and makos nudge closer to extinction. This is the inconvenient truth about sharks globally.

It is against this global backdrop that Queensland has proposed to start a dedicated shark fishery including the waters of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, in an act not dissimilar to allowing the deliberate hunting and removal of hundreds, if not thousands, of lions, leopards and cheetahs from the great natural parks of Africa.

The Queensland Government should abandon its plans for a dedicated shark fishery and instead concentrate on the much greater opportunities for revenue through tourism, and on its global responsibility to protect their dwindling populations. This would mean halting fishing on at-risk shark species such as hammerheads, and putting conservation measures first, such as protecting those maternity wards and nursery grounds where those sharks come to breed, the same grounds that would be targeted by fishers seeking baby sharks.

A more responsible approach would also mean capitalising on the fact that a shark caught in the lens of a tourism diver is worth far more than the same shark caught in a hook or net, destined for a bowl of soup or a grocery store shelf, and investing in dive-based tourism.

Out in the Coral Sea, divers pay thousands of dollars to catch a glimpse of a school of sharks in the wild. Compared to the tens of dollars per kilo retail price for sharks caught and landed on a commercial fishing - it is evident that it makes both economic and ecological sense to protect sharks.

Australian governments often lay the blame for shark declines on foreign fishing vessels, while turning a blind eye to the weak management of domestic shark fisheries and inadequate controls and data to ensure sustainability.

Many Australians would be surprised to learn that we now have the dubious honour of being in the top 25 shark-catching nations on the planet, with kilometres of gill-nets set along our coast every year to service the shark trade.

Let us celebrate the discovery of 100 new Australian shark species - but as a nation that claims to be a world leader in marine conservation, let us say no to the taking of hundreds of tonnes of sharks from the Great Barrier Reef Park. It is simply not acceptable.

*Dr Gilly Llewellyn is the oceans team leader for WWF-Australia.*

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/Default.aspx?s=3&s1=2&id=5709>

# The Gisborne Herald

# No-cray fear refuted by ministry

Wednesday, 24 September 2008

Fears that there will be no legal-sized crayfish left for recreational fishers over summer have been dispelled by regional inshore fisheries manager Leigh Mitchell of the Ministry of Fisheries in Napier.

A recreational spokesman said earlier this week that after the commercial crayfishers' winter run, during which they get a 2mm size concession, the remaining crayfish would not be of legal size by summer for recreational fishers.

But available research showed that growth rates of 50/51mm crayfish in the CRA3 fishery is extremely variable, with the majority of male lobsters in this size group growing between 0mm and 6mm per six-month period.

"This means some male lobsters will grow to the 54mm legal size for recreational fishers over summer and others will not.

"Annual catch sampling data also shows both males and females above the legal size occur in the fishery after the winter season."

It was too early to say what proportion of the winter catch was of the smaller concession size.

This would be calculated when the season ended.

Furthermore, like the proposed closed season imposed on recreational fishermen for September and October, a suggestion that cray fishermen in the Mahia area agreed to forgo the 2mm minimum size concession over the winter run was only a proposal at this stage.

Commercial crayfishers had not voluntarily removed the winter concession from Mahia at this time.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/1357>

## The Border Watch

### Fishing ban first under new legislation

*Posted on September 24, 2008, 4:04pm*

A Mount Gambier man recently banned from fishing for three years was the first case heard under the new Fisheries Management Act 2007 which imposed substantial penalties.

"Offences and penalties under the new Act have been increased to reflect the increasing value of our fish resources and to assist in tackling organised crime," PIRSA Fisheries compliance services manager Paul Tatarelli said.

His comments follow two Mount Gambier men pleading guilty to a number of fisheries related offences at the Mount Gambier Magistrates Court on September 15, 2008.

"This Act enables the court to impose a wider range of penalties including disqualifying a person from holding a licence, permit or registration or from engaging in certain fishing activities."

Graham Bruce Hart, 28, and Shae Anthony Bastian, 23, both pleaded guilty to possessing undersize rock lobster, possessing over the daily bag limit of rock lobster and failing to cut the tail fan of the lobster.

