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<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/charter-fishing-operators-fined/5/21201>

Wellington, Aug 17 NZPA - Four fishing vessel charter operators have been convicted and fined for working illegally outside their safe operating limits, following a crackdown by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ)., Wellington, Aug 17 NZPA - Four fishing vessel charter operators have been convicted and fined for working illegally outside their safe operating limits, following a crackdown by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ).

Charter Fishing Operators Fined

Contributor:



[Voxy News Engine](#)

Monday, 17 August, 2009 - 16:38

Wellington, Aug 17 NZPA - Four fishing vessel charter operators have been convicted and fined for working illegally outside their safe operating limits, following a crackdown by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ).

The operators charged were Bay Fishing Charters Ltd, Lance Goodhew, Cascade Charters Ltd, Reel Passion Charters and its director Mark Andrew Hoare.

In written decisions issued by District Court Judge David Holderness, the operators received fines ranging between \$2000 and \$4750 for operating between 5.5 nautical miles (10km) and 17.1nm (31km) beyond their vessels' safe operating limits without the appropriate maritime document.

All four pleaded guilty to the charges brought by MNZ under section 68 of the Maritime Transport Act.

MNZ director Catherine Taylor said the convictions followed Operation Melt, conducted in August 2008, in which the operators were photographed outside their certified limits off the South Island's West Coast during surveillance by the Royal New Zealand Airforce.

In the most serious breach, Hoare, was caught on August 20 and August 27 operating his vessel Reel Passion just over 17 nautical miles (31km) beyond its 20nm (37km) allowable operating limit.

In sentencing, Judge Holderness noted the limits were designed to protect commercial vessels and the lives of those on board.

Hoare was convicted and fined a total of \$4750 for both charges and ordered to pay court costs and solicitors fees of \$130 and \$250 respectively. The company was convicted and discharged.

Bay Fishing Charters Ltd, Goodhew, and Cascade Charters Ltd were each fined \$2000 plus costs.

"This is about operating within the assigned safe limits of the vessel," Ms Taylor said.

"The simple message to all commercial operators is that the unsafe practice of breaching operational limits

can put lives at risk and won't be tolerated."

NZPA WGT rq co mgr

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/17/2658186.htm>

Lakes Entrance fishermen are unhappy the Victorian Government has not committed to large-scale dredging works in the Gippsland Lakes next year.

☒ Fishers urge Gippsland Lakes dredging pledge - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Monday, 17 August 2009 5:51 PM

Fishers urge Gippsland Lakes dredging pledge

Posted 3 hours 51 minutes ago

- **Map:** [Lakes Entrance 3909](#)

Lakes Entrance fishermen are unhappy the Victorian Government has not committed to large-scale dredging works in the Gippsland Lakes next year.

The Lakes Entrance Cooperative's Dale Sumner says he wants to avoid a repeat of 2007, when sand closed Lakes Entrance and prevented fishing boats going out to sea.

Mr Sumner says Lakes Entrance is in great condition after the Government provided millions of dollars to hire the 'Pelican' hopper dredge.

He says he wrote to Environment Minister Gavin Jennings asking for more funding next year and received a disappointing response.

"Disappointed that it really hasn't told us anything other than that they'll look at it further down the track but we really think there's sufficient information there about how successful this Pelican is," he said.

www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/nets-threat-to-...

Two furry Illawarra residents were in a tricky spot after separate encounters with shark nets on the Far South Coast.

☒ Shark net threat to seal colonies on Far South Coast - Local News - News - General - Illawarra Mercury

Monday, 17 August 2009 5:50 PM

Shark net threat to seal colonies on Far South Coast

BY MATTHEW JONES

17/08/2009 4:00:00 AM

Two furry Illawarra residents were in a tricky spot after separate encounters with shark nets on the Far South Coast.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service responded last week to a report of a fur seal caught in the nets at Bar Beach inside the Narooma Channel.

And NPWS staff mounted a similar rescue the previous week after a seal became entangled at Merimbula.

In both cases, it took around an hour to free the trapped animals.

The Australian fur seal was listed as a vulnerable species in 2002 and there were fears it would become endangered.

Fur seal breeding colonies are found only in Victoria and Tasmania. Groups of the animals also make their way to "haul-out" sites in eastern Australia, many of which are found on the NSW South Coast.

Fortunately, seal numbers are on the rise, Department of Environment and Climate Change spokesman Stuart Cohen told the Illawarra Mercury.

"While we don't have numbers, fur seal populations are growing by around 10 per cent per year," he said.

Unfortunately, Mr Cohen said, growing seal populations would mean more rescues, but shark nets weren't the main threat.

"Shark nets don't usually become tangled," he said.

"The bigger danger is plastic debris or debris from fishing."

Mr Cohen also warned that despite their cute and cuddly appearance, fur seals could be dangerous and

people shouldn't approach them on beaches.

"The temptation is to get near them and take a photo with them," he said.

"But you don't want to get between a fur seal and the water."

The rescued seals sustained cuts and other injuries during their ordeal, but are expected to make a full recovery.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/17/2657561.htm?section=justin

A Western Australian woman who rescued a man from a four-metre white pointer shark has been recognised with Australia's second-highest bravery award.

☒ Shark attack mum rewarded for bravery - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Monday, 17 August 2009 9:14 AM

Shark attack mum rewarded for bravery

Posted 1 hour 12 minutes ago

Updated 59 minutes ago



Shark attack victim Jason Cull recovering in hospital. (ABC News: Video Still)

- **Map:** [Albany 6330](#)

A Western Australian woman who rescued a man from a four-metre white pointer shark has been recognised with Australia's second-highest bravery award.

On May 10 last year, 54-year-old mother of three Joanne Lucas helped to save 37-year-old Jason Cull from a shark attack at Middleton Beach in Albany.

She swam out, despite the blood in the water and the presence of the shark, and dragged him 80 metres back to shore to be treated.

Ms Lucas has been awarded the Star of Courage - second only to the Cross of Valour - for "acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril".

She says it is a great honour to receive the award.

"I knew there had been a nomination for something but I didn't know what it was going to be for, and when it finally came through it was lovely," she said.

"It was a great honour because I don't think they just hand them out."

Ms Lucas says Mr Cull has made a full recovery and she still has vivid memories of the rescue.

"It was a crazy, crazy day, it really was - so I think it's something that I will always remember; I don't think you forget something like that," she said.

Ms Lucas was one of 12 Western Australians recognised for their bravery.

Fellow West Australian David King pulled a woman from her burning van after she lost control and crashed into a tree in Lesmurdie in 2007.

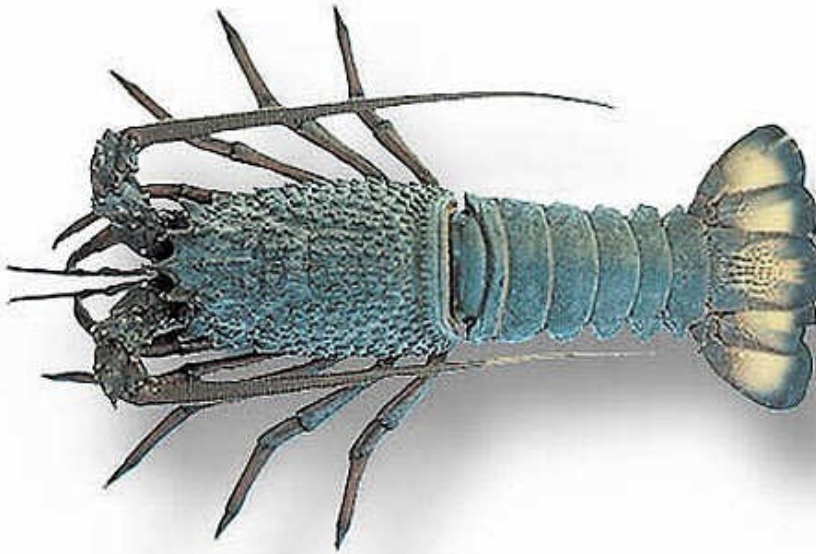
He says he hopes the awards will inspire others.

"I'm glad there are awards like this to recognise people and hopefully it will get other people to look at ways they can help people," Mr King said.

www.powerboat-world.com/NSW-Lobster-thieves-caught-red-handed/60221...

Sail boats, sailors, yachts, yachting, boats, boating Australia, New Zealand, Asia Pacific. Regatta, racing

NSW Lobster thieves caught red handed



'Eastern Rock Lobster - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/.../eastern-rock-lobster' [NSW State Government](#)

Two men are each facing almost \$50,000 in fines and six months in prison after allegedly being found in possession of a number of illegal lobster pots and prohibited size eastern rock lobsters, NSW Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald, said today.

'NSW Department of Industry and Investment (DII) Fisheries Officers conducted covert surveillance on the two men in Frazer's Blowhole at Snapper Point on July 30,' Minister Macdonald said.

'It will be alleged that the men were observed retrieving and resetting five unmarked lobster traps.

'The men were found to be in joint possession of four eastern rock lobsters, three of them were of prohibited size.

'Five traps, four eastern rock lobsters and assorted gear used to bait and check the pots were seized by fisheries officers.'

The men, a 30 year old from Hamilton and a 42 year old from Bolton Point will face charges of possessing prohibited size lobsters, unlawful use of trap, failure to mark lobster floats and set more than one lobster trap.

In another matter, a 35 year old Sydney man has allegedly been caught red handed with an illegal haul of rock lobsters near the Coalcliff Surf Lifesaving Club, north of Wollongong on July 29.

'The man was allegedly carrying a backpack containing a hessian bag with 21 eastern rock lobsters, 14 of them below the prescribed minimum size limit,' Minister Macdonald said.

'Fisheries Officers seized the lobsters and the backpack and the man will face court

charged with possessing prohibited size lobsters, and possess more than the maximum quantity of lobster. He's now looking at \$22,000 in fines and three months in prison.'

And 10 eastern rock lobsters have been returned to the water live, after a man was allegedly spotted with the illegal haul and apprehended by NSW DII Fisheries Officers in Tathra last month.

The 50 year old Tathra man was allegedly found to be in possession of an unmarked lobster trap which contained six lobsters, with another four lobsters found in the boat, when he docked near the Kianinny boat ramp.

The man will be charged with possessing prohibited size lobsters and unlawful use of trap and could face up to \$33,000 in fines and a lengthy jail term.

The possession limit for eastern rock lobster is two per person.

by Ian Macdonald Minister for Primary Industries 4:36 AM Sun 16 Aug 2009 GMT

www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/luxury-no-more-why-you-can-afford...

☒ Luxury no more: why you can afford to come the raw prawn

Sunday, 16 August 2009 9:40 AM

Luxury no more: why you can afford to come the raw prawn



Now cheaper than some cuts of lamb ... prawns at De Costi Seafoods at the Sydney Fish Markets. *Photo: Adam Hollingworth*

Rachel Browne

August 16, 2009

AUSTRALIANS can afford to throw another prawn on the barbie. And another and another.

Once considered an expensive treat, prawns are now regarded as an affordable luxury compared with other seafood or that great Australian staple, lamb.

While the retail industry is feeling the pinch of the economic crisis, prawn farmers say business is booming. This is because the price of prawns has remained stable in real terms for more than a decade while overall food costs have risen greatly.

The Australian Prawn Farmers Association president, Nick Moore, said local producers had increased volumes to keep prices down in the face of increasing competition from cheap imports.

"The importation of cheap vannamei prawns from overseas has seriously undercut the local industry," he said. "The imported prawns are half the price of locally produced prawns so Australian prawn farmers have to compete.

"Australian prawns can't be too expensive or they won't sell.

"It's forced local prawn farmers to run their businesses in a more competitive way to stay afloat. The result is, we're producing more prawns and, fortunately for us, demand for Australian product is still strong."

Production of Australian-farmed prawns has increased 33 per cent over the past two years. Local farmers produce more than 4000 tonnes of prawns annually.

However, about 25,000 tonnes of prawns are imported from China, Thailand and Vietnam each year.

The increase in production is keeping locally produced prawn prices down to about \$25 a kilogram for Queensland tiger prawns. And consumers are happy to shell out for prawns even during times of economic stress, said Christie's Seafood account manager Wayne Hulme.

"People will always reward themselves with good-quality food," he said.

De Costi Seafood's Carmelo Lombardo said treating the family to prawns was cheaper than taking them to a restaurant or even buying lamb cutlets.

"Lamb has been pretty pricey over the past few months. You're looking at \$35 a kilo for good-quality lamb or less than \$30 a kilo for top-quality prawns."

While the appetite for prawns might be strong, it has not helped the best-known crustacean, the Big Prawn at Ballina, built in 1990 at a cost of \$500,000.

A battle is brewing over the icon, with the company that owns it, Dojoo, lodging a development application with Ballina Shire Council for the demolition of the giant structure last week.

The council has not yet decided the Big Prawn's fate.

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/08/2650034.htm>

A settlement has been reached over costs stemming from the south-east Queensland oil spill earlier this year.

Qld reaches \$25m settlement on oil spill - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 16 August 2009 9:37 AM

Qld reaches \$25m settlement on oil spill

Posted Sat Aug 8, 2009 11:00am AEST

Updated Sat Aug 8, 2009 2:10pm AEST



Multi-million-dollar clean-up bill: Premier Bligh says the settlement is a good result. (ABC TV)

- **Map:** [Cape Moreton 4025](#)

A settlement has been reached over costs stemming from the south-east Queensland oil spill earlier this year.

