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www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?...bjectid=10594591&pnum=0

New Zealand's internationally recognised fisheries management system gives confidence that we have a solid platform to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries for the future. Recently...

Wayne McNee: Safety nets in place to protect fishing's future - Opinion - NZ Herald News Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:40 AM

Wayne McNee: Safety nets in place to protect fishing's future

4:00AM Wednesday Sep 02, 2009



Photo / Supplied

New Zealand's internationally recognised fisheries management system gives confidence that we have a solid platform to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries for the future.

Recently Trish Rea of the lobby group option4 noted in the Herald: "Ultimately, the quota management system [QMS] is delivering exactly what it was designed to achieve - greatest economic efficiency."

That statement tells only part of the story. The quota system working together with the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1996 and our new harvest strategy standard has delivered an internationally acknowledged balance between economic development, sustainability and environmental protection.

Quota management has been the cornerstone of our fisheries management since 1986. It helps ensure sustainable use of fisheries resources through the direct control of catch (harvest) levels for each fish species.

Legislation requires fish populations be managed at or above the population size that can produce "maximum sustainable yield". The Ministry of Fisheries strives to respond when the science shows action is needed to protect the sustainability of any fishery.

Catch limits move up and down to take into account changes in the abundance of a fish stock.

Recent international reports acknowledge the credibility of New Zealand's Quota Management System as a

world-leading economic and sustainability model. A World Bank report in 2008 praised our approach to fisheries management and said fishing rights through quota-based systems have turned the tide on unsustainable fishing.

This year New Zealand was one of only two marine areas to receive a "green" rating, the highest allocated, in the most comprehensive international scientific research of its type ever undertaken. "Rebuilding Global Fisheries", co-authored by New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries chief scientist Pamela Mace, was published in the prestigious journal, Science.

This research identified the tools managers use in their efforts to rebuild depleted fish stocks.

Catch share systems and controls on total allowable catch - both components of New Zealand's QMS - were viewed as particularly important.

The authors also emphasised the need for clear rules and targets for rebuilding, and the importance of fisheries certification systems that provide incentives for improved management practices.

Environmental protection is another key element of New Zealand fisheries management. We have a range of measures in place, both regulatory and non-regulatory, to limit the adverse effects of fishing.

In her article, Trish Rea makes a number of points on the use of foreign charter vessels in New Zealand waters. Government policy permits quota owners, including iwi owners, to choose how they wish to maximise the value of their fishing quota.

Each year fishing companies make business decisions regarding the way they will harvest their fish. The use of foreign charters to harvest New Zealand-owned catch entitlements is a legitimate option for companies to consider.

Any decision to limit the ability of these companies to use the foreign fleet runs the risk of there being insufficient domestic capacity to meet demand.

All fishing vessels including foreign vessels must comply with fisheries legislation and regulations, including rules designed to protect the environment. If non-compliance is detected, there are severe penalties which can include prosecution and vessel forfeiture.

Legislation does not permit foreign charters to operate within New Zealand's inshore fisheries. They are excluded from the territorial sea - 12 nautical miles from the shore - and the Fisheries Act restricts larger vessels from fishing in other areas of the exclusive economic zone.

The fisheries sector is unusual in that the industry is charged directly for a large proportion of the cost of science, research and compliance services delivered by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Trish Rea raises concerns about the validity and robustness of science research purchased directly by the industry. The option for the industry to purchase research directly in order to deliver more information to manage our fisheries is a valid one, provided that this research meets the appropriate quality standards.

All research that is used to inform fisheries management decisions is independently peer reviewed by the Ministry of Fisheries' science working group process.

We have achieved economic efficiency and sustainable fisheries, but we need to keep working to improve the environmental and economic performance of our fisheries and to improve the value we all receive from them.

I am confident that we can deliver the balance we need between economic development and sustainability.

*** Wayne McNee is chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries.**

☰ Yorketown's one-stop Fisheries shop Tuesday, 01 September 2009
Journalist: Jenny

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:37 AM

Yorketown's one-stop Fisheries shop



Tuesday, 01 September 2009

Journalist: Jenny Oldland — Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Hon. Paul Caica, officially opened the PIRSA Fisheries new Yorketown office last Wednesday, saying it would provide a big boost to the SA Government's Fisheries' presence on the Yorke Peninsula.

While Fisheries staff have been located in Yorketown since 2003, they have until now been occupying a small room in the offices of

the local council.

In opening the facility, Minister Caica said the new office would give Fisheries a much more public face in the region.

"This new facility, with a public counter, will give Fisheries a visible shopfront area for the public to visit with their fisheries-related queries," he said.

"It's important that the local community have access to up-to-date advice and information relating to South Australian fishing regulations, and this office will help make our officers much more accessible to the general public.

"With the commercial fishing industry and recreational fishing being so strong on the peninsula, the office will also provide PIRSA Fisheries with a state-of-the-art facility from which to conduct their business.

"The extra space the new office provides means there is also room for officers from other areas of the state to be stationed in Yorketown during peak periods.

"In dealing with fisheries offences, the office comes equipped with a private interview room for alleged offenders and witnesses. And with the office being located right next door to the Yorketown Police Station, the proximity will support a closer interagency relationship with the South Australia Police," Mr Caica said.

While thanking the District Council of Yorke Peninsula, particularly staff at the Yorketown office, for their support over the last six years Fisheries officers have been using facilities there, Minister Caica said the new office was all about making sure PIRSA has a strong local presence, while deploying resources most effectively in the region.

There are two Fisheries Officers currently stationed at Yorketown, James Sheppard (Senior Fisheries Officer), and Rhys Kirkbright.



Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Hon. Paul Caica with Yorketown-based Fisheries Officer Rhys Kirkbright following the opening of the new Minlaton Road office.



Guests at the opening included Mark Lewis (General Manager Fisheries Services), Peter Deitman (Training and Development Officer) and Paul Faithow (Regional Manager, Kadina).

www.ypct.com.au/index.php?...n=com_content&task=view&id=5846&Itemid=66

www.powerboat-world.com/Seasonal-fishing-closures-take-effect-in-Ne...