In December 2007, the two men were found to have 22 rock lobster in their possession (the daily bag limit is four per person).

Sixteen of the 22 rock lobster were undersized.

None of the lobsters had their tail fans cut before landing, which is a requirement of all recreationally caught lobster.

Mr Hart was convicted and fined \$2800, plus a penalty of \$1968.75.

He was also placed on a three-year good behaviour bond which prevents him from engaging directly and indirectly in fishing during that time.

Under the new Act, Mr Hart was also disqualified from possessing a rock lobster pot registration for five years.

Meanwhile, Mr Bastian was convicted and fined \$700 plus an additional penalty of \$1968.75.



## Operartion Island' leaves poachers stranded

Wednesday, 24 September 2008, 4:20 pm

Press Release: Ministry of Fisheries

24th September 2008

'Operartion Island' leaves poachers and their clients stranded

An Auckland takeaway bar owner has been fined \$4410, and forfeit of a car, in the Auckland District Court today, 24th September 2008, after she was convicted of handling and selling illegal kina and rock lobster, supplied to her by a husband and wife poaching team.

Pamela Bhana, 48, from Pukekohe and owner of Bonanza Bar Takeaways, was charged as part of a Ministry of Fisheries investigation named, Operation Island, which took place late last year.

Bhana admitted to purchasing a total of 38 sacks of kina and 95 rock lobsters, valued at a total of \$2,660.

Operation Island was the investigation into the illegal fishing activities of a husband and wife team at Te Ngaire Bay, the couple are yet to appear in Court.

They supplied the kina and rock lobster to the defendant, Ms Bhana, who then on-sold to members of the public.

The couple came to the attention of fishery officers during a surveillance operation where they were diving and taking kina and rock lobster in contravention of the Fisheries Act 1996 and associated Regulations.

On November 1 2007 the pair was observed unloading a number of sacks from their vehicle to the back of Ms Bhana's home. The sacks matched those that had been seen by fishery officers the previous day at Te Ngare Bay.

Immediately after the delivery, the kina and rock lobster were observed being driven from Ms Bhana's house to Counties Inn in Pukekohe

She was then observed selling the illegal kina and spiny rock lobster at a raffle in the Counties Inn later that evening.

On November 8 fishery officers raided her house and she was then charged with 7 offences under the Fisheries Act 1996.

"Operation Island has been very successful in unearthing and destroying this network of poachers and their clients," said Auckland Investigations Manager, Mark Nicholson.

"We hope that this conviction will prove to be a deterrent to anyone thinking of buying illegal fish and to those involved in this trade, the Ministry of Fisheries will catch you," he said.

## Less fatalities on Moreton Bay



Written by [Seascope, Marine Safety Queensland](#)

Wednesday, 24 September 2008



*More marine incidents are being reported but the number of fatalities are falling*

*Each year, Maritime Safety Queensland compiles marine incident statistics to assess Queensland's safety performance.*

*The number of recreational boats on the Gold Coast is now about four times that of the State as a whole with a notable jump in collisions in the congested waterways. Brisbane area which starts at the mouth of the Logan in the Southern Moreton Bay, still has nearly half of all the registered boats but underrepresented in the incidents.*