In March, broken fuel tanks from cargo ship the Pacific Adventurer leaked more than 270,000 litres of oil, coating the region's beaches.

Swire Shipping says it will pay \$25 million towards the clean-up bill, in addition to the \$2 million it has already spent.

The rest of the estimated \$31 million will be funded by an increase in shipping levies.

Premier Anna Bligh says it is a good outcome.

"What this means is that local councils here who rolled up their sleeves and got the clean-up done can now get compensated for their clean-up costs," she said.

"It also means that some of those private companies like fishing trawlers will have a fund that that they can claim against, and most importantly it means Queensland taxpayers won't be paying one cent."

In a recorded statement to the media, Swire spokesman Bill Rothery says the payment is above and beyond the company's legal requirement.

"Swire Shipping are very pleased that our final offer's been accepted and there's a resolution from all parties," he said.

"At \$25 million we are paying far more than our legal requirement under the convention of limitation of liability, which would only normally require us to pay between \$14.5 million and \$17.5 million."

Sunshine Coast Regional Council CEO John Knaggs has welcomed the company's decision to contribute more than its legal liability of \$14 million.

Mr Knaggs also welcomed the Federal Government's decision to make up the shortfall through higher environmental shipping levies.

He is also looking forward to payment for the council's \$1.2 million contribution to the clean-up.

"Clearly that will be recompensed now as I understand it and that will free much needed dollars for further major community works and capital works so that's good news," he said.

www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/2755092/Whitebaiters-urged-to-ta...

The Timaru Herald: Get the latest local news from Timaru's daily newspaper

☰ Whitebaiters urged to take care as season opens | Stuff.co.nz

Sunday, 16 August 2009 9:35 AM

Whitebaiters urged to take care as season opens

By KATARINA FILIPE - The Timaru Herald

Last updated 05:00 15/08/2009

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JOHN BISSET/Timaru Herald

CAN'T WAIT: Donna Bennett of Timaru is all set for the whitebaiting season today. She has been whitebaiting for 63 years, mostly at Smithfield and on the West Coast.

Relevant offers

Water Safety New Zealand is urging people to be careful this whitebaiting season.

Although no whitebaiters drowned last year, general manager Matt Claridge said whenever there was a surge in activity around water, people needed to be cautious and aware of the risks of drowning.

The season kicks off around most of New Zealand today and ends on November 30 except for the West Coast where the season is from September 1 to November 14.

Mr Claridge reminded people to let someone know where they would be and how long they would take, dress appropriately and ensure the area of the river was one they could safely access.

Conservation Department biodiversity ranger Steve Harraway said he had seen people get knocked off their feet, but there hadn't been a drowning in South Canterbury in recent years.

A lifejacket was the safest option in case people got swept out in the surf, he said.

He reminded whitebaiters that steps needed to be taken now to sustain the fishery for future years.

DOC rangers will be patrolling waterways to check people were complying with the regulations. If people caught anyone breaking the rules, they should call the department's emergency number 0800 DOCHOT (0800 362 468).

Whitebaiters also needed to check, clean and dry whitebaiting gear when moving between or up waterways to prevent the spread of didymo algae and other aquatic pests.

Any aquatic life caught in nets that was not wanted as part of the whitebait catch should be returned alive to the water, Mr Harraway said.

That included mature or gutty whitebait, bullies, smelt, trout and the young of eels.

People could help sustain the whitebait fishery by abiding by the Whitebait Fishing Regulations, by not taking more than they need, and by helping to protect whitebait habitat and passage.

The consequence of breaching the regulations can be prosecution and fines.

In the past two years, a Richmond man had been ordered to pay more than \$2800 in fines and court-related costs in two convictions for using whitebait fishing gear exceeding more than one-third of the width of a stream.

Whitebait needed enough habitat to live and breed, including wetlands and bush-covered streams.

www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5qFUSRZRjuBx8lFfnYRLICZ9...

AFP: Millions of salmon fail to turn up in Canada

Sunday, 16 August 2009 9:28 AM

Millions of salmon fail to turn up in Canada

By Michel Comte (AFP) – 2 days ago



Environmental groups have been fierce critics of salmon farms because of fears over sea lice





Map



OTTAWA — Millions of salmon have mysteriously failed to turn up in a Canadian river as part of their annual spawning, leaving experts baffled and the local fishing industry in despair.

The Canadian government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans projected that between six and 10 million sockeye salmon would return to the Fraser river this month.

But the official count for the annual 'summer run' -- by far the largest of four salmon migrations that see millions of fish return to Canada's lakes and rivers from the Pacific each year from June to late August -- is now just 600,000.

Where the others went remains a mystery.

Local fishermen, quoted by the daily Globe and Mail, described the situation as "shocking," a "catastrophe" and a "crisis," while public broadcaster CBC said 2009 could end up being the worst year ever for the industry.

A record number of salmon smolts were born in the Fraser in 2005 and migrated to the ocean. Nature dictates that most of them should have returned by now to spawn.

"It's a bit of a mystery," Stan Proboszcz, an expert fish biologist from the Watershed Watch Salmon Society, told AFP.

"Honestly, we don't know what happens to them when they go out into the ocean," he said. "There's a myriad of factors that could explain what's going on." It is "quite shocking," he added.

Officials and ecologists speculated the salmon could have been affected by warmer ocean temperatures, fewer food sources, or juvenile salmon may have contracted sea lice or other infections from some 30 fish farms in the Strait of Georgia as they migrated out to sea.

Proboszcz, however, suggested that fishing industry officials may have miscalculated their complex forecasts or that the fish could just be late arriving -- although he conceded the latter theory was highly unlikely.

Wild salmon are under threat in many rivers of the north Pacific and north Atlantic because of overfishing at sea.

Environmental groups in Canada, Norway and Scotland have been fierce critics of salmon farms because of fears over sea lice -- naturally occurring parasites of wild salmon that latch onto the fishes' skin in the open ocean.

Salmon farms are a haven for these parasites, which adult salmon can survive but which small, thin-skinned juveniles are vulnerable to, especially when heading from the river to the sea.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans spokeswoman Lara Sloan said the main Fraser river fishery had not opened due to the drop in numbers and that another local fishery had scaled back this season's catch to just five percent of the norm. No recreational fishing has been allowed.

Sloan would not be drawn on the reason behind the lack of fish.

"There are a lot of variations in the ocean," she said. "They're all interconnected, so it's impossible to point to one reason for this happening.

"So far, they're not coming back in the numbers we expected, but we will continue to look for them."

Other species, pink salmon and chum salmon, are due to arrive around the end of August through October. So far there is no indication they have been affected.

Chinook salmon are also returning to spawn in the region, but they have been a "conservation concern" for several years, and their numbers remain low.

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<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0908/S00179.htm>

It's that time of year again when hardy whitebaiters have sorted their gear and will head for the rivers and estuaries around the country for the opening of the whitebait season on Saturday 15th August - except for the West Coast of the South ...

☰ Scoop: Whitebait under threat

Sunday, 16 August 2009 9:25 AM

Whitebait under threat

Friday, 14 August 2009, 3:48 pm
Press Release: Department of Conservation
Whitebait under threat

It's that time of year again when hardy whitebaiters have sorted their gear and will head for the rivers and estuaries around the country for the opening of the whitebait season on Saturday 15th August - except for the West Coast of the South Island where the season starts a fortnight later on the 1st of September

DOC is asking whitebaiters to be aware of the regulations and to be within 10 metres of their gear at all times so they can't just set and forget their net and leave it unattended DOC freshwater fish expert Jane Goodman said rules were in place to help sustain the fishery and asks fishers not to take more than they needed.

"Whitebait are the young of native fish and the future of whitebaiting depended on having sustainable native fish populations." says Goodman

"Inanga are the most common species, but whitebaiters may also capture the young of giant kokopu, shortjaw kokopu, koaro and banded kokopu depending on which river they are fishing in. Giant kokopu and shortjaw kokopu are threatened species."

Department of Conservation staff and other freshwater fish experts have been returning to streams and rivers with historical records of adult whitebait (galaxiids) and finding that they are no longer present. Experts are very concerned about this trend and are endeavouring to document this decline and the reasons for it.

Water removal, pollution, wetland drainage, introduced pests and destruction of stream-side vegetation are some of the issues that threaten the long-term survival of whitebait species.

"Whitebaiting adds further pressure to the survival of these species if not carried out in a sustainable manner."

Whitebaiters are also reminded to check, clean and dry their gear when moving between or up waterways to prevent the spread of didymo algae and other aquatic pests.

"Didymo and other aquatic pests threaten the health of the fishery and the Department of Conservation (DOC) and MAF Biosecurity need the help of whitebaiters to ensure that invasive freshwater pests do not spread." says Goodman

"Generally speaking, whitebaiters observe the regulations that help keep a healthy fishery but we all have to be aware of contaminated whitebaiting gear affecting other streams.

"If each stream is treated as if it is contaminated and people check, clean and dry their gear between streams, we can reduce the potential threat and retain a sustainable fishery for future generations."

o More information on didymo and approved cleaning methods can be found on the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand website www.biosecurity.govt.nz.

o Information on whitebaiting regulations and whitebait and other native fish species can be found on the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz .

Contact DOC Jane Goodman 04 471 300
MAF Biosecurity Matthew Thorpe 029-8940328

www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/2754998/Illegal-fishing-costs-...
News - The Southland Times

Illegal fishing costs boat, car

The Southland Times

Last updated 05:00 15/08/2009

A Bluff fisherman convicted of illegally selling fish was fined \$15,000 and forced to hand his boat, Ford utility and gear to the Government when he appeared in the Invercargill District Court yesterday.

Lee Antony Barris, 39, appeared before Judge Kevin Phillips for sentence on 13 fisheries charges relating to illegal sale of blue cod and rock lobster.

Fisheries Ministry prosecutor Leonie Matehaere said Barris entered the guilty pleas a fortnight ago after eight other charges were withdrawn.

Barris' choice not to appoint a lawyer was questioned by Judge Phillips.

"You understand I really have no option but to make orders for the forfeiture of your boat and truck?"

Barris said he did and asked to read a pre-prepared statement in court.

"I'm here to accept responsibility for my actions," he said.

The case had been stressful on both him and his family and that stress had been compounded by an "overblown newspaper article" about the case, which had damaged his reputation in Bluff and the wider fishing community, his future prospects in the industry and he believed his contract supplying Sanford's was under threat.

However, he could not say for certain he would lose the contract, prompting Judge Phillips to tell him that made it difficult for him to take that into consideration.

Outlining the case, Judge Phillips said Barris, who had been involved in the commercial fishing industry for 17 years, seven of those as skipper of his own boat Defiant, said the charges related to selling blue cod and rock lobster in contravention of the Fisheries Act.

The act states that all fish taken on a registered fishing boat is deemed to have been taken for the purpose of sale unless an approval has been given by the chief executive of the Fisheries Ministry.

Barris had approval to harvest fish as long as he did not sell his catch.

Eight of the charges related to selling rock lobster and blue cod, while the remaining five related to taking fish for the purpose of sale.

Between June 14, 2008, and April 1, 2009, he had offered fish for sale on at least 53 occasions, usually by text message, in contravention of the regulations governing his commercial activity, Judge Phillips said.

During this time he had received \$2475 for fish valued at more than \$6000.

Judge Phillips said he believed Barris was one of the first fishermen in Southland to appear on these type of "blackmarket" charges and ordered him to forfeit the Defiant, his Ford Courier and all equipment.

He fined him \$1500 on each of the selling charges and \$600 on each of the remaining charges.

Ms Matehaere said the Defiant would remain in Barris' care until a valuation had been made he then had the option to buy it back from the Crown.

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/200908/s2655691.htm>

Researchers probe the eating habits of prawns

Updated Fri Aug 14, 2009 8:27am AEST

Scientists in Australia are using recording equipment to delve into the private lives of prawns. They've teamed up with an aquaculture company in Australia's southern island state of Tasmania. And they're hoping to find out about some bizarre prawn eating habits that could be worth close to 20 million US dollars a year to the domestic prawn farming industry.

Presenter: Felicity Ogilvie

Speaker:

- **Listen:**
- [Windows Media](#)

FELICITY OGILVIE: (Sounds of prawns) This is the sound that a prawn makes when it's eating.

ROSS DODD: We're using passive acoustics or hydrophones and we're analysing the sounds, all the sounds in the ponds, identifying the feeding sounds and then using those feeding sounds to regulate feeding.

FELICITY OGILVIE: Ross Dodd is the chief executive Hobart based aquaculture company AQ1 systems. His company has spent years working with scientists at the CSIRO to develop an underwater recorder in order to listen to the prawns eat.

(Sound of prawns eating)

ROSS DODD: Well if you ever go to a prawn pond, the prawns feed off the bottom. They throw food into the ponds and they can't actually tell how much the prawns had eaten and so they might underfeed them or they might over feed them. They just waste feed.

So what we can do is tell when the prawns are feeding so we deliver exactly what the prawns need and no more and no less.

FELICITY OGILVIE: Dr Nigel Preston from the CSIRO in Brisbane says every year local prawn farmers produce 4,000 tonnes of prawns. That's about one third of the prawns Australians eat.

