

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,25800046-3102,00.html>

## Loophole for fishing permits

Article from: **SundayMail**

Kelmeny Fraser

July 19, 2009 12:00am

**A LOOPHOLE in rules governing fishing in Moreton Bay has allowed some commercial operators to buy new permits at half the price they were paid for licences they surrendered under the State Government's recent buy-back scheme, industry sources say.**

Some trawler operators have profited up to \$40,000 in the changeover and are back working their former prawning locations.

The licence buy-back was introduced to reduce commercial fishing in the bay after the expansion of no-fishing "green" zones in March.

Often in fishing licence buy-back schemes, there is a condition of sale that prevents a former licence holder returning to the same fishing area for up to three years. That didn't exist.

But under the Moreton Bay buy-back rules, there was nothing to stop those who sold licences from buying a permit in a private sale from local fishermen who retained multiple licences.

Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association chief executive officer Linda Cupitt said the buy-back process was flawed and had caused industry tension.

"There are just as many fishers as ever, but they are in 60 per cent of the original) area," Ms Cupitt said.

The State Government spent \$15.1 million on the scheme.

But commercial fishing broker and Queensland Seafood Industry Association representative Kevin Baker said he knew of several fishing operators, including himself, who had bought licences just months after having been bought out.

Another fisherman, who asked not to be named, said he intended to retire from fishing when his licence was bought by the government for more than \$80,000.

But he bought another licence soon after from a private operator for \$40,000, which allowed him to operate in Moreton Bay.

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"The way the rules were written, it allowed a lot of the fisherman to come back in," said Mr Baker, who operates two prawn trawlers in Moreton Bay.

He added: "My boat was back at sea within a couple months of selling (my original licence)."

A government spokesman hailed the buy-back as a success.

He said the target was to buy 94 licences, and in the end, 118 had been surrendered.

"Despite any private transactions that may occur after the scheme, that's 118 less fishing operators who can use the Bay," he said

<http://www.thedaily.com.au/news/2009/jul/17/three-headed-mullet-found/>



# Three-headed mullet found

17 July 2009

| By Peter Gardiner

A discovery of a three-headed mullet fry at Boreen Point has the Queensland Greens calling for the Australian government to ban chemicals found in the Noosa River system.

Greens spokeswoman Libby Connors believes the latest batch of mutant fish embryos and hatchlings reported by the Sunland Freshwater Fish Hatchery strengthened the environmental case against agricultural chemical sprays carbendazim and endosulfan.

Traces of both chemicals have been found. Ms Connors said carbendazim was banned in the US while the use of endosulfans was prohibited in Europe and New Zealand.

Hatchery owner Gwen Gilson has also renewed her call for a moratorium on agri-sprays around the Noosa catchments and is urging a specialist panel of scientists to solve the biosecurity riddle that is plaguing her business.

Ms Gilson wondered why fisheries industries minister Tim Mulherin was so quick to go public with the incidence of latest deformities when no test results were available yet.

Mr Mulherin said the hatchery had reported seven mullet caught by local fishermen at the mouth of the Noosa River showing deformities, as well as hatchery spawnings with two-headed mullet and a single three-headed mullet fry.

Mr Mulherin said the hatchery reported about 50% of the spawnings had abnormal cell division.

The minister has referred these cases to the Noosa Fish Health Investigation Taskforce set up to look into the biosecurity of the river catchment that is among the state's cleanest.

Mr Mulherin said the seven mullet had been thrown away, along with some eggs, while some eggs and embryos had been placed in formalin, which limited testing.

Chief biosecurity officer Ron Glanville said more fish from the river would be spawned in Biosecurity Queensland's Bribie Island facility.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority spokesman Dr Simon Cubit said scientific literature suggested sea mullet could be susceptible to mutations from environmental factors such as changes in temperature and oxygen levels. The APVMA has been told no spraying at the neighbouring macadamia farm took place at the time of the spawnings

<http://www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au/story/2009/07/10/minister-promises-flexible-approach-to-fish-stock-/>



## Minister promises flexible approach to fish stock rules

Jennifer Chapman | 10th July 2009

Scepticism floated to the surface yesterday when Hervey Bay fishermen heard the Queensland fisheries wanted their views on future direction of the department.

However, the boaties shied away from making potentially controversial comments about changes they'd like to see in the fishing industry.

Two men washing their boats, however, were willing to speak up and speak out.

Steve Prior had a bone to pick with professional fishers who, he said, left their line-netting in waterways killing fish.

He enjoyed heading down south to the Noosa River but said there were too many professional boats in such a small area.

His mate, Neil Jeffers, was happy with how the State Government regulated marine parks but was cynical about talks with fisheries representatives.

A public forum will be held at Hervey Bay Boat Club on Monday, July 20, and fishermen are invited to meet with government officers to discuss concerns.

Primary Industries and Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin was touring the state asking for feedback on the Queensland Fisheries Strategy for 2009-2014.

He was encouraging recreational and professional fishermen to tell him what they wanted the department to focus on.

Mr Mulherin has heard ideas on developing the aquaculture industry, protecting marine habitats and fisheries compliance.

The minister promised to deliver sustainable and viable fisheries by consulting fishers and communities.

He said there would be a more flexible approach to regulations along with better education and monitoring of fish stocks.

Mr Jeffers hoped the department wasn't trying to create a smoke screen and would act upon the public recommendations.

Comments on the strategy, called Your Fish Your Future, can be made to the Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries website [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au). People can also call 13 25 23 ahead of the submission cut-off date of Friday, July 31.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/16/2627919.htm>

## Fishers agree to higher mooring fees

Posted Thu Jul 16, 2009 2:46pm AEST

Updated Thu Jul 16, 2009 2:45pm AEST

Lobster fishermen in Portland have agreed to a 48 per cent increase in their annual boat mooring fees.

The Portland Professional Fishermen's Association says the price rise will make lobster fishing in Portland more expensive than anywhere else in Victoria's south-west.

The wharf is managed by the Port of Portland.



Peter Gracias from the port says the increased rent will help to pay for improvements to the wharf that have been carried out during the past 12 months.