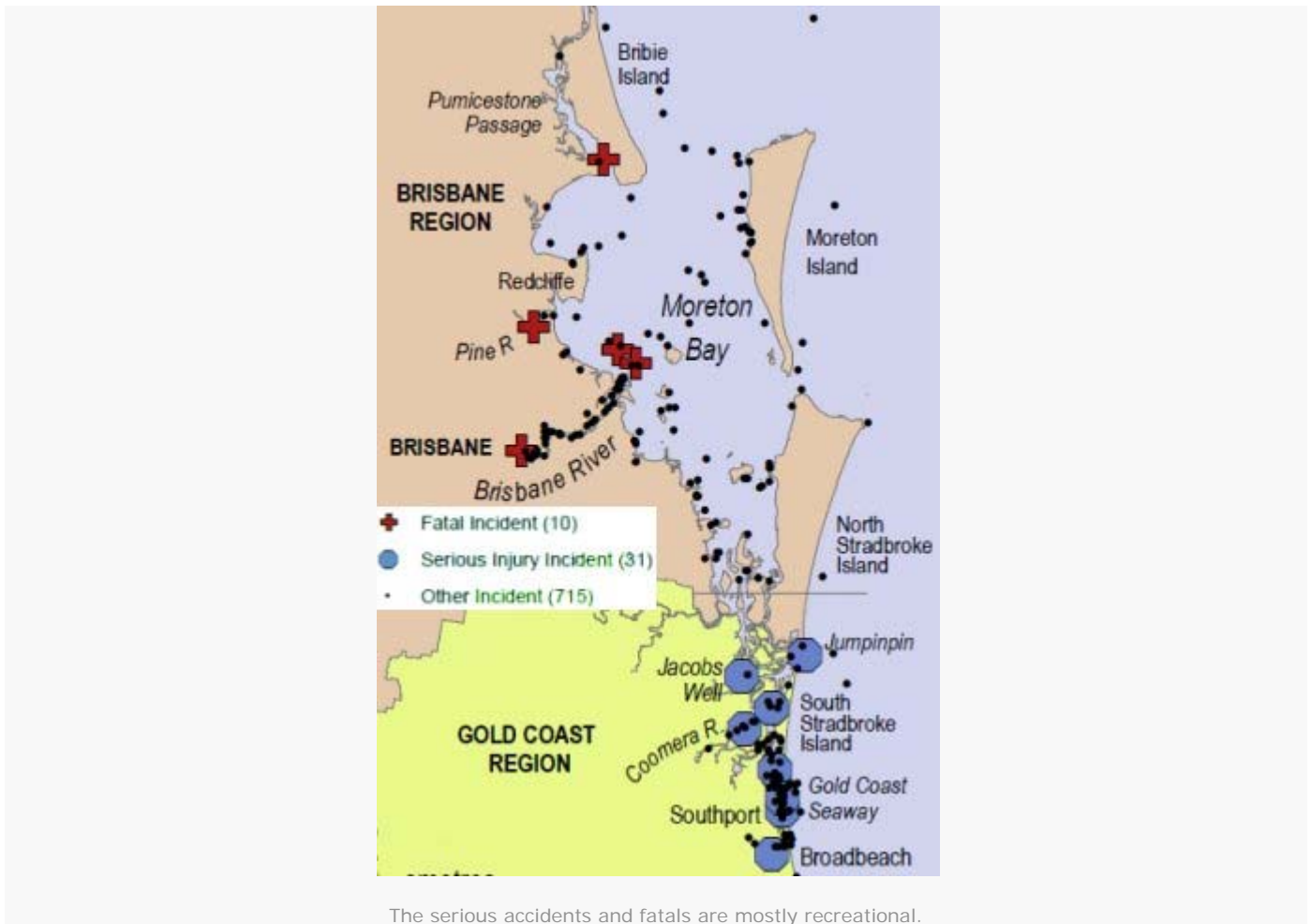
*This is a summary prepared by the MSQ on the outcomes:*

The [2007 Marine Incident Report](#) details an increase of 7.9% in reported marine incident numbers from 2006, with 762 incidents reported in Queensland this year. Although there was an increase in incidents, the number of marine fatalities fell from 17 in 2006 to 13 in 2007.

One of these incidents was

**“one of the worst boating accidents in Queensland's history when four people died and three more were seriously injured in a recreational boating collision at the mouth of the Brisbane River.”**

one of the worst boating accidents in Queensland's history when four people died and three more were seriously injured in a recreational boating collision at the mouth of the Brisbane River.



Notable in 2007 was the absence of any commercial fishing vessel involvement in reported fatal or serious injury incidents.

Commercial fishing vessels have historically had a high level of involvement in commercial fatal and serious marine incidents.

Maritime Safety Queensland has been trialling and implementing a range of initiatives to improve safety awareness, standards and practices within the Queensland commercial fishing industry.