NIGEL PRESTON: So if you were flying out the east coast of Australia looking down at the mouths of estuaries or next to the ocean you'd see these ponds. Each of the ponds is about 100 metres by 100 metres, about a one hectare pond and in each of those ponds they're stocked with around about 350,000 prawns.

FELICITY OGILVIE: Now what do prawns actually eat?

NIGEL PRESTON: The pellets that are fed to them are a mixture of proteins from wheat and fish meal and so quite similar to the sorts of pellets that you'd feed to chickens.

FELICITY OGILVIE: The prawns being farmed are mostly the tiger prawn variety that end up being sold at fish markets in Sydney and Melbourne and supermarkets across the country.

Knowing just how much food their prawns need to grow should net Australian prawn farmers an extra \$20 million a year and Ross Dodd says there's been worldwide interest.

ROSS DODD: Prawn farming is huge. We're talking about a \$20 billion industry at a farm gate level before all the processing. It's been growing at a compound rate of seven to eight per cent per annum every year. It's probably one of the fastest primary production sectors in the world, fastest growing sectors in the world.

FELICITY OGILVIE: And what will this discovery of how to regulate the feeding of the prawns, what will that mean for the industry?

ROSS DODD: Well it has the I guess the triple bottom line type of thing where we can grow them faster, we can use less feed to grow them and we can reduce the environmental impact.

(Sound of prawns eating)

FELICITY OGILVIE: The ability to listen to the prawns eat will make it cheaper to farm them but there's no promise that saving will be passed on to consumers.

www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/rise-in-rock-fi...

Police have urged rock anglers to take extra care after the deaths of nine people in fishing accidents on the NSW coast this year.

Rise in rock fishing deaths prompts warning - Local News - News - General - Illawarra Mercury

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:05 PM

Rise in rock fishing deaths prompts warning

BY MEGAN LEVY
27/07/2009 3:03:00 PM

Police have urged rock anglers to take extra care after the deaths of nine people in fishing accidents on the NSW coast this year.

Two fishermen have been swept to their deaths this year alone at Port Kembla, which has been identified as one of eight rock-fishing black spots in the state.

The latest casualty was a 31-year-old Hurlstone Park man who was washed off rocks while fishing at night at the foot of Heritage Park earlier this month.

- **SLIDESHOW: Search launched for missing fisherman**
- **Police divers to unlock rock fishing tragedy**

Despite an extensive search using the PoAir helicopter and Water Police, the man's body has not been recovered.

In March this year, a 71-year-old father from Strathfield drowned while fishing at night at Honeycomb Rocks at Port Kembla.

That man, also from Sydney's south-west, was fishing with his son when he was swept into the ocean.

The number of deaths in the first half of 2009 represents an almost twofold increase in the rate of drownings.

Marine Area Commander Superintendent Mark Hutchings said rock fishing was one of Australia's most dangerous sports.

"Already this year we have seen a number of people swept to their deaths," Mr Hutchings said.

"It's important that every angler is aware of the dangers of rock fishing and takes steps to reduce the risk.

"In the past we've seen a number of fishermen drown after jumping into the water to help a mate in trouble.

"Under no circumstances should you enter the water to attempt to rescue a person in difficulty but instead throw them a flotation device to grab hold of and then alert emergency services."

Mr Hutchings urged anglers to:

- choose the safest possible location and take time to observe the conditions before casting their line;
- always fish with someone else;
- keep an eye on the waves at all times;
- be alert to the weather and tidal conditions;
- wear lightweight clothing, footwear with non-slip soles, a flotation jacket and head protection;
- and carry a float and line to help anyone else who might be washed into the water.

Surf Life Saving NSW lifesaving manager Dean Storey said rock fishing call-outs had risen significantly this year, and the organisation was about to launch an education campaign to combat the rise in fishing-related deaths.

"Surf lifesavers, lifeguards and our support operations groups including the Westpac Rescue Helicopter have responded to a large number of rescues and drownings as a result of rock fishing incidents," Mr Storey said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2655884.htm>
Coverage of rural industries and issues.

 Fishing communities revive as fish numbers recover - 14/08/2009

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:05 PM

Fishing communities revive as fish numbers recover

Friday, 14/08/2009

Fish stocks are recovering in Australia's federally-managed waters.

That's the encouraging finding of a global fisheries report from the CSIRO, that also identified huge pressure on fish species in the waters of developing nations.

And the fishing recovery means a community recovery for port towns like Eden in NSW, where Glenn Richardson manages the commercial fishing co-op.

"I'd be inclined to agree (with that study finding). Certainly since there has been a reduction of boats, the vessels now are able to go out and target fish and their turnarounds are a lot quicker," he says.

"I think things are panning out all right after the buyout or the Fishing Securing our Future package".

www.theage.com.au/national/boat-ban-for-open-seas-in-review-2009081...

☰ Boat ban for open seas in review

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:04 PM

Boat ban for open seas in review

Jennifer Lim and Clay Lucas

August 12, 2009

BOATS shorter than five metres would be banned from entering Victoria's open sea, under marine law changes the State Government is considering.

The potential changes are part of the first review of marine laws in Victoria in 21 years.

The review also found that the drought is partly to blame for a rise in serious injuries on the water.

The Department of Transport is reviewing 1988's Marine Act and is considering restricting boats up to 4.8 metres long to "enclosed waters" such as the entrance waters of Port Fairy and Gippsland Lakes.

Boats shorter than eight metres would be banned from travelling more than 20 nautical miles off shore, under the options paper produced by the Transport Department.

The review is also considering:

- Requiring those who sail yachts to have a boating licence.
- A skills test for anyone wanting a boating licence.
- Banning children under 16 from operating boats or watercraft that travel faster than 10 knots.

The marine industry contributes an estimated \$4.5 billion a year to the Victorian economy and employs more than 7000 in manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing.

But more people than ever are being hurt in boating and fishing accidents, as greater numbers take to the waters.

A discussion paper produced for the review said the rise in injuries identified in the review could be tracked back to the "shrinking of inland waters as a result of the ongoing drought".

In the year to June 2008, collisions superseded drowning as the primary cause of death in marine accidents.

Victorian hospitals admitted 298 people hurt in boating accidents - up 34 per cent in two years. The accidents happened mostly in Port Phillip Bay or on the Yarra River.

The report also notes that "near-misses" - where recreational vessels cross into the path of oncoming commercial vessels - are becoming increasingly common.

About 100 boat owners in Portland last week told Marine Safety Victoria officers at a public meeting over the marine review that many of the proposed options for changing the Marine Act went too far.

Public meetings will continue across Victoria until August 26.

<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au>

www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/08/05/89071_tasmania-news.html

Boat engineer to the fore HE has yachting in his blood and the awards to prove it.

☰ Boat engineer to the fore Tasmania News - The Mercury - The Voice of Tasmania

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:03 PM

Boat engineer to the fore

MICHELLE PAINE

August 05, 2009 12:46pm

HE has yachting in his blood and the awards to prove it.



WINNERS ... From left, Matthew Johnston, John Muir and Ian Stocks, of Muir Engineering.

John Muir's Muir Engineering was named Tasmanian Business of the Year at the Telstra Business Awards in Hobart last night.

Founder and managing director John Muir began developing boat anchoring technology -- winches and windlasses -- in his early 20s, with a few tips from his father, renowned yachtsman and boatbuilder Jock Muir.

The gear, now exported to more than 40 countries, is used on super-yachts of the rich and famous, and on commercial and smaller pleasure vessels.

The Kingston-based family company has won a raft of awards since it was set up in 1968.

Telstra Country Wide Group managing director Brett Riley said Mr Muir had turned his love of boats into a world-class engineering business.

"Sailing was always in John's blood. But he has turned his passion into a Hobart-based 21st century global export business through research and development, high technology manufacturing, and strategic alliances enabling them to supply equipment to the world's leading boatbuilders," Mr Riley said.

Judges were impressed with Muir's capture of the mega-yacht market and its penetration of global export markets.

"Muir's range of anchoring and motoring systems are not only functional, but also aesthetically pleasing, giving them entry into the larger European mega-winch markets," judges said.

Mr Muir said the company had consistently increased and developed export markets for the past decade and intended to continue.

"As well as warehousing and sales offices in Australia, we have a very strong distributor network in over 70 countries around the world to overcome our geographical isolation," Mr Muir said.

The company supplies boat builders including Austal, Riviera and International Marine in Australia, Trinity Yachts in the US, Feadship in the Netherlands, Lurssen in Germany and Sunseeker Yachts in Britain.

Mr Muir's career started with a diesel fitter apprenticeship at the age of 17 before he joined his father's small engineering workshop and came up with new designs for scallop winches and anchor winches, later working with fishing pioneer George Mure.

Among other winners was 21-year-old Braaap founder Brad Smith, who started his mini-motocross company by importing bikes from China at the age of 17.

Not happy with the standard, he travelled China to eventually find two factories that understood his vision.

His team of employees includes his mother, father, sister, cousin and aunt.

Winners, announced at Wrest Point, are in the running for the national awards to be announced in Sydney on August 20.

THE WINNERS ARE:

- Muir Engineering -- Tasmanian Business of the Year and Panasonic Australia Medium Business Award.

- Brighton Hardware -- Microbusiness Award, for turning a business around and growing a loyal group of customers in a competitive market.
- Maria Island Walk -- MYOB Small Business Award, for remaining a leader in responsible tourism and minimising its footprint on the historic site.
- Healthcare Software -- AMP Innovation Award, for its medication management solutions that are literally saving lives and preventing repeated hospital admissions through medication mishaps.
- Braaap -- Sensis Social Responsibility Award, for engaging disenfranchised youth and for high safety standards in a sport with no safety regulation.

www.antara.co.id/en/news/1250166654/ri-is-worlds-fourth-largest-sea...

Indonesia catches around 64 million tons of sea fish annually making it the fourth largest producer of the commodity in the world, a fisheries official said.

ANTARA News: RI is world`s fourth largest sea fish producer

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:02 PM

RI is world`s fourth largest sea fish producer

Thursday, August 13, 2009 19:30 WIB | Economic & Business | | Viewed 439 time(s)



Fishermen lift tunas (yellow fin) at Lampulo seaport in Banda Aceh. (11/8). (ANTARA/Ampelsa/*)

Manado, North Sulawesi (ANTARA News) - Indonesia catches around 64 million tons of sea fish annually making it the fourth largest producer of the commodity in the world, a fisheries official said.

In addition to sea fish , Indonesia also produces five million tons of freshwater fish annually, according to Aji Sularso, the marine and fisheries ministry`s director general of marine resources and fisheries control and supervision, here on Thursday.

China remained the world`s largest fish producer with a total catch of over 100 million tons annually, he said.

Indonesia has intensified its fight against illegal fishing activity in the country`s waters in cooperation with several other countries, he said.

Last February 2009, Indonesia and Australia launched a joint campaign against illegal fishing among fishermen`s groups in South Sulawesi.

Australian ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer said on the occasion the campaign was an important part of the two countries` joint efforts to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources on the two sides of their border.

Indonesia as well as Australia, he said, had suffered because of illegal fishing by foreign citizens. Therefore, the two countries were determined to eradicate the activity that could destroy the fish stocks on which the livelihood of many people depended.(*)

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/14/2656322.htm>

Tasmanian scientists are working on new technology to boost the prawn fishing industry.

Scientists spying on prawns - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Saturday, 15 August 2009 7:01 PM

Scientists spying on prawns

Posted Fri Aug 14, 2009 3:01pm AEST



The technology aims to reduce over-feeding and nutrient problems. (ABC TV News - file image)

- **Audio:** [Sounds of prawns feeding revealed by scientists \(The World Today\)](#)

Tasmanian scientists are working on new technology to boost the prawn fishing industry.

An aquaculture technology company and the CSIRO are developing an underwater machine to spy on prawns while they eat.

Tasmania does not have prawn fisheries but the new machine is expected to save the Australian industry up to \$20million a year.

The project has received \$2millions in federal funding and the underwater camera and acoustic device should be ready for the market in a year.

Ross Dodd, from the development company, says it will help farmers avoid over-feeding and contaminating the water with too many nutrients.

"[It will] improve prawn farming productivity and also reduce the environmental footprint of prawn farming, as well," he said.

Steve Giugni from the CSIRO says the machine is being tested in Queensland.

"We're doing research that's actually valuable for Australia, valuable for Australian industry."

The equipemnt is expected to sell worldwide.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/snapper-poacher-forfeits-gear-2917546>

A persistent snapper poacher from Auckland has been fined \$3000 and forfeited his boat, outboard motor, trailer and fishing tackle.

📄 Persistent snapper poacher fined, forfeits boat and gear | NATIONAL News

Saturday, 15 August 2009 6:58 PM

Snapper poacher forfeits gear

Published: 3:59PM Friday August 14, 2009

Source: Newstalk ZB/ONE News

- [Read](#)



Reuters

A persistent snapper poacher from Auckland has been fined \$3000 and forfeited his boat, outboard motor,

trailer and fishing tackle.

Tony Do, 51, from Mangere, was stopped by fisheries officers at Kawakawa Bay in February.

Do initially showed the officers 36 legal-sized fish - four times the legal daily limit for one person. Then when they inspected the rest of his boat they found a further 85 snapper.

Most of the fish had been stashed in the bilge behind a flap that had been cut in the floorboards.

