

# FISHING STORIES

<http://laurieton.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-more-marine-parks-until-independent-reviews-are-undertaken-says-local-mp/1388586.aspx>

Fairfax Digital

## No more marine parks until independent reviews are undertaken says local MP

17/12/2008 10:11:00 AM

AN independent review of the Port Stephens-Great Lakes and Batemans Bay marine parks must be undertaken before any new marine parks are considered for the Mid North Coast, Independent Member for Port Macquarie, Peter Besseling, said on Monday.

"The latest report from the National Parks Association, titled 'The Torn Blue Fringe', calls on the State Government to establish a number of new marine parks in NSW, including a park of nearly 22,000 ha in the Camden Haven area," Mr Besseling said.

"I am unaware of any studies that have been conducted that measure the success of establishing these marine parks and certainly urge government to independently investigate whether the parks have achieved their objectives and what have been the consequences on the marine life, and the social and economic impacts on the local communities.

"There is a great deal at stake for communities such as ours and these studies should be undertaken prior to consideration for any future marine parks along the Mid-North Coast," Mr Besseling said.

"Recreational fishing alone provides a valuable boost to local economies right along the Mid-North Coast, with a 2005 Department of Primary Industries report putting the financial contribution to the Port Macquarie area at almost \$23 million and supporting 276 local jobs," Mr Besseling said.

"And whilst it is also very easy for some people to criticise the commercial fishing industry, we still rely on fresh fish being readily available, and how the industry progresses in a sustainable, commercially viable manner is something that needs to be considered in light of this debate.

"There is still very little known about the success or otherwise of the most recently created marine parks and until such time as an independent study of significance is undertaken, there should be no further marine parks considered for NSW coast," Mr Besseling said.

---

---

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



# A tale of two lobsters

17 December 2008 | 0:45 - By Phil Lees

Lobsters on opposite sides of the planet are facing distinctly different fortunes.



[Join the discussion](#)

It has turned out to be a strange year for lobster species. If you're thinking about eating WA lobster for Christmas, be prepared for a rude shock.

In Western Australia, crayfish numbers are predictable. In its larval stage (or puerulus), Western rock lobsters settle into seaweed beds to grow to their larger and tastier size. This behaviour acts as a handy way to predict future numbers of crayfish. Each month, the Department of Fisheries in Western Australia harvests a sample of puerulus from sets of traps. There is a direct correlation between the numbers of puerulus caught and the number of full-size lobster in 3 years time.

This year almost no puerulus have been found in the traps, the second [smallest number since sampling started in the late 1960s](#). Unlike other years that have seen a drop in larval lobster numbers, this year it is not yet clear what is to blame for the precipitous decline. Any combination of overfishing, climate change or even the larval lobster settling somewhere different to where the traps are set may be responsible. Nor is it clear whether this is the beginning of the long term collapse of lobster or just a seasonal anomaly, but either way, the lobster fishing industry in Western Australia is looking forward to a few grim years ahead.

The best case scenario is that cause is overfishing because at the very least, this is something that can be readily controlled in one of the world's best managed fisheries.

The result for anybody thinking of serving up a conspicuously-sized lobster in place of the turkey this year is that lobster prices are roughly double last year due to reduced catch quotas. Maybe fisheries collapse will end the new(ish) Australian predilection for seafood at Christmas.

On the opposite side of the world, the price of American lobster is crashing. In the New York Times, [Melissa Clark asks her fishmonger for the cause](#). It is:

"The economy," he said. "People just aren't buying, but in Maine their stocks are loaded. It's all about supply and demand."

At his shop, lobsters go for \$10.99 a pound, about \$3 less than last year — a trend seen all over town. Balducci's is selling them for \$14.99 to \$16.99 a pound, \$4 less than last year, and at Wild Edibles they are \$2 to \$3 less, or \$13.99 to \$15.99 a pound. The Lobster Place, with locations in Chelsea Market and Greenwich Village, is the cheapest of the markets I surveyed, at \$7.95 a pound. Act quickly, because, according to Trevor Corson, the author of "The Secret Life of Lobsters", this situation is probably not going to last much longer.

"The lobster fishermen are victims of their own success," he said, explaining that because they have managed to make lobster fisheries so sustainable, they have recently had record catches."

Cheers, Wall Street meltdown and sustainable fishing, possibly the strangest bedfellows in producing a lobster surplus.

# New Zealand's dumbest lawbreakers of 2008



Wed, 17 Dec 2008 2:11p.m.

As well as the murders and assaults police investigated in 2008 they were also faced with less serious offences -- some of which bordered on being down-right stupid.

Napier chef Sarron John Malot led the way when he was nicknamed "the Piddler on the Roof" after being caught on security camera urinating into parking meter on July 5.

He said he had been out with friends and wanted to urinate. When they wouldn't let him do it against their car, he chose the parking machine instead.

Police dubbed him The Piddler on the Roof because the meter was on the second-floor. They said in a statement: "He pees up in the air in a big arc, so it goes in the coin slot and out the hole where people collect their tickets".

Malot pleaded guilty in court to a charge of intentionally damaging the meter. He was offered diversion by police but had to pay \$200 to the city council.

German tourist Jan Philip Scharbert, 28, was in trouble for a more traditional form of property damage after he was caught tagging the Franz Josef Glacier on the West Coast.

English tourists caught Scharbert on camera as he spray-painted graffiti on the rocks and ice face of the glacier in February.

Scharbert, from Munich, was arrested and ordered to clean up the graffiti. It took him one and a half days, but he escaped a wilful damage charge when DOC was satisfied with his repair job.

Motorists also provided periods of mental lapses -- especially the drunk ones.

A Christchurch man denied being drunk in charge of his car after it became stuck in the sea. He said he had a few beers to "celebrate", after the car went in the sea.

Hayden Tibbotts, 29, and a friend became stuck in the surf at Canterbury's Waikuku Beach after taking his 1988 Ford Laser for a drive along the sand.

As the waves got bigger they left the car, rang police for help, and sat on the shore drinking and "watching the waves smash into the car".