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Sail World - Powerboat-world: Sail and sailing, cruising, boating news

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:37 AM

Seasonal fishing closures take effect in New South Wales



NSW State Government

Anglers are being reminded to take note of a number of seasonal fishing closures which come into effect on September 1, with heavy fines for those caught fishing illegally, NSW Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald, said.

The Murray cod season will be closed from September 1 to November 30 to protect this native species during its breeding season, Mr Macdonald said.

Although rivers and dams remain open to fishing during these three months, it is an offence to take or attempt to take or target Murray cod.

'Murray cod, which are mainly found in the Murray Darling River system, are a prized catch of freshwater anglers.

'It is one of Australia's largest freshwater fish growing up to 1.8 m and weighing up to 50 kg. We close the season for three months every year, so there will be more Murray cod for fishers in the future.

The trout cod, a threatened species and close relative of the Murray cod (found in parts of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers alongside Murray cod) and the eastern cod (found in the upper Clarence River in north eastern NSW) are totally protected all year round.

Trout cod can be differentiated from Murray cod by their overhanging upper jaw, convex forehead and spotted markings, Mr Macdonald said.

The trout cod protection area on the Murray River between Yarrawonga Weir wall and Tocumwal Road bridge is also closed to all forms of fishing during the Murray cod closed season.

Industry and Investment NSW (I&I NSW) Senior Inland Fisheries Manager, Cameron Westaway, said the Murray crayfish season also closes from September 1 to April 30 to protect the species during its dormant period.

'Murray crayfish are the largest of spiny freshwater crayfish in NSW and the second largest freshwater crayfish in the world,' Mr Westaway said.

'They provide the basis of a popular recreational fishery in many areas of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and are considered an iconic species within this system.

Fishers are also reminded that fishing for Murray crayfish is prohibited at all times in notified trout waters and in Blowering Dam.

I&I NSW Fisheries Compliance Manager Glenn Tritton said anyone caught fishing illegally during the scheduled closures risks heavy fines and a potential jail term.

'Fishing laws are designed to protect, conserve and improve the States fisheries resources for future generations. Mr Tritton said.

Anyone who is unsure of the rules and regulations should contact their local fisheries office before they go fishing.'

Information on freshwater fishing rules can be found in the Freshwater fishing guide available online at www.industry.nsw.gov.au, your local fisheries office and most tackle outlets where NSW recreational fishing licences are sold.

by NSW Dept Primary Industries 1:31 AM Tue 1 Sep 2009 GMT

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/31/2671536.htm>

The Labor Member for Albany is campaigning against the Western Australian Government's new recreational fishing fees.

Albany MP rejects new fishing fees - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:36 AM

Albany MP rejects new fishing fees

Posted Mon Aug 31, 2009 10:18am AEST

Updated Mon Aug 31, 2009 10:17am AEST

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

The Labor Member for Albany is campaigning against the Western Australian Government's new recreational fishing fees.

Under the regulations announced last month, people fishing from boats must pay a \$30 annual fee.

If they fish for species such as dhufish and pink snapper in the west coast zone they have to pay an additional \$20-a-day.

Peter Watson says the fees will harm Albany's fishing charter industry and have a negative impact on tourism.

He is calling on the community to sign a petition opposing the new laws.

"It's a great part of our tourism down here, people are going to look and say if you go to Western Australia you're going to have to pay all this extra money on your fishing charters. It's not going to help tourism," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2671972.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Review of fishing trawler safety in WA - 31/08/2009

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:26 AM

Review of fishing trawler safety in WA

Monday, 31/08/2009

The prevention of accidental deaths on commercial fishing trawlers is under review in Western Australia.

The Man Overboard Code of Practice has been developed following 44 deaths in the last 20 years in WA.

WA's Worksafe commissioner Nina Lyhne says the code highlights ways to address safety on vessels and the response to man overboard incidents.

"It's about making sure that being on a vessel alone, being on the deck at night, there needs to be systems in place, so that people immediately can be aware of somebody who does go overboard," she says.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/article/?id=13723>

Sediment sucks, clogging beaches and country's fisheries » The Gisborne Herald | Gisborne's latest News, Sport, Family Notices, Photos and Events

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:25 AM

31 Aug, 2009

Sediment sucks, clogging beaches and country's

fisheries

Iain Gillies

Gisborne beaches and coastal waters are hard to beat for all manner of activities.

But there is a timely warning for all of us that good land use is essential not only to rivers and other waterways but also to productive ocean fisheries.

It comes in a NIWA review for the Ministry of Fisheries on what is called the "land-sea connection".

It has found that the biggest land-based effect on fisheries and the wider ecosystem comes from sediment, although nutrient enrichment and other pollution is also significant in some places.

The review has drawn on all studies in New Zealand on the link between water quality and healthy fisheries, filling in gaps as necessary with overseas examples.

The outcome is a single accumulated source of information, which can be used in land use planning as well as fisheries management.

Outlining the review's findings in its latest magazine, the Ministry for the Environment notes: "When a fishery gets stressed by sediment or other environmental effects, it becomes more vulnerable to further pressure — from fishing, for instance."

As all fishermen know, keeping fisheries in good condition requires a healthy environment as well as effective fishing controls.

Suspended sediment can be harmful both to fin-fish and filter-feeding shellfish; the former finding it harder to breathe and the latter — cockles, pipi, mussels and scallops — simply dying off in water which is too muddy or silty.

When sediment settles it can smother shellfish beds and other living creatures on the seabed, particularly if the silt builds up in thick layers.

Such layers prevent shellfish like green-lipped mussels attaching to the seabed. Snapper, trevally, tarakihi, john dory, garfish, parore, blue cod and mullet all rely on habitats that are sensitive to sediment. These provide important nursery and rearing areas, rich feeding grounds and safe havens from predators.

To most of us, sediment in the sea probably doesn't mean much . . . until we go fishing!