It was the third time Do had been found with excess snapper and he has previously been fined up to \$1200.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/13/2655066.htm>

A new study into Antarctic fur seal migration has surprised researchers at the University of Tasmania.

☰ Scientists track seal trek - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Saturday, 15 August 2009 6:58 PM

Scientists track seal trek

Posted Thu Aug 13, 2009 3:39pm AEST

Updated Thu Aug 13, 2009 4:01pm AEST

A new study into Antarctic fur seal migration has surprised researchers at the University of Tasmania.

It was thought pregnant seals spent the winter eating fish and squid in the food-rich waters of Antarctica.

But new research has shown they travel more than 12,000 kilometres in rough seas to visit islands to the north.

Dr Mary-Anne Lea from the University of Tasmania says she is not sure why it happens but predators and warmth could be factors.

"We suspect it might be potentially to avoid predation."

"Also these are very small animals, and although they're furred, this is a very cold time of the year, lots of storms, big waves, ice," she said.

Researchers believe the results of the study could have consequences for the broader Antarctic ecosystem.

Professor Mark Hindell says the seals are eating krill in winter rather than fish and that could have implications for the study of other Antarctic species.

"When you're trying to do things like estimate commercial krill catches, or how quickly whale stocks might recover, you need to know who else is sharing that resource," he said.

www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/krill-may-give-seal-of-appr...

☰ Fur seal cross Southern Ocean | Andrew Darby

Saturday, 15 August 2009 6:57 PM

Krill may give seal of approval to new fishery



Feeding for two ... an Antarctic fur seal, wearing a flipper tag, suckles a pup after returning from winter foraging. *Photo: Ryan Resinger*

Andrew Darby

August 14, 2009

PUZZLING over what drives a pregnant fur seal to cross the Southern Ocean in winter has led to new evidence of the critical role of krill in Antarctica, just as a fishery in the crustacean looks likely to take off.

Australian scientists who put tagged the seals found they made 1300-kilometre journeys to make a trade-off between getting warm and eating for two.

At one end of the journey is the relative shelter of Marion Island, in the southern Indian Ocean, where they can rest, safe from killer whales and sharks. At the other end, the Polar Front - a marine temperature boundary encircling the Antarctic - they are likely to be feeding on krill.

Zoologists at the University of Tasmania were surprised the seals made several trips between the Polar Front and Marion Island, far south-west of Perth.

"There must be a very good reason they would give up valuable foraging time and use up valuable energy to swim 1300 kilometres back to Marion Island through huge storms and strong currents," Mark Hindell said yesterday.

A co-researcher, Mary-Anne Lea, said their strongest hunch was that the depths of Antarctic winter were too much for the 35-50 kilogram female seals to endure constantly.

But if there was a predictable food source it was worthwhile to keep coming back, Dr Lea said. And if, as suspected, they were after krill at the Polar Front, this would have a big impact on understanding the crustacean's ecosystem, Professor Hindell said. The world's largest population of Antarctic fur seals, up to 4 million, teems across the shores of South Georgia in the South Atlantic, where a Norwegian company, Aker Biomarine, plans to take thousands of tonnes of krill to process into a high-value food supplement rich in omega-3.

Consultants to the London-based Marine Stewardship Council have recommended approval for the fishery. But a US marine scientist, Sylvia Earle, said fishing for krill endangered the Antarctic ecosystem and was "carbon insanity"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/14/2656189.htm>

The South Australian Greens say a total rethink is needed on licensing aquaculture in the wake of the failure of a west coast venture.

Greens urge 'total rethink' on licensing aquaculture - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Friday, 14 August 2009 3:21 PM

Greens urge 'total rethink' on licensing aquaculture

Posted 1 hour 18 minutes ago

- **Map:** [Port Augusta 5700](#)

The South Australian Greens say a total rethink is needed on licensing aquaculture in the wake of the failure of a west coast venture.

Australian Bight Abalone is in voluntary administration with a series of investor meetings ending in Perth yesterday.

Elliston residents have questioned issues including how the business was allowed to establish in a sensitive environmental area.

Greens leader Mark Parnell says the company's problems should trigger a rethink on the entire aquaculture industry.

"I think we do need to go back to the drawing board and have a look at how the aquaculture industry is managed," he said.

"The trend over the last 10 years has been to provide less and less opportunities for members of the community to engage in the debate.

"It's now no longer possible for anyone to challenge aquaculture."

But the Government says all stakeholders are involved in the development of new and existing aquaculture zones.

A statement from Food and Fisheries Minister Paul Caica says this includes members of the public and

groups such as local government and industry.

He says he understands all transactions by Australian Bight Abalone were in accordance with the law, including public notification where required.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2656116.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

☒ Fishers and reef authority bury the hatchet over climate change - 14/08/2009

Friday, 14 August 2009 3:21 PM

Fishers and reef authority bury the hatchet over climate change

Friday, 14/08/2009

Fishermen have joined forces with an organisation they've long fought bitterly against, over the establishment of marine parks on the Great Barrier Reef.

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are now working together on climate change projects.

QSIA's Michael Gardner says it hasn't been easy to convince members that it's the right thing to do.

"I think that we have to move ahead, we have to move to the future, and I believe that for the long term of the fishing industry, it's important that we develop this collaboration with the Marine Park Authority," he says.

"And I think that we can achieve a lot by working together rather than in isolation and against each other."

www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/index_dynamic/containerNam...

☒ Islands Business - FISHING: Benefits For All - A regional success story

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:30 PM

FISHING: Benefits For All - A regional success story

SIR PETER KENILOREA - Solomon Islands

At the commencement of the South Pacific Forum (now known as the Pacific Islands Forum) in the early 1970s, the political leaders of the emerging independent islands nations of the South Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand, considered the Forum as a loose informal organisation for political dialogue and interactions.

In the wisdom of the initiators of the then expanding regional body, they decided to lift the areas of interactions of this group, otherwise a mere platform for informal political dialogue to include the scope of economic and social consideration.

The result of this turn of events were two specific development initiatives—a Forum Shipping Line, with its office in Samoa and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to be hosted by the newly independent country of Solomon Islands in 1979.

At that point in time, Solomon Islands was the only island member country of the Forum which had some development of an offshore fisheries industry in a significant way. It had a joint venture fisheries company with Taiyo Kyokyo of Japan in 1971, for tuna fisheries. With its fleet of 20 pole and line vessels and an onshore processing factory, it employed 2000 people and was easily the largest useful and gainful source of employment, after the public service.

At the 1977 Forum Conference in Papua New Guinea, I instructed my then Minister of Finance, Hon. Benedict Kinika, the Solomon Islands official representative, to submit our bid to host the FFA. As we later learnt, the conditions and obligations of the successful bidder was that it had to provide the requisite staff accommodation and office facilities. As a nation with only a year's political independence and with no track record of hosting

any regional and international organisations. We found this to be truly a challenge to meet the obligations and responsibilities that went with the privilege of our sincere effort to begin playing our role in important regional issues.

The government decided to commandeer the official residence of the Chief Justice. Some minor works to improve it resulted in having it converted into the Interim Director's functional office/cum official residence. With this temporary arrangement, the Interim Director was instructed to fast-track the necessary staff recruitment. However, he soon resigned and we were left with no executive head of this specialised regional agency.

As for a permanent office facility, a high covenant parcel of land which has a panorama view of Iron Bottom Sound above the National Stadium of Lawson Tama was allocated for this prestigious edifice. However, a further complication was later realised when that prime piece of estate was for some reason transferred to a naturalised Chinese entrepreneur.

The government had to compulsorily retrieve it through an expensive litigatory process. In our view, there was no alternative to this cause of action. The government had to have this prime piece of real estate as part of our important commitment to this important regional development.

Following this teething problem, the main office and the director's official residence were duly completed on the site and the appointment of one of the eminent sons of the Pacific in the person of Samoan citizen Philip Muller as director found FFA in capable hands to meet the demanding challenges and opportunities which this new agency was set to serve. Such development was very important to the islands nation states of the Pacific region following their increased rights and control over their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in early 1970s. Together, the Pacific nations now claim about 30 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean as part of this declaration.

FFA's great achievement must be its success in the harmonisation of development of the highly migratory species (tuna) in the 200-mile EEZ of the member countries. It has assisted all member countries, big or small, most of whom fisheries is their only viable economic resource for revenue and export.

The only challenge to this regional success story, in my experience, is the competing consideration of regional and national sovereignties. How far would a nation subject its most immediate accountability to its citizens to the common and long-term good of the region? This is a leadership reality which no doubt, would continue to show its understandably ugly horn as the nations of the region and the region itself mature politically. However, properly understood in context, this diverging reality can be useful for the harmony of the common good.

Individual islands member countries have also benefitted from the expert advice and professionalism of various other programmes of FFA. Such important capacity building by FFA to islands member countries in their pursuit to maximise economic returns from their resources is what this important and specialised agency has been known for and I am sure it will continue to be known for in the years ahead. My only encouragement is for member countries to realise its value and continue to take advantage of FFA.

During my time as director of FFA (1991-1994), one of the interesting experiences I was privy to was creating strategies for breaches of some of our control measures by foreign fishing boats. While governments often thought of solving these problems through the courts, it is less expensive and with a higher economic success that settlements were delegated to the FFA staff. The mere necessity to have adequate, convincing and water tight evidence for a successful prosecution in a court of law can be very time consuming, difficult and costly—whereas an out of court settlement takes advantage of the perpetrator of the breach's interest in economic costs and risks. He would rather pay a reasonable financial settlement as soon as possible and return to do his fishing activities to recoup financial losses than incur greater financial loss through waiting for court hearings indefinitely.

According to my observation over the past 30 years, FFA has and continues to make great achievements in its areas of mandate. It has successfully achieved development of

fisheries in its member countries. In the area of conservation, it has successfully presented its case at the United Nations against driftnet fishing and banned it in the region. It continues to help negotiate access agreements on behalf of small islands member countries on request. Such assistance is useful in its mandate of harmonisation of maximum economic benefits in the region. Its surveillance network has been a great success and a deterrent against illegal fishing activities by distant water fishing nations and its compliance and licensing process are successful stories. And of course its Observers Programme contributes as a deterrence against blatant under reporting of catches and contributes greatly to optimum benefits to member countries from their fisheries resources.

May FFA continue to excel in its commendable success in its area of mandate in the region for the next 30 years. Long live FFA.

- Sir Peter Kenilorea was director FFA from 1991 to 1994.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU0908/S00294.htm>

Greenpeace, today, hung a large banner on a downtown Auckland Foodtown supermarket and called on it to implement a sustainable seafood policy (1) and remove bottom trawled species, like orange roughy, from its shelves. The peaceful protest, which ...

☰ Scoop: Greenpeace delivers message to Foodtown

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:26 PM

Greenpeace delivers message to Foodtown

Wednesday, 12 August 2009, 12:30 pm

Press Release: Greenpeace New Zealand

Greenpeace delivers second sustainability message to Foodtown



[Click for big version](#)

Photo: Greenpeace / Fraser Newman

Auckland, 12 August 2009 –Greenpeace, today, hung a large banner on a downtown Auckland Foodtown supermarket and called on it to implement a sustainable seafood policy (1) and remove bottom trawled species, like orange roughy, from its shelves.

The peaceful protest, which also urged consumers to avoid buying unsustainable seafood, followed up last week's blockade of a bottom trawl vessel which supplied orange roughy to Foodtown.

Orange roughy is at the top of the Greenpeace Red List of 12 species of commercially caught seafoods which should be avoided due to sustainability issues and destructive fishing methods. (2)

This morning activists climbed onto the roof of the Quay St Foodtown and deployed a seven metre banner above the front entrance and under the Foodtown logo which read 'Costing us our oceans? The Greenpeace mascot for the Save our Seas campaign, Sad Fish, was hung in a net alongside the banner. At street level a model of a large piece of coral in a supermarket trolley was used to illustrate the environmental cost of destructive fishing practices.

At the same time a team of activists entered the store, accompanied by a second Sad Fish mascot, engaged with customers and called on the manager to remove fish caught by destructive fishing methods from the shelves and to make a pledge to introduce a policy to sell only seafood which was truly

sustainable.

Greenpeace New Zealand campaign director Chris Harris said the environmental organisation was taking action to highlight that Foodtown and other supermarkets had enormous purchasing power and were able to influence the way the fishing industry operated.

"Supermarkets are directly responsible for the destruction of New Zealand's fisheries resource and ocean environment through their purchasing policies. They need to become part of the solution, not part of the problem.

"By implementing a sustainable seafood policy and removing bottom trawled orange roughy from sale, Foodtown will be sending a strong message to the fishing industry that it will only stock seafood which is truly sustainable and caught using methods which are not destructive to the marine environment."

Truly sustainable seafood did not come from overfished or vulnerable stocks, was not caught illegally, or taken from unmanaged fisheries and was not caught or farmed in ways which were harmful to the marine environment of other marine species, he said.

In May this year, Greenpeace released the report *While Stocks Last – Supermarkets and the Future of Seafood* (3) outlining the link between seafood retailers, consumers and the fishing industry.

Supermarkets in North America and Europe, which had adopted sustainable seafood policies, were taking New Zealand-caught species like orange roughy and hoki off their shelves as it failed to meet sustainability standards.