"We had been there four or five hours. We thought we may as well have a drink to celebrate the sinking of the ship.

"We weren't doing anything stupid, it doesn't sound right that I'd ring the cops myself if I was drunk driving."

Getting in touch with the cops while drink-driving is exactly what one Hastings woman did.

Bridgil Bayliss, 57, was almost two-times over the legal alcohol limit on September 23 when she was arrested after driving to the police station to ask for help with a flat tyre.

Officers smelt alcohol on her breath and a breath test showed she had 700 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath. The legal limit is 400mcg.

She pleaded guilty to drink-driving when she appeared in Hastings District Court.

A Westport man's visit to the police station also landed him in trouble.

Eptai Taiwhanga, 19, walked into Westport police station drinking alcohol and carrying cannabis resin.

Unsurprisingly, except to him perhaps, he was hit with breaching Westport's liquor ban and possessing a Class B drug.

Judge Jane McMeeken said Taiwhanga was "incredibly stupid" and fined him \$400.

"You had cannabis in your pocket and drew attention to yourself by drinking in a police station."

A Gisborne man did a better job of hiding the evidence of his crime -- when faced by fisheries officers for paua poaching he ate all the paua.

Ivan Harrison, 51, was seen by fisheries officers carrying sacks of seafood to his vehicle at Kaiti Beach near Gisborne in July.

The officers visited his home, but Harrison had thrown the sack from his vehicle as he left the beach.

A search of the beach failed to locate the sack because Harrison had returned and consumed its contents while the fisheries officers were getting a warrant.

Harrison was convicted of obstructing a fishery officer, sentenced to 100 hours community service and ordered to forfeit his vehicle.

A Hawke's Bay man desperate to raise money to pay off a prostitute was less subtle; he thought flashing his erect penis at an unsuspecting woman would help bring in cash.

Matenga Timoti Mason, 25, a Dannevirke sickness beneficiary, knocked on a stranger's door on October 2 and when the 49-year-old woman opened it he began begging her for money.

Mason told the woman his gang was after him for not paying a prostitute and would slit his throat if he didn't come up with the money.

When she refused to let him inside he said "I want to show you something...I want to show you this," displaying his erect penis.

He pleaded guilty to indecent assault and obscene exposure when he appeared in Dannevirke District Court.

While a number of criminals made stupid decisions, often the police proved not so bright themselves.

A 25cm cannabis plant grew for two months outside Timaru's courthouse and police station before being discovered by a policeman.

It was growing at the base of a table, likely to have started life after someone lit up a joint and discarded the butt there.

It was plucked and destroyed.

NZPA

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/15/2446734.htm>



## Fisheries cracks down on illegal lobster, abalone

Posted Mon Dec 15, 2008 2:36pm AEDT

Fisheries' officers are launching a fresh bid to uncover any illegal activity concerning southern rock lobster and abalone in south-east South Australia.

A special phone-in starts today, encouraging people to ring and report suspected fish thieves on the Limestone Coast.

Fisheries' regional manager Mel Snart says the week-long exercise, named Operation Hawker, has been designed to protect a precious resource and coincides with a busy festive season.

"Certainly Christmas is one of the peak periods where we have this activity," she said.

"Seafood is something that's quite popular on Christmas day, but it does happen throughout the fishing season."

Anyone with information is urged to call the Mount Gambier Fisheries' office.

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/cabinet-approves-36m-programme-get-rid-worm-39112>

## Cabinet approves \$3.6m programme to get rid of worm

NZPA | Tuesday December 16 2008 - 07:56pm

Cabinet has approved a \$3.6 million programme to get rid of the marine pest Mediterranean fanworm in Lyttelton Port, Biosecurity Minister David Carter said today.

"This worm is a highly invasive species with no known predators and it has an ability to thrive in a wide range of habitats," Mr Carter said.

"It could displace existing species and foul port structures, vessels and aquaculture farms."

Mr Carter said the only effective way to get rid of them was diver search and removal.

Interim measures indicated the incursion was recent and appeared to be confined to the port.

"The work programme will involve ongoing control of the fanworm by diver search and removal and regular monitoring to detect populations," Mr Carter said.

"There will also be a communications programme to encourage the owners of moored vessels in the area to keep their boat hulls clean to avoid spreading the pest."

He said the fanworm were first detected in May.

"Unlike the previous government I am not prepared to let essential biosecurity measures be bogged down in bureaucracy and inaction."

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,24735186-2682,00.html>



## Pair fined for illegal cray pots

Article from: **The Advertiser**

December 01, 2008 06:15pm

**TWO Mount Gambier recreational fishers have lost the right to hold rock lobster pot licences after being prosecuted by the Primary Industries Department.**

Craig Whitehead, 36, of Mt Gambier, was disqualified from holding a recreational cray pot licence for four years and also fined \$5000.

He was also banned for four years from being on a boat which has cray fishing equipment.

Raymond Dunbar, 42, of Cape Douglas, near Port MacDonnell, was fined \$2000 and disqualified from holding a recreational cray pot licence for two years.

The court heard on November 21 that fisheries officers witnessed each of the convicted men retrieving two unregistered cray pots on two occasions at Cape Douglas in December last year.

Each pot had floats marked with commercial southern zone rock lobster fishery numbers, which is an offence for recreational fishers.

The men also pulled up two recreational pots and fisheries officers seized the six cray pots.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/after-five-months-divers-to-check-bay-20081209-6uzp.html>



## After five months, divers to check bay

- **Peter Ker**
- December 10, 2008

DIVERS will today inspect and film the controversial Port Phillip Bay entrance for the first time since a dredging mistake five months ago raised concerns about numerous endangered species.

The five-month lag has angered conservationists, who fear that endangered species living near the entrance may have been harmed.

In a cruel twist for environmentalists, the Port of Melbourne has hired the Orca, the boat that was supposed to be the symbol of independent watch on the dredging project, to conduct the inspection.

The channel-deepening project suffered its first environmental breach on July 20, when dredgers failed to clean 9400 square metres of dredged ocean floor.

