



If you have any interesting stories, or articles that you would like included in the Abalone Stories, please send them to email FISHING STORIES

PDF versions of all Fishing, Abalone and Aquaculture Stories can be located at www.searead.net . HTML and MHT are available on request.

www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gBMuhWDOF6VOdBfxERxfpuK...

Greenpeace to sink boulders to stem trawling off Sweden

(AFP) – 12 hours ago

STOCKHOLM — Greenpeace said Saturday it will press ahead with plans to sink nearly 180 boulders into cod fishing grounds off Sweden to impede bottom-trawling, despite criticism from the Swedish government.

From Monday, the global environmental group will drop the boulders -- each weighing one to three tonnes - - into two protected areas in the Kattegat sound that separates the Swedish and Danish mainlands.

"The actions foreseen by Greenpeace rest on confrontation and unilateralism, which risks threatening necessary cooperation," the Swedish agriculture and fisheries minister Eskil Erlandsson wrote in the Dagens Nyheter newspaper.

"My hope is that Greenpeace will renounce such action and that instead we solve problems together," he said.

But, speaking to AFP, Greenpeace spokesman Staffan Danielsson said the Swedish government was taking cod "hostage" by not looking at the wider implications of bottom trawling on the environment.

"The cod in the Kattegat is severely depleted, it's in very bad shape, but there are other things in the oceans as well," he said.

"We have marine biodiversity (at the seabed) such as reeds, sandbanks, seabirds, corals, algae forests" that need protection from bottom trawling, which critics say disturbs the sea bottom and harms the maritime environment.

The boulders are to be sunk in zones classified as Natura 2000 in the Lilla Middelgrund (179 square kilometres, 70 square miles) and Flauden (104 square kilometres, 40 square miles) areas.

Both sites lie about 20 kilometres (15 miles) from Varberg port, off Sweden's southwest coast.

Natura 2000 is a network of sites around the European Union protected by EU directives aimed at protecting wildlife and their habitats.

Carrying out Monday's mission will be two Greenpeace vessels -- the Beluga II and the Fehn Coast -- with about 30 people on board.

"This is a conservation measure in order to protect habitats, which is what governments are supposed to do," Danielsson said.

A similiar initiative was taken last year off Germany, and according to Greenpeace it has proven effective in discouraging fishing.

Copyright © 2009 AFP. All rights reserved. [More »](#)

www.voxy.co.nz/national/look-out-marine-pests-auckland-harbour/5/20434

On The Look Out For Marine Pests In Auckland Harbour 7 August 2009 - MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) will this week be looking at what's living in Auckland Harbour as part of a nationwide surveillance programme targeted at detecting a range of, 7 August 2009 - MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) will this week be looking at what's living in Auckland Harbour as part of a nationwide surveillance programme targeted at detecting a range of unwanted marine pests.

☰ On The Look Out For Marine Pests In Auckland Harbour | Voxy.co.nz

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:22 PM

On The Look Out For Marine Pests In Auckland Harbour



Voxy News Engine

Friday, 7 August, 2009 - 10:57



7 August 2009 - MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) will this week be looking at what's living in Auckland Harbour as part of a nationwide surveillance programme targeted at detecting a range of unwanted marine pests.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) has been contracted to undertake the survey, and the field team will be on site from Monday 10 August to Friday 21 August.

MAFBNZ's current targeted marine surveillance programme, started early in 2008, is looking for a range of unwanted marine pests in some of New Zealand's busiest and therefore high risk locations - namely ports and marinas of first entry for international vessels.

This programme builds on the results of an ongoing surveillance and baseline survey programme that has been undertaken since 2001 which has looked at commercial ports and marinas nationwide, producing a snapshot of what's there, and providing a benchmark to measure the effectiveness of border control and other management practices.

MAFBNZ's Senior Marine Advisor (Surveillance), Justin McDonald, says the programme's key objective is to detect potentially invasive and harmful marine animals and plants early enough to maximise the chance of removing or controlling them.

"This is done by targeting the search effort towards certain species and their preferred habitats within these ports and marinas"

The NIWA team will use a range of methods to detect the species, from crab and fish traps through to diver surveys and shore surveys.

Justin McDonald says, while targeting surveillance at high risk locations will increase the chance of early detection, it does not guarantee detection and is only one component of an effective surveillance system.

"As long as international vessels visit New Zealand it's inevitable that some introductions will occur so there is always going to be a need for monitoring and surveillance. The more eyes we have looking for problem species, the greater our chance of detecting potential pests early enough to do something about them," he says.

"Those people that spend a lot of time around our coastline are this country's biosecurity eyes - they are the best placed to notice something out of the ordinary and the assistance they provide by simply being aware of marine biosecurity is invaluable."

"The role regular marine users in particular play in protecting our unique marine environment is vital. Exotic organisms can establish and spread very quickly so it's important to be alert for sea life that looks different and report it immediately"

To find out more about unwanted marine pests and how to report any unusual or suspicious sea life, go to www.biosecurity.govt.nz.

MAFBNZ's Targeted Marine Surveillance Program will be repeated in Auckland Harbour at approximately six monthly intervals (in summer and winter) until at least 2011.

www.newscientist.com/article/mg20327203.900-fisheries-reap-dividend...

Commercial fish stocks in many threatened ecosystems are on the mend, thanks to good stewardship – it's not all good news, though

Fisheries reap dividends of better management - 05 August 2009 - New Scientist

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:15 PM

Fisheries reap dividends of better management

- 05 August 2009
- Magazine issue [2720](#). **Subscribe** and get 4 free issues.