"It's a 48 per cent increase but what this includes is infrastructure improvement costs, bar costs, water costs, waste disposal costs, oil disposal costs, as well as mooring and berthing costs," he said.

<http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-tuna-surplus/1570574.aspx>

Fairfax Digital

## No tuna surplus

SOPHIE WANDEL

15/07/2009 11:30:00 PM

THERE is no surplus tuna from this year's harvest although there was some surplus from the 2007 harvest.

Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Association chief executive officer Brian Jeffriess said he could "absolutely assure" there was no surplus tuna from the last harvest and the surplus from 2007 was sold later in Japan.

Mr Jeffriess said the recession in Japan and the strength of the Australian dollar had had a combined effect on the price, in the same way they had on all rural products.

"These are the normal fluctuations you have in all export industries," he said.

Meanwhile the frozen southern bluefin tuna harvest off Port Lincoln will continue throughout July and August.

[http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/07/16/98505\\_gold-coast-news.html](http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/07/16/98505_gold-coast-news.html)



## Shellshock over as prawns are back

Tanya Westthorp

July 16th, 2009

FRESH prawns were available on the Coast again yesterday after big swells for the past week and a half kept local trawlers in port.

There were no prawns, balmain bugs or crabs to buy from Main Beach-based Fisherman's Co-op trawlers for more than a week because the treacherous weather made it too dangerous for the trawlers.

Yesterday the co-op was back in business, selling to seafood fans.

Viv Symons, from the trawler C-Titan, was run off her feet selling yesterday after her partner Steve Ross caught about 40kg of prawns and 45kg of balmain bugs during the night.

"We did very well last night," she said.

"Steve went out one night during the bad conditions because he's a little bit insane.

"The next day the decky couldn't talk because he'd been throwing up so much."



Roxeen Vaughan of Sequel, said it was so busy yesterday because many trawlers had stayed out for another night and only two returned to sell their catch.

"We hadn't sold since last Sunday -- more than a week ago," she said. "It's the only break you get when it's bad weather.

"At least four trawlers stayed out last night and have probably gone to the deeper water."

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/65150/cockle-harvesting-approved?page=0%2C1>

## Cockle harvesting approved

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Dunedin](#)

By [Hamish McNeilly](#) on Tue, 14 Jul 2009

[News: Dunedin](#) | [I D Fashion](#)

Otago Harbour will be opened for the commercial harvesting of cockles for the first time in 30 years following a decision to grant a special research permit to a Dunedin fishing company.

The Ministry of Fisheries confirmed yesterday it had granted a special permit to Southern Clams to carry out research trials on commercial cockle-fishing in the middle banks of the harbour near Port Chalmers.

The permit had been issued for three years, with a possible two-year extension, allowing for 650 tonnes of Southern Clams' 1140-tonne annual quota.

Yesterday's announcement disappointed one of the men behind a proposed Otago Harbour mataitai, which would exclude commercial fishing.

Otakou runanga project manager Hoani Langsbury said "we are unhappy with the decision", declining to comment further until the runanga had discussed the development.

It is understood Southern Clams would be exempt from any mataitai and would be able to fish the area during the permitted period.

Speaking from France last night, Southern Clams director Roger Belton said he was "delighted" with the ministry's decision.

The fishery had the potential to become "Dunedin's primary production activity".

The research permit would give Southern Clams the opportunity to show cockles could be commercially harvested with minimal environmental impact, he said.

Mr Belton said he supported the concept of a mataitai but did not agree with the application including the whole harbour.

"There is room for diversification," he said.



If the mataitai was granted, he hoped any future decision on commercial fishing would be made by the ministry rather than the local runanga.

The company needed to secure another source of supply.

The company was unable to harvest Papanui Inlet cockles because of poor water quality limiting it to Blueskin Bay.

It was important the company had access to other cockles because "it gives us a more stable operation".

The company exported 80% of its live cockles to North America, Europe and Asia, as "the product is considered to be world class".

The company was trying to develop the domestic market for cockles.

Ministry inshore fisheries manager Rose Grindley said the research trials would help the assessment of whether the commercial fishing of cockles in Otago Harbour could be sustainable.

Trials would be conducted over 90ha in the middle of the harbour near Port Chalmers, with a further 90ha acting as a control area.

Cockles taken under the research permit could be sold under the permit, she said.

### **Southern Clams**

- Harvests most of its 1500 tonnes quota from Blueskin Bay.
- Employs 23 full-time staff in harvesting, processing and marketing.
- The catch is worth about \$10 million per annum to the local economy.
- Permitted to take 650 tonnes of cockles per year from Otago Harbour for three years, with the possibility of extension for a further two years.
- Cockles are harvested using a hand-hauled dredge and exported to Europe, North America and Asia, where they are highly sought-after as littleneck clams.

### **Otago Harbour**

- Estimated to contain 70,000 tonnes of cockles.
- Believed to be the largest stock of cockles in New Zealand.
- Has been closed to commercial harvesting of some shellfish species, including cockles, for at least 30 years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200907/s2625304.htm>

## **Low prawn prices hit Innisfail fleet**

Tuesday, 14/07/2009

The once thriving commercial fishing port at Innisfail in Far North Queensland could be about to see its last winter.



Innisfail's prawn trawling fleet has been contracting in recent years, with fishing ground closures, infrastructure problems and high fuel prices taking their toll.

Trawler owner Rosemary Millward says the prices for endeavour and tiger prawns are so low this year that it'll most likely drive the remaining operators out of Innisfail.

"The resource is excellent, but there's just not enough boats left to harvest it, and then when you harvest it, the prices at the moment aren't terribly good at the moment," she says.

"And it just all leads to the point where people can't survive, they just cannot survive in the current circumstances."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/14/2624985.htm>

## Far north trawl industry 'forced out'

By Kristy Sexton-McGrath

Posted Tue Jul 14, 2009 8:27am AEST

The prawn trawling industry says low prices and a push by green groups to protect the Great Barrier Reef are responsible for a mass exodus in the industry.

Innisfail, in far north Queensland, was once home to about 20 trawlers that worked the northern east coast and Torres Strait fisheries.

But that number has more than halved.

Innisfail couple Rosemary Milward and her husband Mark own three trawling boats and say they are considering moving to a southern fishery to remain viable.