The failure left loose rock on the seabed, which risked falling into deep canyons and threatening endangered species living there.

Some of the canyon species are found nowhere else, and the canyons have been recommended for protection under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Despite assurances that inspections would be hastened to alleviate community concern, the Port of Melbourne confirmed that today's trip would be the first time divers had inspected the entrance since the incident.

They will use "remote operating vehicles" to help investigate the "rip bank" and "entrance deep walls", and work will continue until late January.

Anti-dredging campaigner Jenny Warfe said the inspection should have been done sooner.

"You'd think if they'd identified an issue five months ago, it would have been more timely to do something about it sooner," she said.

"It's pretty safe to assume that some damage has been done that could have been prevented if the port had acted sooner."

Australian Conservation Foundation spokesman Chris Smyth said the inspection should have been implemented "quite some time ago", possibly while dredging was still under way at the entrance.

But port officials said they were complying with the official time frames, and they were permitted to start today's inspections even later if they wished.

"The port undertook an additional clean-up (of the July 20 incident) which actually rectified that quite quickly ... this work will provide the information to consider that aspect," port spokesman Nick Easy said.

The port's use of the Orca raised eyebrows yesterday, as the ACF and Monash University used the boat this year for an independent dredging monitoring campaign.

That campaign struggled to maintain funding, and boat owner David Walles conceded it was ironic the Orca was being hired by the dredging proponents rather than opponents.

But Mr Smyth said he had no problem with the turn of events.

<http://ceduna.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/marine-park-consultation-delayed/1383122.aspx>



## Marine park consultation delayed

11/12/2008 4:00:00 AM

Consultation on the provisional outer boundaries for South Australia's network of 19 multiple-use marine parks has been delayed until early 2009.

Chris Thomas from the Department for Environment and Heritage said the government had contemplated releasing the outer boundaries for public comment late this year but had listened to advice from the Marine Parks Council of South Australia and requests from a range of stakeholders not to consult over the holiday period.

"We've welcomed the industry and community feedback and will not be consulting over the holiday season, which is a particularly busy time for everyone," he said.

"A series of 50 public information days will take place early next year, at the beginning of a minimum eight-week consultation period, so that locals can get all the information they need and ask plenty of questions.

"Advertisements in metro and regional papers will tell people when and where the information sessions are taking place. Everyone who has registered on the DEH marine parks mailing list will be sent details of the information sessions directly.

"People can also find out more by calling our freecall number 1800 006 120 or by going to the marine parks website at [www.marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au)."

Mr Thomas said the release of the provisional outer boundaries early in the new year would have no immediate effect on how people use the marine environment.

"There will be no change to current activities before the management plans with zoning arrangements are finalised in a couple of years' time," he said.

"We'll be seeking extensive community and industry input during that time, to establish broad agreement on the small zones within each park where conservation is a priority and where fishing and some other activities will not be allowed.

"Even when the zoning arrangements are finalised, the majority of each multiple-use marine park, including all jetties, boat ramps and popular beaches, will be available for fishing and other local activities."

Meetings reported by the West Coast Sentinel as taking place at Penong and Fowlers Bay two weeks ago did not go ahead because of the postponement of consultation.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,27574,24782647-2862,00.html>

## Swimmers may be banned at St Kilda beach

Article from: [Herald Sun](#)

Megan McNaught and Rachel Hewitt

December 11, 2008 12:00am

### **SWIMMERS may be banned at popular beaches to make way for boats and jet skis.**

A 900m stretch of St Kilda beach - from the marina to Brooks Jetty and taking in the off-leash dogs' beach - would be closed to bathers.

A proposal by [Parks Victoria](#) and [Marine Safety Victoria](#) would also ban swimmers from a 100m section of beach at Carrum and Bonbeach, dubbed the "beauty spot" by residents.

The plan is part of a review of recreational boating zones that aims to separate swimmers and vessels.

But angry beachgoers say they would lose popular bathing spots to a "noisy, anti-social minority".

Long-term Bonbeach resident Herb Baptist collected 600 signatures objecting to the plan in just four days.

"Why should a noisy, anti-social minority take precedence over all of the families with young kids, swimmers, dog walkers and residents that love that piece of beach?" he said.

Inga Rotter, who recently moved to Carrum, was upset by the proposal.

"I moved here for the nice quiet private beach and that's going to upset me to have jet skis and the petrol smell and the noise," she said.

Friend Kay Innes said allowing jet skis at Carrum would be very disappointing.

"With the noise and the constant buzzing of the engines and the smell of the fumes coming off the engines, it just takes away all the peacefulness of the area."

Ian Callander, who lives close to the beach, said he was worried about the safety of families.

"This is a kids' beach and kids and powercraft, particularly those jet ski things, they really don't mix," he said.

St Kilda resident Steve Chambers, who visits the section of beach near Brooks Jetty most days with his dogs, said there would be an outcry if it was closed to swimmers.

"The locals pay to maintain this beach and it isn't the locals who come here with their boats and jet skis and cause all of the problems."

Parks Victoria spokesman Wayne Hill said the review was tidying up inconsistencies around the bay and creating a uniform approach.

Safety was the highest priority, he said.

"The reality is that boats and swimmers use these beaches and when they are mixed together it creates a very dangerous situation.

"The Patterson River boat ramp is the busiest in Victoria and the St Kilda marina carries a huge amount of traffic as well."

Marine Safety Victoria waterways manager David Marsh said the number of jet skis and boats was increasing at both locations and clearer rules were needed.

"Some very big boats use those waters and it can potentially create a real danger zone for everyone," he said.

Submissions on the issue have closed and decisions will be revealed next year.

[http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2008/12/11/21215\\_ntnews.html](http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2008/12/11/21215_ntnews.html)

## **Commercial fishing ban spreads**

December 11th, 2008



NT Seafood Council chairman Rob Fish. Picture: FIONA MORRISON

## **TWO important fishing areas will be protected from commercial operators next year.**

Bynoe Harbour and the Finnis River will be closed to commercial fishing but will remain open to amateurs.

