

FISHING STORIES

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-and-events/news/media-releases/fishing--and--aquaculture/marine-stocking-forums-bring-great-ideas-together>

Media release: Marine Stocking Forums Bring Great Ideas Together

Wednesday, 13 May, 2009

Recreational anglers and Fisheries experts gathered in Apollo Bay and Traralgon this week, to canvas ideas about stocking saltwater fish in Victorian coastal and estuary waters.

The purpose of the forums was to share information and explore the possible opportunities and safeguards that need to be considered in developing a saltwater fish stocking program.

The Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Anthony Hurst, told the Apollo Bay forum marine stocking has been successfully trialled in other parts of Australia and it was great to have diverse groups come together to discuss Victoria's options.

"However a full assessment will be necessary to ensure environmental safeguards are met in this process," Mr Hurst said.

"The forums provide an excellent opportunity to examine the feasibility of future stocking trials.

"The Victorian Government is committed to pursuing new recreational fishing opportunities for anglers and salt water fish stocking may be an added option.

"Marine stocking has been strongly supported by the Future Fish Foundation and its Director, David Kramer, as well as the Victorian recreational fishing peak body, VR fish.

"Marine scientists, including Dr Matt Taylor from University of NSW, Fisheries experts, tackle store owners, conservation groups and recreational anglers have all participated in the forums and provided valuable insights.

"New South Wales has undertaken the trial marine stocking of mulloway and Eastern King prawns.

"The University of NSW, in partnership with that state's DPI, is stocking northern estuaries and Botany Bay, to refine release strategies to optimise survival and growth of the fish.

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“Fisheries Victoria currently stocks approximately 1.4 million fish into Victoria’s freshwater rivers and lakes.

“We have found that stocking fish provides a big boost to regional areas in terms of fishing related economic activity and enjoyment of anglers, so it’s worth considering marine stocking options as well,” Mr Hurst said.

The forum outcomes will be provided to Fisheries Victoria to assess opportunities and the challenges presented by any future marine stocking trials in Victoria.

Media contact: Alan Everett 9658 4092

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/200905/s2578071.htm>



Australia announces Coral Sea Conservation Zone

Updated Fri May 22, 2009 11:06am AEST

The Australian government has announced the protection of nearly one million square kilometres of ocean off its north-eastern coast, while it considers whether to set up new marine parks in the region. Earlier this week, it announced the establishment of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone in Australian territorial waters - bounded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Environment Minister Peter Garrett says there'll be no impact on those who already use the vast area of ocean, and that existing fishing and cruising rights remain in place.

Presenter: Shane McLeod

Speaker: Peter Garrett, Australia's Federal Environment Minister; Elise Hawthorn, US-based Pew environmental group

Listen:

Windows Media

McLEOD: The Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett is just back from the Indonesia, where at the world oceans conference he's been hearing about fears for the future of the world's tropical seas. He's announced some of the steps Australia will take in protecting those waters. Standing before a tank filled with circling sharks at Sydney aquarium - he's released details of the Eastern Australia Marine Bioregional profile.

It's a key document in a long-running process the government has been following, to assess the protection measures in place for all of the waters that surround the Australian territory, and as it continues that assessment, the minister has decided that the waters of the Coral Sea need immediate attention. He's announced the establishment of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone.

GARRETT: This will enable a period of thorough assessment of the values of this marine environment and we welcome very much the involvement from all state polities and the government in putting that assessment process.

McLEOD: The conservation zone will cover nearly one million square kilometres, stretching from the east of the Great Barrier Reef marine park out to Australia's territorial boundaries with Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Those who are already allowed to do things in the waters - like fishing, scientific research or cruise shipping - will be allowed to maintain their rights.

Peter Garrett says the goal is to stop any expansion of activity while the assessment of the region is underway.

GARRETT: I'm confident that existing users will recognise that they have every opportunity to continue with the activities that they have been undertaking up to this point in time, so long as it's done in accordance with appropriate legislation. And I think on the part of the scientific community, there will be I think a recognition that we can see how important it is that we fully understand the range of values that an area like the Coral Sea has and I am very confident in the way in which we've made this decision enables us to properly and prudently access the values of this area, whilst at the same time, enabling those who had activities in that area up to this point in time to continue them.

McLEOD: The minister has been lobbied by environmental groups to take drastic steps to protect the waters of the Coral Sea. Some are arguing for all extractive industries, including fishing to be banned in the region. The Minister says the establishment of the conservation zone is an interim step, while various proposals are considered.

The US-based Pew environmental group is one that has been arguing for increased protection. It's spokeswoman, Elise Hawthorn, says today's announcement by the minister is a welcome step.

HAWTHORN: We think it is a wonderful announcement today. We're very happy that the minister made this announcement and we're just really supportive of anything that protects the Coral Sea. It is such an amazing, spectacular marine jewel that is part of Australia and it's got an extremely important heritage value as well, so we welcome today's announcement.

McLEOD: The minister has also won initial approval from recreational fishers in Queensland. They've recently expressed concerns that fishing could be banned in the region. And while they have yet to see the full details of today's announcement, they say they're happy the minister has decided to maintain the status quo.

Peter Garrett believes its the appropriate balance

GARRETT: It recognises that those who have existing activities are underway in the Coral Sea area can continue them, whilst we get a deeper and better understanding of the values of this incredible marine resource. So I think that we have done absolutely the right thing in recognition of how important this region is. In doing that, we're acknowledging that there are existing uses and those existing uses can continue.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=142828>

thewest.com.au The West Australian

Giant marine parks set to hit fishermen

20th May 2009, 6:00 WST

Vast areas of ocean around the southern half of WA are set to be designated as marine reserves in a Federal conservation plan.

More than 700,000sqkm of Commonwealth waters from Kalbarri to South Australia's Kangaroo Island have been earmarked for talks on setting up a national marine park network.

Conservationists are delighted about the huge area nominated for discussion, saying it would set a precedent for marine conservation in Australia and abroad.

The proposal, unveiled in Perth this week, will apply to Commonwealth waters, which begin 5.5km offshore and extend to 370km from the coast.

The nominated areas are expected to be divided into zones, including sanctuaries where no "extractive activity" such as fishing or resources exploration would be permitted.

The Department of Environment and Conservation is expected to publish detailed maps of its proposed zoning in early 2010. Spokeswoman Amy Jozing said lobby groups were being consulted to find out the extent of fishing and industry in the nominated areas.

WWF-Australia spokesman Paul Gamblin said the broad area covered most of the important marine ecosystems off the south-west coast, such as the Perth Canyon, a deep trench where migrating blue whales feed.

The negotiations would cover 54 per cent of Australia's southwestern seas, but only parts of that area would end up as marine parks, Mr Gamblin said.

WA's marine species, many of which were unique, needed such protection, he said. WA had only one national marine park, in the Great Australian Bight, and less than one per cent of Australian waters were currently protected.