IT IS one of those glass half-full moments. Commercial fish stocks in many threatened ecosystems are on the mend, thanks to good stewardship, while 63 per cent are still being fished at unsustainable levels, says a new survey.

This is a considerably rosier picture than the one painted by a 2006 study that projected a worldwide collapse of fisheries by 2048, based on current trends.

Ray Hilborn of the University of Washington in Seattle teamed up with the author of the 2006 report to measure the biomass of species caught each year. They compared this to estimates of sustainable fishing levels (*Science*, vol 325, p 578). Half of surveyed regions in North America, northern Europe and Oceania showed signs of improvement, but the outlook for sustainable fishing in Africa was bleak. "There are extensively overfished stocks, but there are some examples of decent management and reason for hope," says Peter Kareiva of the Nature Conservancy in Seattle, Washington.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0908/S00055.htm>

The Maritime Union says information revealed in a New Zealand documentary on the fishing industry must be followed up by a Government inquiry.

Scoop: Maritime Union demands fishing industry inquiry

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:14 PM

Maritime Union demands fishing industry inquiry

Wednesday, 5 August 2009, 5:20 pm

Press Release: Maritime Union of New Zealand

Maritime Union demands inquiry into fishing industry following documentary expose

Maritime Union of New Zealand media release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday 5 August 2009

The Maritime Union says information revealed in a New Zealand documentary on the fishing industry must be followed up by a Government inquiry.

The documentary *The Great New Zealand Fishing Scandal* by investigative journalist Guy Henderson screened on Sky last night and today, and covered developments in the industry since the 1990s.

Maritime Union General Secretary Trevor Hanson says the documentary was accurate and he believes there is much more to be uncovered.

He says fishing industry bosses are driven by "unconstrained greed" and Government had kowtowed to powerful private interests.

"History will judge the actions of some of these people and the industry as a whole."

He says the treatment of overseas crew on foreign and joint venture "flag of convenience" vessels had been appalling and was an ongoing problem.

Mr Hanson says the system is being used to drive New Zealand workers out of the industry.

He says he is disturbed at how some quota holders, including Maori quota holders, were using overseas crews and refusing to train young New Zealand workers in this industry especially at a time of increasing unemployment.

There were strong connections globally between illegal fishing, exploitation and abuse of workers, and the destruction of the marine environment and fish stocks.

He says the cost of local fish was a concern as overseas demand priced it out of the reach of ordinary New Zealanders, and prices of up to \$39 per kilogram needed explanation.

He was concerned about the importation of low quality catfish from China and Vietnam to New Zealand, as well as the processing of New Zealand fish overseas.

The quota system was not providing enough protection for species such as orange roughy.

Mr Hanson says it is standard practice for ship owners to crew vessels with officers and crew of different

nationalities, with crew members picked up by corrupt labour hire agencies in developing countries.

Foreign seafarers were often so desperate for work they signed up on oppressive terms and conditions, often went unpaid and were away from their home and families for sometimes years.

There had been numerous documented cases of crew members not being paid, being underpaid, having their wages eaten up by agency fees, and being verbally and physically abused.

Mr Hanson noted the case of 33-year old Korean fisherman Vo Minh Que, who was drowned in January 2004 in waters 70 kilometres south of Stewart Island.

The victim was flipped overboard from the 'Tasnui' by a trawl wire after equipment failure and had bobbed in the ocean nearby to the vessel while a "series of hideously inadequate and half-pie" rescue attempts were made, according to the Southland Times (2 October 2004), whose editorial comment described the incident as a "disgrace" and a "squalid tragedy."

The Maritime New Zealand report on the drowning of Mr Vo noted how the poor condition of the vessel and the lack of safety gear or procedures contributed to the fatality - problems that had previously been reported by Maritime New Zealand but not acted upon.

"The Maritime Union has done what it can to assist in the incidents that we have come across, this is done entirely on a solidarity basis simply because these crew members have no one else to look after their interests."

He says the industry is incapable of policing itself and the Government and bureaucracy saw problems with crews as an embarrassment which it was not motivated to do anything about.

Mr Hanson says the Maritime Union had lobbied the Government hard for stronger protections for workers in the industry and this had resulted in some improved regulations around pay and conditions.

But he says that he is concerned about the enforcement of these rules because problems continued to crop up on a regular basis.

Mr Hanson says if New Zealanders want to see the reality of free trade promoted by the Government, they should look no further than the fishing industry a few miles off their own coast.

"We don't have to go to the Third World to see Third World conditions - the Third World conditions have come to us."

"The fishing industry is a graphic demonstration of the race to the bottom in working conditions. Add this to the damage to fishing stocks and we really have a social and environmental travesty - out of sight, out of mind."

He says the Maritime Union will continue to campaign on the issue which was also the focus of a campaign by the International Transport Workers Federation, comprised of 654 unions representing 4,500,000 transport workers in 148 countries.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=146&ContentID=160362>

 Lobster aid welcomed : thewest.com.au

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:11 PM

Lobster aid welcomed

5th August 2009, 8:00 WST Fisheries Minister Norman Moore yesterday welcomed a Federal Government offer of negotiation over an assistance package for the rock lobster industry, which faces tough restrictions in the coming season.

Mr Moore said he expected "an enthusiastic response" from a number of fishermen to an exit payment package, which is currently only offered to farmers under rare climatic circumstances.

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2009/08/04/seagulls-salmon.html>

Rising seagull populations are laying siege to endangered salmon in central California, according to a new study.