The move was welcomed by the Seafood Council and amateur fishing representatives.

Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis said it followed the buyback of three commercial barramundi licences.

Commercial net fishing has already been banned in Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay.

NT Seafood Council chairman Rob Fish supported the licence buyback but had some concerns, particularly because licence holders believed the buyback was intended to prevent more closures - and a strategic plan was needed for clarity.

Amateur Fishermen's Association NT president Warren de With welcomed the move.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/08/2440407.htm>



## **Fishers play down seafood warning**

Posted Mon Dec 8, 2008 12:00pm AEDT

Esperance fishermen say a warning for people not to eat seafood caught near the Western Australian south coast town is misleading.

The warning was prompted by revelations of lead concentrations many hundreds of times higher than Australian standards found in shellfish near the Esperance Port.

Lead exports from the port were suspended last year when studies showed dust had contaminated the town.

The Esperance Professional Fisheries Association's president, Neville Manstead, says the warning could affect the industry.

"A lot of people would be misinformed by the way it was worded. The samples have only been taken on a very closed area. The fish that the professional fishermen and the amateurs catch ... I mean they don't even go in that area," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/09/2441660.htm?section=business>

## Global financial crisis hits NT prawn industry

Posted Tue Dec 9, 2008 2:25pm AEDT

Updated Tue Dec 9, 2008 2:35pm AEDT



Prawn trawlers docked in Darwin (Cathy Harper)

There has been a big drop in demand for prawns in major Australian markets, according to Austral Fisheries.

Fifty-two prawn trawlers have returned to Darwin after a four-month season fishing for tiger prawns in Australia's northern oceans.

Austral Fisheries' Dave Carter said the industry has dealt with worse drops in demand in the past but the recent fall is worrying.

"In US dollar terms its relatively modest I'd say at this stage, around 20 per cent," he said.

"But it is still unfolding and I think many of us are looking to 2009 with some concern."

<http://kempsey.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/fishing-ban-call-greeted-with-fury/1381296.aspx>

## Fishing ban call greeted with fury

JARROD LIPSCOMBE

9/12/2008 9:08:00 AM



Critical: Bait and tackle shop owner Paul Martin says he'd be out of business if this report's recommendations were adopted

LAST week's report from conservation group the National Parks Association (NPA) calling for a 9978-hectare fishing exclusion zone at South West Rocks has drawn furious criticism from local businesses and politicians.

The NPA, a non-government conservation organisation, recommends the coast between Monument Point (Trial Bay Gaol) and Smoky Cape be closed to fishing from the shore to three kilometres out to sea.

The area would form part of a network of five new marine parks being called for by the NPA, which says they are needed to protect fish stocks and other marine life.

The report, called The Torn Blue Fringe, says marine life off much of the coast of New South Wales is in trouble because of over-exploitation.

The report also recommends the establishment of a 200ha no-take aquatic reserve in the Macleay River.

The owner of Rocks Marine Bait and Tackle, Paul Martin, said he would be forced to close his shop if the report's recommendations were taken up by the State Government and became the law.

"The holiday trade accounts for about 70 per cent of my business," said Mr Martin, who has been running his shop for seven years.

"It wouldn't take long for people who travel to South West Rocks specially to catch fish like snapper or marlin to find out that they can't and just go to a town where they can fish.

"It has the potential to hurt a lot of businesses here in South West Rocks and I wouldn't even be able to sell my business if I needed to."

Mr Martin said a lot of money was brought into the town by February visitors from Victoria chasing marlin.

An attraction for anglers was that these big game fish could be caught just half a kilometre offshore at South West Rocks, said Mr Martin.

Meanwhile, Oxley MP Andrew Stoner immediately called on the State Government to reject the NPA report, describing it as "an extreme action by an extreme conservation group".

"The move to lock up vast areas from fishing is an outrageous attack on a traditional Australian pastime enjoyed by people of all ages," Mr Stoner said.

"This latest demand is a massive threat to local economies in towns like South West Rocks ... which have strong tourism industries underpinned by recreational fishing."

Mr Stoner said that studies undertaken by the Commonwealth Government had unequivocally found that recreational fishing has a negligible impact on local fish stocks. But while calling on the New South Wales Government to reject "state-wide lock-outs", the MP said that the solution was to " ... consider more fisheries inspectors and better education programs".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/09/2441240.htm?site=midnorthcoast>

## Stoner rejects marine parks push

Posted December 9, 2008 09:39:00

Updated December 9, 2008 09:40:00

New South Wales Nationals' leader Andrew Stoner is opposed to calls for more marine parks along the east coast of the state.

The National Parks Association wants another six marine parks and has stated the reasons in a report released this month.

Under the proposal, all fishing activities would be banned in certain zones.

Mr Stoner, who is also the Oxley MP, says locking up vast areas from fishing would hurt economies in places like South West Rocks and Laurieton.

"We're talking about a huge area including the coastline and significant way out to sea around South West Rocks," he said.

"What's being proposed by an extreme green group is that there be no fishing allowed at all in these new parks.

"I think that's absolutely over the top, especially when studies have shown recreational fishing does not harm fish stocks in any way."

Mr Stoner says many small north coast towns rely on fishing tourism.

"For places like the Camden Haven, South West Rocks, Hat Head and so on this would really be a devastating impact on their local economy," he said.

"The economies in those locations are really underpinned by fishing tourism, it's the traditional Aussie holiday.

"To have that effectively stopped I think would be tragic not just for those economies but really for a lifestyle."

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2008/12/09/angling-fraternity-objecting-to-marine-park-plan/>

**Northern Star**

## Angling fraternity objecting to marine park plan

Tonia Moorton  
9th December 2008



NORTHERN Rivers recreational fishers are not happy with the proposal for another marine park.

The [National Parks Association](#) wants to create the Bundjalung Marine Park as one of six new parks proposed to be on the map by 2011 as part of the Torn Blue Fringe Report Part 2.