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26004282-30417,00.html

SHARK numbers across southern Australia have rocketed to unprecedented levels, with the most comprehensive marine survey ever undertaken in the nation's waters finding decades of overfishing have been curtailed.

Quota system has sharks thriving | The Australian

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:21 AM

Quota system has sharks thriving

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Verity Edwards | August 31, 2009

Article from: [The Australian](#)

SHARK numbers across southern Australia have rocketed to unprecedented levels, with the most comprehensive marine survey ever undertaken in the nation's waters finding decades of overfishing have been curtailed.

Commercial fishermen are reaping reliable catches thanks to a quota system introduced in 2000, which has allowed stocks of gummy and school sharks to regenerate in greater numbers.

The commercial shark fishing industry primarily catches sharks to be processed for human consumption. Much of the catch ends up dipped in batter and in the deep fryer at the local fish and chippery.

According to the survey, western Bass Strait and South Australia's Eyre Peninsula recorded the largest increases of school sharks, with decreases in eastern Bass Strait.

Gummy shark numbers were up in most areas in South Australia, but lower in western Bass Strait.

The government-funded study, conducted by the Marine and Freshwater Fisheries Institute in Victoria, engaged commercial fishermen monitoring 187 sites from eastern Victoria to the South Australian and West Australian border in 2007 and last year.

Principal researcher Terry Walker told The Australian more school sharks were found around southern Tasmania than over the past 30 years, including large populations of males.

"We also found a lot of females in the Great Australian Bight," Mr Walker said. "And the gummy sharks have increased everywhere."

Survey participants counted all stock caught in nets over the two-year period.

The fishermen caught 18,983 sharks and related species, including 6010 gummies, 5655 piked spurdogs, 2814 school sharks, 1463 draughtboard and 976 Port Jackson sharks.

But Mr Walker said it had been difficult to compare the comprehensive numbers with the "opportunistic" data collected as part of tagging and smaller research projects undertaken since the 1970s.

Sharks were mainly caught with hooks until nets were introduced in the early 1980s, which led to overfishing.

Steps to end open-slasher commercial shark fishing were taken to protect the fishery in the late 1980s, but it was not until 2000 that the Australian Fisheries Management Authority enforced catch quotas.

Mr Walker said quotas had limited the number of sharks taken from the water, leading to the recovery of species and the creation of a significantly more sustainable industry.

"By having the stocks rebuild, the fishermen can now experience a higher catch rate," he said. "The whole economics of the fishery have improved ... and it's a more sustainable industry."

Fisherman Kyri Toumazos, whose fleet of six boats monitored SA waters, said he had never seen such prolific numbers of sharks.

Mr Toumazos said school sharks had increased over the past decade, to the point where one of his boats recorded the largest ever catch in the southern Australian zone last year, pulling in 22 tonnes of fish near the WA border in one trip compared with the previous record of 16 tonnes.

"The vessel was full; the numbers of sharks there was enormous," Mr Toumazos said.

He said the region between Point Fowler and the WA border contained abundant numbers of female school sharks, which were big enough to breed well and not get caught in nets.

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,28124,26004280-50179...

CHINA is supplying an ever increasing quantity of food to Australian consumers, raising concerns about food safety and the capacity of local farmers to compete with cheaper imports.

Fears as Chinese food pours in, farmers claim lost markets and biosecurity risk | The Australian Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:20 AM

Fears as Chinese food pours in, farmers claim lost markets and biosecurity risk

- Font Size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
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Asa Wahlquist, Rural writer | *August 31, 2009*

Article from: [The Australian](#)

CHINA is supplying an ever increasing quantity of food to Australian consumers, raising concerns about food safety and the capacity of local farmers to compete with cheaper imports.

According to the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, between January 1 last year and May 31 this year more than 4200 tonnes of prawns were imported from China into Australia.

This was in addition to 153 tonnes of frozen broccoli and cauliflower, 65 tonnes of fresh apples, 95 tonnes of fresh pears, 325 tonnes of garlic, 72 tonnes of peas and 4292 tonnes of peanuts and peanut butter. Last year, imports of Chinese vegetables rose by 35 per cent from 2007, making it the second-biggest importer, behind New Zealand. As imports have risen, local production has declined.

"Chinese imports are putting the industry in Australia on a very unsound footing and I think Australians should be very concerned about food security," said Tasmanian vegetable grower Mike Badcock, a former

chairman of peak body Ausveg.

Mr Badcock said Australian producers faced higher costs due to stricter standards.

"The biggest problem we have got is the government attitude that we have to meet the market, but it is not a fair market and I think the government is playing a very risky game for a short-time cheap product. Once the Chinese have ruined our industries in Australia the prices will go up," he said.

Mr Badcock cited the example of the Australian garlic industry. He said Chinese garlic, a quarter the cost of the local product, had flooded the market. "But once they ruined the producers of garlic in Australia, they put the price back up."

He said 90 per cent of garlic now sold in Australia came from China.

Federal Minister for Agriculture Tony Burke said 98 per cent of the fresh produce in Australia was locally grown. "The question that needs to be asked when deciding whether fresh produce should be allowed to be imported is whether or not there is an unacceptable biosecurity risk. Our systems for assessing that are rigorous and science-based," Mr Burke said.

But opposition spokesman on agriculture John Cobb said: "When we look at the stuff that is coming in and competing in Australia with Australian products, it is staggering."

He argued that when the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme came in, Australian products would become even more expensive.

Australians were alerted to food safety problems in China last year after melamine was found to have been added to baby formula. Six infants died and nearly 300,000 were hospitalised.

In the US, 1950 cats and 2200 dogs died after eating food contaminated with melamine. Melamine-tainted products were also fed to pigs, fish farms and chickens.

A US Department of Agriculture report last month said the most common reasons Chinese products were refused entry to the US were "filth", unsafe additives, inadequate labelling and lack of proper manufacturer registration, and potentially harmful veterinary drug residues in farmed fish and prawns.

Trevor Anderson of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association worries about the risk of diseases such as white spot and yellow head virus that exist in China but not in Australia.