 Seagulls Menace Endangered Salmon : Discovery News

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:08 PM

Seagulls Menace Endangered Salmon

Michael Reilly, Discovery News



Under Siege | [Discovery News Video](#)

Aug. 4, 2009 -- Rising seagull populations are laying siege to endangered salmon in central California, according to a new study.

Salmon [fisheries](#) along the Pacific coast of the United States have witnessed an unprecedented collapse over the last two years, forcing state and federal officials to issue a ban on commercial and sport fishing. Grounded, commercial fishermen have been forced to subsist off of federal disaster aid.

Everything from [dams](#) to overfishing to [climate change](#) has been blamed for the collapse, but a definitive answer has proven elusive.

Now, a new study suggests exploding seagull populations are contributing to the decline, their numbers growing along with garbage piles in cities and along coastal areas.

Anne-Marie Osterback of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a team of researchers found 213 transponder tags strewn throughout a colony of western gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) on Ano Neuvo Island, off the California coast between 2002 and 2008. The tracking devices are surgically implanted in young salmon before they swim out to sea, but gulls were feasting on the salmon, eating as much as 2.5 percent of each year's population.

"Gull populations have been increasing for at least the last five years," Osterback said. "And they are opportunistic feeders. They'll go into a river to bathe or drink, and when the young salmon come along, they'll snack on them."



WATCH VIDEO: Some plant and animal species die after spawning. Kasey-Dee Gardner finds out why.

Osterback will present the research this week at the annual meeting of the [Ecological Society of America](#).

The team focused on endangered populations of Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in Scott Creek, a small river in central California that empties into the Pacific Ocean. Only a few hundred salmon return to spawn each year here, a far cry from the hundreds of thousands of fish that fishermen and wildlife managers expect in the San Joaquin/Sacramento River system to the north.

Still, Osterback noted that the transponders the team found represent a minimum estimate for the number of fish birds eat. Many fish aren't tagged, and many more transponders may never be recovered. Increasing gull populations will likely impact salmon stocks up and down the West Coast.

"People talk about canary in the coal mine situations, where you put the cage down in the mine, then pull it up and the canary is dead," David Craig of Willamette University said. "Well, if you pull the cage up and there are 10 canaries in it, that's also a problem. And that's what's happening here."

Gulls probably won't be the deciding factor in whether salmon populations thrive or die off, he added. However, they are adding stress to species already beset by a myriad of environmental pressures, including

habitat loss, warming ocean waters and pesticide runoff.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/04/2645593.htm>

The Western Rock Lobster Council has welcomed the Federal Government's plan to offer exit payments to fishermen in Western Australia.

Rock lobster industry thrown lifeline - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:06 PM

Rock lobster industry thrown lifeline

Posted Tue Aug 4, 2009 12:46pm AEST

The Western Rock Lobster Council has welcomed the Federal Government's plan to offer exit payments to fishermen in Western Australia.

The Commonwealth is considering so-called 'exit with dignity' payments of up to \$150,000 to the state's rock lobster fishermen.

Currently, the scheme only extends to the farming and aquaculture industries during extreme circumstances like drought.

The council's Dexter Davies says the industry is facing dire conditions with rock lobster stocks at a record low.

He says the package will help fishermen struggling to maintain a viable business.

"This is designed for the people that do unfortunately find themselves in that position, to help them and, as it says, to exit with some dignity," he said.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=146&ContentID=159997>

Negotiations on the way for rock lobster payouts : thewest.com.au

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:05 PM

Negotiations on the way for rock lobster payouts

4th August 2009, 13:45 WST

State Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has welcomed negotiations over a Commonwealth assistance package for the embattled rock lobster industry.

Mr Moore said this afternoon that urgent talks between the State and Federal governments were a matter of priority, with fishermen preparing for the possibility of further tough restrictions for the upcoming rock lobster season.

Yesterday, Federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke said it would consider emergency funding for WA's embattled rock lobster industry, and would consider "exit with dignity" payments of up to \$150,000 for fishermen under the Federal Exceptional Circumstances Scheme.

Exit payments are offered to farmers hit by rare climatic events, such as drought, who decide to leave the industry but the scheme does not extend to fishermen.

State Fisheries Minister Norman Moore and WA fishing industry groups wrote to Mr Burke recently, urging him to consider widening the scheme to rock lobster fishermen, who face tough restrictions in response to concerns about stock sustainability.

The WA Fishing Industry Council, Western Rock Lobster Council and Mr Moore said extremely low counts of baby rock lobster, which are used to predict future catches, could have been caused by an extreme climatic event, in which case EC funding could be applicable. The reasons for last year's record low count are unknown but researchers are investigating environmental factors such as wind and ocean temperatures.

Some fishermen warn up to onethird of WA's commercial rock lobster fleet, just under 400 vessels, could be forced out of the industry if proposed severe cuts come into effect this season on top of current restrictions.

Mr Burke said while preliminary advice from his department was that the legislation did not allow for EC in this case, he was willing to discuss the issue with the WA Government.

"That's an awful situation for an industry that's looking down the barrel of really serious hardship," he said.

"If the WA Minister is serious in wanting the Commonwealth to have a stake in managing the rock lobster

fishery, then I'm happy to sit down and constructively work through the issues."

Preliminary recommendations to Mr Moore from his key advisory committee have been to cut the amount of pots and restrict fishing to three days a week during peak catch periods. That would more than halve the 30-year average annual haul of 11,000 tonnes — traditionally worth \$300 million.

PERTH
JODIE THOMSON

www.santiagotimes.cl/santiagotimes/index.php/2009080216799/news/bus...