But [ECOfishers](#) NSW chief executive officer Ken Thurlow is opposed to the idea, saying marine parks are just 'green lemons' and more restrictions on recreational fishers are not needed or welcome.

"There is no evidence whatsoever by the marine park authority to identify how, when, where or why recreational fishing is a real threat to either the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources or the underlying biodiversity of ecosystems," he said.

“There is no justification for restrictions on any forms of recreational fishing in any NSW marine park, so any claims that marine parks provide protection for coastal biodiversity and ecological processes are gross untruths.

“And now they want to spend tens of millions of dollars on a new park which will be wasted, for no environmental benefit.”

The Bundjalung Marine Park proposal is for 21,800 hectares, spreading from Evans Head to Iluka.

The report calls on the State Government to act quickly to adopt the recommendations for the new parks.

“In so doing, it will provide safe haven for the State's unique marine biodiversity, build resilience into our marine ecosystems and restore and maintain connectivity so our marine life can sustain and replenish itself in a natural fashion,” the report stated.

Environment Minister Carmel Tebbutt said she had passed on the report to the [NSW Marine Parks Authority](#).

<http://www.senews.com.au/story/67786>

## It's a shore thing for volunteers

9th December 2008 11:07:41 AM

*Coast watch ... A volunteer group has recently formed to help Parks Victoria monitor Jawbone Marine Sanctuary with scientific methods. Pictured are Parks Victoria ranger Emily Matheson and Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group joint secretary Carol Majernik. 25277 Picture: DAMJAN JANEVSKI*

---

A NEW marine care volunteer group in Hobsons Bay will help Parks Victoria undertake scientific research at Jawbone Marine Sanctuary.

The group, called the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group, was established a few weeks ago and will monitor the 110-year-old sanctuary to compile data for Parks Victoria.

The data will help Parks Victoria detect any changes in ecology and marine life at the sanctuary and could be used for future management decisions.

The group's joint secretary, Carol Majernik, said the group would compile information as part of Parks Victoria's Sea Search program.

This program uses community-based organisations to undertake monitoring projects, such as for seagrass and fish stocks.

Parks Victoria Jawbone Marine Sanctuary park ranger Emily Matheson said it was beneficial for the sanctuary to have a community group help Parks Victoria.

“The aims of the group work in well with Park Victoria's management plans,” she said.

“There is a lot to monitor at the sanctuary and I personally can't do it on my own. So it works in well to have

community volunteers take it on.”

The aims of the group include the advancement of current knowledge of the sanctuary’s natural and cultural values and the protection and conservation of these values.

“The sanctuary is unique,” Ms Majernik said.

“It’s one of only 11 marine sanctuaries in Victoria, and is rare that it has mangroves in the basalt rock.

“It’s important to protect it and monitor it for any changes, and we want to use the information we collect to educate the community about the sanctuary.”

The group will hold the next seagrass monitoring day on 17 January and on 18 January will host a Walk and Talk around the sanctuary to educate the public about its features.

“It’s important to get the community involved, as the sanctuary is part of their backyard and needs looking after,” Ms Majernik said.

Information about the new group can be obtained from [jawbonemarinesanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:jawbonemarinesanctuary@gmail.com).

-Kate Bonsack

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/1949>

## The Border Watch

### Marine park consultation promised

*Posted on December 9, 2008, 12:12pm ,*

Public consultation on the provisional outer boundaries for South Australia’s network of 19 marine parks will start in the new year.

The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) earlier this year considered releasing the outer boundaries for public comment later this year, but was advised by the Marine Parks Council and other stakeholders not to consult over the busy holiday period.

South East residents will stay informed on provisional outer boundaries of the earmarked marine parks for Port MacDonnell, Kingston and the Coorong.

Chris Thomas from DEH said a series of 50 public information days will take place early next year, at the beginning of a minimum eight-week consultation period, so that locals can get all the information they need and ask plenty of questions.

“Advertisements in metro and regional newspapers will tell people when and where the information sessions are taking place,” Mr Thomas said.

“Everyone who has registered on the DEH marine parks mailing list will be sent details of the information sessions directly.”

Mr Thomas said the release of the provisional outer boundaries early in the new year would have no immediate effect on how people use the marine environment.

“There will be no change to current activities before the management plans with zoning arrangements are finalised in a couple of year’s time,” he said.

“We’ll be seeking extensive community and industry input during that time to establish broad agreement on the small zones within each park where conservation is a priority and where fishing and some other activities will not be allowed.

“Even when the zoning arrangements are finalised the majority of each multiple-use marine park, including all jetties, boat ramps and popular beaches, will be available for fishing and other local activities.”

For more information phone 1800 006 120 or go to [www.marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au).

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200812/s2441427.htm>

## Fishermen angry at move to expand NSW marine parks

Tuesday, 09/12/2008

The National Parks Association wants the area of New South Wales ocean sanctuary zones increased by 13 per cent, so a fifth of the coastline would become marine parks.

The NPA's proposal would mean the closure of several large commercial fishing areas, including the Clarence River in the north of the state, on which 1000 people rely for employment.

John Harrison, from the Clarence River Professional Fisherman's Association, says it's a ridiculous request with no scientific basis.

"This is nothing but a wholesale grab and aimed directly at the heart of the commercial fishing industry, and I think their focus is wrong," he says.

"There is no point in putting lines on maps and saying, 'Oh, we are going to lock this up'.

"What we need to be doing is looking at how we can make fish stocks sustainable."

Commercial fisherman Geoff Blackburn, from Coffs Harbour, says the industry is already subject to stringent requirements.

"It's all very well to go for the doom and gloom, and this could happen and that could happen, but the bottom line is we do have a number of agencies in Government who look at the commercial fishing industry, as well as our own peak bodies, to ensure sustainability, to ensure that there are fish there for generations to come."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/eveningstandard/4787597a20379.html>

[manawatustandard.co.nz](http://www.manawatustandard.co.nz)  
**Manawatu Standard**

## Crayfish scammer puts bite on people

By BOBBIE NICHOLLS - Feilding Herald | Tuesday, 09 December 2008

**Some Feilding business people got caught up in a crayfish scam last month, but a local fishing columnist says they only have themselves to blame when they didn't get what they paid for.**

In Feilding last month a 44-year-old Lower Hutt man was arrested after he allegedly visited several businesses taking orders for 22 crayfish, priced at \$140 each, cash up front.