"The prices are the lowest they've ever been with endeavour and tiger prawns and a massive push by the Greens, the rabid green movement to really move any commercial industry out of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or Torres Strait area," Mrs Milward said.

"It just gets to the point where you can't survive in an industry like that."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/07/090713160525.htm>



## NOAA Bans Commercial Harvesting Of Krill

ScienceDaily (July 13, 2009) — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has published a final rule in the Federal Register prohibiting the harvesting of krill in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington. The rule goes into effect on August 12, 2009. Krill are a small shrimp-like crustacean and a key source of nutrition in the marine food web.



"Krill are the foundation for a healthy marine ecosystem," said Mark Helvey, NOAA's Fisheries Service Southwest Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries. "Protecting this vital food resource will help protect and maintain marine resources and put federal regulations in line with West-Coast states."

While the States of California, Oregon and Washington currently have regulations prohibiting the harvesting of krill within three miles of their coastlines, there was no similar federal restriction within the three to 200-mile confines of the EEZ.

The krill prohibition was adopted as Amendment 12 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which was developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The krill harvest prohibition was originally proposed to the PFMC and NOAA Fisheries Service by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Today's rule implements Amendment 12 to the FMP and is intended to preserve key nutritional relationships in the California Current ecosystem, which includes five National Marine Sanctuaries.

"This is a great success for protecting the entire California Current ecosystem", said William Douros, West Coast Regional Director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. "This decision reflects strong teamwork within NOAA and a commitment to addressing the issues raised by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and Sanctuary Advisory Councils."

Amendment 12 adds all species of krill under a new category, "prohibited harvest species." This new group may not be caught or taken by any fishery or gear type within the EEZ.

Krill are important because they convert microscopic phytoplankton into a food source for numerous other species and are a principal food source for many species of fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Some of the species that depend on krill as prey are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and many others are important as target species for commercial and recreational fisheries on the west coast.

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*Adapted from materials provided by [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), via [EurekAlert!](#), a service of AAAS.*

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,25779616-29277,00.html>

## **Fisherman fined \$500 for Moreton Bay green zone raid**

AAP

July 14, 2009 11:00am

A RECREATIONAL fisherman has had an expensive fishing trip after being the first person to be slugged with a \$500 fine for dropping a line in a Moreton Bay green zone.

The man was fishing in the Tripcony Bight green zone in the [Pumicestone Passage](#) in south-east Queensland, when he became the first recipient of a fine issued under the new [Moreton Bay Marine Park](#) zone plan.



Queensland Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said ignorance was no longer an excuse, as everyone should know where and where not to fish.

"This was a recreational fisherman, out on his own, who was spotted with a line in the middle of the green zone," Ms Jones said.

"The incident in question involved a clearly deliberate and blatant breach.

"Those who flout the new green zones can expect to be fined."

Ms Jones thanked the thousands of boaties and fishers who enjoyed the Moreton Bay Marine Park over the school holidays and did not break the law.

"Marine Park rangers who inspected 24 zones in the first week of July reported that they had spoken to dozens of people and had no cause to issue any verbal warnings," she said.

"We all need to treat the new zones seriously and those who don't will feel the full force of the law."

The Moreton Bay zoning plan, introduced earlier this year, protects 16 per cent of the bay as green zones.

Fishing is not allowed in the green zones, but is still permitted in 84 per cent of the park

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/15/2626372.htm>

## Crayfish experts 'correcting gene pool'

Posted Wed Jul 15, 2009 11:31am AEST

Updated Wed Jul 15, 2009 11:30am AEST

More than 2,000 rare crayfish will be released into the Margaret River this week, following a five-year breeding program to save the endangered species.

The hairy marron is under threat from the more common smooth marron, which has been mating with hairy marron females.

It is hoped the breeding program will produce up to 10,000 hairy marron each year.

Craig Lawrence from the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre says the specially bred hairy marron will be released in areas where smooth maroon and hybrid species have been removed.

"This breeding program will hopefully flood the system with the correct gene pool," he said.

Mr Lawrence says the marron will be tagged before they are released.

"We'll track this population for several more years," he said.

"It really depends on the rate of recovery as to the period we will track them, but we will monitor the population just as we monitor marron populations throughout the state."

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/65472/quota-flatfish-increased>



# Quota for flatfish increased

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » [National](#)

By [Rebecca Fox](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 2009

[News: National](#)

An increase in the amount of flatfish that can be caught off the east and south coast of the South Island is estimated to be worth about \$1.8 million to the commercial fishing industry.

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has announced an increase of 350 tonnes in the total allowable catch (TAC) for the area known as FLA3 because of larger than normal numbers of flatfish, especially lemon sole and New Zealand sole, available this year.

Port Chalmers Fishing Co-operative president Steve Little said local trawlermen were almost entirely dependent on flatfish to make a living, so the increase was welcome.

"This increase is seen as a positive initiative by the new Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley."

However, it was a "purely a short-term solution" as the previous reduced TAC would be back in place for the new quota year 2009-10, he said.

The 350-tonne increase only represented a reinstatement of 5% of the TAC.

"It certainly gives fishermen and processors hope that a long-term review will be implemented so the flatfish can continue to be caught in local waters and through to Southland, which has also landed abundant fish."

The FLA3 area runs from Banks Peninsula to Cascade Point, north of Milford Sound, and did not take into account the very localised variations in catch due to environmental factors and fishing practices, he said.

Ministry inshore fishery manager Rose Grindley said flatfish numbers naturally fluctuated and in some years there were large numbers of fish available.

"The in-season increase means fishers can make the most of the high numbers of fish around at the moment while we make sure the fishery is sustainable for the future."

The increase would only apply to commercial fishers and was estimated to be worth \$1.8 million to the commercial fishing industry, she said.

The FLA3 fishery is made up of yellow-belly flounder, sand flounder, black flounder, greenback flounder, lemon sole, brill and turbot.

An increase in fish numbers was thought to be due to environmental factors such as water temperature, the availability of food and the influence of ocean currents and weather patterns.

Catch limits in the fishery would revert to previous levels at the end of the current fishing year on September 30.