Last month United Kingdom supermarket Waitrose confirmed it refused to stock New Zealand caught hoki, despite its sustainability accreditation by the Marine Stewardship Council, as it was caught by bottom trawling. (4) It removed New Zealand orange roughy from its stocks in 2005 for the same reason.

"To maintain New Zealand's clean, green reputation the fishing industry needs to respond to these messages from the international markets by ensuring it is truly sustainable in every aspect of its operations."

Last Friday Greenpeace blockaded the bottom trawl vessel *Seamount Explorer* by chaining it to Brigham St wharf in Westhaven.

Three activists climbed onto the New Zealand owned ship and two locked themselves to the structure. They were removed by police using bolt cutters and all three were arrested. Four other activists in two life rafts which were attached to a heavy cordon chaining the 45 metre trawler to the wharf were also removed by police but not charged. Throughout the 90 minute blockade activists held up banners reading "Foodtown costing us our oceans".

Greenpeace is calling for a network of fully-protected marine reserves covering 40 per cent of the world's oceans to safeguard them against the ravages of climate change, restore the health of fish stocks, and protect ocean life from habitat destruction and collapse.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/12/2653190.htm?site=idx-qld>

ABC Local - Talks urged to solve wild rivers 'confusion'

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:25 PM

Talks urged to solve wild rivers 'confusion'

By Ken Orr

Posted August 12, 2009 08:24:00

Updated August 12, 2009 08:23:00

- **Map:** Cairns 4870

The Cape York Land Council says better communication with the Queensland Government is needed to clear up confusion about wild rivers legislation.

Injinoo executive member Robbie Salee says some communities believe traditional hunting and fishing will be banned, denying people their main source of food.

He says Cape communities, in the state's far north, do not have access to modern communications, making it hard to get accurate information.

"You can't just walk into an any internet cafe, chuck a dollar in there and you can look up the internet ... the community is not up to speed with that yet," he said.

The Cape York Land Council will meet the State Government to discuss the troubled issue of wild rivers

legislation and its impact on Cape York.

Mapoon traditional owner William Busch says many people believe they will lose access to traditional food under the new laws.

He says the State Government should be talking to people to overcome the confusion.

"It could be solved if everybody just sat down and talked about it," he said.

"It might take a while, but we can get out of it if we sit down and talk like human beings without fighting about it and the people who are fighting over it, it's got nothing to do with them."

www.thedaily.com.au/news/2009/aug/11/aap-containers-remain-on-sea-f...

The 31 shipping containers lost from a freighter in rough seas off the Queensland coast in March will be left on the sea floor, a maritime watchdog says.

Containers remain on sea floor off Qld | General | National News |
thedaily.com.au

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:25 PM

Containers remain on sea floor off Qld

5:22p.m. 11th August 2009

| By Steve Gray

The 31 shipping containers lost from the freighter Pacific Adventurer in rough seas off the Queensland coast in March will be left on the sea floor, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) says.

The now-empty containers will be marked as a navigational hazard much like a shipwreck, said spokeswoman for AMSA, Beth Holden.

As the containers were flung overboard in wild seas caused in the wake of Cyclone Hamish on March 11 some holed the Pacific Adventurer, causing 270,000 litres of fuel oil to pollute 56km of beaches in southeast Queensland.

Ms Holden said she understood there was no danger of tides or currents shifting the containers now that their load of ammonium nitrate fertiliser has dissolved in sea water.

The containers were originally located by Navy mine hunters off Moreton Island.

Ship owners Swire Shipping have since offered to pay \$25 million towards the total clean-up cost, estimated at \$31 million, and their website allows compensation claims to be registered.

Queensland Seafood Industry Association president Winston Harris said the industry wants the containers raised.

"I don't know what the discussions were between Swire and AMSA, but as a stakeholder we've been left out of those discussions," Mr Harris said.

"We need to look very, very carefully at what they've agreed to."

Previously the fishing industry has threatened legal action over the loss of prawn fishery in an exclusion zone placed around the sunken containers.

Swire Shipping have since renamed the Pacific Adventurer as the Pacific Mariner.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2654673.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Greens oppose changes to WA trawling boundaries - 13/08/2009

Thursday, 13 August 2009 4:52 PM

Greens oppose changes to WA trawling boundaries

Thursday, 13/08/2009

The Greens have slammed the Federal Government's proposal to change trawling boundaries off the West Australian coast, saying it undermines WA's sustainable fishing plans.

The Commonwealth is proposing to change trawling boundaries, stating an extra 10,000 square kilometres of coast has been identified as suitable for "bottom trawling".

Greens senator Rachel Siewert says trawling in areas off the Gascoyne and Kimberley coasts will harm the marine environment and be unsustainable.

"So here we have the State Government and the fishers putting in place plans to recover (fish) stocks, and now we have the Commonwealth coming over the top and potentially opening this area to what we believe is a much more destructive form of fishing," she says.

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/fisheries-find-...

A LOCAL fisherman was reported recently by Fisheries officers for hiding whiting fillets in a drink bottle and was fined \$350. The recreational fisherman had the fillets hidden in addition to his d...

☐ Fisheries find whiting fillets in drink bottle - Local News - News - General - Port Thursday, 13 August 2009 4:32 PM
Lincoln Times

Fisheries find whiting fillets in drink bottle

SOPHIE WANDEL

12/08/2009 11:30:00 PM

A LOCAL fisherman was reported recently by Fisheries officers for hiding whiting fillets in a drink bottle and was fined \$350.

The recreational fisherman had the fillets hidden in addition to his daily bag limit of whiting.

Local Fisheries officer Shane Gassner said he was continually surprised at the lengths some people go to in order to take more than what is considered a fair amount.

"It's important to highlight that with recently upgraded surveillance equipment, those breaking the law run a higher risk than before of being caught," he said.

Fisheries officers have been kept busy in recent months, paying particular attention to Coffin Bay and The Proper where lots of recreational fishers have been out enjoying local waters.

While the majority of fishers inspected continue to abide by the rules, it was reported that a number of undersize and over daily bag limit offences have been detected.

Fisheries have also been monitoring suspected illegal fish selling activity around Lower Eyre Peninsula with a large amount of information received from concerned people via the FISHWATCH hotline.

Like all compliance agencies, Fisheries is heavily reliant on members of the public providing information on suspected illegal fishing activity.

Senior fisheries officer Brett Williss said activities such as random inspections, covert surveillance and undercover operations would continue to catch offenders in the act.

Mr Williss highlighted the recent apprehension of a fisherman suspected of illegally selling several hundred kilograms of squid. He said this was an example of where information provided by the public lead to an offender being caught.

"I want to thank the public for their continued support," he said.

"It's pleasing to see that in seaside communities in particular, people are becoming increasingly vigilant when it comes to fishing and obeying the rules, and those who break the rules run a higher risk of being dobbed in," he said.

Mr Williss reiterated that it was illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catches. Both the seller and purchaser could face high penalties.

Meanwhile, with the warmer spring weather nearly here, Fisheries officers will be paying particular attention to "double bagging".

Double bagging is where a fisherman goes out in the morning, catches their daily bag limit of fish, returns them to land only to go out again and catch more fish the same day.

This follows a recent incident near Streaky Bay where a fisherman was issued with an on the spot fine for catching more than his daily bag limit of fish during two separate trips on the same day.

Senior Fisheries officer Yolande Markey said this was a practice that all seaside communities frown upon as it demonstrated a blatant disregard for the rules.

"Again we are grateful for the amount of information coming from the public," she said.

Fisheries officers will continue to conduct undercover operations over coming months in order to catch offenders. Anyone wishing to report potential illegal fishing activity can contact their local Fisheries officer or call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

Still much to do beneath the waves

The Dominion Post

Last updated 11:29 13/08/2009

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FAIRFAX

SEA SAVE: New Zealand could yet be a genuine fisheries leader if it adopted management that first and foremost, protected the health of the ocean ecosystem, writes Chris Howe.

Relevant offers

OPINION: A report hailing New Zealand as a global leader in fisheries management says more about the dire state of global fish stocks than any excellence in our own waters, writes Chris Howe.

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley was quick to bask in the reflected glory of a report, "Rebuilding Global Fisheries", published last month in the journal *Science*, that awarded New Zealand a top "green" rating for its fisheries management.

"We can justifiably be proud," he said, "that, along with Alaska, we are regarded internationally as leading the world in terms of management success . . ."

But the minister's next words gave a clue to the dubious honour New Zealand had actually been accorded: ". . . by our efforts to put management interventions in place before drastic measures are needed to conserve, restore and rebuild our marine resources".

Our quota management system has long been held up by the Government and the fishing industry as a salutary, shining example of fisheries excellence, and has indeed seen several catches cut drastically in recent years. But the cuts are simply a result of having already hauled out a large proportion of the stock.

Inevitably, if in earlier fishing seasons you have taken out the majority of the species population, the catch you can expect afterwards is going to be lower.

The quota management system is only a model and, at that, one that does not take into account the overall environmental impacts of fishing.

Whether or not it works as a measure of the health of fish stocks depends on the data it uses. If there is insufficient data, then it's impossible to make informed management decisions.

Orange roughy, like many other fish stocks, was left out of this report because we simply don't have enough information to know what state the fishery is in; an ignorance that extends to another 527 species and unlikely to be enlightened by the Government's recent 30 per cent cut to Fisheries Ministry science programmes.

Because of the lack of information, the *Science* report did not consider the orange roughy fishery. Nor did it touch on the huge damage it causes to the seabed by dragging trawl nets across centuries-old deepwater

coral forests.

Nor did it mention the 110-plus endangered Hector's dolphins estimated by Niwa to drown in commercial gill nets every year, or the fact that the Government has just weakened legislation designed to protect the endangered New Zealand sea lions that drown in the Auckland Island squid fishery every season.

Ad Feedback

Nor did it consider that about 0.3 per cent of New Zealand's marine environment is protected as marine reserves, as compared to the more than 30 per cent of our land area in parks and reserves.

THE report in Science instead focused on measures aimed at reaping "maximum sustainable yield" (MSY), which can have very little to do with the health of a fishery. In this case, "sustainable" is defined as taking between 50 and 75 per cent of the biomass - the amount of fish as measured by their collective weight - of any given species.

Imagine removing, by weight, between half and three-quarters of a population of wild animals. That's a substantial impact, yet it's regarded as good practice.

Later on in its conclusions, the paper points out that MSY should be seen as an upper limit rather than a target - the strong implication being that fisheries should aim to remove much less of a stock's biomass than is now the case.

But we have yet to see that reflected in New Zealand's fisheries management system; in fact, the best the report could predict about our current exploitation rates was that they were likely to result in the collapse of less than 10 per cent of our stocks.

Is it really something to celebrate when the degradation to our marine environment is ranked as comparably less devastating than elsewhere?

No. It is simply a reflection of the dire management of the world's fisheries, which, as a whole, are predicted to collapse in the next 20 to 30 years.

New Zealand could yet be a genuine fisheries leader if it adopted management that first and foremost, protected the health of the ocean ecosystem.

That would include large marine protected areas and a combination of regulations and voluntary actions to prevent the deaths of our much-loved marine mammals and seabirds, and protection of the glorious underwater rainforests of the deep - giant corals of the seabed.

Only then can an industry that extracts wild animals from the environment for food - and fishing is the only industry left that does - be considered truly world class.

Then all New Zealanders could be justifiably proud.

*** Chris Howe is executive director of WWF-New Zealand, part of a global conservation organisation.**

www.theage.com.au/national/channel-deepening-sediment-approved-2009...

 Channel deepening: sediment approved

Thursday, 13 August 2009 1:20 PM

Channel deepening: sediment approved

August 13, 2009

A CONTAINER, or "bund" near Mordialloc full of contaminated sediment dredged during the deepening of the Port Phillip Bay shipping channels has been given a stamp of approval by a State Government audit.

It found the bund held 1.38 million cubic metres of toxic sediment, was well built and capable of holding the sediment in the long term.

The bund must be capped by a half-metre layer of clean sand. Made of dredged, uncontaminated clay, it has a 5.8 kilometre perimeter and sits 16 kilometres west of Mordialloc.

The Port of Melbourne says the principal dredge, the Queen of the Netherlands, is on schedule to finish its part of the channel deepening project by the end of the month.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=161667>

📄 Federal plan to trawl WA seabed hits protest wave : thewest.com.au

Thursday, 13 August 2009 8:14 AM

Federal plan to trawl WA seabed hits protest wave

12th August 2009, 7:15 WST

WA fishermen and environmentalists have condemned a Federal fishing proposal that could open up more than 10,000sqkm of pristine ocean floor to damaging trawlers.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority boundary changes are set to allow bottom trawlers into 4100sqkm off the Gascoyne coast and 6000sqkm off the Kimberley.

But fishermen say trawling will devastate ecosystems and could damage stocks of bottom-dwelling species such as pink, goldband and ruby snapper.

The proposed changes are a flashpoint in the battle between State and Federal fisheries authorities to manage commercial fishing off WA.

Under current rules, any waters shallower than 200m within 370km of shore are off-limits to trawlers and are managed by the WA Government.

But a proposed redrawing of the 200m depth line would allow trawling into the two swaths off WA. The region off the Gascoyne has never been trawled and the Kimberley area is recovering from trawling with a two-year exclusion.

Kimberley Professional Fishermen's Association secretary Bob Masters accused the AFMA of wanting a slice of the fishery because it was one of the few regions where stocks had not collapsed.