"What matters is not the overall percentage but also making sure that key habitats are included in those networks of marine parks," Mr Gamblin said.

Western Rock Lobster Council executive chairman Dexter Davies said no-take zones should be as small as possible and the industry should be compensated for any effect on the fishery.

No-take zones would have an enormous economic and social effect and could wipe out a town like Jurien Bay, he said.

Mr Davies said the department had demanded too much information, with too short a deadline, about

the fishery.

Recfishwest executive director Frank Prokop hoped the Government would recognise the importance of recreational and commercial fishing when deciding marine park limits.

MICHAEL HOPKIN

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200905/s2575683.htm>

Fishing industry worried about Coral sea restrictions

Wednesday, 20/05/2009

Queensland fishermen are fearful about a Federal Government decision to declare a conservation zone over nearly one million square kilometres of the Coral Sea.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett says it's an interim measure, while the conservation values of the Coral Sea are assessed.

It won't affect current fishing practices.

But Cairns fisherman Rob Lowden says he's worried about the government's longer term intentions.

"I guess there's not a lot of confidence in the industry that we'll get a fair go," he says.

"I expect that what will probably happen is the Coral Sea, even though it's got currently 17,000 square kilometres of fully protected areas, reefs and cays, I expect there will be more closed."

The Queensland Seafood Industry Council is warning more seafood will be imported, if strict restrictions are placed on the Coral Sea.

Spokesman Winston Harris says he's looking forward to the consultation process which starts in the next couple of weeks.

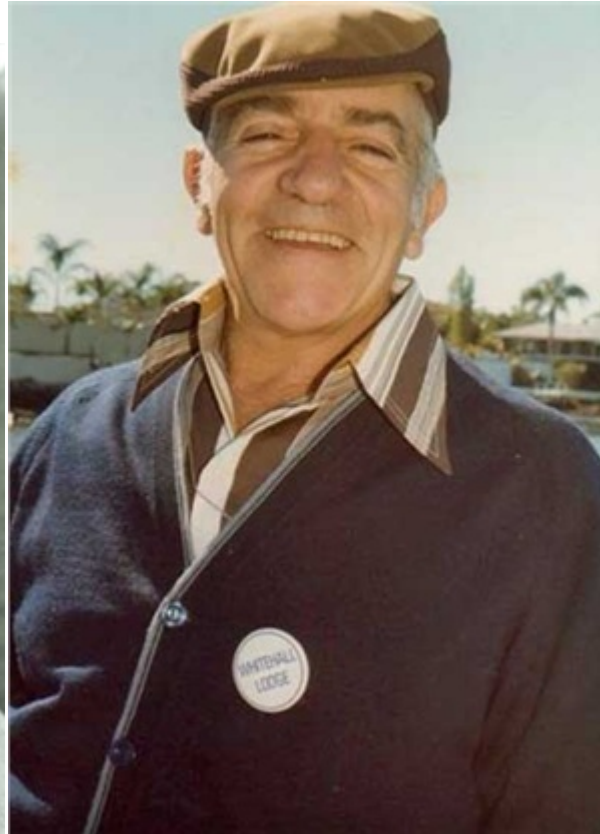
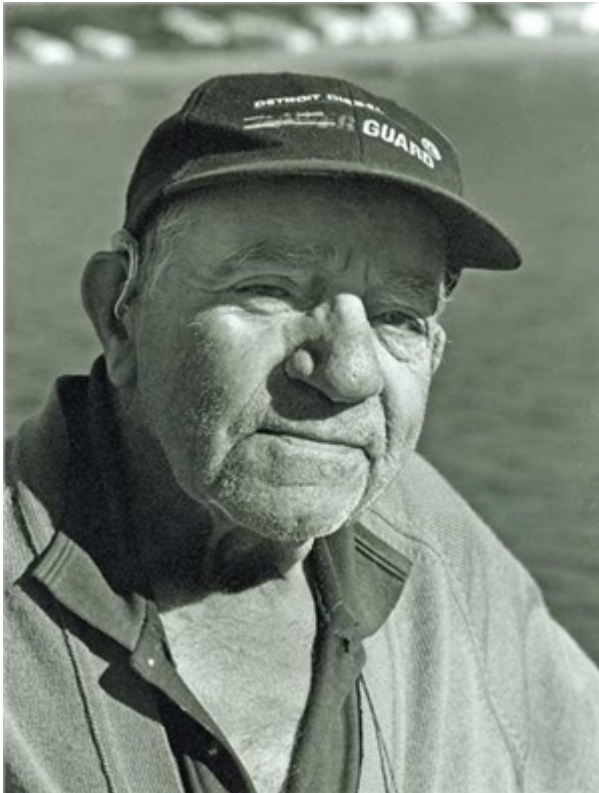
"Look, there's a significant portion of seafood that's supplied to the domestic market that's caught in this region, and people need to remember in this debate that this is food we're talking about."

<http://milton.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/farewell-tory/1518348.aspx?storypage=0>



FAREWELL TORY

20/05/2009 12:03:00 PM



FAMILIAR FACE: Tory Puglisi.

Town mourns passing of 'old man of the sea'

Ulladulla lost its most prominent fishing pioneer with the passing of Tory Puglisi OAM last Wednesday.

His funeral service was held yesterday (Tuesday) morning.

Synonymous with the development and success of the town's fishing co-op, Tory was known as 'the old man of the sea' and was honoured throughout his 90 years for his dedication to the industry.

After planting his roots in Ulladulla as a young man with his wife Nancy, Tory continued his Italian family's fishing tradition and was a foundation member and director of the Ulladulla Fishermans Co-operative.

He was later elected as co-op chairman, a position he held for 20 years.

Tory was instrumental in the establishment of a fish packing floor, icemaking equipment, fuel storage and ship to shore radio communications at Ulladulla Harbour and later oversaw the construction of the new co-operative building as it stands today.

He was honoured as the Patron of the Blessing of the Fleet Festival, a position he held for many years as he watched the festival grow from a small local event to one of the largest festivals in the country.

His unrelenting dedication to the fishing industry saw Tory honoured with many awards, including the Medal of the Order of Australia, two Shoalhaven City Council community service awards and a Bicentennial award.

He was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch during its trial run through town in the lead up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and was named 'King of the Sea' at the Sydney Fish Market Excellence Awards.

The accolades flowed for Tory whose pioneering efforts saw him invited as an official guest at the opening of the Sydney Fish Markets and the New Parliament House in Canberra.

He also had the privilege of unveiling the memorial plaque at Sydney Fish Market to commemorate the redevelopment of the site.

Tory loved fishing and worked on the boats until ailing health forced him to retire in 1980.

But the harbour was his life and he continued to mend nets, clean fish for Tory's Restaurant and carry out minor boat repairs in his shed for many years.

Despite his numerous accolades and dedication to the community, family always came first for Tory, who watched his five children grow, prosper and have families of their own.