Phillip Pearpoint, from Turner's Sports, who writes a regular fishing column, said under the Fisheries Act 1996, unless you are a commercial fisherman you cannot sell your catch.

For commercial fishermen it is illegal to buy or sell more than 3kg of crustaceans, which includes crayfish, to any individual within a 24-hour period. And they must be sold within the vicinity of the vessel.

Mr Pearpoint said when he and colleague Ray Turner, at Turner's Sports, were approached to buy some of the fish, they became suspicious, and contacted the Ministry of Fisheries in Wellington.

They were faxed a photograph of a man known to Fisheries for carrying out the same scam in other parts of the lower North Island.

Having promising to return with the crayfish and be paid, the man did not reappear at Turners, where the management was planning to video the transaction.

The next morning, when Mr Pearpoint phoned the police, he was told the man was being interviewed at that moment.

He had allegedly skipped from a Feilding motel without paying and the police caught up with him when his customers started to complain they had not received their crayfish.

Police said because the man did not have the fish, he was charged with obtaining money under false pretences.

A Wellington Fisheries officer Andy Sealey said if the man had been in possession of the crayfish when he was arrested he could be charged under the Fisheries Act and the people who had paid for the crayfish could have also been charged with buying from an unlicensed dealer.

Mr Pearpoint said if there was no demand for blackmarket crayfish or paua there would be less poaching and the stocks of these fish would be in a healthier state.

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

**PSnews**

## Aquatic agreement goes to water

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

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

*Historic  
research  
contract*

*signed*

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

better science outcomes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/05/2438490.htm?site=science&topic=latest>

## Licence push for recreational anglers

Posted December 5, 2008 08:20:00

Updated December 5, 2008 08:49:00



The Conservation Council wants the SA Govt to introduce mandatory licensing for recreational anglers. (ABC TV News)

The Conservation Council of South Australia wants the State Government to introduce mandatory licensing for recreational anglers to monitor the effects of climate change on marine species.

The Council's James Danenberg says the depletion of fish stocks could be better monitored by introducing licences.

Mr Danenberg says WildCatch Fisheries SA has already expressed support for the idea.

He says licence fees would be used for research, rather than go straight to the Government.

"We've got a tremendous lack of data on species that recreational fishers target, we know already snapper is overfished, we don't know garfish for instance, the fish we catch, we simply don't know," he said.

"With the right to fish comes responsibilities and obligations.

"Other states, and I guess Victoria is an example, have introduced licences for recreational fishers, the licence fees then go towards research and education to ensure we've got fish for the future."

<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,27574,24753197-5006009,00.html>

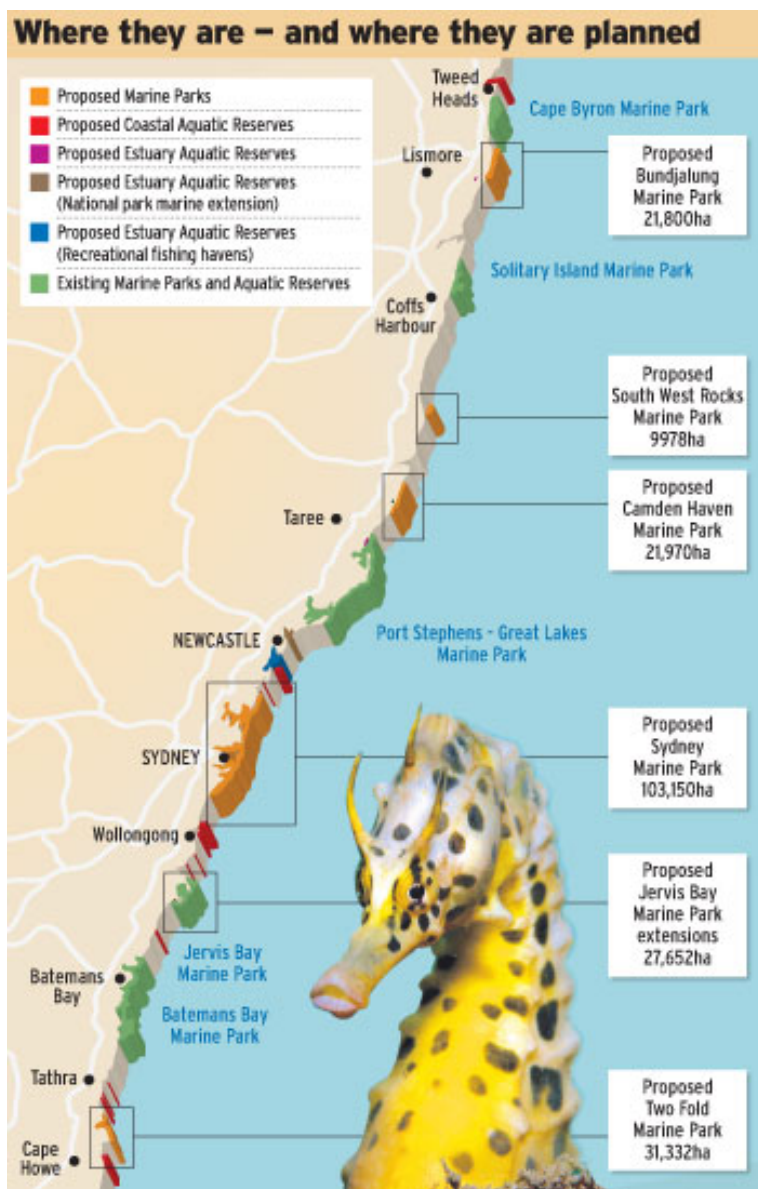


## Radical plan for marine parks

Article from: **Daily Telegraph**

By Malcolm Holland

December 05, 2008 12:00am



## **ALL forms of fishing would be banned in a third of waters within a series of marine parks under plans revealed by the National Parks Association yesterday.**

The NPA wants five new marine parks and the extension of one existing park, covering 215,880ha. It is demanding fishing bans within a 70,000ha area.