He said bottom trawl fishing was "just vandalism" and the trawl boundary should be much further out to sea.

High-intensity trawling could catch a whole year's fishing allocation in a few months while destroying corals, plants and other seabed habitats vital for fish to survive.

That could lead to a boom-and-bust cycle for consumers and might force WA distributors to import fish at certain times if the allocation was used up too quickly.

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert urged Federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke and Environment Minister Peter Garrett to renew the temporary trawler ban off the Kimberley before it was too late.

She said they should defer any decision on the trawler boundary until the Federal Government had finished its marine planning for WA, which calls for huge marine parks.

WA Wilderness Society marine coordinator Jill StJohn said WA fishermen had taken on restrictions to ensure stocks were harvested sustainably.

"These guys have nursed this fishery back from damage done by Commonwealth licensed foreign trawlers by a non-destructive method," she said.

WA Fisheries Minister Norman Moore said the plan would have a significant effect on State-licensed fishermen and the Government would do all it could to protect the commercial and environmental interests of WA fisheries.

MICHAEL HOPKIN and JODIE THOMSON

www.echonews.com/index.php?page=News Article&article=27411&issue=421

☰ The Northern Rivers Echo - news

Thursday, 13 August 2009 8:12 AM

Big Prawn: icon or eyesore?

By Liina Flynn



Ballina Bait & Tackle shop owner Brett Hyde in front of the Big Prawn.

Ballina's Big Prawn has been luring tourists for almost two decades, but soon it may be no more. The infamous Big Prawn may lose its status as one of an estimated 146 iconic 'Big Things' in Australia if the owners' demolition plans go ahead.

With the plans from Dojoo Pty Ltd currently being assessed by Ballina Shire Council, the proposed demolition has sparked debate and polarised opinion in the local community.

Ballina Bait & Tackle owner Brett Hyde sees the Big Prawn as a cultural icon that reflects the Aussie sense of humour and culture of big things.

"It needs a bit of work, but it wouldn't be such an eyesore if it was given a coat of paint," he said.

For the past five years, Mr Hyde has sold small prawns in his bait and tackle shop located in the Ballina Big Prawn complex. The demolition plans mean he will have to move to new premises come January.

"The Big Prawn's been closed off for five years due to vandalism but I'd be happy to let it stay," Mr Hyde said. "It would be a sad thing if it was lost. Up to a dozen people a day stop here and take photos in front of the prawn," Mr Hyde said. "I've seen tourists do that here since I was a kid."

Lennox Head developer Chris Condon said he was shattered when he heard the prawn was to be demolished. He wants to build a bigger, more alluring prawn at his proposed highway service centre development on the Ballina bypass route.

"I don't want Ballina to be known as the town that destroyed one of Australia's Big Things," he said. "Big Things are good marketing tools, they draw tourists and can put a town on the map."

Just as the Great Wall of China can be seen from outer space, Mr Condon wants his new, even bigger prawn to be lit up and visible to planes flying in and out of Ballina.

The Big Prawn's demolition plans are on public display for two weeks and submissions are invited.

Ballina Shire Council town planner Rod Willis said that if a large number of public submissions are made to Council, the assessment process may take a longer time to complete.

Mr Willis said that the Big Prawn complex is located on land currently zoned as living area, which means that the land could potentially be redeveloped as a residential area. However, at this stage no new development plans for site have been submitted to Council.

"Land zoning is currently in a state of uncertainty as Ballina Council has prepared new Shire plans which are with the Department of Planning for checking," he said. "When they are certified, land zonings may not be the same and any future development applications may not be suitable."

Mr Willis said that Ballina Shire Council did not formally identify the Big Prawn as a heritage icon.

"I'm not sure if it's sufficiently important to be a public icon, but many people have different views about it," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2651713.htm>

A new report has predicted that coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef will cost more than \$37 billion. Environmental and tourist groups have labelled the study by British forecasters Oxford Econom

PM - Coral bleaching wreaks almost \$40b damage on Great Barrier Reef
10/08/2009

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:42 AM

Coral bleaching wreaks almost \$40b damage on Great Barrier Reef

Dina Rosendorff reported this story on Monday, August 10, 2009 18:26:00

[Listen to MP3 of this story \(minutes\)](#)

Alternate [WMA version](#) | [MP3 download](#)

MARK COLVIN: A new report has put a dollar value on the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.

The study by the international consultancy Oxford Economics predicts that coral bleaching will cost the Australian economy almost \$38 billion.

The study took into account not just lost tourism, commercial fishing and other commercial activities but also the reef's indirect benefits such as its role in protecting coastal communities from severe weather.

Dina Rosendorff reports.

DINA ROSENDORFF: Coral bleaching is widely considered to be one of the most urgent threats facing the Great Barrier Reef. It's suffered bleaching six times over the past 25 years.

Now the British forecaster Oxford Economics has for the first time quantified the cost of coral bleaching to the reef.

JUDY STEWART: In order to do that they had to come up with a value of the reef and while valuations of the reef have been done in the past they used a new methodology which came up with a value at \$51.4 billion for the whole of reef.

DINA ROSENDORFF: Judy Stewart is the managing director of the not-for-profit Great Barrier Reef Foundation which commissioned the study.

JUDY STEWART: And the loss resulting from a total and permanent bleaching of the reef as a result of climate change at \$37.7 billion which is just under 75 per cent of the assessed value of the reef.

DINA ROSENDORFF: The study sought to calculate not only the reef's value to tourism and fishing but also its indirect value such as its role as a natural barrier protecting the coastline.

JUDY STEWART: More than industry profits, this study also looks at what the willingness to pay might be - so these are the non-use values - what people would be, not just what they do pay but what they would be prepared to pay to have a reef in good shape, to be able to visit it when they wanted to visit it or even if they never visit it, what they'd be prepared to pay to know that it will be there for future generations to enjoy.

In that sense this study departs from previous studies.

DINA ROSENDORFF: In particular the study focused on the tourism hub of Cairns where the reef's value to the region is assessed at \$17.9 billion.

It found that in the worst case scenario in which all of the coral is bleached permanently the loss to Cairns would be devastating. The value of the reef would tumble by 90 per cent or \$16.3 billion. And Judy Stewart says half of all tourists would stay away.

JUDY STEWART: If we lose the reef the first casualty, I mean apart from the reef itself, is going to be the tourism industry in Australia because so much of it is driven by people wanting to come and see the reef.

DINA ROSENDORFF: The Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Daniel Gschwind says the report is a wake-up call.

DANIEL GSCHWING: This study confirms that the quality of the coral, quality of the dive, the quality of the snorkelling attraction is a very, very important part of what brings people to Queensland, what brings people to Australia.

And the Barrier Reef is not only a great ecological asset. It is also a very, very important part important part of our economic base.

DINA ROSENDORFF: The Australian Conservation Foundation's executive director Don Henry says the timing of the report is crucial, given that Parliament is currently debating the merits of an emissions trading scheme.

DON HENRY: One thing that's missing from the political debates at the moment is to realise that our economy is seriously threatened if we don't act to tackle climate change.

If you ask someone in Innisfail who just a couple of years ago had a terribly strong cyclone with damage, would you like no reef sitting there to protect people from massive ocean swells? They'll say crikeys, we don't want that.


And so I think the study has looked at the full values of the reef and it's a real wake-up call to how much money and how many jobs we stand to lose.

DINA ROSENDORFF: Judy Stewart says the methodology used in the study is the first of its kind and she says it will set a new benchmark for forecasting the economic effects of climate change.

JUDY STEWART: I expect that the methodology will be looked at in great detail by economists looking at other environmental assets elsewhere as well as how we value coral reefs elsewhere.

MARK COLVIN: The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Judy Stewart, ending Dina Rosendorff's report.

<http://www.sunjournal.com/node/98850>

 Sun Journal | Connecting you with your Community

Thursday, 13 August 2009 5:42 AM

Fishermen survive after hours in water

Published: Feb 29, 2008 5:00 am

[E-mail and share](#)

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - A fisherman made a 12-hour marathon swim to shore and another was rescued after 30 hours in the sea, while authorities searched Thursday for a third person after a fishing trawler sank off Australia's eastern coast.

The alarm was first raised Wednesday afternoon when 39-year-old deckhand Michael Williams reached a beach in Northern New South Wales state after swimming for 12 hours, state police said in a statement.

"He's very strong," his mother, Fay Williams, told reporters Thursday outside the hospital where he is recovering in the town of Mullumbimby.

An air and sea search continued through the night and a second deckhand, John Jarrett, was found in the water clinging to a floating fiberglass shrimp-sorting tabletop Thursday morning about nine miles off the coast of Ballina, Ten Network television reported. Jarrett had spent 30 hours in the water, police said.

He was plucked from the sea by a rescue helicopter, which took him to a hospital in Ballina, helicopter rescue service spokesman Andy Christie said.

Jarrett, in his 40s and a father of three, told Ten network from his hospital bed that he never doubted he would survive.

"I've got a determination like no other person," Jarrett said.

The search continued Thursday for the trawler's skipper.


Tracey Jiggins, spokeswoman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is coordinating the search, said 10 planes and helicopters were continuing to search 370 square miles of ocean for the lost captain.

The trawler's nets became snagged on a reef before dawn Wednesday and sank within minutes, Ten reported.

AP-ES-02-28-08 0901EST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/11/2652037.htm>

Marine park tourism operators have questioned a report on the impact of coral bleaching on Queensland's Great Barrier Reef.

 Tour operators question coral bleaching report - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Wednesday, 12 August 2009 6:56 AM

Tour operators question coral bleaching report

By Siobhan Barry

Posted Tue Aug 11, 2009 8:09am AEST

Updated Tue Aug 11, 2009 8:07am AEST

- **Map:** [Cairns 4870](#)

Marine park tourism operators have questioned a report on the impact of coral bleaching on Queensland's Great Barrier Reef.

A study by Oxford Economics has found the cost of a total coral bleaching event would be \$37.7 billion and up to half of tourists who would normally visit the reef would stay away from Queensland if the bleaching was permanent.

Col McKenzie, from the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, says he is concerned about coral bleaching, but he does not think it will be permanent.

He says a range of measures are in place to protect the reef.

"They're making the assumption the coral will bleach and it will remain dead and I just don't believe that that'll be true," he said.

"It's also making the assumption that people only come here to look at coral and that's also not true."

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/3876>

Professional fishermen are hoping Fisheries Minister Jay Weatherill will accept an invitation to chair a public meeting of scientists to discuss marine

 Fishermen want scientific debate

Wednesday, 12 August 2009 6:55 AM

Fishermen want scientific debate

Posted on August 11, 2009, 8:08am

Professional fishermen are hoping Fisheries Minister Jay Weatherill will accept an invitation to chair a public meeting of scientists to discuss marine parks.

The South East Professional Fisherman's Association released a report earlier this year claiming no scientific evidence exists to show how marine parks will contribute substantially to protecting and conserving the marine ecosystem against current and potential threats.

Addressing the South East Local Government Association meeting on Friday, association secretary David Manser said the scientific justification for marine parks was raised with Mr Weatherill during his recent visit to the region.

"We're of the view that the science behind the argument for marine parks is totally flawed," Mr Manser said.

"Minister Weatherill suggested our scientists should get together with his scientists.

"We thought that was a good idea and we're now discussing terms for that meeting to go ahead.

"We're saying it must be a public debate chaired by the minister.

"What the government's scientists are talking about is gobbledygook. It would be a joke if it weren't so serious."

Mr Manser thanked SELGA for the working party relationship in the lead-up to making submissions on marine park boundaries.

He said the united front between professional fishermen, local government and recreational fishermen had contributed to the 23pc reduction in the size of marine parks in the South East.

"We'd still like to push on with that alliance," he said, referring to the next stage of the process to determine zones within the marine parks.

"From what we've been told there will be nothing happen between now and the state election in March next year.

"The minister has been very upfront with us and he says there will be no change in activity in the marine parks until the zones are in place."

Mr Manser said the possible zones were habitat protection, sanctuary and total exclusion.

He said habitat protection would not prohibit fishing and the industry understood there would be no total exclusion zones in the South East.

There would be no sanctuary zones either if the decision was based on science, he said.

Mr Manser said the Conservation Council's preferred option for sanctuary zones would cost the government \$110m in compensation to professional fishermen if it were adopted.

Earlier last week, Mr Manser addressed a meeting of Grant District Council and claimed a Lake Bonney drain will flow into the middle of a proposed marine park off the South East coastline.

Mr Manser said it was "pretty stupid" to have a drain flowing into the marine park from Lake Bonney.

He claimed this was just one example that showed marine parks have been established with little scientific evidence to back them up.

<http://www.dailyexaminer.com.au/story/2009/08/11/mulloway-scaled-up/>

PRAWN farmers are hoping mulloway will become just as iconic as the Yamba prawn, with the humble jewfish being touted as the next big thing for Clarence.

Mulloway could be Clarence icon | Local News | Grafton Daily Examiner

Wednesday, 12 August 2009 6:54 AM

Mulloway could be Clarence icon

Erin Brady | 11th August 2009



Andrew Carroll of Palmers Island Mulloway checks out some juvenile fish at the National Marine Science Centre's Mulloway farming workshop held at the Big 4 camp ground on Palmers Island yesterday.

PRAWN farmers are hoping mulloway will one day become just as iconic as the Yamba prawn.