He said a number of antibiotics had been found in Chinese prawns that resulted in bans and restrictions into the US, "who are much more rigorous than we are about these things".

Mr Anderson said Australian farms were run under "rigorous environmental standards".

"Not only are the Environmental Protection Authority watching every step we make, we are watching each other. We have a clean, green image to protect," he said.

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,25998568-5017009,00.html>

FORMER West Coast footballer and keen fisherman Glen Jakovich fears WA will be fished out if proposed angling fees are scrapped.

 Fishing fan Glen Jakovich backs licence fees | PerthNow

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:19 AM

Fishing fan Glen Jakovich backs licence fees

Article from: PerthNow

Liam Croy

August 29, 2009 06:00pm



FAMILY DAY: Glen Jakovich, with kids Bryce, 3, Jayda 5, and Anique, 8, near his Applecross home, plans to have a fish on Father's Day. Picture: **Richard Hatherly**

FORMER West Coast footballer and keen fisherman Glen Jakovich fears WA will be fished out if proposed angling fees are scrapped.

He plans to take his three children fishing on Father's Day, but is worried those days may be numbered.

The State Government says the fees are designed to protect threatened species, but growing numbers of Liberal backbenchers have balked at the proposals because they fear an electoral backlash.

Jakovich, 36, a community ambassador for sustainable fishing, said nothing gave him more pleasure than wetting a line with his children -- Anique, 8, Jayda, 5, and Bryce, 3.

``I want my children, grandchildren and generations afterwards to be able to have the same privileges that we all had, going out and enjoying the summer," he said.

Under Fisheries Minister Norman Moore's proposals, the state's recreational anglers will have to pay an annual fee of up to \$405 if they want to fish with total freedom.

Anyone who fishes from a boat, including a charter boat, would have to pay \$30 a year to do so and additional licences may be needed depending on the species being targeted.

``We've seen the decline in stocks. But at the same time we've seen improvements in technology, boats, GPSs, echo sounders, chemically sharpened hooks and more people fishing," Jakovich said.

``Pressure on our waters and our marine aquatic life is tenfold."

But public reaction to the proposed fishing licence legislation has been mixed. Some say new fees will be chicken feed for wealthy anglers who will catch the majority of fish.

But Jakovich says he is fully behind the changes.

``Look, I think 95 per cent of people would endorse sustainable fishing," Jakovich said.

``We don't want to have bans and restrictions, but if we don't listen to the science that's being put forward, we're going to have more closures and we're going to have depleted stocks or collapsed stocks. We could lose species altogether.

``It would be a shame to see future generations have to deal with long-term bans on fishing areas just because we didn't make the tough decisions today."

<http://www.phuketgazette.net/archives/articles/2009/article7715.html>

Phuket Marine Police officers busted a tropical fish poaching ring on Tuesday, seizing hundreds of valuable aquarium fish from a house in Rawai.

Friday, August 28, 2009

Phuket police bust fish poaching ring



Some of the tropical fish found in the house in Rawai, Phuket, which had been caught by stunning them with cyanide.



Coral blooms that were destined for the black market.

RAWAI, PHUKET: Phuket Marine Police officers busted a tropical fish poaching ring on Tuesday, seizing hundreds of valuable aquarium fish and coral blooms from a house in Rawai.

Police said the owner of the house, Suthee Sirisaringkarn, hired local fishermen to illegally catch the fish, many of which were worth up to 2,000 baht each.

Around 200 living coral blooms and around 400 tropical fish and other creatures were found in tanks in the house, including butterflyfish, wrasses, parrotfish, damselfish, angelfish and giant clams.

Mr Suthee, 34, from Bangkok, told police he planned to send the creatures to Chiang Mai to sell to collectors.

He has been charged with possession of protected species and possession of tropical fish without permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

All of the seized creatures are being kept by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources at its center at Cape Panwa.

Prajuap Mokarat, a DMCR officer, said the fish ranged in value from 500 to 2,000 baht.

"They caught most of them at the coral reefs around Koh Racha and Koh Khai," he said.

Mr Prajuap said this kind of poaching ring had been uncovered many times before but arrests were rarely made because it was difficult to get the evidence required to get a search warrant issued by the court.

Another DMCR staff member said some of the fish were sick with cyanide poisoning.

"Some of them are dying because whoever caught them used cyanide to stun them so they'd float to the surface and be easy to catch," she said.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated case, a man was arrested on Wednesday night in Phang Nga province for attempting to smuggle coral blooms.

Takua Pa Police received a tip-off that the man had boarded a bus heading to Bangkok at Takua Pa bus station with a foam-wrapped crate containing the coral.

Police arrested the man and have charged him with illegal possession of protected species.

More than 180 coral blooms were recovered, including anchor coral and cup coral.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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*Phuket, Thailand
15:22 local time*

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(Local time is GMT+7)

<http://www.realtruth.org/news/090828-001-weather.html>

 The Real Truth - Canada: Millions of Salmon Fail to Return

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:15 AM

Canada: Millions of Salmon Fail to Return

August 28, 2009

On the shores of Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada, where salmon return to spawn each season, millions of these fish have vanished. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans expected up to 11 million sockeye salmon to return, but roughly 5.45 percent have come back.

"A record number of the young salmon were born in 2005 and then swam out to sea in 2007 after maturing upstream. They were expected to begin returning to spawn this month" (*Earthweek.com*).

Speculation over the sockeye disappearance include "sea lice picked up by wild salmon from farmed salmon, warmer river water temperatures which weaken the salmon, or temperature changes in the ocean reducing regular food sources" (*National Post*).

The mysterious disappearance could have a dramatic effect on the 52,000 people employed by the fishing industry, including an estimated loss of \$1.6 billion of revenue (ibid.).

www.straight.com/article-253641/fraser-river-sockeye-salmon-commerc...

Are the Fraser River sockeye "commercially extinct"?

 Fraser River sockeye salmon "commercially extinct", Sto:lo advisor says | Vancouver, Canada | Straight.com

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:15 AM

Fraser River sockeye salmon "commercially extinct", Sto:lo advisor says

By [Carlito Pablo](#)

Are the [Fraser River sockeye](#) "commercially extinct"?