While in the early stages, the programs have seen an increase in the number of commercial fishing vessels carrying life rafts and a general increase in the level of awareness of critical safety issues among fishing vessel owners and their crews.

Other key findings from this year's report include:

Recreational speedboats have consistently shown the highest level of involvement by recreational vessels in fatal and serious injury incidents.

46% of reported marine incidents occurred in smooth waters, 22% in partially smooth waters, 20% offshore and 10% on inland waters.

The number of reported serious injury incidents and number of persons reported as seriously injured is continuing to trend downwards.

Of the 111 reported collisions between ships that involved a recreational vessel, 49 or 44.1% involved a moving vessel colliding with a stationary vessel.

[A full report, parts of it or the previous year's report can be viewed on the Maritime Safety Queensland website](#) or a copy of the CD can be ordered by emailing name and address details to: [maritime.safety@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:maritime.safety@msq.qld.gov.au).

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=24860>

---

## **Bruny Bioregion MPAs**

---

The Tasmanian Government today announced the creation of 14 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the Bruny bioregion.

The Primary Industries and Water Minister, David Llewellyn said the Government intends to establish a comprehensive network of Marine Protected Areas.

Mr Llewellyn said this will insure the management of the region's biodiversity and also allow sustainable commercial and recreational fishing to continue.

"Recreational and commercial fishing therefore will not be adversely affected by the new MPAs," Mr Llewellyn said.

"I accept the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommendations that the 'no take' boundaries of the existing marine Nature Reserves at Tinderbox and Zone A Ninepin Point be extended.

"All other areas recommended by the RPDC will be proclaimed under the Nature Conservation Act as conservation areas and will be subject to management prescriptions that most closely correspond to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status Category VI.

"This means that the conservation areas will be managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to the community."

Management of all fish, crustaceans and shellfish will be through the application of the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 which is very effective legislation containing all the tools needed to maintain fisheries on a sustainable basis.

"Our current sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries will continue to operate in the new MPAs in the future without damaging their biodiversity, just as they do now."

Mr Llewellyn said that, in addition, minor adjustments will be made to the boundaries of the Fortesque Bay, Tinderbox, Roberts Point and Waterfall Bay MPAs as recommended by the RPDC.

"These simply establish straight-line boundaries to help ease of management," Mr Llewellyn said.

"The 14 new MPAs capture the region's unique biodiversity and are based upon sound, evidence-based science.

"The Government recognises that the development of a generic management plan and baseline assessments of biodiversity should be undertaken on all MPAs in Tasmania, including the 14 new MPAs to facilitate the ongoing assessment of the performance of them in meeting the objectives for which they were declared.

"The specific habitat of fish species, the undersea flora and the collective marine ecosystems are extremely important in maintaining biodiversity and need to be protected by both sustainable fishing rules and with appropriately classified marine protected areas."



## Marine protection in southern waters

Posted Wed Sep 24, 2008 7:50pm AEST

The Tasmanian Government has announced it will create 14 marine protected areas within the Bruny bioregion in the state's south-east, but fishing will still be allowed.

After two years of investigations, the Resource Planning and Development Commission recommended closing off 8 areas in the Bruny Bioregion to all recreational and commercial fishing.

The Primary Industries Minister, David Llewellyn says some of the RPDC's suggestions have been accepted.

"The no take boundaries of the marine and nature reserves at Tinderbox and zone at Ninepin Point will be extended," said Mr Llewellyn.

But fishing will still be allowed in the remaining area from Maria Island to Southport, a move that's angered the Greens.

Environment spokeswoman Cassy O'Connor says it's a sad day for the region.

"The interests of the fishing industry are wholly being put before the interests of the marine environment," she said.

The Government says the remaining protected areas will be managed under the Nature Conservation Act.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU0809/S00285.htm>



## Interim relief sought for fishermen in court

Friday, 12 September 2008, 4:58 pm

Press Release: Joint Media Statement

Joint Media Statement from New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen, South East Finfish Management Ltd, Challenger Finfisheries Management Company Ltd, and the Northern Fisheries Management Stakeholder Company Ltd

12 September 2008

Interim relief sought for fishermen in pending court case

Interim relief from new fishing restrictions to protect the livelihoods of fishermen whose businesses will otherwise be destroyed has been sought today in the High Court.