*rebecca.fox@odt.co.nz.*



<http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2009/07/15/why-noaa-is-banning-krill-harvest-off-the-west-coast/>

## Why NOAA is banning krill harvest off the West Coast

By *Moises Velasquez-Manoff* | 07.15.09



NEWSCOM

Krill pictured off Anvers Island, Antarctica.

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On Monday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) prohibited krill harvesting off the US West Coast. The ban goes into effect Aug. 12.

Krill are tiny shrimplike creatures. They eat algae and, occasionally, other little critters. Ultimately, we all rely on photosynthetic organisms for our daily bread – they're the only organisms able to use the sun's energy to directly create carbohydrates.

In the marine realm, it's krill that play the important role of converting plant matter into flesh. Anything that's not a vegetarian – and that includes whales, seals, and many, many fish – relies on krill, or similar shrimplike creatures (like copepods), to convert plant matter into animal protein and fat.

Salmon eat them; that's how they get their characteristic orangish color. So does the blue whale. That tells you something about the little shrimp's abundance. There are enough to support the largest animal ever to have existed.

Indeed, judged by sheer biomass – the combined weight of all living individuals – Antarctic krill are the [single most successful animal on the planet](#). And they support large, both literally and figuratively, quantities of life. If you were to put all the world's marine mammals on a scale, you'd find half that mass came from the krill-rich waters surrounding Antarctica. That includes one-fifth of the [world's whales](#). All that is because of krill.

[Greenpeace says](#) of krill:



It is currently the largest fishery in the Southern Ocean (Everson 2000). The market for krill is expected to grow in line with increasing demand globally for aquaculture feed (Nicol & Foster 2003). Previous difficulties related to rapid spoiling of the catch and high levels of fluoride leaching from the shells into the meat have largely been overcome by improved and more rapid on-board processing techniques. Some facilities exist aboard vessels to manufacture bio-diesel from krill. The decline in sea ice in the south-western Atlantic has enabled the krill fishery to operate year round (Smetacek & Nicol 2005). This and the improved processing methods have effectively removed the last constraints that were limiting growth of this fishery. In addition, the development of new products is taking place, including the production of krill oil rich in omega-3 fatty acids as a human dietary supplement.

There are no krill fisheries yet in the 200-mile wide exclusive economic zone off the US West Coast. But, as Greenpeace points out, demand for krill is on the rise. Usually, harvested krill are ground and squeezed into meal or oil that goes to feed livestock or fish. But some foresee a fish food shortage.

There's already talk that rising fishmeal prices will [spark a krill war](#) in the Southern Ocean. And a 2002 report by the UN's Food and Agriculture Program used the term "fish meal trap" to refer to that moment when supply of the a limited resource (fish meal) would no longer meet demand — a peak fish moment.

[A later FAO report says:](#)

Even with stable (neither increasing nor decreasing) supplies of raw fish for fishmeal production, it is also argued that the growing demand for fishmeal will continue to drive the price of fishmeal and fish oil upwards. Upon reaching a certain price level, the use of fishmeal and fish oil may no longer be financially viable.

It goes without saying that environmentalists would rather avoid that scenario. By the time market prices respond to a scarcity in fish and/or krill meal, who knows how many marine animals will have starved to death. So more than anything, the NOAA krill ban may be proactive step toward protecting the California food web – especially large, slow-breeding animals such as whales that already suffer from low numbers.

And that's how many are hailing it:

[Mother Jones says](#), "Today's rule is a rare instance of foresight in fisheries management, designed to preserve the foundation of a healthy marine foodweb in the California Current ecosystem, including its five National Marine Sanctuaries."

[Oceana's Ben Enticknap tells the AP](#): "It's proactive and precautionary taking action now before there is a crisis, rather than waiting for a big problem to occur and then having to deal with it."

The West Coast has seen firsthand what happens when krill stocks collapse. In 2003, rockfish populations off California tanked, [reports the AP](#). Then, in 2005, sea birds and other marine life began showing signs of starvation. Scientists eventually blamed a plummeting krill population.



It wasn't from overfishing, though: 2004-'05 was an El Nino year, a periodic warming of the western Pacific. That's when warm surface waters halt the upwelling of cooler, nutrient-rich waters from the deep. Primary productivity slows, and so does everything that depends on it.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/09/2620999.htm?site=midnorthcoast>

## Govt must clarify marine parks stance: MP

Posted July 9, 2009 10:14:00

Clarence MP Steve Cansdell wants the New South Wales Government to make its position on Clarence Coast marine parks clear.

Mr Cansdell says the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebutt, has told him a marine park will not be established.

He says Ms Tebutt has since referred the issue to the National Parks Association for consideration.

"We need the Environment Minister to make the decision clear because you need to take that uncertainty and that fear away from north coast residents and also the fishermen ... and the tourist industry," he said.

"That cloud is hanging over the north coast, with a fear of things being locked up."

Mr Cansdell says there is confusion about a marine park's impact on the fishing industry.

"The professional fishermen, they will be restricted to areas they can go and they're struggling as it is," he said.

"Especially with the floods, which have major impacts not only on the land but also the fishermen and the waters as well.

"We need a solid, firm answer from the Minister - you just need to get rid of that uncertainty and the Minister has to do that."

<http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/pressure-mounting-on-marine-park-decision/1563249.aspx?storypage=0>

Fairfax Digital

## Pressure mounting on marine park decision

SOPHIE WANDEL

8/07/2009 11:30:00 PM

PRESSURE is mounting on the State Government to make a decision on the outer boundaries of Marine Park 6 with a public meeting planned at Tumby Bay.

Local stakeholders have appealed to environment minister Jay Weatherill to hurry up and make a decision to allay community concern that is building.

Tumby Bay mayor Graeme Stirling said the council wrote to the minister last week inviting him to a town meeting and is waiting for a reply.



"There is certainly concern within the community surrounding what is happening with Marine Park 6, particularly with the economic and tourism impacts," he said.

More than 6000 people visit Tumby Bay every year for recreational fishing and people did not want to see this cease.

"A public meeting will go ahead unless the minister decides to go with the outer boundaries that we have proposed."