Ernie Crey, fisheries advisor to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, says so.

Crey explains in the following press release:

See also

Former fisheries minister David Anderson links fish collapse to climate change

Gerry Kristianson: We need to improve our ability to predict salmon abundance

Brian Riddell: Where have all the Fraser River sockeye salmon gone?

Fish biologist links fish farms to disappearing salmon

Hotter water linked to poor sockeye returns

B.C. tourism operators raise alarm over sea lice

August 28, 2009

For Immediate Release

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Commercially Extinct


The fisheries advisor to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, Ernie Crey, says that Fraser River Sockeye is now commercially extinct. He says that in the summer of both 2007 and 2008 sockeye salmon failed to make it back to the Fraser River in large enough numbers to support commercial fishing in either U.S. or Canadian waters. "While it's true that in 2008 Canada picked up a meager 16,100 sockeye in commercial fisheries and the U.S. fleet snagged 46,000 sockeye, these fisheries qualified more as an embarrassment than an actual fishery", said Crey. And he says that the summer of 2007, in so far as Fraser sockeye was concerned, was a complete washout for both the U.S. and Canada.

Crey said that salmon experts at both the Pacific Salmon Commission and the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, predicted that 10.6 million sockeye would come back to the Fraser River this summer. "A fish run of that size would have permitted commercial exploitation of Fraser sockeye by both the U.S. and Canada, unfortunately the forecast was wildly optimistic with fewer than 2 million sockeye actually showing up". He said everyone is now starting to count down the days to next summer when another big sockeye run to the Fraser is expected. "I hope next summer does turn out to be a banner year for Fraser sockeye, but there is a strong possibility 2010 will be a carbon copy of 2009 and we should plan accordingly", said Crey.

"We need to face up to the facts about Fraser sockeye. The summer of 2010 could be a bust for Fraser sockeye and, we already know that the following two summers will take us back to two successive low cycle years for sockeye. And the fish from this year's spawning population will come back to the Fraser in 2013. This means we are staring four straight years of no commercial sockeye fishing squarely in the face. There is no way to candy coat the next four summers, Fraser sockeye are now commercially extinct for the foreseeable future", said Crey.

Crey said that both the First Nations Fisheries Council and the Sto: lo Tribal Council has asked the Fisheries Minister to help organize a salmon summit to address the Fraser River salmon calamity, but they have yet to hear from the Minister's Office.

www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/wee-ban-to-stop-big-boating-problem-2009...

 Urinating off deck causes man overboard incidents | Man overboard code of practice Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:08 AM

Wee ban to stop big boating problem

CHRIS THOMSON

August 28, 2009

Urinating off the side of commercial fishing boats should be banned, according to a [new WA Government code](#) to help fishers deal with man overboard incidents.

WorkSafe's draft code of practice on man overboard incidents recommends the urination ban because of its high risk nature in choppy seas, but recognises "it can happen".

In lieu of its preferred total urination ban, the code recommends commercial fishing boat owners institute safety measures such as:

- providing a designated safe place to urinate over the side, with a railing or a fall prevention system in place;
- implementing a procedure where, before crew go to the toilet, they let somebody know or ask them to keep watch;
- ensuring crew wear a life jacket when on deck alone; and

- providing an alarm system for man overboard incidents.

Some of the "many" overboard incidents the code says have led to deaths in the past 20 years include:

- a boat owner who drowned when he left the wheelhouse of a cray boat to urinate off the deck;
- a crew member who went missing while on watch and the skipper was asleep; and
- a deck hand who vanished after he was last seen at the rear of a fishing boat smoking a cigarette.

Since 1988, WA's commercial fishing industry has seen 44 deaths from a range of causes.

All man overboard incidents from commercial fishing craft must be reported to the WA Department of Transport.

Any comments on the [draft code](#) can be lodged with WorkSafe by November 27.

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,25992652-5005399,00.html>

TWO Cockburn Sound MPs have joined forces to condemn the State Government's proposed fish tax for recreational fishing as a "cash-grab".

Proposed fishing tax a cash grab, say Cockburn MPs | PerthNow

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:08 AM

Proposed fishing tax a cash grab, say Cockburn MPs

Article from: inmycommunity.com.au

-

August 28, 2009 05:30am

TWO Cockburn Sound MPs have joined forces to condemn the State Government's proposed fish tax for recreational fishing as a "cash-grab".

Both MPs voiced concerns over the introduction of the tax that would result in local boat fishermen paying \$30 per year, plus an additional \$20 a day for special species.

Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan said that while he supported the protection of the WA natural environment and fish stocks, the introduction of a tax was a government cash-grab.

"This grabs out of the wallets of people in Rockingham to fund research that the department already has; it seems to me to be just a venal grab for cash and will not achieve the outcome the government claims it is seeking."

Kwinana MLA Roger Cook echoed Mr McGowan's opposition to the new fees and said he had introduced a petition for Rockingham and Kwinana residents to sign at his office in Kwinana.

"This tax threatens to end spontaneous fishing trips by families and will hike up prices for fishing charters, a major blow to tourism," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2669882.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Seafood safe, despite oil spill - 28/08/2009

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:05 AM

Seafood safe, despite oil spill

Friday, 28/08/2009

Industry says consumers shouldn't worry about buying fresh seafood from the Northern Territory, despite the oil spill in the Timor Sea.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council is worried the public could stop buying fish because of quality concerns.

But fresh seafood supplier Ziko Ilic says the area 250 kilometres off West Australia's north-west coast is not a popular fishing zone.

"It's not a very heavy duty commercial fishing area," he says.

"We are lucky there, and the rest of the area is pretty well safe."

thejakartaglobe.com/home/australians-can-punish-local-shark-poacher...