Tory was a real pioneer

TORY (Salvatore) Puglisi was born in 1918 on the island of Lipari in the Isole Eolie, off the coast of Italy.

Migrating to Australia at the age of three with his family he grew up in Wollongong where he accomplished everything he attempted.

He was always justly proud of the fact that he obtained his Intermediate Certificate from the Christian Brothers College in Wollongong as he was the only one of his siblings to actually attend school.

He moved to Ulladulla with his family as a young man and continued with the fishing business his family had started in Wollongong and quickly became a respected leader within the community.

Tory was instrumental in setting up the Ulladulla fishing co-op and was actively involved in establishing several methods of fishing using innovative techniques, some of which were successful and others less so.

These included set-lining, seine trawling, tuna poling, tuna long-lining, shark meshing and otto board trawling.

The last of these fascinated him and after much trial and error to get his technique right Tory constructed many sets of otto boards for local fishermen.

Tory became a member of the NSW Fish Marketing Authority after being nominated by the NSW Government and held the position of deputy chairman for a time.

Together with his colleagues on the Authority he instigated the purchase of property and the building of the outstanding project that is today the Sydney Fish Market.

He was senior director of the Southern Regional Association of Professional Fishermen, a director of the Eden Fishermen's Co-operative and a member of the Australian Fishing Industry Council.

Tory on numerous occasions rescued vessels in distress before the coastal patrol was formed.

As a great orator, Tory spoke to many groups at length about the history of the fishing industry and his involvement and kept many members of his family entranced with his stories.

He was also foundation member to the Milton/Ulladulla Bowling Club and the Buffalo Club.

As patron of the Blessing of the Fleet festival, he was always positive and encouraging of committee members and only ever asked that the festival remain respectful of the spirit of the event.

In 1947 Tory met the love of his life Nancy Mimmo and a year later the couple married and together they raised five children.

Josi, Michael, Joe, Lee and Tory Junior all inherited their father's tenacity and passion to follow through with their respective achievements.

All have married and raised their own families and Tory lived to see his family grow to the third and fourth generation.

This is his greatest legacy and his greatest blessing.

Ulladulla's 'old man of the sea' will be missed and honoured for many years to come and his pioneering ways will be remembered forever in the pages of the town's history books.

Mysterious Ecological Disasters Bombard Chile

Published May 20, 2009 by ■ [Tse Hao Guang](#)

Share: 

Chilean scientists are trying to make sense of a series of as-yet-unexplained ecological disasters. Animals have been dying in huge numbers.

The strange occurrences started in March this year when remains of large numbers of penguins were found washed up on a beach in southern Chile. Over 1200 carcasses are believed to have been deposited on the beach. This was followed soon after by millions of sardines, found dead on a nearby stretch of coast. The unbearable smell forced school closures and the armed forces had to step in to clear the remains.

Up north on a salt lake near the Atacama Desert, flocks of endangered Andean flamingoes inexplicably abandoned their nests. Over the next three months, the neglected eggs failed to hatch. 2000 chicks died.

Taken together, these events seem to point to a larger pattern of ecological disruption. Theories thrown up include overfishing, global warming, bacterial infection as well as habitat alteration. As a result of these large scale deaths, there is a growing sense that Chile has to do more to preserve its biological diversity.

Alex Muñoz, executive director of marine conservation group Oceana, pointed out Chile's current problems regarding fishing. "Chile has very primitive legislation governing the management of its fisheries. Our marine resources are facing big problems such as overfishing, and the destruction of vulnerable marine ecosystems by industrial trawling".

"We are still waiting for an official report from the government, but we should consider the lack of sound management of fisheries if we want to work out what caused the death of the penguins and the sardines."

Local universities are conducting their own investigations into the events and their findings are expected to be published soon. An official government report, though, is not due for many more weeks.

Julio Lamilla of the Zoology Institute at the Austral University in southern Chile points out that although everyone has their opinions, no-one has uncovered enough evidence to support any theory thus far.

The death of the flamingo chicks is probably the most unnerving of all the cases. Andean flamingoes are the rarest of all 6 species, with over half of all 40,000 individuals nesting in Chile. With the inexplicable failure of the breeding season this year, it is hoped that more chicks will be born in subsequent years to make up for the loss.

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,27574,25507405-2761,00.html>

Better protection for 1.4m sq km of WA marine parks

Article from: PerthNow

[Narelle Towie, science and environment reporter](#)

May 19, 2009 03:00pm

AN underwater wonderland spanning 1.3 million sq/km from Kalbarri to South Australia may soon be better protected under government re-zoning plans.

A map detailing coastal areas that may be re-classified as marine parks has been released by the federal government.

Currently less than 1 per cent of WA's coastline, which is home to an abundance of unique species endemic to the state, is protected by law.

At a meeting in Perth yesterday, environment and fisheries officials meet with conservation groups and industry to deliberate over re-zoning plans.

The new map could see a network of marine parks – afforded full environmental protection – spring up along the WA coast.

WWF's senior policy officer oceans and coasts Paul Gamblin said 650,000 sq/km of south-west coastline has been mapped by the government for better protection.

"The areas that they have nominated are broad areas of interest that range from deep water features such as the Perth canyon, which is deep water trench where blue whales track, to shallow waters such as coral reefs and sea-grass meadows," Mr Gamblin said.

"We think that this is of international importance and the government have a once in lifetime opportunity to get it right," he said.

At the start of this month an international team of scientists from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [warned that WA's marine species face extinction if they were not better protected.](#)

Studies on features in the region will be used to determine those areas which should be classed as marine parks and those where mining and other potentially harmful activities will be allowed.

The process stands to affect a range of industry including fisherman.

Piers Verstegen of the Conservation Council of WA for the Save our Marine Life alliance said that a far greater level of unique marine life lives in the area being considered than at the Great Barrier Reef.

"It is recognised world-wide and here in Australia that valuable fish stocks are in decline. If our unique marine life and industries are to be sustainable they need a network of large marine sanctuaries to allow species to recover and avoid extinction," Mr Verstegen said.

Australia boasts the third largest area of ocean in the world under its care and as a signatory to the UN's

Convention on the Law of the Sea has a global responsibility to manage its marine resources for both economic benefit and conservation.

<http://sj.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/southern-rocklobster-wins-deh-award/1515933.aspx>



Southern Rocklobster wins DEH award

18/05/2009 2:22:00 PM

Southern Rocklobster Ltd won the "Seafood for the Future" Environment Award at the 7th biannual South Australian Seafood Industry Awards earlier this month.

Sponsored for the first time by the Department for Environment and Heritage, the award recognises SRL's industry-leading Clean Green program, an environmental management system that guides the rock lobster harvest and marketing chain "from pot to plate".

"The Department for Environment and Heritage is delighted to recognise environmental leadership in South Australia's seafood industry," said Chris Thomas, manager of DEH's Coast and Marine Conservation Branch.