“We’ve been deliberately very conservative in our application,” said the President of the NZFCF (New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen), Doug Saunders-Loder.

“We’ve applied mainly for seasonal relief in those fishing grounds where jobs are at immediate risk. We’re absolutely not asking for interim orders that will threaten our Maui’s and Hector’s dolphin populations.”

The NZFCF, in conjunction with other commercial inshore stakeholders, South East Finfish Management Ltd, Challenger Finfisheries Management Company Ltd, and the Northern Fisheries Management Stakeholder Company Ltd, is asking the High Court to review recent decisions by Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton to close around two thirds of New Zealand’s coastline to fishing in response to concerns about Hector’s and Maui’s dolphins.

The interim orders have been applied for on behalf of the inshore fishermen and Quota owners most acutely affected by the decision.

“These are the most extensive changes to commercial and recreational access to inshore fisheries in two decades. They are, in our view, unnecessarily onerous and will drive people out of business even in areas where dolphins are not at risk.”

If small changes such as fishing for a limited season in discrete areas can be made without any danger at all to dolphins, then fishermen will be able to continue to fish enough to keep their businesses going and some staff in jobs Mr Saunders-Loder said.

“We think that is a very reasonable request.”

ENDS

<http://ceduna.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/marine-park-boundaries-announced-soon/1281775.aspx>



## Marine park boundaries announced soon

25/09/2008 4:00:00 AM

The State Government will soon proclaim the outer boundaries of 19 multiple-use marine parks in state waters, several of which will be located off the Far West coast.

The waters off Ceduna, Baird Bay and Venus Bay, and around the offshore Investigator Islands Group, have been identified as focus locations for the parks.

The Department for Environment and Heritage is using Biodiversity Month (September) to reveal the range and diversity of species and habitats in the Far West which the new marine parks will help to protect.

DEH marine advisor Dr Bryan McDonald explained the importance of the different marine habitats in the protected bays along the Far West coast.

“The Far West features some dramatic cliff edges inter-connected with long sandy beaches backed by vast, pristine dune systems,” he said.

“Thirty different species of resident and migratory water birds can be found on this part of the coast, with 14 of them vulnerable or rare in South Australia.

"Areas of national and international importance for shorebirds include Streaky and Tourville bays, and the bays around Ceduna and the Nuyts Islands.

"The Far West coast is also home to the State's largest seagrass meadows outside of the gulfs, and is the westerly extent of mangroves in South Australia.

"Seasonal warm water currents characteristic of the Great Australian Bight flow eastward and influence the marine life bringing with them migratory species including marine turtles.

"Every year from May to October, Southern right whales make their way to the Head of Bight to mate and calve in large groups, attracting up to 20,000 visitors to the area.

"Many fishing enthusiasts spend time wetting a line off the west coast, where mulloway, kingfish, salmon, Australian herring and snapper are popular species off the beach and from boats."

Dr McDonald said professional and recreational fishers would still be able to fish in South Australia's multiple-use marine parks.

"South Australians can be assured that just about every activity that now occurs within the proposed outer boundaries will continue," he said.

"However, when zoning plans are finalised in a couple of years' time there will be one or more small areas within each park where fishing and some other activities will not be allowed.

"Extensive consultation with industry groups and the community will take place before the marine park zoning and management plans are finalised."

Far West residents and visitors have been invited to learn about multiple-use marine parks at the Department for Environment and Heritage's information tent next week.

DEH staff will be sharing marine parks information and answering questions at Oysterfest, to be held in Ceduna from October 4 to 5, and in Venus Bay on October 6.

The South Australian Government is creating 19 multiple-use marine parks in state waters by 2010.

The parks will protect representative examples of marine habitats along South Australia's 5600 kilometres of coastline for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.

The marine parks network is being designed to help South Australia's marine environment adapt to the possible impact of climate change.