☰ Australians Can Punish Local Shark Poachers, Says Ministry - The Jakarta Globe

Wednesday, 2 September 2009 8:03 AM

August 27, 2009

Anita Rachman

Australians Can Punish Local Shark Poachers, Says Ministry

Indonesia would be unconcerned if Australian maritime law-enforcement agencies took firm action against trespassing shark fishermen, such as destroying their boats, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said on Thursday.

The Ministry's head of statistics and information, Soen'an Hadi Poernomo, said that as far as Indonesia was concerned shark poachers found in Australian waters were part of a mafia ring and it would not object if Australia exacted "punishment."

"We give Australia the go ahead to proceed, provided [the suspects] are proven guilty," he said.

Soen'an was echoing a statement issued the previous day by fisheries minister Freddy Numberi, who said Indonesian boats were sailing to a common sea border area between the two countries and being apprehended by Australian authorities.

"So we tell the Australians, if they're caught poaching, just destroy the boat, they must be a mafia ring," Freddy said.

He said the boats were usually worth about Rp 30 million but often a haul of sharks could bring a return of up to Rp 5 billion.

"Think about it, Rp 30 million for the boat, another Rp 10 million for each of the crew," Freddy said.

"All the mafia ring have to do is tell the poachers that once you get the fins, you'll get extra pay.

"People don't understand this. All they think about is their bellies."

The government have to be firm because "there are large shark populations of in the waters in the border between Indonesia and Australia."

Australian Embassy spokesman in Jakarta, Michael Kachel, said on Thursday through an e-mail interview, that illegal fishing represented a serious threat to the sustainability of both Indonesian and Australian fisheries.

"Australia greatly values its productive cooperation with Indonesian authorities to counter this common challenge," he said.

However, he said Australia did not sink or destroy the vessels of illegal foreign fishermen detained in Australian waters, except in exceptional circumstance.

These circumstance include unseaworthiness; risk to safety, public health and quarantine; and risk of damage to other property or the environment.

Kachel said that Australian and Indonesian fishery authorities have since 2006 campaigned to educate local communities in eastern Indonesia about the negative impact of illegal fishing and the advantages of sustainable fishing practices.

www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2009/08/31/clean-seas-records-18m-loss-but-c...

Clean Seas Tuna has reported a loss of \$18.378 million in the 2008/09 financial year but has taken a step forward in their revolutionary attempt to breed

☰ Clean Seas records \$18m loss but confident about future | Australian Food News

Monday, 31 August 2009 5:29 PM

Clean Seas records \$18m loss but confident about future

- August 31, 2009
- Isobel Drake

Clean Seas Tuna has reported a loss of \$18.378 million in the 2008/09 financial year but has taken a step

forward in their revolutionary attempt to breed commercial quantities of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

The loss was largely due to winding down Mulloway operations and writing down the value of certain Kingfish inventories.

"While FY2009 was a tough year financially for Clean Seas and the world economy, the company is proud of the achievements made in breeding and growing SBT during the year," Chairman and Founder Hagen Stehr advised. "The company is positioned to be the first in the world to market commercial quantities of environmentally sustainable aquaculture produced Bluefin Tuna.

Southern Bluefin Tuna

Clean Seas reported a number of breakthroughs throughout the year in their attempts to breed Southern Bluefin Tuna.

"Clean Seas is holding R&D quantities of aquaculture produced juvenile SBT in its Arno Bay facility in South Australia," Mr Stehr said. "The oldest of these fish are now 150 days and 35cm in length. This major breakthrough was achieved as a consequence of the 35 day continuous spawning which commenced on 12 March 2009."

"As a consequence of this success, Clean Seas has commenced construction of a special purpose SBT larval rearing facility designed in conjunction with AKVA Group. The facility is scheduled for completion in time for the company's first commercial run of 25,000 SBT juveniles in late 2009."

The long-term project remains on track to produce its targeted 10,000 tonnes of aquaculture bred Southern Bluefin Tuna by FY2015, they advised.

Outlook

"The increased pressure on all premium wild catch fisheries continues to threaten those fisheries which, in turn, results in tighter quota controls or, in extreme cases, potential collapse of the fisheries themselves," Mr Stehr noted. "These industry thematics are positive for the emerging aquaculture bred Bluefin Tuna industry and we look forward to reporting substantial progress with our commercialisation program in the coming year."

The company also expects to be cash flow positive with the Kingfish and Mulloway division next year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2668623.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

📄 Upgraded research centre looks for prawn alternatives - 27/08/2009

Friday, 28 August 2009 12:02 PM

Upgraded research centre looks for prawn alternatives

Thursday, 27/08/2009

Aquaculture facilities at the National Marine Science Centre in northern NSW have been upgraded to commercial hatchery and research standards.

The Federal Government's Sustainable Regions Program funded the new North Coast Mariculture and Re-seeding Centre at Coffs Harbour.

The centre's director Professor Alistair McIlgorm says the centre will investigate the commercial potential of mulloway and opportunities for the north coast prawn industry.

"We're working with the prawn farmers in the Yamba area to actually help them to replace prawns, in that basically cheap imports have made prawns less viable and they're looked for new diversified opportunities," he says.

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/08/27/18619912.php>

📄 Will California Legislature Help People Resist MLPAI "Fisheries Fascism?" :
Indybay

Friday, 28 August 2009 12:02 PM

Will California Legislature Help People Resist MLPAI "Fisheries Fascism?"

by Dan Bacher

Thursday Aug 27th, 2009 8:15 AM

John Lewallen, a well-respected North Coast environmental leader and sustainable seaweed harvester, has written a superb commentary about how Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's fast-track Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) has brought "Fisheries Fascism" to the California coast. He appeals to the California Legislature to immediately suspend the MLPAI process by defunding it.

"A group of oil-company lobbyists, marina developers, and advocates of 'ecosystem management' by removing human ocean food providers, have hijacked the Marine Life Protection Act of 1999," says Lewallen. "The MLAPI has completely shaped the 1999 Act into a force it was never intended to be, a means not of protecting fisheries but of managing people."