This proposal put together by local government, recreational and commercial fishers was sent to the State Government in early June and recommended the boundaries be reduced in a bid to lessen the impact on the multi-million dollar commercial and recreational fishing sectors as well as the local tourism industry.

They were led to believe the minister would be making a decision last week on which way the marine park process was headed.

A decision would indicate if the outer boundaries of Marine Park 6, which include popular fishing waters near Tumby Bay and the islands of Sir Joseph Banks Group, would remain the same as originally proposed or would be going with the scaled back local government and fishermen's proposal.

Yesterday former president of the Spencer Gulf & West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association, Barry Evans, called for the minister to make a decision.

"We have done everything that has been asked of us and met all the criteria set down as far as marine parks are concerned ... what more do we have to do to get an answer," Mr Evans said.

His call was backed up by Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association research manager David Ellis.

"We have accommodated all the different requirements set out by the minister; he needs to sign off on Marine Park 6 or tell us where our proposal is lacking."

Both men said their proposal provided an option where the least amount of compensation would be required.

Mr Evans said if the minister went with the conservation proposal for Marine Park 6 it would leave the door wide open for larger boundaries for all of the State's marine parks, which could have dramatic effects on other communities from Cowell to Port Pirie, Venus Bay to Coffin Bay and areas on Yorke Peninsula, making 46 per cent of State waters a marine park.

Whilst the government's outer boundaries have already been declared, the minister has until July 31 to make any adjustments.

The minister told the Port Lincoln Times yesterday that he would be announcing some decisions about possible boundary adjustments in coming weeks.

"Whatever decisions are made, the vast majority of each marine park will be open to fishers," Mr Weatherill said.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/we-thought-we-had-the-good-oil-bligh-20090706-daav.html>

## **We thought we had the good oil: Bligh**

Conal Hanna

*July 7, 2009*

Premier Anna Bligh has rejected claims her government was naive by taking Swire Shipping at its word when the company promised to pay for the clean-up of oil leaked from one of its boats off Moreton Island.

The Pacific Adventurer spilt 270 tonnes of fuel oil into Moreton Bay in March. At the time, Swire indicated it would pay the full cost of the clean-up, estimated to be \$34 million.



But the company has since said it will only spend \$20 million on the clean-up, still more than the maximum set under international maritime law of \$14.5 million.

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**YOUR SAY: Ban Swire from Queensland?**  
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Speaking on ABC Radio late yesterday afternoon, Ms Bligh admitted the government had few legal options available, but the company still had a moral obligation not to renege on the earlier offer.

"I think when you're dealing with a major international company you're entitled to take them at their word," Ms Bligh said

"They gave every indication - both verbally and in writing - that they were prepared to accept responsibility."

Despite her disappointment, Ms Bligh said she would not heed **calls to ban Swire Shipping from Queensland** waters.

"I think we need to be a bit cautious about that. I'm not sure we could stop individual companies in Queensland contracting Swire to transport their goods and if we couldn't get those goods here I think we'd find Queensland consumers disadvantaged," Ms Bligh said.

"You need to be a little bit careful not to cut off your nose to spite your face."

The shipping industry yesterday threw its weight behind Swire, saying the company had met its obligations and to go beyond that could jack up business costs.

Shipping Australia chief executive Llew Russell said members met with disbelief Sunday's calls from the premier and federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese for Swire to pay all clean-up costs.

Mr Russell said Australia was a party to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims.

"The company is meeting its full responsibility under that convention and in fact the ship's insurance has already provided financial security for up to \$20 million and the company provided even on top of that \$2 million of assistance with the clean-up," he said.

"If Australia ignores the application of this convention then insurance costs for ships trading to and from Australia will skyrocket - if one can obtain insurance at all for what in effect would be an uninsurable risk."

Having on Sunday demanded that Swire Shipping meet the full cost of the clean-up, Ms Bligh yesterday admitted there was little her government could do to recover the money.

"Certainly, the early advice indicates that there's limited options for pursuing any legal action against the company," Ms Bligh said.

However, she said the Federal Government had said it would look at charging a new levy on all ships coming to Australia to make up the lost funds.

"This was a very, very serious environmental incident. The people of Queensland - through their taxes and rates - have paid for the clean up of it and we'll do everything in our power to get what we can out of this company," Ms Bligh told ABC.



The matter may not be over, however, with Queensland Fishing Industry Association president Michael Gardner saying the body would pursue legal action.

Mr Gardner said the Pacific Adventurer spill had shut down fishing for a time, affected consumer confidence and impacted on wholesalers and retailers.

Prawn trawlers continue to suffer losses because they are banned from the area where 31 containers, also spilled from the Pacific Adventurer, are lying on the sea floor.

"Everybody associated with the industry suffered some sort of an impact," Mr Gardner said.

Mr Gardner said the industry wants the 31 containers, which were located by the Royal Australian Navy, to be removed.

The fishing industry will have no choice but to take legal action "unless Swire are prepared to make an effort to determine what they would be prepared to enter into in terms of compensation", Mr Gardner said.

- with AAP

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/spill-ship-owners-backed-by-industry-body-20090706-da8h.html>

## Spill ship owners backed by industry body

*July 6, 2009*

The shipping industry has thrown its weight behind the owner of the Pacific Adventurer, saying the company is meeting its obligations and to go beyond that could jack up business costs.

The support came as Premier Anna Bligh admitted there's little the government can do to recover the full cost of the clean-up of southern Queensland beaches in the wake of the cargo ship spilling 270 tonnes of fuel oil into Moreton Bay in March.

Swire Shipping has said it is legally liable under international maritime law for only \$14.5 million of the clean-up bill, estimated to be \$34 million.

However Swire Shipping says it has guaranteed \$20 million towards the clean-up, having already spent another \$2 million in the days following the incident.

Shipping Australia chief executive Llew Russell said members met with disbelief yesterday's calls from the premier and federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese for Swire Shipping to pay all clean-up costs.

Mr Russell said Australia is a party to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims.

"The company is meeting its full responsibility under that convention and in fact the ship's insurance has already provided financial security for up to \$20 million and the company provided even on top of that \$2 million of assistance with the clean-up," he said.

"If Australia ignores the application of this convention then insurance costs for ships trading to and from Australia will skyrocket - if one can obtain insurance at all for what in effect would be an uninsurable risk."