Several marine parks will be located off the Eyre Peninsula.

DEH senior community engagement officer, coast and marine conservation Simon Clark said the information tent provided a great opportunity for residents and visitors to learn about marine parks.

"We want people to understand that marine parks will be designed to maximise conservation while allowing for recreational and commercial uses," he said.

"Marine parks are a community asset so it is important that everyone gets involved in helping to develop them.

"To make sure this happens, we want as much community involvement in the planning phase as possible.

"It's my role to help people get ready for the release of the marine parks outer boundaries later this year and for the following public comment period."

All marine parks management and zoning plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010, following extensive community consultation.

The marine parks information tent will be at Oysterfest in Ceduna from Saturday, October 4 to Sunday, October 5 from 10am to 7pm and at Venus Bay (near the jetty) on Monday, October 6 from 9am to 4pm).



## **BARTLETT GOVERNMENT DOES OVER MARINE ENVIRONMENT ... AGAIN**

### ***Llewellyn Announces RPDC Recommendations on No-Take Zones in the Bruny Bioregion to be Ignored***

**Cassy O'Connor MP**

Wednesday, 24th September 2008

For Comment: State Parliamentary Offices of the Tasmanian Greens, (03) 6233 8300

The Tasmanian Greens today condemned the Bartlett Government's announcement today that it will ignore the recommendations of the Resource Planning and Development Commission on the establishment of no-take Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the spectacular Bruny Bioregion which encompasses the waters from Southport to Hellfire Bluff.

Greens Shadow Environment spokesperson Cassy O'Connor MP said it's a bleak day for Tasmania's marine environment, for the rich diversity of life it supports, and for the people who campaign hard for its protection in the face of deeply entrenched political ignorance about its myriad values.

"Labor used the late Question Time in Burnie today to sneak out, Fisheries Minister, David Llewellyn's announcement that no new no-take MPAs would be declared, despite the RPDC's strong statement that any government decision not to adopt its final, minimalist recommendations would be an abrogation of commitments made under the Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy," Ms O'Connor said.

"The Minister has won out in Cabinet, in defiance of the RPDC which he had announced to fishing interests his intention to ignore from the outset, in defiance of the science, and against the advice provided by the Environment Department."

"Where was the Environment Minister's voice in Cabinet? Michelle O'Byrne has clearly been rolled, her department's advice, ignored, as has the advice of the 'independent umpire'."

"After more than two years thorough investigation by the RPDC, and the input of scientists, industry and community interests, what we are left with is a feeble network of MPAs in the Bruny Bioregion; a collection of 'paper parks', just lines on the map that do nothing whatsoever to protect the Bioregion's rich and fragile ecosystems."

"It's a common theme with this government. We, sadly, have a government that's prepared to endorse a toxic, Gold-Coast style canal estate for Ralphs Bay and a polluting pulp mill for Bass Strait. We have a government that puts the interests of a small, vocal element of the fishing industry ahead of marine biodiversity, and the rights of future Tasmanians to enjoy its riches as we do."

"Tasmania's marine environment is extremely poorly served by the Bartlett Government, and by the Minister who has appointed himself responsible for its management."

“Marine Protected Areas should always come under the auspice of the Environment Ministry, not the Fisheries Minister who represents sectional interests, not the best interests of our marine environment,” Ms O’Connor said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200809/s2374304.htm>

## Mixed messages over Tassie marine parks

Thursday, 25/09/2008

Tasmania's approach to marine conservation has pleased the fishing industry, but angered green groups.

The state government has created 14 new marine parks in an area called the Bruny Bio-region, but will allow most fishing activity to continue in the reserves.

That's despite a recommendation from the state's peak planning body to exclude fishing from the most sensitive areas.

The fishing industry claims existing management is sustainable and locking up reserves is not necessary.

But Rebecca Hubbard from Environment Tasmania says it's a missed opportunity.

"The conservation movement is massively disappointed by the governments announcement to establish 14 paper parks" she says.

"They which essentially do nothing more to protect the biodiversity and spectacular marine environment of south east Tassie."