Within a Sydney marine park, covering 103,150ha from the Central Coast to the Royal National Park, about 30,000ha would be locked away from anglers and commercial fishing.

The NPA, a non-government conservation organisation, unveiled its marine park proposals while launching a report called *The Torn Blue Fringe*, which claimed NSW marine life was in trouble.

The proposed marine parks would be in the Yamba, South West Rocks and Camden Haven areas on the North Coast, off Sydney and a South Coast park at Twofold Bay, while extensions were sought to the existing Jervis Bay marine park.

### [Anglers fear marine greenies](#)

NPA marine program manager Nicky Hammond said the Sydney park would include the Harbour, Broken and Botany bays, Port Hacking and beaches.

NPA executive officer Andrew Cox said the group also wanted 12 aquatic reserves covering 20,777ha stretching along the coast, and 32 more reserves in estuaries covering 12,767ha.

The report also called for fishing bans in any estuary within a national park or reserve.

Recreational anglers fear the no-fishing zones would be placed around productive fishing spots, leaving only barren areas, devoid of species anglers target.

Anglers' Action Group president Phil Ingram said the Sydney area, called the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion, already had 27 marine protected areas, including 10 aquatic reserves and 17 national park and nature reserves with substantial marine components.

NSW Fishing Clubs Association president Robert Smith said a Federal Government risk assessment has found recreational fishing had negligible impact.

Environment Minister Carmel Tebbutt said she had referred the report to the NSW Marine Parks Authority.

Source: [The Daily Telegraph](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/04/2438335.htm?section=australia>



## **National Parks launches ambitious marine protection plan**

Posted Thu Dec 4, 2008 9:04pm AEDT

Updated Thu Dec 4, 2008 10:31pm AEDT



The massive marine park would be the first in the world to be created around a major city. (ABC: Graeme Powell, file photo)

The National Parks Association of New South Wales today launched a controversial bid for a marine park to be declared around Australia's biggest city.

The Association wants to protect an area of water along Sydney's coastline from Gosford in the north to the Royal National Park in the south. The massive marine park would be the first in the world to be created around a major city.

Already, the National Parks body is on the defensive about the plan.

Valerie Taylor is one of Australia's pioneering underwater explorers. Now in her 70s, she started diving when she was a teenager and used to pride herself on snaring the big fish.

"When I first entered the waters off the coast there were so many fish, I thought well what if I spear 100, it doesn't matter. There'll be another hundred more to take its place. I became Australia's top woman fish killer by spear gun," she said.

But after gazing across a beach layered with dead fish caught during a national competition she had a change of heart.

"Once I could go out and spear three or four boarfish. I haven't seen a boarfish for 30 years," she said.

Ms Taylor launched the National Parks Association report this morning. It is proposing a marine park that would be the first to cover such a huge city, including the Sydney Harbour and the coastline from the central coast to the Royal National Park south of the city.

The Association's Nicky Hammond says there's plenty of evidence that fish stocks are being depleted.

"We just have to look back 10, 20 years' time and to what Valerie was saying earlier that there used to be tonnes more marine life around the place," she said.

"We can't expect to have over 93 per cent of our waters open to fishing and be aware of the fact that our marine life is declining and our habitats are being degraded and not expect that trend to continue."

The proposal doesn't pinpoint exactly where fishing would be banned but Ms Hammond and her colleague Andrew Cox are already bracing themselves for the fallout.

"We think there's going to be people who are going to act as spoilers. The politicians need to be brave. They haven't had the courage to take it to the community," he said.

"I think the people around Sydney are smart enough to know what marine conservation is about and they'll get behind it."

He admits there's been a chequered history when it comes to people accepting marine parks. Most of the opposition has come from the fishing industry. He says there would have to be a buyout package - perhaps around \$18 million.

NSW Greens politician Ian Cohen has found most fishers are happy in the end.

"Quietly, a lot of the fishers who are complaining in the past have been telling me, 'hey it's pretty good here, I can still go along to specific zones and catch even better fish than before'," he said.

But that doesn't win over Graeme Turk, the managing director of the Sydney Fish Market.

"I think it is a shame. I think the public is being hoodwinked into believing that fishing is the problem," Mr Turk said.

"Most of them make it very difficult to continue fishing. They either exclude fishing altogether or it means that there are areas that you can fish in, but for example you might only be able to use a single hook. Well that's OK for recreational fishing, but it's not much good for commercial fishing."

Professor Bob Kearney is a fisheries expert from the University of Canberra. He says the current system of marine parks in New South Wales is really nothing more than fish enclosures.

"Even the Government's documentation that they use to establish them states that. The minister actually stated everybody can continue to do what they've always done except fishing," Professor Kearney said.

"So they are fish enclosures and the real problem that I have is with estuaries and ocean beaches in particular - I have a problem with them everywhere unless they're well designed - in that the problems have not been identified, they're closed only to fishing, the known threats to our estuaries are not fishing, there's no evidence that fishing is a serious problem at all.

"The real threats are pollution in many forms, introduced species are another huge problem from the aquarium industry and from ballast water - they're the real threats to our estuaries."

*Based on a report by Lisa Millar for The World Today on December 4.*

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/illawarra-fisherman-furious-over-coastal-changes/1378113.aspx>



## Illawarra fisherman furious over coastal changes

BY MICHELLE WEBSTER

5/12/2008 4:00:00 AM



Commercial fishermen Barry Aish, left, and Tony Kondakis are outraged over plans to introduce no-fishing zones. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Illawarra fishermen have been outraged by plans to introduce no-fishing zones off Port Kembla and within Lake Illawarra, claiming the region's fishing industry will suffer.