"SRL's Clean Green program addresses the rock lobster fishery's sustainability and impacts on ecosystems, as well as on-boat environmental practices."

Mr Thomas said DEH was particularly impressed by SRL's:

- comprehensive assessment of the effects of rock lobster fishing on reef communities
- support for rock lobster resource assessment including environmental monitoring and catch recording
- responsible disposal and recycling of marine waste oil
- practice of leaving plastic bait straps on shore and encouragement of bait producers to stop using bait straps in their packaging
- increased participation in voluntary catch sampling programs and increased awareness of by-catch monitoring procedures
- comprehensive suite of training resources designed to educate fishers, processors, wholesalers and distributors in environmentally sustainable development, product quality, food safety, occupational health and safety, and animal welfare.

"SRL's ongoing implementation of the Clean Green program presents a powerful example of how the fishing industry can be effective stewards of the marine environment," Mr Thomas said.

The biannual South Australian Seafood Industry Awards are organised by the SA Women's Industry Network - a group of women associated with the seafood community.

* Details: www.environment.sa.gov.au

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/live-crabs-stored-in-restaurant-loo-20090519-bde3.html>



Live crabs stored in restaurant loo

- May 19, 2009

A Sydney restaurant with a dead rodent in its storage area and a fish market that stored crabs in a toilet cubicle are new additions to the NSW Government's name and shame list.

Choy Restaurant in Belmore Road, Randwick, in Sydney's east, has been slapped with three fines worth \$1980 for having a dead rodent in the storage area, as well as vermin activity and unclean premises.

Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said Jemes Fish Market on Liverpool Road, Ashfield, in the city's inner west, was hit with two fines of \$660 for storing live crabs in a toilet cubicle.

"This is one of the most outrageous cases of food storage I have ever heard about. It is unhygienic and is just not fair on consumers who pay good money for their food," Mr Macdonald said in a statement today.

"The past 12 months has seen a number of disturbing breaches on the name and shame list, including cockroaches, rats, a band-aid, a cigarette butt and now this case."

Another of the 45 additions to the website this week is Jesters at Forestville in Sydney's north, fined \$1980 for having containers of raw foods encrusted with food waste and cockroach activity.

Ocean King House Restaurant on the Princes Highway in Kogarah was fined \$990 for evidence of pests in the premises, failing to store food correctly and misuse of hand-washing facilities.

The full list can be found at the NSW Food Authority's website at www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/penalty-notices.

AAP

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/19/2574546.htm>

Fish market kept crabs in toilet cubicle

Posted Tue May 19, 2009 10:45am AEST

Updated Tue May 19, 2009 12:39pm AEST

- [Map: Ashfield 2131](#)

A fish market in Sydney's inner west that stored live crabs in a toilet cubicle, has become the latest business added to the New South Wales Government's name and shame list.

The Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald says it is one of the most outrageous cases of food storage he has heard about.

The business on Liverpool road at Ashfield received two fines worth \$660.

Another 24 businesses were added to the Food Authority's website today.

Aside from the fish market, a Chinese restaurant in Randwick that had a dead rat in its storage area is listed. It was fined nearly \$2,000.

While an eatery in Starkey street, Forestville got three fines worth \$1,980 for having containers of raw foods encrusted with food waste and cockroaches.

The Food Authority says it has issued 1,000 fines the past 12 months against 594 businesses.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/19/2575251.htm>

Coral Sea status change angers fishermen

Posted Tue May 19, 2009 6:20pm AEST

Updated Tue May 19, 2009 7:01pm AEST



Environmental groups have welcomed the announcement. (ABC TV News-file image)

- [Audio: Coral Sea conservation zone announced \(The World Today\)](#)
- [Related Story: Coral Sea gets interim conservation status](#)

A group representing recreational and light commercial fishing has criticised the Federal Government's declaration of a conservation zone in the Coral Sea.

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett says the zoning - covering almost 1 million square kilometres - will not mean any new restrictions on current users of the area.

Wayne Bayne from Marine Queensland says the decision may not have any immediate impacts, but he expects that will change.

"Otherwise there would be no reason to do it," he said.

"Why would he be declaring it a conservation zone and saying that 'I won't touch it for a period of time'? If you're not going to touch it, leave it as it is.

"One would have to presume from that that he intends to make some restrictive changes to the use of it. And as I say for absolutely no reason for their own documentation, they say it's lightly used."

Environmental groups have welcomed the announcement.

Steve Ryan from the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre says he hopes it will result in further protection for the region.

"The Coral Sea is in near pristine condition, but it's a very vulnerable and fragile system," he said.

"It's not like the Great Barrier Reef where you have many reefs adjacent to each other.

"These are very isolated reef systems and isolated sea mounts out in the open ocean and they're very fragile and very susceptible to disturbance."

<http://narooma.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/net-fishermen-caught-in-bermagui-river/1518098.aspx>



Net fishermen caught in Bermagui River

20/05/2009 10:15:00 AM

Two men are facing individual fines totalling up to \$140,000 for allegedly using illegal fishing gear in the waters of the Bermagui River Recreational Fishing Haven, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Compliance Manager, Glenn Tritton, said yesterday.

The men, aged 52 and 25 from Bermagui were apprehended by NSW DPI Fisheries Officers as a part of an extended patrol with the Fisheries Patrol Vessel "Sydney Swan".

"DPI Fisheries Officers apprehended the men who were allegedly using a fish trap for the purposes of collecting bait for a commercial fishing business," Mr Tritton said.

"It will be alleged that the fishing trap was found to contain a total of 62 Silver Trevally of which 42 were of prohibited size, and 3 Luderick, all of a prohibited size.

"The trap was allegedly set in the waters of the Bermagui River, which is a Recreational Fishing Haven.

"That means all bays, tributaries, creeks, canals and artificial lakes within that area are closed to commercial fishing.

"NSW DPI Fisheries Officers seized all of the Silver Trevally and Luderick, as well as the fish trap.

"The men will be prosecuted for a number of offences, including possess prohibited size fish, take fish in breach of declaration and unlawful use of trap."

<http://www.cairnsnewspapers.com.au/localnews/detail.asp?aid=1222>



Cairns Bulletin

Fishing policy changes help commercial fishers

Commercial fishermen affected by the global economic crisis and the effect of Cyclone Hamish will benefit from changes to the fishing policy.

Primary Industries and Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin said the policy for filleting of Coral Reef Fin fish will be relaxed immediately for a 12-month period until April 30, 2010.

"Under the current policy, commercial fishers have to apply and pay for a filleting permit to be able to fillet coral reef fin fish such as sweetlip, sea perch and coral trout at sea," Mr Mulherin said.

"Permits are issued for a limited number of species and the skin must be retained on fillets."

For the next 12 months all commercial fishers who are allowed to take these species will be issued with a filleting permit and the charges will be waived.