Real environmentalists like Lewallen, unlike some corporate "environmental" NGOs that support this corrupt, elitist and racist process, understand that this process is being used to kick American Indian Tribes, seaweed harvesters and fishermen, the strongest defenders of the marine ecosystem, from their traditional harvesting areas on the North Coast. Is this being done to clear a path for the installation of offshore oil rigs, wave energy projects and corporate aquaculture facilities?

Will California Legislature Help People Resist MLPAI "Fisheries Fascism?"

by John Lewallen, Mendocino Sea Vegetable Company

"I have looked fascism in the face," my wife Barbara said, when we came out of the August 5 Fish & Game Commission hearing. The Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) has brought fascism to California's public fisheries regulatory process. If we can look this private-foundation takeover of public process in the face now, we may be able to stop it in its early phases.

Fascism's first target in California is independent ocean food providers operating in clean, wild ocean ecosystems. A group of oil-company lobbyists, marina developers, and advocates of "ecosystem management" by removing human ocean food providers, have hijacked the Marine Life Protection Act of 1999. The MLAPI has completely shaped the 1999 Act into a force it was never intended to be, a means not of protecting fisheries but of managing people.

With the sudden August 1 appointment of lobbyist Donald Benninghoven to the State Fish & Game Commission, an unconstitutional appointment made by Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman with the Governor out-of-state, the private-money takeover of the commission became complete. Along with Commissioners Sutton and Rogers, the Blue Ribbon Task Force running the privately-funded MLAPI is sure of a three-vote majority to adopt any South Coast or North Coast marine protected areas they want.

Commissioner-designate Benninghoven's conflict of interest is shockingly blatant: Benninghoven was a leading member of the privately-funded MLAPI Blue Ribbon Task Force that created the controversial plan for huge, permanent closures of fisheries and intertidal subsistence-harvesting on the North Central Coast.

Commissioner-designate Benninghoven's approval of the "North Central Coast IPA" was the deciding vote. Senate confirmation is required of all State Fish & Game Commission nominees, and Senate hearings about the Benninghoven appointment should begin at once! It's as if an unconfirmed Supreme Court nominee had put on official robes and cast the deciding vote for a plan their employer had ordered them to push through.

This vote scornfully ignored the years of work by North Central Coast tribes, fishermen, and abalone divers to make their own plan for marine protected areas, to better suit local needs. Now North Coast ocean food providers are being encouraged by MLAPI staff to raise money and spend hundreds of hours making our own plan. Are we window-dressing for fascism?

We, the people of California, could really use the help of the legislature now. If unchecked, fisheries fascism will move to privately-funded guards and surveillance technology keeping people from taking food from California public waters and intertidal zones. Commissioner Michael Sutton said on August 5 that the Blue Ribbon Task Force estimates that enforcement of new reserves will cost \$11 million a year, with two-thirds of the cost of guards coming from private funding sources, not California state money.

The California legislature could suspend the MLAPI at any time by de-funding it. All the North Coast county supervisors, many city governments, tribes and community members have contacted Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, asking Secretary Chrisman to suspend the MLAPI process.

Chrisman's answer was the Benninghoven appointment. The whole North Coast community is being tormented and distressed by this fascist attack on ocean food providers!

The California State Legislature is the people's next line of defense against MLAPI fisheries fascism. I believe it's time for all of us who want to nip fascism in the bud to contact Senator Patricia Wiggins, Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, and any other California legislators we know. We need immediate suspension of the MLAPI process. We need hearings on the Marine Life Protection Act of 1999, and on the "memorandum of understanding" which gives all power to the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation.

The longer we, the people of California, let this MLAPI fisheries fascism run, the more damage it will do to

people, environments, and democratic public process in California.

www.vancouversun.com/business/Tories+ignoring+collapse+salmon+stock...

The Conservative government has been ignoring the collapse of British Columbia's sockeye salmon stocks,

☐ Tories ignoring collapse of salmon stocks, NDP complains

Friday, 28 August 2009 11:59 AM

Tories ignoring collapse of salmon stocks, NDP complains

Government says it's not true -- sockeye woes are DFO's top priority

By Jorge Barrera, Canwest News Service August 22, 2009

The Conservative government has been ignoring the collapse of British Columbia's sockeye salmon stocks, which threatens to equal the environmental and economic impact of the demise of the Newfoundland and Labrador cod fishery, B.C. NDP MPs said Friday.

Their call came as B.C.'s salmon fishery comes to grips with the unexplained disappearance of millions of sockeye salmon from the Fraser River.

"We are facing a critical collapse of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River," said Burnaby-New Westminster MP Peter Julian, NDP critic for the western fishery. "Essentially we are seeing a collapse of stocks that is equal in its magnitude on the economic and environmental front to the collapse of the cod fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador."

Julian and Skeena Bulkley Valley NDP MP Nathan Cullen said Fisheries Minister Gail Shae has been "AWOL" on the issue and has visited the region only once -- to attend a fundraiser on Vancouver Island in July.

"I've talked to commercial, sport and native fishermen in my part of the world and they are not even sure who she is," Cullen said.

However, a spokeswoman for Shae said the minister's trip did not include a fundraiser and she had meetings with stakeholders, including first nations, and announced funding for aquaculture and the coast guard.

"The situation of the sockeye salmon stock is of great concern and dealing with it is our No. 1 priority at the moment," Nancy Bishay said in an e-mailed statement.

But the opposition MPs said the government doesn't quite grasp the immensity of the crisis facing B.C. sockeye salmon, and wild salmon in general.

They called on the government to increase funding for the salmon enhancement program, which focuses on hatcheries and restoration of habitat and has been cut over the years to \$26 million, from \$37 million in 1990. They also said the federal government should provide financing for salmon fish farms to move away from open-cage to closed containment operations. Closed containment fish farms filter the water within the enclosures before it enters the watershed.

Bishay said one of the projects in Shae's funding announcement had a closed containment system component.

The NDP MPs also called for increased funding to Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientific resources to increase its ability to monitor salmon ocean cycles.

"They have cut all the funding for the department to actually go into the marine environment to count and assess the salmon stock. So they have no idea," Cullen said. "This lack of science has led to bad decisions. Poor management of this fishery will kill it off in the end. It is a fact because we have seen it in Canada."