The Santiago Times - English Language Newspaper in Santiago, Chile - News in Chile and Latin America, CHILE: SPIDER CRAB SEASON KICKS OFF IN PUNTA ARENAS

☰ The Santiago Times - English Language Newspaper in Santiago, Chile - News in Chile and Latin America - CHILE: SPIDER CRAB SEASON KICKS OFF IN PUNTA ARENAS Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:04 PM

CHILE: SPIDER CRAB SEASON KICKS OFF IN PUNTA ARENAS PDF PRINT EMAIL

Monday, 03 August 2009

The first boatloads of Magellan spider crabs arrived in Punta Arenas (Region XII) late last week, marking the commencement of the 2009 spider crab season and the end of the National Fishing Service's six month ban on hunting the prized crustaceans.

The first 400 boats have brought in more than 8,000 kilos of crab to the Barranco Amarillo fishing dock, seven kilometres north of Punta Arenas.

Each year the export of Magellan spider crabs to the United States, Europe, and Asia brings in US\$10 to US\$20 million in sales.

This year, local fishermen are hoping to catch as much crab as they did in 2008, when 2,300 tons were harvested.

One of the vessels, "Don Gaby," brought in 2,000 kilos of crab to the fishing dock, while "Navegante VI" brought in almost 6,000 kilos. Both had been travelling for around 18 hours at sea, from the canals close to the Magellan Strait, where they set the traps, to Punta Arenas. Each boat takes uses 200 to 500 metal traps which they leave submerged in the ocean at depths of 60 to 200 meters.

The National Fishing Service authorizes spider crab fishing between July and November, a period in which around 400 vessels enter the Magellan waters to begin the hunt.

According to Juan Lemus, President of the Punta Arenas Fishing and Artisan Boating Trade Union, spider crab season got off to a slow start this year.

Although the season officially began on July 1, it was postponed due to bad weather conditions in the fishing zones.

"The weather has been terrible and few crabs are coming out," said Lemus.

"The fishing carriers and launches are just beginning to arrive, but the bad weather has affected them on the fishing days."

Lemus anticipates that despite the late start date, and despite the fact that crab production has decreased in recent years, last year's total of 2,300 tons can still be reached.

Region XII is a principal exporter of crustaceans, among which the Magellan spider crab is a particular speciality. Each year the extraction of the crabs provides around 1,600 local jobs.

The National Fishing Service has tightened its management of the crab industry to avoid illegal captures in the zone, where female crabs or crabs smaller than the legal size are often extracted.

SOURCE: EL MERCURIO

By Natalie Muller (editor@santiagotimes.cl)

<http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=10838888>

Deputies: Man shoots flare, starts boat fire - ABC-7.com WZVN News for Fort Myers, Cape Coral & Naples, Florida

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:01 PM

Deputies: Man shoots flare, starts boat fire

Posted: Aug 04, 2009 5:05 AM Updated: Aug 3, 2009 03:05 PM EDT



Theodore Clay Otstott

LEE COUNTY: Deputies have arrested a Matlacha fisherman accused of setting a shrimp boat on fire with flares following an argument at a bar on Friday.

Theodore Clay Otstott, 45, is charged with first-degree arson and possession of an incendiary device used to set a fire.

Deputies say Otstott and another fisherman, Jason Bigler, got into an argument at Bert's Bar & Grill, 4271 Pine Island Road., in Matlacha.

During the argument, Otstott told Bigler he was going to burn down his shrimp boat, a sheriff's office report said.

That's when deputies say the argument became physical.

According to the report, Bigler left the bar to check on his boat.

After boarding his boat with a friend, Bigler says Otstott began shooting flares at his boat from another shrimp boat docked nearby, the report said.

Deputies say a blue tarp on Bigler's boat caught fire. Bigler and a friend grabbed the tarp and jumped into the water.

Authorities say the fire was put out.

Deputies arrested Otstott and took him to the Lee County Jail.

www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,25877650-5006301,00.html

PRAWN fishermen are warning a proposed desalination plant near Whyalla to supply water for an expanded Olympic Dam mine would damage their \$50 million industry.

AdelaideNow... Desal 'threat' to \$50m prawn industry

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:00 PM

Desal 'threat' to \$50m prawn industry

Article from: **TheAdvertiser**

CARA JENKIN

August 04, 2009 12:01am

PRAWN fishermen are warning a proposed desalination plant near Whyalla to supply water for an expanded Olympic Dam mine would damage their \$50 million industry.

They say the region at the top of Spencer Gulf is the "lifeblood" of the fishery, as the prawn life cycle begins in its shallow waters, where highly saline effluent from the plant is proposed to be discharged.

The Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fisherman's Association will today lodge its submission to the Olympic Dam expansion's Environmental Impact Statement, calling for the plant's discharge to be off-loaded elsewhere.

BHP proposes to build a desalination plant at Point Lowly, 35km north of Whyalla, and discharge the waste water offshore of the plant.

Association acting executive officer Barry Evans said heavier, more concentrated seawater in the shallows could tamper with the life cycle of prawns and many other sea creatures, as eggs and larvae were sensitive to changing salinity in seawater as they grew.

The Spencer Gulf and West Coast prawn fishery employs about 600 people and turns over more than \$50m to the state's economy.

"No-one knows what the long-term impact of desalination effluent will be on the Spencer Gulf," said Mr Evans.

"Once you raise the salinity, you're going to interrupt the life cycle of everything that lives up the top of the Gulf."