The temporary changes to the policy will be reviewed during the first 12-month period to ensure the sustainability of the industry.



Fishing Stor

The government is also considering relaxing some of the other controls that impact on the viability of the industry without adversely affecting its sustainability.

http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2009/05/20/43125_local-news.html



Anger at Coral Sea protection

Henry Tuttiett

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

© The Cairns Post



Please consider: Marine industry representative Wayne Bayne and Leichhardt MP Jim Turnour discuss the petition against restrictions to fishing and boating in the Coral Sea. Picture: MARC McCORMACK

GREEN groups have claimed an early victory in the battle for the Coral Sea as fishing industry representatives yesterday slammed the Federal Government's decision to implement an interim conservation zone.

On the day a petition with more than 1200 signatures opposing any fishing restrictions in the sea was presented to Leichhardt MP Jim Turnour, Environment Minister Peter Garrett announced the interim measures.

Under the plan, the Coral Sea Conservation Zone will protect an area of about 1,000,000sq km while an assessment process and public consultation is carried out.

The measures will not impose additional regulations on recreational anglers using the waters, but commercial activities, including charter boat operators, are required to obtain a free permit.

Cairns and Far North Environment Centre organiser Steve Ryan said the interim zone was a step in the right direction.

"It is a very good first step and we are very happy the Federal Government is taking the protection of the Coral Sea seriously," he said.

"The conservation zone is a necessary step in the protection of the region."

While industry organisations such as the Queensland Seafood Industry Association have welcomed the move, Far North Queensland chairman of Marine Queensland Wayne Bayne said the impact could be dramatic.

"We are pretty disappointed in what has happened," he said.

"The issue is he (Mr Garrett) says the area is lightly used so we are struggling to see why their involvement is required at all.

"By pandering to the environmentalists for political gain, they are destroying people's livelihoods."

Mr Bayne said the upcoming public consultation must be open and transparent.

"With the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority it (consultation) was little more than a sham, a bureaucratic exercise for them to get their way."

Mr Turnour said he would work to ensure the needs of anglers were met.

"The Pew proposal is not endorsed by the Rudd Government and we will be moving forward with a proper process to determine the environmental values in the Coral Sea," he said.

But Kennedy MP Bob Katter said the Government must make a U-turn or risk losing the next Federal election, calling on Northern Australians to vote against Labor because of the decision.

"There comes a time when we really seriously have to fight for our homeland," he said.

Mr Garrett said the Government would be in a position to make a decision on the future of the Coral Sea by mid-2010.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,27574,25499994-2682,00.html>

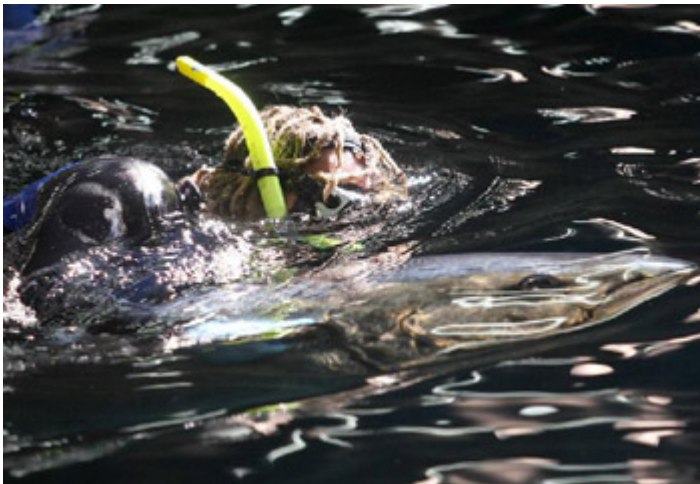


Tuna airlifted into Clean Seas breeding facility

Article from: **The Advertiser**

SARAH MARTIN

May 18, 2009 12:30pm



Clean Seas' Tuna being transported from their pen in the ocean to the hatchery on land at Arno Bay.

DEVELOPING the world's first southern bluefin tuna aquaculture industry is a step closer, Clean Seas Tuna said as it successfully airlifted 10 fish ashore at Arno Bay.

The highly prized broodstock weighing as much as 180kg and worth many millions of dollars were airlifted by helicopter from sea pens in the Spencer Gulf to an on-shore breeding tank. Up to 30 divers, scientists and aquaculture technicians assisted the process.

Gallery: [See the fish being airlifted here.](#)

The fish will be integrated with existing breeding stock at Clean Seas' on-shore tuna breeding facility where they will then be taken on a virtual migration before spawning in November this year.

"We take the fish 200 miles out to sea and skirt outside the continental shelf from Tasmania, turn them around and bring them all the way to the Western Australia border, take them north to the Timor Sea and . . . the fish never leave the tank, it is all in their minds," Clean Seas charman Hagen Stehr said.

The simulation process led to Clean Seas successfully spawning more than 50 million eggs and larvae in March - ad development of the inaugural captive-bred tuna fingerlings.

Mr Stehr said the breakthrough had opened the door to what would be a multibillion-dollar international industry.

He said the airlifted fish would, ``with a little bit of luck", be spawning this year, and he hoped the spring spawning would produce a minimum of 25,000 fingerlings which could be taken back to the ocean and grown into saleable fish.

Mr Stehr also said the world was set for an aquaculture revolution, which would result in huge benefits for South Australia.

"The potential of tuna propagation aquaculture is huge, it could employ thousands of people in South Australia," he said.

CUTTING EDGE

- Adult tuna weighing up to 200kg have been living in sea pens off Arno Bay for several years.
- Clean Seas Tuna moved 10 of these fish into its huge onshore tank as part of a program to become the world's first breeder of southern bluefin tuna.
- Divers in the sea pen mustered the tuna and guided them into a pouch slung below a helicopter.
- The helicopter then lifted the fish ashore and lowered them into the on-land tank.
- The fish will have at least six months to settle in with the existing broodstock before the next breeding season begins.
- In the tank, Clean Seas researchers manipulate water temperature, current and light to mimic conditions along the migration route of the fish.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/17/2572706.htm>

Govt backtracking on marine protection promise: AMCS

Posted Sun May 17, 2009 9:37am AEST

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is accusing the Territory Government of reneging on election commitments to set up marine protected areas.

The AMCS says the commitment was made by the Labor Government two elections ago, but fears fishermen and the oil and gas industry have persuaded the Government to delay establishing protected areas.

Prue Barnard from the Society says the Territory is lagging behind the work other states are doing to establish areas where fishing and oil and gas developments are limited to protect ecosystems.

She says the Government should not see marine areas as a threat to industry.

"The Northern Territory Government has a commitment to have a system of marine protected areas up by 2012," she said.

"It's become clear that they're not going to achieve this commitment and in fact that they might not even be able to deliver on a couple of real scientific-based marine protected areas within that time.