Having yesterday demanded that Swire Shipping meet the full cost of the clean-up, Ms Bligh today admitted there may be **little her government can do** to recover the money.

"Certainly, the early advice indicates that there's limited options for pursuing any legal action against the company," Ms Bligh told reporters on the Gold Coast.

She said if there was any chance Queensland could recoup the money through the courts, it would go ahead.

The Queensland fishing industry is preparing just such a course of action, said Queensland Fishing Industry Association president Michael Gardner.

Mr Gardner said the Pacific Adventurer spill had shut down fishing for a time, affected consumer confidence and impacted on wholesalers and retailers.

Prawn trawlers continue to suffer losses because they are banned from the area where 31 containers, also spilled from the Pacific Adventurer, are lying on the sea floor.

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**AAP**

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200907/s2618783.htm>

## QLD fishermen improve nets to gain US market access

Tuesday, 07/07/2009

Queensland commercial fisherman have made improvements to their turtle exclusion devices as they try to gain access to United States markets.

Hervey Bay prawn trawler operator Stephen Murphy says the US hasn't accepted Queensland prawns because bycatch net devices didn't meet specifications.

But Mr Murphy believes fisherman are now using the right gear.

"They're hoping to bring the new regulations in sometime soon, I think by the end of this year at some stage and then as far as I know I think early next year the American's should be over to give us accreditation and we should be able to start exporting," he says.

Earlier this week the Queensland Government announced a \$1 million rebate scheme to help trawl fishermen purchase more effective bycatch reduction devices on their nets.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/08/2620290.htm>



# SA Govt urged to boost anglers' support

Posted Wed Jul 8, 2009 2:01pm AEST

Updated Wed Jul 8, 2009 2:00pm AEST

The South Australian Recreational Fisheries Advisory Council says the State Government needs to provide more support to the state's anglers.

Executive officer Trevor Watts says while the aquaculture sector recently received a boost in funding, recreational fishers have been ignored by the Government for the past eight years.

He says anglers are continually losing access and area to aquaculture and also need better stocking programs.

"We had the Murray cod fishery shut down in a rather most arrogant way just prior to Christmas without any consultation with us," he said.

"The anglers suffer in the Riverland region because we don't do a cod stocking program like they do in New South Wales and Victoria.

"The comparisons between South Australia and the rest of the states in Australia are so stark it almost bowls you over."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200907/s2619905.htm>

## Fishing industry wants ocean farm regulation

Wednesday, 08/07/2009

Fish farmers want the Federal Government to draw up legislation about farms in the ocean.

Offshore farming, that is cages set up 10 kilometres or more from the coast, is increasing around the world and is being trialed in Western Australia.

Justin Fromm from the National Aquaculture Council says he'd like to see the Government address this development before farmers run out of room to farm in state coastal waters.

"If there's no strong management in it then our community perceptions about aquaculture will be harmed," he says.

"So if we've got the strong management frameworks in place before we go out there we're hoping that that will reduce the fears in the community about offshore aquaculture."

<http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/angry-anglers/1563252.aspx?storypage=0>

**Fairfax Digital**

## Angry anglers

SOPHIE WANDEL

8/07/2009 11:30:00 PM

IT used to be catching the fish that was the hard part. Now anglers are finding it harder to find a place to cast off in the first place.



Anglers are angry over the continued loss of access to fishing waters around the State and voiced their concerns on Tuesday.

South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council executive officer Trevor Watts said anglers were growing increasingly concerned about the loss of ground against commercial and government interests.

More than 470,000 keen recreational fishermen throw a line out around the State each year, an industry that is worth more than \$350 million to the South Australian economy annually.

The council is mounting a campaign to increase access and opportunity for anglers in South Australian waters.

Mr Watts said the State Government had poured millions into promoting and advancing other commercial sectors, particularly aquaculture, and had left the largest recreational pursuit to wither on the vine.

He said far more access had been lost to anglers through aquaculture development than will ever be lost to marine parks.

"In some areas, boat anglers can no longer travel to their favourite spots for fear of getting tangled up in equipment on aquaculture leases."

The value of the State's aquaculture industry to the economy has now reached \$657 million a year and is expected to grow significantly, especially in the abalone, mussel and marine finfish sectors.

Fisheries Minister Paul Caica was not available on Tuesday but a spokesperson said there was no substance to the claims made by the South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

"Any claims that access has been impacted should be backed up with concrete examples of where or how access has been lost."

The spokesperson said expansion to the aquaculture industry could only take place once key parties in the region were consulted, including the community and recreational fishers.

"We have a comprehensive aquaculture zoning process which takes into account other uses. This often incorporates aquaculture exclusion zones that recognise recreational uses and amenity," the spokesperson said.

But Mr Watts said other states were spending millions of dollars developing the industry and in South Australia they were being forgotten.

"Anglers are angry that the government is more concerned about big business promotion than developing and promoting increased opportunities and social justice for the angling public, which is so important for youth development."

But the government spokesperson said aquaculture had provided increased opportunity for recreational fishers.

"Areas adjacent the tuna industry and surrounding oyster leases are very popular with recreational boaties."

<http://www.dailyexaminer.com.au/story/2009/07/09/relief-floods-in-for-valley-fishers/>

**The Daily Examiner**

# Relief floods in for fishers

Erin Brady | 9th July 2009

-  Print
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Flooding in Grafton.

Debrah Novak

Photos

*Floods of May 2009*



[View Photo Gallery »](#)

FISHERMEN have been impressed by how quickly their applications for disaster relief funding have been paid out following the May flood.

Professional fishermen were entitled to apply for grants of up to \$15,000 through the Rural Assistance Authority to replace damaged tools of trade.

According to Clarence Professional Fishermen's Association representative John Harrison, the Rural Assistance Authority was processing the claims smoothly and money was being paid out to fishermen quickly.

“The response from the Rural Assistance Authority has been nothing short of brilliant,” Mr Harrison said.

“Now they can go ahead and get the replacement equipment they need.”

Damaged or lost equipment fishermen were claiming for included nets, wharf repairs, diesel motors, damaged vessels, ice slurry boxes, wet weather gear and safety equipment.