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/08/01/MN7L1652BK.DTL

 Blast fishing killing Nicaragua's fisheries

Monday, 3 August 2009 11:41 AM

Blast fishing killing Nicaragua's fisheries

Blake Schmidt, Chronicle Foreign Service

Sunday, August 2, 2009

(08-02) 04:00 PDT Corinto, Nicaragua --

On many nights at sea off this Pacific port, Aaron Medina drops bombs that cause dozens of fish to soar into the air.

Images



[View Larger Images](#)

Like a drug dealer advertising his goods, the 23-year-old fisherman rubbernecks to ensure no police are around before pulling a 1-pound bomb from his pocket. It's an old sardine can wrapped in a cement bag filled with gunpowder, sugar and sulfur. It is lit with a waterproof wick.

"It's the only way to survive in fishing today," said Medina, who has been fishing with explosives off Corinto, Nicaragua's largest port, since he was 12 years old.

Medina is part of the nation's booming blast fishing industry, which is quickly spreading across Central America's Pacific coast. The practice is also common in El Salvador and Honduras, environmental groups say.

Blast fishing is an illegal but lucrative practice in which fishermen throw small homemade bombs into the marine habitat, killing entire schools of fish and wiping out everything else within the blast zone - including coral reef habitats - thus depleting fisheries.

"In a few years, blast fishing will be everywhere if it continues like this," said Reinaldo Bermuti of Nicaragua's Fisheries Institute in the capital, Managua.

Other authorities fear the practice is fueling a black market for increasingly potent explosives that could fall

into the hands of gangs or terrorist groups.

"That's why we're constantly working on intelligence," said police investigator Lester Gomez.

40,000 bombs a week

Unlike many of Nicaragua's coastal areas, Corinto's rocky shoreline hasn't attracted international surfers or real estate investors. But over the past decade, blast fishing has grown because poverty is rampant, homemade bombs are increasingly available and law enforcement is lax. Local authorities estimate fishermen drop 40,000 homemade bombs into the sea every week.

Often working undercover, police confiscated about 1,000 bombs last year, most of which were seized at highway checkpoints. In 2007, Corinto police confiscated 650 bombs from a clandestine bomb factory. The Nicaraguan navy often cruises Pacific waters at night with no lights, hoping to catch fishermen red-handed. Last year, naval officials say they caught five boats blast fishing, and seized about 400 bombs. Navy Capt. Francisco Gutierrez concedes that's just a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of bombs used each year.

Blast fishing is considered an environmental crime under Nicaraguan law, punishable by up to four years in prison. Prosecutors can increase jail time by tacking on illegal weapons possession charges. But prosecuting cases is difficult because evidence is easily destroyed at sea. Gutierrez said five fishermen are currently being processed for alleged blast fishing, but he couldn't recall the last time anyone went to jail.

"They have a system. It's almost impossible to arrest them. When they see us coming, they just sink the bombs in the sea with rocks," Gutierrez said.

Widespread corruption among local police officers hinders enforcement efforts, police investigator Gomez said. Many fishermen say police officers routinely take bribes from bomb manufacturers and their distributors.

But Gutierrez is hopeful that a one-year program to educate fishermen about the pitfalls of the practice is finally paying off. In June, for the first time, fishermen turned in more than 311 bombs.

"We've been trying to persuade them in meetings," Gutierrez said.

But Medina believes blast fishing is more widespread than authorities suspect. He says virtually every fisherman he knows has traded in traditional nets, lines and hooks for explosives. And the handful of clandestine bombmakers who sell explosives for about \$2 apiece are making more powerful explosives, he adds.

Most recently, Nicaraguan police caught two fishermen with 10-pound bombs wrapped in cement bags - more destructive and risky than the usual sardine-can-size bombs. Medina says even 15-pound bombs are now available on the black market.

Injuries and deaths

Medina also says some bombs have exploded while being handled by colleagues, causing loss of life and limbs. In the past three years, Corinto authorities have reported two deaths, nine cases of lost limbs and two men who were blinded by explosions.

Medina only works at night, where he and his colleagues stick a flashlight into the water to attract fish - usually sardines - before dropping bombs anchored by rocks. The explosion, which kills everything within a 10-foot radius, sends a few dozen sardines into the boat that are later used as bait to attract larger fish such as snapper. Fishermen jump in with snorkel masks to net remaining fish that float around the boat. Bigger explosives cause an even greater radius of dead or stunned fish and require scuba gear to dive deep into the ocean.

"They go out to sea with one bomb and bring in 400 kilos (880 pounds) of fish," Medina said of fishermen who use larger bombs.

As the resource is depleted by blast fishing, fishermen are now lucky to bring in 100 kilos of fish on a given trip instead of 400 kilos a decade ago, Medina says.

While Medina and other local fishermen claim they have little choice but to use explosives, Helen Fox of the World Wildlife Foundation says they are motivated by making a quick buck.

"It's a case of greed rather than need," said Fox.

But Medina says he has little recourse in a nation with the second-lowest annual per capita income in the Western Hemisphere at \$3,000.

"We're deteriorating the fauna," he said. "But there's no other way to bring money home."

Blast fishing

Blast or dynamite fishing stuns or kills fish for easy gathering. This illegal practice indiscriminately kills large numbers of fish and other marine organisms and can damage or destroy surrounding ecosystems such as coral reefs.

Although outlawed, the practice remains widespread in some 40 nations in Central America, Southeast Asia, the Aegean Sea and Africa, environmental groups say. In the Philippines, blast fishing dates to before World War I. During World War II, dynamite-wielding Japanese troops popularized the practice in Indonesia.

Nicaraguan fishermen say the practice was introduced by bomb-wielding rebels of El Salvador's Farabundo Marti Liberation Front seeking a new livelihood after a 12-year civil war in that country ended in 1992.