"People such as fishers can become concerned about marine parks because they see it as a no-take area potentially, but in fact, marine protected areas increase your chances of catching a fish because they increase the health of our marine environment - it's been proven scientifically over and over again. We offer the least protection for our marine environment to anywhere else in Australia."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/15/2571323.htm?site=northandwest>

Conservation groups push for marine park sanctuary zones

Posted May 15, 2009 10:43:00

- [Map: Port Augusta 5700](#)

Several conservation groups are throwing their weight behind the creation of significant sanctuary zones in South Australia's new marine parks.

The Government has outlined the boundaries for the 19 parks but has yet to detail any sanctuary zones.

The Friends of Sceale Bay, from the state's west coast, is one group pushing for the zones.

Its Adelaide convenor Dave Kirner says any sanctuary zones will need to meet global conservation targets.

"The fact is that all the fishermen and all the conservationists love the ocean as do the general public and then you just try and work out a way to best protect it, I mean there's different views on how to do it but certainly sanctuaries I think are a good way to go forward," he said.

"You do have to have some recognition that the species need to breed and survive as well so you don't take them all, even the fishing people know that."

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/55977/black-market-crayfish-operation-shut-down>

Black market crayfish operation shut down

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [National](#)

Thu, 14 May 2009

[News: National](#)

A black market crayfish operation run out of a house in Northland has been shut down by fishery officers.

A group of men had been diving illegally in the Oakura area, about 50km north of Whangarei, and were believed to be selling crayfish and snapper to the public from a house used in a similar way to a cannabis "tinny house", said Ministry of Fisheries Northland compliance manager Darren Edwards.

The fish and crayfish was being sold for between \$15 and \$50, depending on size.

Officers had seized gear including two boats, two tractors, four vehicles and dive gear, and spoken to three locals who may face fines of up to \$250,000 and forfeiture of further property.

That followed an extensive surveillance operation after officers received information about the men, he said.

Fish could be only bought from a commercial fisher or premises.

"In cases like this, not only can the person selling the fish illegally be prosecuted, but those buying illegal fish can also be prosecuted and fined up to \$250,000," Mr Edwards said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/north-harbour-news/2410076/Birds-die-in-unsecured-fishing-net>

North Harbour News

Birds die in unsecured fishing net

By CARALISE MOORE - North Harbour News

Last updated 05:00 15/05/2009



WASHED UP: Shakespear Park rangers had to pick up 166 dead birds in a set-net last weekend.

Relevant offers

More than 100 dead birds in a washed-up set-net were found by Shakespear Regional Park visitors last weekend.

Duty ranger Steve Burgess was notified of the nets strewn across the park's popular sandy beach Te Haruhi Bay.

"Tangled in the net were 166 seabirds and 11 kahawai," Mr Burgess says.

"The birds, which were fluttering shearwaters, were either already dead or close to dying when found and we have had to dispose of them.

"Dealing with such a significant kill of native wildlife is not a fun task for those of us working on the park, and it can be quite distressing for visitors," he says.

Principal ranger Mathew Vujcich says his team alerted the Conservation Department and the Fisheries Ministry. He hopes it does not happen again.

"This net had no identification and was insecurely anchored," he says.

The Auckland Regional Council is appealing to set-netters to act responsibly and follow the set-net code of practice.

Set-nets are common on the region's east coast, and poor netting practices can catch seabirds or marine mammals.

Poor netting can result in fish wastage, unwanted fish species caught, and lost nets that continue to fish and catch wildlife, like the one found at Shakespear.

A set-net ban applies at Arkles Bay on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula and may be extended to other areas if set-netters continue to flout rules.

Editor Geoff Dobson and eldest son Eli hit a set-net strung across part of Te Haruhi Bay this summer while snorkelling out to a shipwreck off the bay's eastern point.

Set-net code

A set-net code of practice includes:

- Any net or nets used either individually or jointly must not extend more than a quarter of the way across any bay, channel, river, stream or sound
- Nets must not be set in a way that causes fish to be stranded by the falling tide
- The use of stakes to secure nets is prohibited
- Each end of a net must have a surface buoy permanently and legibly marked with the fisher's initials and surname
- Set-nets must not exceed 60 metres in length
- Only one set net up to 60 metres and one bait net up to 10 metres, with a mesh size of 50mm or less, can be carried on a boat at any one time
- Nets must not be set within 60 metres of another net.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/crayfisherman-against-daylight-saving-20090511-b0ad.html>

Crayfisherman against daylight saving

- **Joseph Sapienza**

- May 12, 2009



More sun, no fun... Crayfisherman Rob Fernandes is against daylight saving.

Although catching delicious crayfish will not be affected if daylight saving becomes a permanent timeframe, WA fishermen stand to lose more money should their boats break down or need repairs.

Couple that with the pot restrictions introduced last year, and crayfishermen expect to do it tough in the summer months.

That is why Rob Fernandes, whose Fremantle-based family have been trawling the coast for crayfish for decades, will be depositing his ballot slip with the word 'No' in the box at the daylight saving referendum this Saturday.

He claims that because crayfishermen will start an hour later when the clock gets pushed forward one hour, it will mean mechanics will start charging almost double for their services should they be required to make the long drive from Perth to Lancelin - where Rob's fishing boat is based during the bulk of the cray season.

Shops will also be shut by the time boats get back to port, meaning fishermen will not be able to get certain parts fixed.

"If you're fishing up north and the boat breaks down, you will need a mechanic to come up the coast to come and see you," he told WAtoday.

"If he drives from here to Lancelin, that's two hours by car, (and with daylight saving in place) he'll get there at 4pm instead of 3pm, and he will charge you double because he's working over time.

"The costs will build over time and it can get expensive.

"I'm sure all fishermen don't agree with daylight saving."

Crayfishermen only work when there is daylight, so in essence they will finish an hour later each day.

In contrast to office workers in the city, fishermen working off the coast up north feel they will not get enough time to relax and unwind with their family and friends on days off by the time they drive back to Perth.

"It's the little things like that," Rob said.

He added introducing daylight saving would affect his personal lifestyle and daily routine but acknowledged it "makes sense" for office workers.

However, Rob does not think the 'Yes' vote will win because of the date daylight saving is scheduled to end each year.

"It's pretty dark (in the mornings) at the end, maybe they could look at stopping it earlier," he said.

"We're falling behind schedule with (daylight saving)."

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2009/05/13/77411_fishing.html

Tuna fishing's Mecca

Steve Cooper

May 13, 2009



Size matters: Rob Mills caught this yellowfin off Narooma, one of several deep-water fishing ports on the NSW south coast.

THE far south coast of NSW from Narooma to Eden is a favourite destination for bluewater anglers.

Autumn sees the marlin start tapering off but from here through to late June, and sometimes into July, yellowfin tuna come on the bite.

But there are no guarantees.

Recent seasons have seen marlin numbers reduced by longline pressure and there has not been a serious run of yellowfin for three years.