“It would have made it difficult for some of them if they didn't receive this money,” he said.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=153053>

**thewest.com.au** The West Australian

## Churchill fellow on the trail of rock lobster mystery

*6th July 2009, 6:00 WST*



Concern over an unexplained slump in WA's rock lobster stocks will take Department of Fisheries scientist Simon de Lestang on a three-month journey around the world looking for answers.

Dr de Lestang is one of 13 West Australians to be awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship this week. The award, presented by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, allows recipients to travel overseas and make contacts with the best in their field and build Australia's knowledge pool.

The 36-year-old scientist said he was inspired to apply for a share of the \$2.6 million fellowship after Fisheries' annual sampling program found that the rock lobster juvenile settlement for 2007-08 was unusually low, despite predictions that all the environmental factors affecting breeding stock were on target for a good year.

Factors such as the strength of the Leeuwin current and water temperatures played an important role in determining the survival and settlement of larval lobsters.

Dr de Lestang said it was too early to tell if the poor settlement was an anomaly but it was important to make sure the fishery was being managed appropriately.

He will visit universities and research institutes in the US, Mexico and Cuba.



"If we cannot do anything about it and it does continue along the same lines of recruitment, then we may have to rejig the whole industry," Dr de Lestang said

TIFFANY FOX

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=153063>

**thewest.com.au** The West Australian

## Fishers fear fees will drive away small fry

*6th July 2009, 6:00 WST*

Fishing novice Daniel Huddy had never cast a line from a boat off WA's vast coast before yesterday.

As he set off for Little Island from Hillarys with dad Mark and family friend Marty Myers, they pondered the possibility that WA's soaring recreational fishing fees meant it could be his first of few fishing outings.

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore unveiled WA's new fee structure for recreational fishers last week, provoking cries of disapproval from many anglers.

From mid-October, those using a boat must pay up to \$180 a year to catch a range of prize species in a move Mr Moore says is vital to protect dwindling stocks.

Anyone using a boat to fish recreationally will pay an annual licence fee of \$30, while anyone fishing for demersal scalefish between Kalbarri and Augusta will pay an additional licence fee.



Mr Myers, who works in Melbourne and returns to Perth every three weeks, said he only took his boat out every few months. The fees would almost make that unviable.

He said it was unfair to target those who only went out to "have a bit of fun" with their friends and family. And he feared a new generation of budding fishermen such as Daniel would miss out.

"Even over in Victoria you have a \$24.50 fishing licence for the year, so to slug someone \$180 if they are going out six or seven times a year is just ridiculous," he said.

Marmion Angling Club spokesman Darren Lockhart criticised the closure of fisheries from October 15 to December 15, which missed the critical spawning season. "It was like they were too gutless to do it over Christmas because they would upset too many people," he said.

BEN SPENCER

<http://aquaforia.com/archives/9947>

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## Dan Bacher on the Seaweed Rebellion: North Coast enviros battle Schwarzenegger and Big Green over MLPA

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Posted by: Aqua Blog Maven on July 4, 2009 at 8:09 am



From Dan Bacher, this commentary:

A group of 70 people, including environmentalists, seaweed harvesters, recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, abalone divers, and Native Americans, gathered at the city hall in Point Arena on Saturday, June 13 to begin the "Seaweed Rebellion" to halt or at least slow down the corrupt fast-track Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process being pushed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and "Big Green" environmental groups.

The residents of Point Arena, a small fishing town located off the gorgeous Mendocino County coast south of Fort Bragg, have played a powerful role in past battles to stop offshore oil drilling and the clear cutting of redwood forests. Now they are uniting to stop a process that they says is riddled with conflict of interest and mission creep and will remove sustainable seaweed harvesters and fishermen from the Point Arena in order to pave the way for offshore oil drilling, wave energy projects and corporate aquaculture. "Don't underestimate us," said Craig Bell, chair of the Mendocino County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, who moderated the event. "We've been giant killers before in Point Arena."

He emphasized that the MLPA process has been expanded from a \$250,000 process, as originally intended when the law passed in 1999, to an out of control \$25 to \$40 million financial boondoggle. "This is all while we are seeing precious cuts in our health care, schools and parks," said Bell. "The irony is that the MLPA is setting up no-take parks off shore while on land our parks are being closed."

He noted that the largest de facto marine protected area in U.S. history, the Rockfish Conservation Zone, now extends along the entire continental shelf of California including the Mendocino Coast. "We are being told by Mike Chrisman, Resources Secretary,



that this is one of most inclusive processes ever,” said Bell. “But there’s a difference between being part of a bottom up process and being processed by a top down process as we are.”

*Picture credit: Photo of Point Arena lighthouse by flickr photographer cbcastro.*

He also criticized the Packard Foundation and Resource Legacy Fund Foundation for their “large, undue influence in the outcome of the process” and the deplorable role of the Big Green environmental groups.

“Outside environmental organizations are assuming that we are behind this process and we resent that,” said Bell. “They assume they know more about our ocean that we do.”

John Lewallen, local seaweed harvester and longtime environmentalist, and his wife, Barbara Stephens-Lewallen, organized the “Point Arena Sustainable Fisheries Reality Tour” to acquaint the media, public and government officials with the areas that will be closed to fishing and seaweed harvesting if the Governor and his MPLA Blue Ribbon Task Force have their way. The Recreational Fishing Alliance, Mendocino County Fish & Game Advisory Committee, Mendocino Seaweed Stewardship Alliance and Ocean Protection Coalition sponsored the event.

The event started at 9 a.m. at the Stornetta Public Lands with abalone diving and seaweed harvesting on the minus tide on a beautiful, flat calm day. Lewallen talked about his thirty years of sea palm trimming at the proposed new “Sea Lion Rock Marine Reserve,” a no-take zone, while Barbara, harvested the tops of the sea palms with a Swiss army knife.

The morning events were followed by a delicious lunch of sustainably caught sea vegetables, abalone, albacore, rockfish and sea urchins, then followed from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. by the town hall meeting. After Craig Bell, one speaker after another denounced the no-take zones scheduled to be adopted in August by the California Fish and Game Commission.