Fishermen typically use commercial dynamite or homemade bombs with glass bottles or cans layered with powdered potassium nitrate and pebbles or ammonium nitrate and a kerosene mixture.

- Blake Schmidt

E-mail Blake Schmidt at foreign@sfchronicle.com.

This article appeared on page **A - 8** of the San Francisco Chronicle

www.examiner.com/x-12767-US-Headlines-Examiner~y2009m8d2-Shark-Week...

A great white shark is prepared for dissection by Clinton Duffy from the Department of Conservation (DOC) at the Auckland Museum in Auckland, New Zealand, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009. During the autopsy, DOC workers looked at the shark's stomach ...

☰ 'Shark Week' details dangers that lurk in the sea

Monday, 3 August 2009 10:22 AM

'Shark Week' details dangers that lurk in the sea

August 2, 3:19 PM

 Comment  ShareThis  RSS  Report  Email  Print

'Shark Week' on the [Discovery Channel](#) begins this week and demonstrates that sharks can attack in both the ocean deep and as little as three feet of water.

On Sunday, the first installment, 'Blood in the Water,' the story that inspired the movie 'Jaws,' recounts the first recorded series of shark attacks in the U.S. off the Jersey shore during a 1916 summer heat wave.

Historically, a majority of shark attacks, however, occur upon surfers and wind-surfers making up about 56.6% of all attacks.

Nevertheless, most sharks don't hunt humans and an encounter with one while sunbathing is not likely.

There are those anomalous killer sharks that cause deaths up and down a coastline for a season in the same general area. This is similar to what occurs in 'Blood in the Water,' which shows how five people were attacked in 12 days—four dying from their injuries.

See a clip from 'Blood in the Water' below:



A great white shark is prepared for dissection by Clinton Duffy from the Department of Conservation (DOC) at the Auckland Museum in Auckland, New Zealand, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009. During the autopsy, DOC workers looked at the shark's stomach contents and measured its internal organs which was broadcast to over ten million people on the internet. The shark died accidentally after being entangled in a gill net last week. (AP)

www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/how-can-bc-s...

Salmon stocks in the Fraser River are in decline

☰ How can B.C. salmon fishery win sustainable label? - The Globe and Mail

Sunday, 2 August 2009 10:27 AM

How can B.C. salmon fishery win sustainable label?



Salmon stocks in the Fraser River are in decline

Mark Hume

Vancouver — From Saturday's Globe and Mail Last updated on Friday, Jul. 31, 2009 08:43PM EDT

With salmon stocks in the Fraser River in decline, questions are being asked about how British Columbia's commercial sockeye fishery could be on the verge of getting international certification as a sustainable source of seafood.

After nine years of review, the British-based Marine Stewardship Council – the gold standard for environmental certification and eco-labelling – seems poised to put its stamp of approval on B.C.'s wild sockeye fishery. The final hurdle is a 30-day public comment process, which is now under way.

Not everyone is pleased.

"They've missed the mark on this," said Ernie Crey, fisheries adviser to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, which represents bands on the lower Fraser River. "It's a mistake to certify sockeye fisheries in B.C."

This week, a traditional native fishery on the Fraser was shut down because of conservation concerns, and hopes of any commercial or sports fisheries began to fade when the estimated size of the summer sockeye run was downgraded from 165,000 to 85,000 fish.

Mr. Crey said even with all fisheries closed, conservation concerns remain because the Fraser River is warming rapidly. The river is currently at 21.9 degrees. Between 20 and 24, spawning success quickly falls off, and above 24, many fish die in the river, as warm water robs salmon of energy and increases their susceptibility to disease.

"We are facing a catastrophe," Mr. Crey said. "Even if all the fish that are expected do hit the river, they will run out of gas below Hell's Gate [canyon] and die before they have a chance to spawn."

Mr. Crey said it's hard to imagine labelling the sockeye fishery sustainable when the situation is so precarious.

Aaron Hill, an ecologist with Watershed Watch Salmon Society, agreed, saying neither the Fraser nor Skeena River sockeye fisheries deserve to be called sustainable.

"The major concern is that the way the certification is set up, it essentially allows overfishing to continue on known weak stocks for the next three fishing seasons," Mr. Hill said. "That's just not acceptable."

But Christina Burrridge, executive director of the B.C. Seafood Alliance, said the MSC process has been an exhaustive one, and certification would not be issued unless the fishery was managed to an extremely high level.

She said certification would require the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to fully implement a wild-salmon policy that has been under development for years.

The wild-salmon policy, introduced in 2005, manages specific stocks and stresses conservation as its mandate, but has not been fully implemented.

Ms. Burrridge said under MSC certification standards, the DFO would have to apply the wild-salmon policy.

"I think that everyone, including the salmon, will be better off with a series of timelines that the department ... has agreed to meet to implement key features of the wild-salmon policy," Ms. Burrridge said.

She was critical of those speaking out publicly against certification, saying the 30-day consultation process is the place to register views.

"The appropriate place to provide comment and have those comments looked at by the certifying body and

the assessment team is in that process," she said.

B.C.'s salmon-fishing industry began seeking MSC certification after Alaska got certification in 2000. The market advantage Alaska has enjoyed has been growing in importance.

Increasingly, seafood buyers are refusing to accept fish that don't carry an MSC logo, and some major purchasers – notably Wal-Mart and Loblaw Cos. Ltd. – have recently said they will move in that direction in the near future.

www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/noxious-weed-a-threat-to-fishing/sto...