Recent reports indicate this may change.

Merimbula game boat skipper Bruce Libbis told me longline fishermen are catching yellowfin wide of the Continental Shelf, in 1200-1800m of water off Tathra.

"All the indications are that the tuna are on the move out wide. Now it all depends on whether they come within reach of anglers," Bruce said.

But he said the great run of southern bluefin tuna in western Victoria had affected visitor angler numbers, as many Victorians were making the shorter trip to Portland and Port MacDonnell.

There is more to offshore fishing in these waters than marlin and yellowfin. Anglers can also expect to catch yellowtail kingfish, bonito, striped tuna, flathead, morwong, snapper, salmon, tailor and sharks.

But it is yellowfin tuna that will attract most bluewater anglers up this way in the next couple of months.

Spectacularly colourful, yellowfin are fast-action eating machines with enough grunt to give the strongest angler a double hernia.

Sizzling line-burning runs, sometimes in the vertical plane, are a trademark, and the fight that follows can be more like an all-in-brawl with fish and angler trading blow for blow.

Yellowfin tuna show a predilection to lug down deep; a stand-up fight in a rocking boat makes balance difficult and anglers earn every kilogram, centimetre by centimetre.

The main destination ports used by anglers fishing this coast from north to south are Narooma, Bermagui, Tathra, Merimbula and Eden.

In seasons when the yellowfin and marlin are plentiful, these towns boom, although from a fishing standpoint all these ports are close to some of the finest estuary, beach, pier and rock fishing in Australia.

Narooma, on Wagonga Inlet, is a port best known for its close access to Montague Island.

Boat ramp facilities are excellent but the bar can be treacherous. On days when the bar is running fast and furious, many anglers tow their boats south to Bermagui, where port access is easier and safer.

Bermagui is a world famous game fishing destination.

The small fishing port owes its fame to an American western writer, the late Zane Grey, who went there in 1936. Little has changed.

It is still a no-frills, fishing port that oozes with character and for me still rates as the best all-round destination with its close-in reef systems.

The three main reefs are the Four Mile, Six Mile and the ever-popular 12-Mile Reef, which by my reckoning is closer to 9 miles (14km) from port.

The offshore action is concentrated from the 12-Mile Reef, out to the first and second drop along the Continental Shelf.

Tathra is a great family destination that offers a mixture of fishing that caters for everyone.

A concrete boat ramp that can handle boats up to seven metres is situated at Kianinny Bay.

The ramp can be difficult on a northeast or east wind but is otherwise sheltered.

The Continental Shelf is about 22km due east, and the famous Tathra Canyons a few kilometres further out.

Most visitors arrive at Merimbula with at least one fishing rod on board; some bring the boat and tackle and then try to fit the family in around them.

A good boat ramp is situated above the causeway at the south end of town.

Offshore, the fishing is much the same as at Bernagui.

Eden nestles snugly on the shoreline of Twofold Bay and the sheltered, deep-water harbour offers safe access to the ocean.

There is an all-weather boat ramp at Quarantine Bay.

South of Eden, from the southern point of Twofold Bay to Mowarry Point on Green Cape, and then about 6.5km out to sea is an area known as the "Magic Triangle".

It is a popular area for anglers who want to catch gamefish without travelling out to the Continental Shelf.

Methods

ANGLERS seeking yellowfin tuna work 15kg and 24kg game fishing outfits and use monofilament leaders of about 70kg-100kg about two metres long.

My best days on yellowfin have been when live baiting or cubing.

Slimy mackerel is the preferred live bait, with yellowtail scad second.

A couple of live baits are put out behind the boat, under a balloon or free swimming. A cube trail is then started by chopping slimy mackerel into 3cm cubes and feeding these out slowly and steadily.

Every so often, a size 7/0 to 9/0 hook is placed into a cube and allowed to drift down into the trail at the same speed and sink rate as the hook free cubes.

Yellowfin working up the trail pick the baits up like birds do a seed trail.

<http://narooma.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/victorians-stay-home-to-catch-tuna/1511931.aspx?storypage=0>



Victorians stay home to catch tuna

DAVID KRAMER

13/05/2009 10:15:00 AM



NAROOMA BOUND: Mandy Armistead and David Kramer with typical Portland tuna and albacore.

Victorian recreational fishers are experiencing one of the best tuna fishing seasons ever and they are not travelling to the South coast of New South Wales to catch their fish.

The Victorian town of Portland, 350 km west of Melbourne is experiencing a remarkable run of southern bluefin tuna that started in February and looks like continuing well into June.

The southern bluefin tuna fishery was only really discovered as a recreational fishery three years ago, but this years fishing has exceeded anything imaginable in Victoria.

The schools of fish are large and it is common for an acre of fish to stay on the surface for up to two hours at a time. These fish which range from 25 to 35 kg are feeding on massive bait schools and are slowly moving from west to east.

And when a school of tuna disappear to the east of Portland, there seems to be new fish following. Reports are still coming in from South Australia that there are plenty of fish still to travel east past Portland. Amongst the school fish, there have been some monsters too with more than ten fish over 110 kg caught this season, the heaviest weighing 128 kg.

Unfortunately for the New South Wales towns which benefitted from Victorians wanting to catch yellowfin tuna, many Victorian recreational fishers are taking the shorter trip to Portland and coming home with a great feed of the highly prized southern bluefin variety.

Portland has had an economic boom from the fishery this year. During the Easter break, the calm weather saw more than 300 boats launched each day, with the local police having to direct traffic at the boat ramp. Most weekends are attracting one hundred and 50 boats a day.

David Kramer, host of Southern Cross Ten's River to Reef TV program fished Portland earlier this month and reports there were 80 boats launched that day.

David found a very large school of albacore jumping on the way out to the shelf and had a quick triple hook up before moving on to find the tuna.

The fish were 52 km off shore which is a typical distance people are travelling to find the fish. But these days with four stroke engines and plenty of boats on the water out from Portland, Victorians are choosing to chase the bluefin rather than travelling to New South Wales for yellowfin.

David will be in town this week for the Oyster Festival and says it is events like this that Narooma needs to continue to promote and support to attract tourism.

With competing interests such as the Victorian Tuna fishing as well as the global financial crisis, Narooma needs to keep inventing ways to attract people to town.

David will be attending the ball on Saturday night and has put this event in his diary as another good reason to come to Narooma each year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/12/2567863.htm?site=southwestwa>

Mandurah cracks down on undersized crab fishing

Posted May 12, 2009 11:48:00

- [Map: Mandurah 6210](#)

More than a dozen fishers have been fined in the Mandurah Magistrates Court for taking undersized crabs.

The 14 people were last week ordered to pay between \$1,000 and \$4,000 for being in possession of large numbers of the crustaceans.

Three offenders were fined more than \$3,000 each for possessing a total of 137 undersized crabs.