Also known as jewfish, mulloway is being touted as the next big thing for the Clarence Valley.

The National Marine Science Centre (NMSC) hosted a mulloway farming workshop at Palmers Island yesterday to educate prawn farmers on the ins and outs of farming the fish.

Jeff Guy, from NMSC, said the diversification to finned fish such as mulloway could be just the ticket struggling prawn farmers need to survive.

"This project is looking at ways for prawn farmers to be more resilient in these tough times," Mr Guy said.

"It's all in the early days but we know we can get more productivity per hectare for jewfish than prawns."

One Lower Clarence fish farmer who has already made the switch is Andrew Carroll.

He said he had been told it would take around two years for the fish to reach the two-kilo mark.

"But it looks like we're going to get close to two kilos after 18 months," he said.

"It's still nervous times ahead but I feel very confident about the farm."

Compared with an offshore mulloway farm Mr Carroll worked on previously at Port Lincoln, he said the quality of his Lower Clarence-farmed fish was high.

"We're getting good results, they've got really thick tails and are a very bright silver colour," he said.

All going to plan Mr Carroll expects to harvest his first catch in January. He hoped other prawn farmers attending the workshop would follow suit.

"I would love to see this industry grow and see Yamba as its hub," Mr Carroll said.

<http://www.times-age.co.nz/local/news/cray-cuts-continue/3902608/>

Recreational Wairarapa fishermen have agreed to continue a voluntary cut in their daily bag limit in a bid to increase declining stock numbers. Edward Beetham, a member of the North Island South East regional recreational fishing forum and the Wairarapa Sport Fishing Club, said fellow members in Wairarapa agreed to ...

 Cray cuts continue - Local News - Wairarapa Times-Age

Wednesday, 12 August 2009 6:52 AM

Cray cuts continue

Nathan Crombie | 11th August 2009

Recreational Wairarapa fishermen have agreed to continue a voluntary cut in their daily bag limit in a bid to increase declining stock numbers.

Edward Beetham, a member of the North Island South East regional recreational fishing forum and the Wairarapa Sport Fishing Club, said fellow members in Wairarapa agreed to the voluntary cut from six to four crayfish a day in the Wellington and Hawke's Bay CRA 4 fishing area along with the North Island South East Regional Recreational Forum.

The Akitio Boating Club proposed the cuts late last year and gained the support of other fishing clubs throughout the CRA 4 region in a vote cast at the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council annual meeting in Napier in September.

In April this year the Minister of Fisheries cut the Total Allowable Catch for crayfish from 771 to 460 tonnes in the CRA 4 fishery. The decision came in the wake of two successive years of industry-led voluntary cuts to commercial crayfish quotas.

"The forum believes crayfish are not the only popular recreational caught fish in trouble. We are not seeing the number and size of hapuku groper landed at fishing club competitions that we used to 10 years ago; a concern that has also been expressed by other interest groups."

The forum, in conjunction with the Ministry of Fisheries, has produced an information pamphlet highlighting the voluntary cut to daily bag limits, and the regulations that apply to recreational fishermen catching crayfish.

The pamphlets are available at fishing and sports shops, beach stores and fishing clubs.

The North Island South East forum will conduct a review of the voluntary bag limit cut next June, he said.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO0908/S00102.htm>

New Zealand's Hector's dolphins are the rarest dolphin species on earth. Entanglement in gill and trawl nets has depleted numbers by about three quarters and caused them to fragment into four genetically isolated populations. The North Island population, ...

 Scoop: Fishing Nets Still A Threat To Hector's Dolphins

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 11:46 AM

Fishing Nets Still A Threat To Hector's Dolphins

Monday, 10 August 2009, 10:19 am

Press Release: Care for the Wild International

New Zealand's Hector's dolphins are the rarest dolphin species on earth. Entanglement in gill and trawl nets has depleted numbers by about three quarters and caused them to fragment into four genetically isolated populations. The North Island population, a subspecies known as Maui's dolphins, numbers just 111 animals, is critically endangered and, with less than 30 surviving adult females, perilously close to extinction.

An estimated 110-150 Hector's dolphins die in commercial gill nets each year. This level of mortality is ten times more than the species can sustain from all causes. New research from the University of Otago just confirmed that despite new regulations introduced last year, fishing nets continue to kill Hector's dolphins faster than they can breed.

After more than two years of public consultation, the newly introduced measures partially restrict gill netting and trawling in known dolphin habitat. British wildlife charity Care for the Wild International's (CWI) Chief Executive, Dr Barbara Maas a former employee of New Zealand's Department of Conservation says, "In view of the dolphins' precarious status, marine scientists and conservation groups had called for full protection from entanglements to facilitate recovery. Fishing industry bodies, on the other hand, strongly opposed these restrictions and deny that Hector's dolphins are in decline as a result of entanglement. In an effort to overturn the new protection measures they even challenged the new fishing laws in court."

To test the effectiveness of the new measures and to assess whether currently unprotected area may have to be considered as no-fishing zones, the government also required some fishing boats to carry independent observers. "NIWA scientists calculated that robust estimates of dolphin net deaths demand around 80% observer coverage", says Dr Maas. In reality however, the government's observer programme only reached about four percent. New research from the University of Otago has now confirmed that if 110-150 dolphins die as a result of entanglement, only between zero and one dolphin death would be observed at this low level of observer coverage. There is therefore no evidence to suggest that the number of dolphins killed this year is lower than before the new protection measures were introduced. This means that the number of Hector's dolphins killed is still ten times higher than what is biologically sustainable."

In May, government observers witnessed one entangled Hector's dolphin off the coast of Kaikoura. "The animal died in an area where dolphins are not protected, because the industry insisted that entanglements were highly unlikely here", says CWI's Barbara Maas. "Despite this error of judgement, the industry maintains that this death is proof that only few dolphins are dying. The new protection measures, it argues, are therefore unnecessary. But with low levels of observer coverage, this is exactly what we would expect to find and the industry's conclusions are therefore not supported by fact."

"The fishing industry is once again trying to block urgently needed conservation measures for a species that is teetering on the brink of extinction. It does so to save New Zealand's gillnetting industry, which contributes less than half of one per cent to the country's fishing revenue. In doing so, it threatens to bring down New Zealand's "100% Pure" reputation as an environmentally responsible nation and a reputable tourism destination."

The court's decision on the fishing industry's challenge of the new protection measures is expected before 1st September.

www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200908/2651048.htm?desktop

ABC Radio Australia News:Stories:Pacific wants a bigger tuna slice

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 11:08 AM

Pacific wants a bigger tuna slice



PHOTO

Nations of the Pacific want to make more income from their tuna fisheries. [ABC]

Kate McPherson

Last Updated: 17 hours 11 minutes ago

A third of the world supply of tuna for canning and much for sashimi comes from the western Pacific - yet the island countries of the region collect only six percent of the value of their own fisheries.

Now they are looking at ways to extract more value from the \$4 billion market for their own people.

Major changes like replacing foreign fleets with local ships and processing catches themselves are either a long way off, or impossible to achieve.

But other ideas swapped by island leaders at a recent regional symposium on commercial tuna fishing include 50 percent local crewing on foreign vessels; training levies; and buying shares in processing plants overseas.

Officials and experts attended the symposium, held in the Marshall Islands, from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau and Nauru.

Phasing out

Dr Transform Aqorau, deputy director-general of the Forum Fisheries Agency, says the relationship between Pacific Island countries and foreign fleets fishing in their waters will slowly change.

"They are looking at eventually phasing out all the foreign fishing vessels in the region and looking at a number of ways in which they can enter the fishery and probably make a bit more money than they are at the moment," Dr Aqorau told Radio Australia's [Pacific Beat](#).

At the moment, the islands that dot the region make their money by selling access rights.

But "most of the value is made in the processing and in the marketing and in the labelling of the product," says the deputy director.

One way countries can increase their economic benefits is by processing the fish themselves, but this is easier said than done.

Dr Aqorau says countries like Kiribati and Tuvalu - with small, low-lying atolls - cannot have processing plants because of physical constraints.

License

But they would benefit from an increase in local crews on the foreign fishing vessels.

"They can continue to license fishing vessels, but in addition to that, they (could) require vessels to have 50 percent crewing.

"If you can't do that, then you impose a training levy.

"You are not just making a bit more money, but you are also developing your capacity as well."

Trying some investment is another way of maximising earnings from what their fisheries.

The fisheries forum deputy director talks of "eventually obtaining shares in some of these processing plants and owning part of the plants in Japan, where most of the fish is landed, for example".

That could be a "condition of coming to fish in your waters."

Other canneries in Thailand and the US could also be targeted, he said.

- **Tags:**
- [kiribati](#)
- [marshall-islands](#)

<http://australianetworknews.com/stories/200908/2651541.htm?desktop>

☰ Australia Network News:Stories:Pacific countries want bigger tuna slice

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 11:07 AM

Pacific countries want bigger tuna slice

Last Updated: 19 hours 14 minutes ago

Pacific countries are looking at ways they can get a bigger cut of the more than \$US4 billion annual tuna harvest in the western Pacific.

Over one-third of the world's supply of tuna for canning, as well as significant amounts of high-value tuna for the sashimi market is fished in the waters of these countries.

But Pacific island countries only receive around six per cent of the total value of their fish.

Dr Transform Aquora, Deputy Director General of the Forum Fisheries Agency in Solomon Islands, says island nations are looking at ways of using fish to boost their economies.

"They're looking...eventually phasing out all these foreign fishing vessels in the region," he said.

"They can continue to license fishing vessels, but in addition to that if they require vessels to have fifty per cent crewing. If you can't do that then you impose a training levy,"

"You're not just making a bit more money but you're also developing your capacity as well."

A recent regional meeting on the tuna fishing industry was held in Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32363514/ns/world_news-world_environment/

Greenpeace says it has started dumping boulders into the North Sea off the Swedish coast to prevent seabed trawling in the area.

☰ Greenpeace dumps rocks in sea to halt trawling - World environment-
msnbc.com

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 9:31 AM

Greenpeace dumps rocks in sea to halt trawling

It plans to drop 180 boulders off Sweden in bid to snarl nets, protect fish



Greenpeace activists drop a boulder into the ocean off Sweden on Monday.

[View related photos](#)

Christian Aslund / AFP-Getty Images

AP Associated Press

updated 5:08 p.m. ET Aug. 10, 2009

STOCKHOLM - Greenpeace says it has started dumping boulders into the North Sea off the Swedish coast to prevent seabed trawling in the area.

The environmental group says it will deposit some 180 large granite rocks in the Kattegat sea area, some 12 miles off the western coast, and has informed regional officials about it.

Greenpeace objects to bottom trawling, dragging a net along the seabed, saying it endangers the marine environment. It has urged Sweden to reform the European Union's fisheries policy during its six-month presidency of the bloc that began last month.

Agriculture Minister Eskil Erlandsson said Monday that the Greenpeace action was unnecessary because marine protection is already on the EU agenda.

www.thedaily.com.au/news/2009/aug/10/ekka-gets-taste-our-mooloolaba...

The Mooloolaba Prawn will hold pride of place at the Ekka this People's Day, four months on from a national disaster that threatened to damage catches.

[Coast prawns at Ekka](#) | General | Coast news | thedaily.com.au

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 7:56 AM

Coast prawns at Ekka

10:00a.m. 10th August 2009

| By [Nikkii Joyce](#)



Fine Dining: Seafood retailer, and finalist in Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year, Vicki Brown gets ready to peel Mooloolaba Prawns for Ekka crowds. Photo:Michaela O'Neill/179085

A Coast seafood icon will hold pride of place at the Ekka on People's Day this year, four months on from a national disaster that threatened to damage catches.

The Mooloolaba Prawn will be the drawcard at the Queensland Seafood Industry Association stall on Wednesday, when the Ekka traditionally draws some of its largest crowds.

The day marks a tough nine months for the former eastern king prawn, which was rebranded in a much-publicised marketing campaign just before a massive oil spill along the Coast threatened to de-rail it all.

Leading Sunshine Coast seafood retailer, Vicki Brown, said it was hoped the region's trawling industry would see some of the promised \$25 million in compensation from Swire Shipping, owner of the Pacific Adventurer which spilt 270,000 litres of oil into Moreton Bay.

Ms Brown estimates local fisherman and businesses lost more than \$30,000 in the usually ripping trade due to the disaster.

"It was dire straits," she said. "Months after rebranding under the Mooloolaba Prawn tag, the magnitude of the international media footage of the oil spill and its affect on the Sunshine Coast, people automatically associated that with Mooloolaba."

Ms Brown said the market was saved largely by a state government marketing campaign, but now the industry had waged a new fight on the restaurant industry.

Local fishing operators will partner up with Mooloolaba Business and Tourism this Wednesday at the Ekka to show off Mooloolaba Prawns.

Cooking demonstrations and free taste samples of the popular seafood item, unique for its brighter orange stripes and soft texture, will be offered in a bid to get the name on people's lips.

"We want people to ask restaurants for them by name," Ms Brown said.

A finalist in the Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year awards, Ms Brown will have her hands full in the hours prior to tomorrow night's awards ceremony, helping to peel 40kg of fresh prawns for the Ekka stall in the Woolworths pavilion.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-08/ncsu-tma080709.php

Fishermen know you need good fishery management to ensure healthy fish populations for future generations. And good decisions rely on understanding fish mortality -- how many fish die each year as a result of natural causes and recreational and commercial fishing. North Carolina State University scientists have utilized new research to give fishery managers better data on how fish are dying, so they can make informed decisions on how to ensure a healthy fish population.