A NOXIOUS weed that could threaten fish stocks has been left unchecked to infest NSW waters.

Noxious weed a threat to fishing | The Daily Telegraph

Sunday, 2 August 2009 9:12 AM

Noxious weed a threat to fishing

- EXCLUSIVE by Rhett Watson
- From: [The Daily Telegraph](#)
- August 01, 2009 12:00AM



Ugly stuff ... professional fisherman Keith Sewell. *Source:* The Daily Telegraph

A NOXIOUS weed that could threaten fish stocks has been left unchecked to infest NSW waters.

And now the State Government has admitted that the invasion by caulerpa taxifolia - originally an aquarium weed - is so bad it will never be eradicated.

Commercial fishing crews and anglers said they feared the weed was altering the food chain by killing native seagrasses and sucking oxygen from the soil, thereby affecting native marine life.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this weed will affect commercial and recreational fishing stocks because, wherever it's occurred, we've seen a depletion of fish," Pittwater professional fisherman Keith Sewell said.

Alarm bells about caulerpa, considered one of the world's 100 most noxious weeds, started ringing in 2000 but the Government and the Department of Primary Industries have been accused of simply watching the weed spread instead of stopping it.

DPI's aquatic bio-security manager Jane Frances denied the Government had dropped the ball.

But she admitted caulerpa was now so prevalent it was "not able to be eradicated in most estuaries where it exists".

And while, she said, the weed was "not causing as much impact on fish as initially feared" she also told *The Daily Telegraph* it had a "potential impact on native seagrasses which are the nursery ground of native fish".

Caulerpa is now in 14 waterways along more than 600km of the NSW coast from Lake Macquarie to Wallagoot Lake on the far South Coast.

Former Opposition environment spokesman and Castle Hill MP Michael Richardson, who has been attacking the Government on the issue for six years, blamed that outcome on a lack of investment in eradication initiatives.

"If this Government had tackled caulerpa with the same money South Australia did, then we wouldn't be in this position," Mr Richardson said.

SA has spent up to \$500,000 a year to control and eradicate caulerpa since 2005.

Its government spent an additional \$500,000 on a study into the ecological consequences of the weed, due for release in September.

Ms Frances said it was too difficult to break down NSW's investment but that it would be "hundreds of thousands" of dollars since 2000.

She revealed that in the past 12 months, the DPI had tried to physically remove the weed in just one waterway - Wallagoot Lake.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8176292.stm>

There is fresh hope that the world's depleted fisheries can be saved from collapse, say researchers.

BBC NEWS | Science & Environment | Fresh hope for world's fisheries

Saturday, 1 August 2009 3:21 PM

Fresh hope for world's fisheries

By Mark Kinver

Science and environment reporter, BBC News

There is fresh hope that the world's depleted fisheries can be saved from collapse, says a team of researchers.

They said that efforts introduced to halt overfishing in five of the 10 large marine ecosystems they examined were showing signs of success.

A combination of measures - such as catch quotas, no-take zones, and selective fishing gear - had helped fish stocks recover, they added.

Details of the two-year study by 21 marine scientists appear in *Science*.

However, the team warned, a large percentage of the world's fisheries remained unmanaged, so much work still had to be done to halt the damage caused by overfishing.

Optimistic outlook

The authors said the study, which looked at key fisheries in Europe, North America and New Zealand, had two goals:

The first was to examine current trends in fish stocks, while the second was to identify what tools had been used in attempts to replenish fish numbers.

"This was a little like a crime scene investigation for overfishing," said lead author Boris Worm, a marine biologist from Dalhousie University, Canada.

"We wanted to find out what were the tools that had been used to adjust exploitation rates and reduce the pressure on



Technology has made modern vessels very efficient at landing fish

fish stocks," said Dr Worm.

"This allowed us to perform not only a much more in-depth assessment of fishery trends, but also - for the first time - to quantify the trends of exploitation rates, which is the proportion of fish removed from the ecosystem each year," explained Dr Worm.

"This is really quite a big step forward because the exploitation rate is the primary driver of depletion and collapse, just as CO2 is the primary driver of climate change."

However, he added that the exploitation rate was the one factor that could be adjusted by direct human intervention, such as introducing management practices.

The authors observed: "Some of the most spectacular rebuilding efforts have involved bold experimentation with closed areas, [fishing] gear restrictions and new approaches to catch allocations and enforcement."

But they warned that the signs of recovery should not be interpreted by policymakers as a sign that all was well beneath the waves.

The majority of fisheries were still in trouble, and were not being managed or regulated properly.

But Dr Worm said that the team's "watershed paper" offered a blueprint for sustainable fishing.

"It clearly shows what needs to be done to not only avoid fisheries collapse, but to actually rebuild fish stocks and ecosystems."



Fisheries that are tightly managed are showing signs of recovery

Fax. (03) 8660 2755 Mob. (0418) 292 004
fishing@searead.net www.searead.net

Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



If you would like to **SUBSCRIBE** to any of the stories please click the appropriate link [ABALONE STORIES](#), or [AQUACULTURE STORIES](#), or [FISHING STORIES](#) or [ALL STORIES AND EMAIL DISTRIBUTION NEWS](#)

If you would like to **UNSUBSCRIBE** from any or all the stories please click on the appropriate link. [UNSUBSCRIBE FISHING STORIES](#) or [UNSUBSCRIBE ABALONE STORIES](#) or [UNSUBSCRIBE AQUACULTURE STORIES](#) or [UNSUBSCRIBE ALL STORIES](#)

FishFacts Issue 19, July 2009

Sunday, 9 August 2009 4:46 PM



FishFacts Issue 19, July 2009

In this issue

[New Executive Director of Fisheries](#)

[New look for Fisheries Officers](#)

[Lights! Camera! Action! - It's fish measuring!](#)

[Fisher faces threat of jail time](#)

[Kingston pair charged with rock lobster offences](#)

[Thousands bring their sea legs to the Boat Show](#)

[Fishers asked to aid search for entangled whale](#)



New Executive Director of Fisheries

PIRSA Fisheries has a new Executive Director with Martin Smallridge taking over from Will Zacharin in early July.