South metropolitan region compliance manager John Breeden says he is confident the fines will be a deterrent.

"Because Cockburn Sound is closed it puts additional pressure on Mandurah with people going down there fishing," he said.

"There's hundreds and hundreds of people at any one time over the peak summer period, it's very hard to get around and check everybody so it's a good result for us to be able to catch so many people who have offended so badly."

http://www.australia.to/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9539:fishers-reminded-about-no-take-species&catid=73:politics

Fishers reminded about no take species

Recreational anglers are being reminded about a number of Queensland species which are off limits or "no take" for fishers.

Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin said there were a number of species fully protected in Queensland to protect and boost vulnerable fish stocks.

Mr Mulherin said: "No take means just that and it is a serious offence to be in possession of any of these species.

"Fishers found in possession of no take species could face fines of up to \$100 000.

"No take species have been identified as particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure.

"Some of these species are protected as we are concerned about stock levels, however, others such as chinaman fish are known to cause ciguatera poisoning," Mr Mulherin said.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol education officer Karl Roebuck said: "Many of the no take species are 'quintessentially Queensland' and it is important for recreational anglers to know what they are to help us protect these fish for the future.

The species that are declared no take in Queensland include:

- Australian lungfish
- Barramundi cod
- Black teatfish
- Bloomfield River cod
- Chinaman fish
- Female mud and blue swimmer crabs
- Egg bearing spanner crabs, slipper lobsters and tropical rocklobsters
- Hump headed Maori wrasse

- Mary River cod
- Paddletail
- Potato cod
- Queensland grouper
- Red bass
- River blackfish
- Spiny crayfish
- Tar spot tropical rocklobsters

Mr Roebuck said in addition to the already protected great white and grey nurse sharks, a number of vulnerable shark species had also been declared no take.

From 1 July 2009, all sawfish and spartooth shark will be totally protected.

"These sharks have been identified as vulnerable and making them no take provides them with additional protection and will greatly assist in promoting recovery," he said.

For more information on the new fishing rules contact the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au and subscribe to 'Direct'.

<http://portlincoln.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/fishers-exceed-razorfish-limits/1512970.aspx>



Fishers exceed razorfish limits

SOPHIE WANDEL

13/05/2009 11:30:00 PM

RAZORFISH have been the target of recreational fishermen around Port Lincoln recently with local Fisheries officers reporting a number who have exceeded their daily bag limits.

Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) Fisheries have been kept busy over the summer months with recreational fishing activity remaining high across all coasts of Eyre Peninsula, PIRSA Fisheries West regional manager Andrew Carr said.

Port Lincoln

Due to the razorfish reports, Fisheries will continue to patrol the Port Lincoln National Park area as well as targeting the Proper Bay area over the coming months.

This is a result of Fisheries acting on information received about undersize fish being caught and daily bag and boat limits being exceeded in the area.

Fisheries are also reminding fishermen that the minimum size for salmon is 21cm and that a number of people have been cautioned for catching undersize fish around Port Lincoln.

Cowell

The Cowell area has been heavily fished by recreational fishermen keen to catch a feed, particularly blue crabs and yellowfin whiting.

Net fishing without a licence remains a targeted fishing activity in this region with two people recently caught and fined for using a fishing net.

Fisheries have a number of undercover operations planned for this area in coming months.

Coffin Bay

Undersize and daily bag and boat limits have been the key focus by Fisheries in and around Coffin Bay, particularly at Farm Beach.

Fisheries is particularly concerned by the increased take of Goolwa pipi cockles within the area and officers are reminding the public to adhere to the daily limit of 600 pipis per person per day.

Mr Carr said the public should be warned that people caught engaging in illegal sales of pipis (and all other fish types) face heavy penalties.

Elliston - Ceduna

Smoky Bay has also been fished heavily over the past few months with Fisheries officers reporting that they have received a lot of information about fishermen catching greater numbers of fish than permitted.

Mr Carr said local razorfish stocks have been hit hard again and fishermen should be aware of their daily bag limit of 25 per person. He said a number of fines have been incurred as a result of people exceeding the limit.

Also in this area a recreational fisherman was recently reported for using a fishing net.

http://www.times.co.nz/cms/news/2009/05/shellfish_fears_over_ferries.php



Shellfish fears over ferries

Thursday, 14 May 2009



By MARIANNE KELLY

Howick and Pakuranga Times

PATRONAGE on the ferry between Pine Harbour Beachlands and Auckland is up by 26 per cent over the past 12 months.

Growth is the result of new ferries that have increased capacity and peak-time sailing frequency, says Mark Lambert, Auckland Regional Transport Authority's (ARTA) general manager of customer services.

Patronage between West Harbour and Auckland is also up by 28 per cent.

However, boating activity is causing concern about shellfish resources because Pine Harbour Marina has applied to the Auckland Regional Council for 20-year consent to dredge and dispose of up to 3000cu m a year over 49ha between Cockle Bay, Howick and Flat Island (Motukaraka).

"Pepper-pot placement of dredged spoil will compound the problem." – NZ Recreational Fishing Council

Opponents are asking why the sediment cannot be taken to a landfill or beyond the 12-mile limit or turned into mud-crete for land reclamation to create additional public space adjacent to the marina village.

The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council is putting a submission to the regional council outlining concerns about movement of the sediment once it is disturbed and the environmental impact the sediment may have on the cockle beds.

The fishers' submission is being supported by members of the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, Half Moon Bay Residents Association, Chinese Conservation Trust, Cockle Bay Residents Association, Bucklands Beach Residents Association, local residents and community members and the Hauraki Gulf Sport Fishing Club.

"We would be concerned if the environmental impact from dredging was allowed to continue as the long-term effect of this activity on the shellfish beds at Whitford, Cockle Bay, Howick and Eastern beaches, all important community recreational areas, remains unclear," the submission states.

The fishing council says the application is not in keeping with the purpose of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Parks Act 2000, which makes no specific provisions for dumping dredge spoil and is, in fact, "all about protecting the Hauraki Gulf for the people of New Zealand".

The Fisheries Act says the Government must take into account the undue and adverse effect of any approved activity on fishing.

"We do not believe, and have yet to see, any scientific evidence that would suggest any movement of dredged spoil as requested in the application will not have an impact on the ecology of the sea floor," the fishing council says.

"The pepper-pot placement of the dredged spoil will only compound the problem and the ability for this spoil, dumped in a sprinkled manner into the water column, to quickly be carried by the tides into the nearby beaches and sensitive shellfish beds."

But the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) does not intend to make a submission.

Inshore fisheries manager John Taunton-Clark says the MoF has reviewed the ARC's environmental report and research and is comfortable the effects on the shellfish beds will be minimal.

"But, as a result of the seasonal closure of Cockle Bay and general concerns about the coast, Cockle Bay is included in our shellfish surveys and we will monitor to keep an eye on the trends."