To manage a fishery, you must know how the fish die

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 7:42 AM

Contact: Matt Shipman
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[North Carolina State University](#)

To manage a fishery, you must know how the fish die

Recreational anglers and commercial fishermen understand you need good fishery management to make sure there will be healthy populations of fish for generations to come. And making good management decisions rests in large part on understanding the mortality of fish species – how many fish die each year as a result of natural causes and recreational and commercial fishing. Now researchers at North Carolina State University have utilized a new research method that can give fishery managers a better idea of how fish are dying, so they can make informed decisions on how to ensure a healthy fish population.

Fisheries scientists from NC State have, for the first time, implemented a research strategy that uses both "conventional" tags and ultrasonic telemetry tags (transmitters) to estimate mortality rates. The approach was used in a study on mortality rates of "sub-adult" red drum, which are red drum that are close to adult in size but have not yet begun to reproduce. However, the research methods pioneered in this study could be applied to many other species, including popular fish such as striped bass. Red drum are popular among recreational anglers in many parts of the country, and are also important to commercial fishermen in North Carolina.



IMAGE: A subadult red drum is implanted with a telemetry transmitter just before release into the Neuse River in eastern North Carolina.

[Click here for more information.](#)



IMAGE: A subadult red drum wears a conventional tag, just before being released into the Neuse River in eastern North Carolina.

[Click here for more information.](#)

The conventional tags offer rewards to recreational and commercial fishermen who catch the tagged fish, creating an incentive for them to contact

researchers. This approach lets researchers know how many of the tagged fish have been caught and how many of the fish were subsequently released or harvested, explains Dr. Jeff Buckel, an associate professor of biology at NC State and co-author of the study. This approach provides particularly good data on mortality resulting from commercial and recreational fishing, Buckel says.

The telemetry tags transmit uniquely coded sounds to receivers, allowing researchers to track fish movement in a given area. In this instance, the researchers were using both stationary receivers and mobile hydrophones to track tagged fish in the Neuse River estuary in eastern North Carolina, Buckel says. Telemetry tags provide excellent data on natural mortality, because the tags stop moving once the fish has died. These tags can also detect that a fish has been caught by commercial or recreational fishermen, because the tag will disappear from the study area without swimming past any of the receivers.

"The methodology we used in this study combined good natural mortality data from the telemetry tags with good recreational and commercial fishing mortality data from the conventional tags to give us a more precise estimate of overall mortality for sub-adult red drum," Buckel says. "This is important because, if you have a good understanding of mortality rates, you can make informed decisions about how to manage a fishery in order to ensure its long-term health." For example, the information generated by this study contributed to state and regional assessments of the red drum population.

"This is the first time this approach, using both kinds of tags, has been used in the field," Buckel says, "and it could have significant applications for other species, such as striped bass." One limitation is that the telemetry tags are only useful in relatively confined areas, such as lakes, estuaries or reservoirs – where researchers can place listening devices near exits to determine if a fish has left the waterbody on its own, rather than being caught by a fisherman.

The researchers, led by then-NC State Ph.D. student Nathan Bachelier, focused on sub-adult red drum because North Carolina only allows recreational and commercial fishermen to keep drum that are between 18 inches and 27 inches long. These fish are generally not old enough to reproduce. So researchers wanted to determine whether natural mortality and fishing mortality were limiting the long-term viability of the fishery. Good news fish fans: "Natural mortality was much lower than we previously assumed," Bachelier says, "and the fishing mortality was similar to previous estimates."

###

The research, "A combined telemetry – tag return approach to estimate fishing and natural mortality rates of an estuarine fish," was funded by North Carolina Sea Grant and is published in the August issue of the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. The study was co-authored by Bacheler, Buckel, NC State biology professors Dr. Joseph Hightower and Dr. Kenneth Pollock, and Lee Paramore of the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/10/2651304.htm>

The Shire of Gingin says it is concerned the restrictions on the commercial rock lobster industry will threaten the survival of Western Australia's coastal communities.

☒ Lobster bans 'may threaten coastal towns' - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) Tuesday, 11 August 2009 7:41 AM

Lobster bans 'may threaten coastal towns'

Posted Mon Aug 10, 2009 1:18pm AEST

- **Map:** [Gingin 6503](#)

The Shire of Gingin says it is concerned the restrictions on the commercial rock lobster industry will threaten the survival of Western Australia's coastal communities.

The shire has met to discuss the effect of this year's restrictions which included an additional 30 per cent pot reduction on previous seasons.

A shire report found up to one-third of WA's commercial rock lobster fleet would disappear if further cuts are implemented next season.

Shire president Wayne Fewster says the towns of Seabird, Ledge Point and Lancelin have been affected.

"Council certainly has some concerns over the impact it is going to have on the communities in regards to services and infrastructure within the towns," he said.

"The declining population is the biggest concern."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/10/2650798.htm>

A review of fishing legislation in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in north-west Queensland, is underway, with bag limits and species under the spotlight.

☒ Gulf fishing legislation reviewed - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) Monday, 10 August 2009 4:14 PM

Gulf fishing legislation reviewed

Posted 7 hours 49 minutes ago

- **Map:** [Karumba 4891](#)

A review of fishing legislation in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in north-west Queensland, is underway, with bag limits and species under the spotlight.

The in-shore fin fish management plan will cover commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishing limits.

Queensland's Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin says the review also includes changes to charter boat and off-shore net fishing laws to improve sustainability

"Well this is about ensuring the sustainability of the resource, so we get the balance between the recreational and commercial, and Queensland Fisheries are at the forefront of fisheries management," he said.

www.acorn-online.com/joomla15/index.php?...dgetfield-columns&Itemid=769

Hersam Acorn Newspapers – Your local news source covering Southwestern Connecticut and Westchester County, New York

☒ Fishermen the forgotten victims of un-Sound policies Monday, 10 August 2009 11:56 AM

Fishermen the forgotten victims of un-Sound policies

Written by Chipp Reid

Sunday, 09 August 2009 06:19

It's not "Deadliest Catch."

There are no cameras, no film crews, no rock stars singing a theme song. For the few lobstermen working Long Island Sound, there isn't much of a future either.

The 1999 die-off that all but destroyed the state's once-thriving lobster industry continues to reverberate. When the die-off happened, Connecticut had the third-richest lobster grounds in the country, one worth \$40 million a year. It employed hundreds of people, fed hundreds of families, put clothes on the backs of hundreds of children.

Today, there are less than a dozen commercial lobstermen working the Sound.

Most barely earn a living but for fishermen such as Ken Tobin of Shelton, it's the only living they know.

"I can't afford to fish full-time," Tobin said. "There are too many costs with fuel going up like crazy, insurance, paying for deckhands and bait. It's just too expensive. The sad part is, it's what I do and I will keep on doing it until I convince myself there aren't any lobsters left."

Fishing has always been a family business. Tobin started fishing with his brother. Others inherited boats and traps from fathers or uncles. It isn't just the fishermen, however, that depended on the catch. Their families did, too. When the fishery collapsed, hundreds of families were suddenly left looking for ways to keep homes and food on tables.

The state and federal government did little to help. The state bought back lobster traps from fishermen, but at a fraction of what they made when lobsters filled those same traps. Scientific study after scientific study failed to find one main factor behind the die-off, further limiting what the fishermen could do. Without a definite cause, there was no way to compensate the fishermen for what they lost.

Yet, it wasn't just the fishermen that lost. It was all of New England. A way of life, one part of the state and region, is gone now, and isn't just the lobstermen that disappeared. The once-mighty fishing fleet out of Stonington is down to just a handful of boats. Scallop fishermen are all but gone. Even the oyster industry, the cornerstone of the state's remaining fisheries, is but a shadow of what it once was.

The question is, beyond those involved, who cares? Sure, there are some lawmakers such as Milford state Rep. Dick Roy, Norwalk Republican Larry Cafero and a handful of others that continually work to keep the fisheries alive, but who else? Where are the environmental groups? Why aren't Save the Sound, Greenpeace or any groups out there pounding drums, raising support and awareness to preserve a home-grown industry?

Fishing isn't the steel industry. There aren't Japanese or Taiwanese lobsters flooding the market. There isn't cheap labor manning the boats putting the old-timers out of work.

The real enemy of Connecticut's lobstermen and other commercial fishermen is indifference. As long as the beaches are open, as long as the bluefish still run, most people view the Sound as clean and healthy. The legislature, for all its talk of preserving the environment and creating jobs, has done little to protect commercial fishing. The one program in place to restore the lobsters — the V-notch program — nearly died in the latest budget wrangle.

It has to stop.

The state, from Gov. M. Jodi Rell down to each resident, must act to save the fishing industry, not simply because it's part of the past, but because it holds a promise of jobs for the future. If science can't pinpoint a cause of the die-off, it's time to listen to the fishermen — fishermen who saw the die-off happen. If federal agencies won't act to ban chemicals such as the pesticide malathion the fishermen say killed the lobsters, it's time for the state Environmental Protection Agency to step up and enact its own ban. And, if pesticide makers such as Scotts, or retailers such as Home Depot or Lowe's or Ace Hardware complain, the state should simply say, "Too bad."

The state constitution says nothing about Connecticut having a responsibility to corporations to sell any particular product. The state constitution says a lot, however, about the duty Connecticut has to protect the welfare of its residents and environment.

Any action is likely to be too late to help fishermen such as Tobin. The Shelton fishermen used to go out six days week and worked more than a thousand pots. Today, he goes at best once a week and has fewer than 200 pots.

"There are times when I don't even know why I keep doing this other than it's what I do," Tobin said. "Like I said, I'll keep fishing until I convince myself there's nothing left to catch."

If the state doesn't act, that day could be coming sooner than anyone realizes.

Chipp Reid, a former reporter for The Press and a longtime sailor, now works for the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/10/2650706.htm?section=justin

The search will resume this morning for a spear fisherman missing in waters off Sydney's northern beaches.

Fears missing fisherman taken by shark - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Monday, 10 August 2009 9:15 AM

Fears missing fisherman taken by shark

Posted 2 hours 0 minutes ago
Updated 1 hour 56 minutes ago

- [Map: Sydney 2000](#)

The search will resume this morning for a spear fisherman missing in waters off Sydney's northern beaches.

The 31-year-old Blakehurst man was fishing with friends on Fisherman's Beach at Long Reef when he went missing at around 11:00am yesterday.

Locals have told the ABC they saw tiger sharks in the area where he went missing.

Senior crewman with the Westpac rescue helicopter Trevor Cracknell says emergency crews spent the day searching the local area, but couldn't find the man

"We found his spear-fishing rig and his gun and it actually had a fish on it. We're not too sure what happened after that when he speared the fish," he said.

Detective Inspector Graham Cope says the man may have also speared a shark, but it does not mean he was attacked by one.

"I understand that there was a one-metre carpet shark that the missing diver may well have speared, so what's happened from there, we'd only be speculating thereafter," he said.

The search was called off late yesterday due to poor light.

http://www.worldfishing.net/news/news_story.ehtml?o=3146

Greenpeace blocks bottom trawler - News - World Fishing

Monday, 10 August 2009 9:14 AM

NEWS STORY

09 Aug 2009 - Web Exclusive 

Greenpeace blocks bottom trawler

Greenpeace activists recently blocked a notorious bottom trawling fishing vessel, the Seamount Explorer, from leaving Auckland's harbour in New Zealand, calling for an end to destructive deep sea bottom trawling.

The 45m Seamount Explorer, which has a history of bottom trawling for orange roughy, was blocked by activists in life rafts, who locked themselves to a chain encircling the ship to stop it from leaving port.

Greenpeace called on government and industry to end this destructive practice, previewing the release later this month of a UN review of countries commitments to implement measures designed to protect deep sea habitats.

"Bottom trawling indiscriminately lays waste to everything in its path, including fragile deep sea ecosystems and centuries-old coral. It's the equivalent to clear-felling our native forests and not nearly enough has been done to protect these vulnerable habitats", said Farah Obaidullah, Greenpeace International oceans campaigner. "The international community, including New Zealand, has grossly failed to live up to their UN commitment to implement measures protecting high seas marine life," added Obaidullah.

The 2006 UN resolution that contained measures to protect the deep seas in

international waters from destructive bottom fishing was to be implemented by 31 December 2008. Requirements include conducting Environmental Impact Assessments, the need to identify where vulnerable deep sea habitats are and subsequently ensure no bottom fishing happens where these are known or likely to occur.

According to the recent landmark study "Major conservation policy issues for biodiversity in Oceania", published earlier this month, an end to bottom trawling has been identified as a priority action needed to address the biodiversity crisis facing the region.

The Seamount Explorer uses bottom trawling to target orange roughy, a slow growing long living deep sea fish species that is under serious threat. Already three New Zealand orange roughy fisheries have been fished to collapse and closed - the most recent in 2007.

"Aside from the known environmental devastation caused by bottom trawling, this type of fishing for orange roughy, is now proving to be an economic liability as well," said Karli Thomas, Greenpeace New Zealand oceans campaigner. "Governments, industry and retailers alike must take the necessary steps to safeguard our deep sea environment."

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Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



SeaRead P/L

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