After 10 years in Fisheries' top job, Will has taken up a new position in charge of PIRSA's new Biosecurity division.

Will's contribution to fishing in this state over the past 10 years can not be understated, and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Martin takes on the Executive Director role with an extensive range of experience across the fishing industry. He has previously been General Manager of both the Fisheries Policy and Programs, and Fisheries Services teams, giving him an in depth understanding of both the fisheries management, and compliance sides of our core business.



New look for Fisheries Officers

Keep an eye out for the brand new Fisheries Officer uniforms, which will be rolled out during August.

The uniforms, which are predominantly navy blue with white embroidery, will give Fisheries Officers a highly recognisable presence along South Australia's rivers and coastal regions.

The aim of the uniforms is to make Fisheries Officers clearly identifiable in the community so that people come up to them to ask fisheries-related questions.

Chair of the uniform review committee and Central North Regional Manager Paul Faithow said the uniform clearly identifies the wearer as a Fisheries Officer and offers staff a comfortable, functional and hard-wearing uniform. The uniform will be the same for Fisheries Officers working at sea, on land patrols or in the office.

Staff had a chance to examine options for the new uniform at a Fisheries Services forum during 2008.

"The committee looked at other agencies around Australia who conduct similar duties both on land and at sea with a view to getting the best option for SA," Paul said.

"We started by identifying the functions a Fisheries Officer performs and the purpose our uniform serves. And that's not just functionality, but the appropriate enforcement impression it creates."



Lights! Camera! Action! - It's fish measuring!

Different size limits apply to different fish, which is why it's so important that recreational fishers know exactly how to measure their catch.

So to make it easier for rec fishers to adhere to these size limits, Fisheries have produced a short video detailing the recommended procedure for measuring various fish species.

So why not log on to the PIRSA website and see one of our Fisheries Officers explain the recommended procedure for measuring different fish. [PIRSA Fisheries Website](#)



Fisher faces threat of jail time

A Whyalla man is the first fisher in South Australia to be given a custodial sentence for a recreational fishing offence.

Steven Cook, 47, recently received a suspended sentence in the Whyalla Magistrates Court after pleading guilty to illegally selling jars of razorfish at a local hotel in October last year.

PIRSA Fisheries Officers seized a total of three jars containing 44 razorfish when they approached Mr Cook in the hotel, and discovered a further 12 jars containing 252 razorfish in the man's car.

The court was told the man's activities were "neither amateur nor spontaneous, but an organised well-planned enterprise to make money".

There has been overfishing of the species, such that the bag limit was reduced to 25 per person in December 2007. The species is susceptible to over-fishing as they live in the seabed in the same spot for their whole life, they are not migratory and therefore if they are heavily harvested in an area there is no new recruitment to enable re-population.

PIRSA Fisheries Central North Regional Manager Paul Faithow said the suspended sentence sends a very strong message to anyone considering illegally fishing or selling, but also reinforces the message that our fisheries need to be protected, particularly vulnerable species.



Kingston pair charged with rock lobster offences

Two Kingston men were fined in the Adelaide Magistrates Court recently for undertaking illegal fishing activities at Cape Jaffa during March 2008.

Graeme 'Graz' Albert Brighton and Arthur 'Joe' Edward Trezise, were charged with a variety of offences after Fisheries Officers conducted an investigation into their activities.

Items seized by Fisheries Officers during subsequent house searches were forfeited to the Crown. These items included rock lobster pots, a large quantity of carp, fish bins, buckets, eskies, scales, food saver, cooker and a gas bottle. A number of whole rock lobster, tails, and vacuum packed meat weighing in excess of 46 kilograms were also seized.

Both men pleaded guilty to charges relating to setting and pulling up to nine rock lobster pots over a period of four days and having in their possession a commercial quantity of rock lobster.

Mr Brighton was fined a total of \$4070 while Mr Trezise was fined a total of \$3820.



Thousands bring their sea legs to the Boat Show

Whether it was your basic tinny or the more sophisticated cruisers, there was something for every boating enthusiast at the 2009 Adelaide Boat Show.

Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 16-19 July, the Boat show annually attracts close to 20,000 people, and offers a great day out for all the family.

Fisheries once again had a major presence at the Show, with Compliance staff as well as a number of Fishcare Volunteers in attendance, providing recreational fishers and other visitors with important information and advice to help them make the most out of their fishing experience.

And there was fun for the kids, with the ever-popular fish-measuring game on offer giving children the opportunity to catch, identify and measure different fish species.

State Fishcare Volunteer Coordinator, Toni Cox, said the show provided the Volunteers with a terrific opportunity to provide anglers and other boating enthusiasts with up to date information on South Australian fishing regulations.



Fishers asked to aid search for entangled whale

South Australian anglers are being asked to help in the search for a humpback whale entangled in marine debris.

The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) has been trying to find the whale since it entered South Australian waters during July.

Deb Kelly from DEH says eight specialist rangers are in Mount Gambier ready to scour the ocean, but they think it will be difficult because the whale moves at 15 kilometres an hour.

[top](#)