The proposed no-take reserves are among a range of recommendations made by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA), including the establishment of a 130,000ha Sydney Marine Park and extension of the existing Jervis Bay Marine Park.

NPA executive officer Andrew Cox said the changes would prevent commercial and recreational fishing in large sections of coastal waters but would ultimately benefit the fishing industry.

"We're looking for 20 per cent of the NSW coastline to be protected and that leaves 80 per cent of the coast still available for fishing," Mr Cox said.

"If we don't conserve these areas, fish stocks will decline. We want to protect breeding areas."

Veteran commercial fisherman and seafood retailer Barry Aish said setting up aquatic reserves inside Lake Illawarra, particularly its northern end, would be damaging to the region's fishing industry.

"If they closed off all of that area around Bevans Island it would be devastating," he said.

"Right across Mullet Creek would be closed off, which is where I moor my boats; that area is fished quite extensively.

"For prawning especially, that would be devastating."

Mr Aish, who has fished the area for more than 50 years, said introducing a 3730ha reserve off Port Kembla would jeopardise his livelihood, and those of other commercial fishermen in the region.

"We've got endorsements to supply certain species for a lot of different areas of the state," he said.

"We have a lot to lose. It would be devastating."

Mr Aish criticised claims that only a small percentage of coastal waters would be affected, arguing that fishermen were already doing it tough without the addition of further constraints.

"They might say they'll only take 15 or 20 per cent across the state, but it's the best fishing areas they're taking," he said.



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/05/2438849.htm?site=southeastnsw>

## Govt says no plans for second marine park

Posted December 5, 2008 12:23:00

The New South Wales Environment Minister, Carmel Tebbutt, says the Government has no plans to establish a second marine park on the far south coast, but failed to rule out the move completely.

Yesterday, the National Parks Association called for the formation of a restricted fishing zone from Merimbula in the north to the state border in the south.

Ms Tebbutt says the Government is seeking advice on the association's report as part of a wider review of state fishery controls.

But she says the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley are already well served by marine reserves, including the Batemans Marine Park, stretching from Batemans Bay to Bermagui.

"The National Parks Association report has been referred to the Marine Parks Authority for advice. The Government has no plans for a marine park in the Twofold Shelf bio-region. We already have marine parks that have been established in the Victorian, Tasmanian and Commonwealth waters which make up 98 per cent of that bio-region," she said.

The far south coast MP, Andrew Constance, says the Environment Minister needs to give a clear answer about the possible formation of a second marine park.

He says the region cannot afford another fishing restriction zone.

"We do not want to see far south coast industries ... meaning jobs and economic growth, being affected by conservationists issuing these types of reports which are political in nature and are no doubt laying the framework for what the Greens are hoping to deal with in the lead up to the next state election," he said.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/push-to-ban-fishing-near-eden/1379655.aspx>



## Push to ban fishing near Eden

BY LAURELLE PACEY

7/12/2008 10:01:00 AM

THE National Parks Association has called on the NSW Government to create a second marine park on the far South Coast centred on Eden, restricting both commercial and recreational fishing.

It is one of five new marine parks the conservation lobby group has proposed along the NSW coast, along with an extension to Jervis Bay Marine Park and many other recommendations outlined in its report *The Torn Blue Fringe*, launched last week.

National Parks Association executive officer Andrew Cox said, "We want a more extensive network of marine protection from the Queensland to Victorian borders.

"It's the largest marine sanctuaries proposal for NSW ever."

NSW Environment Minister Carmel Tebutt has referred the report to the Marine Parks Authority for comment while indicating that creating new marine parks was not a priority for her Government.

The association wants the Government to create the Twofold Marine Park from Merimbula Point south to Green Cape and include all estuarine and coastal waters to three nautical miles (5.5km).

University of Canberra Fisheries Professor Bob Kearney said there was no logic in the association's proposals and that they had failed to identify that fishing of any kind, commercial or recreational, was causing a problem.

"The other issue is again all marine parks in NSW don't address the real threat," Dr Kearney said.

"The Marine Parks Authority acknowledges the real threats [to biological diversity] are pollution and habitat destruction through development and introduced species from the aquarium industry and from ballast water.

"Yet they go and ban fishing for which they can't find a single bit of evidence it's a problem."

Eden Fishermen's Cooperative chairman Fritz Drenkahn said he had no problems with the concept of marine parks based on science, adding that at the moment Twofold Marine Park was just on the wish list of a non-government organisation. "But should the Government take up the proposal, the consequences would be disastrous," Mr Drenkahn said.

"If it carried on from the Batemans Marine Park down to Cape Howe, I think you could virtually say the end to Pelagic Fish Processors [at Eden].

"I think the rationalisation would be another kick in the guts for Eden, another final kick in the guts for Bermagui, and the impact on regional communities on the South Coast would be huge.

"To say the tourism industry would take over is a straight out furphy."

The report is on the association's website at [www.marine.org.au](http://www.marine.org.au)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/413551/2362546>



## Customary fishing under fire

6:07PM Sunday December 07, 2008

**Source:** ONE News

Commercial and recreational fishers in the Marlborough Sounds want changes made to customary fishing permit entitlements.

The fishers are concerned that some permit guardians are letting people catch banned and undersized fish.

Fishermen, such as Joe Heberly, say it is breaking their hearts.

"There's too many people using the customary permit system to plunder undersized paua and undersized fish species in my book," says Heberly.

Commercial paua divers say the disparity is costing them a lot of money. They are calling for customary fishers to be brought into line with everyone else.

The customary permits are issued by accredited guardians or kai tiaki. They have the discretionary power to say who catches what and where.

Judith MacDonald of the Ministry of Fisheries believes the customary system is working well.

"The Ministry is confident that the customary sector managed their fishing appropriately. They have a system that is well managed," she says.

Some recreational fishers claim there is a drop off in fish numbers.

"It's a bit annoying to see the large paua have all gone," says amateur fisher Bruce Watkins. "And now the small ones are disappearing."

Officially, the Ministry says it has detected no breaches of the customary permit system in the top of the South Island.