Milo Vukovich, President of Sonoma County Abalone Network, opened his afternoon presentation by quipping that the MLPA process was as “open as a wreck between a train and a bicycle.” He said the MLPA area-based closures, imposed from above with no scientific backing, were based only on politics and would conflict with longstanding species-based fisheries management more suitable to the people and wild ocean ecosystem.

He said the IPA (Integrated Preferred Alternative) would reduce recreational abalone harvesting areas open to public access from 15 to only 7 along the Sonoma and Mendocino County coast, creating increasing pressure on existing areas. Vukovich emphasize that the greatest threat to the North coast abalone is the commercialization of the resource by rampant poaching.

“Abalone are now worth \$80 each on the black market,” he explained. “Half of the North Coast abalone take – 250,000 pounds per year - is poached, and that is figured in to setting the limits. Instead of spending money on law enforcement along the coast to stop this poaching, the state is imposing regulations on top of regulations.”

John Lewallen took aim at the conflicts of interests of officials involved in the Governor’s MLPA process, explaining that the Point Arena Basin is now in process to be leased for offshore oil and gas development by the federal Minerals Management Service, with public comment open until September. Lewallen noted that Catherine Reyes-Boyd, CEO of the Western States Petroleum Association, was on the five-member Blue Ribbon Panel of “fisheries experts” that chose the new no-take zones in the Point Arena area.

“Is this because they want to clear independent fishermen and seaweed harvesters out so they can make Point Arena an oil drilling boom town?” Lewallen asked? “Do they think this little town is a soft target?”

On a similar note, Judith Vidaver, chair of the Ocean Protection Coalition (OPC), said, “What I see here is a resource grab. The first thing that the corporations want to do before grabbing public trust resources is to get rid of the people who live or subsist on the land and ocean. Whether it’s the oil companies, big energy companies or MLPA Process we’re fighting against, OPC is here and will be supportive of you.”

Ann Maurice, Sonoma County Native American activist, who has worked for years to stop MLPA closures from taking away traditional ocean harvesting areas vital to the survival of Kashaya and other Native cultures, gave her complete support to the Point Arena “Seaweed Rebellion.”



"Native Americans have been systematically deprived of the right to sustainably fish and harvest intertidal food," Maurice said. "Now the same thing is being done to you. Make no mistake about it."

Lauren Sinnott, Mayor of Point Arena, told the crowd that the city was fully backing the fishermen and environmentalists.

Heidi Dickerson, representing Congressman Mike Thompson, read a statement from Thompson describing his good work for salmon and other fisheries in Washington and saying that he heard people's concerns about the MLPA process.

Other speakers included Jim Martin, West Coast Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, Allan Jacobs, retired scientist and community activist, and Larry Knowles from the Mendocino Seaweed Stewardship Alliance.

It is clear from the big turnout in Point Arena that while Packard Foundation-funded "Big Green" groups are collaborating with Governor Schwarzenegger to kick seaweed harvesters and fishermen off the water at Point Arena to open the door to offshore oil rigs, wave energy projects and corporate aquaculture, the local environmentalists, fishermen and Native Americans are united in opposition to Schwarzenegger's MLPA corporate greenwashing process.

**Urgent Action Alert: Ask Senator Darrell Steinberg why he is undermining legislative oversight of Schwarzenegger MLPA Process!**

Some ugly things happened in the state legislature last week. The Budget Conference Committee rejected our proposed language for legislative oversight of the MLPA, and for legislative appropriation of the massive foundation money to "back-fill" the MLPA funding. There is no general fund money for any of this. There is no bond money because all of that is "in suspense."

Instead, the committee welcomed private money, without any oversight, for the management of MPAs in California and went further to invite the Packard Foundation to write fishery management plans, instead of the DFG. This will be a nightmare for fishermen, and fisheries.

Here is a note from our California Fisheries Coalition lobbyist, Vern Goehring. Please call Darrell Steinberg's office! The key staff person in his office is Kip Lipper (really.)

- Jim Martin, West Coast Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) and Member of the Mendocino County Fish and Game Advisory Commission

The entire fishing community (recreational and commercial) has been waiting and anticipating for months to see if the CA Legislature was going to assert its rightful role and oversee the Administration and its wealthy private supporters as they adopt Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Or would the Legislature just accept the word of the Administration that the process was based on good science and lots of public input.

The fishing community had high hopes that two prominent legislators (Senators Florez and Ducheny) would help ensure transparency. Even hoping that a special oversight hearing could be held to examine the quality of the science, the economic impacts, and the availability of state funds to actually manage MPAs once they are adopted.

Ducheny and Florez tried their best but ran into a brick wall in Senate President pro Tempore Steinberg's office. Language requiring (1) the same financial standards that controls public money be applied to the MLPA private money and (2) a delay in new MPAs until fishery management is fully integrated with previously adopted MPAs was solidly rejected from going into a "budget trailer bill."

Instead, Senator Steinberg flipped the language into a huge victory for anti-fishing folks. His language compliments the Governor on the use of private money and private agreements for creating MPAs and encourages him to do the same for adopting Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) under the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA). It invites RLFF, who has already given nearly \$34 million to create MPAs, and others to pony up the millions needed to write and adopt an FMP regulating fishing in areas outside of MPAs.

Steinberg recognizes that implementing the MLPA and the MLMA are outrageously expensive (\$35 million annually for MLPA), but instead of fixing the problem he says go get special interest money to restrict fishing.

In other words, special interest money could be in total control of fishing throughout the state. With no effective Legislative oversight!

Please make some phone calls now:



1st - Call Senators Florez (916-651-4016) and Ducheny (916-651-4040) and thank them for their efforts regarding MLPA oversight and ask them to continue.

2nd Call Senator Steinberg (916-651-4006 Capitol or 916-651-1529 District)

Ask: Why is he undermining Legislative oversight of the MLPA? Why he supports placing tens of millions of dollars in unfunded mandates on the DFG? How can he allow costly new programs to start up while cutting critical existing programs?

3rd Call your local Assemblymember and State Senator and ask their help in getting meaningful oversight and controls on this expensive unfunded MLPA program. You can find you local representatives at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> Click "Your Legislature" and insert your zip code.

Thank you,

CA Fisheries Coalition