Much debate has ensued over the collapse of sockeye salmon runs. Factors such as sea lice picked up from farmed salmon, warmer river water weakening the salmon, and temperature changes in the ocean reducing food sources, have been named as possible causes.

Shae's department was expecting up to 10.6 million sockeye to return to the Fraser, but only about 1.7 million are now expected.

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<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,25987928-953,00.html>

MAGNETS on hooks might help save endangered grey nurse sharks by scrambling the sharks' electro-magnetic 'sixth sense'.

☰ Magnetic hooks could save sharks | The Courier-Mail

Thursday, 27 August 2009 6:20 PM

Magnetic hooks could save sharks

Article from: **Daily Telegraph**

By Malcolm Holland



August 27, 2009 07:12am

MAGNETS on hooks might help save endangered grey nurse sharks by scrambling the sharks' electro-magnetic 'sixth sense'.

Government scientists are investigating how to place powerful magnets on or beside fishing hooks.

The marine predators are famed for their ability to follow tiny amounts of blood in water.

Many species also use pores around their snouts - called the ampullae of Lorenzini - to detect minute changes of electricity in seawater which leads them to prey.

The tiny electrical impulses of up to one-billionth of a volt come from the most minute muscle contractions of other marine creatures - or people.

But if some sharks come very close to a powerful magnetic field it repels them rather than attracts them.

State Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said yesterday NSW Fisheries scientists had been experimenting on galapagos sharks off Lord Howe Island to see what type of magnets deterred them.

Conservationists believe there are fewer than 500 grey nurse sharks left off the Australian east coast and infections and diseases from hooks left in sharks' mouths can kill, even if it escapes the fishing line.

World Wildlife Fund Australia fisheries expert Peter Trott said yesterday the group supported any initiatives which might reduce grey nurse deaths.

"The magnets are interesting but not 100 per cent effective," he said.

"The sharks have to get very close to the magnets before their radar gets jammed and the magnets have to be very powerful. That's why no one's made a magnetic cossie."

www.times-age.co.nz/local/news/whitebaiters-warned-to-watch-out-for...

Wairarapa whitebaiters who are two weeks into a new season are being asked to keep a watchful eye out for a pest fish described by DOC rangers as being a "mini piranha". Gambusia, sometimes called mosquito fish, have nothing to recommend them and although their presence has not been confirmed ...

☰ Whitebaiters warned to watch out for 'mini piranha' - Local News - Wairarapa

Thursday, 27 August 2009 5:23 PM

Times-Age

Whitebaiters warned to watch out for 'mini piranha'

Don Farmer | 27th August 2009

Wairarapa whitebaiters who are two weeks into a new season are being asked to keep a watchful eye out for a pest fish described by DOC rangers as being a "mini piranha".

Gambusia, sometimes called mosquito fish, have nothing to recommend them and although their presence has not been confirmed in Wairarapa there has been one report from Lake Onoke investigated.

DOC biodiversity officer Tony Silbery said as a result of the report he set nets in the lake trying to determine whether the dreaded little fish that congregates in schools and "leaps out from cover to attack other fish" is actually in the district.

"We are hoping that the report was a case of mistaken identity and that the fish found was a more friendly type."

Although it is known colloquially as mosquito fish, the truth is gambusia does not help the environment by feeding on mosquito larvae and is simply a pest.

Mr Silbery said it is found in many other places throughout New Zealand and can be recognised because it is thick-bodied with reddish-coloured fins.

"It shouldn't be too hard to recognise if it exists in Wairarapa because it schools with others of its kind."

Mr Silbery said he would be concentrating on the area known as Onoke flatgate in future attempts to determine whether gambusia is in South Wairarapa.

He said gambusia was probably introduced into New Zealand waterways through being brought into the country as an aquarium fish.

Meanwhile, the whitebait season has got away to a slow start mostly due to rough weather arriving just as the season opened.

Mr Silbery said the eastern rivers were only just cleaning up from a southerly that went through on August 16 causing them to "dirty up".

"That kept a lot of guys away from fishing but I noticed a few were out and about during my travels yesterday."

Apart from keeping a lookout for gambusia, whitebaiters are being asked to take care not to introduce didymo - or rock snot - to Wairarapa waterways.

North Island rivers are free of it, as far as is known, but South Island waterways are infected.

Mr Silbery said whitebaiters and other fishermen who move freely from one district to another are more at risk of bringing didymo - a pest algae - to Wairarapa, especially if they have been fishing in the South Island.

The best means of avoiding contamination is to check gear, clean it after each use and make sure it is completely dry before fishing again.

www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/manukau-courier/2803419/Countdo...

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☰ Countdown to scallops | Stuff.co.nz

Thursday, 27 August 2009 5:06 PM

Countdown to scallops

Manukau Courier

Last updated 05:00 27/08/2009

Hold your horses on the scallops, Manukau people are being warned.

The Fisheries Ministry has called on recreational fishers not to jump the gun on scallop gathering on Manukau Harbour.

The season doesn't start until September 1 but fisheries officers have noticed some fishers getting in early, says district compliance manager Ian Bright.

"This may be the result of the Manukau season now being the same as for the rest of the Auckland area, other than Kaipara Harbour.

"We will look to work with fishers to remind them that the season hasn't started yet. However, we won't hesitate to prosecute persistent offenders."

People are asked to call 0800 4 POACHER if they see anything suspicious.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/27/2668158.htm?site=northwest

ABC North West Qld - Mulherin wants illegal fishing reported

Thursday, 27 August 2009 3:55 PM

Mulherin wants illegal fishing reported

By Ken Orr

Posted 9 hours and 27 minutes ago

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

Queensland Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin says penalties handed down in the Cairns Magistrates Court in far north Queensland this week should help deter the practice of 'shark finning'.

Two members of a Gulf of Carpentaria commercial fishing family had licences suspended and were fined after they were found in the Coleman River with 37 kilograms of shark fin.

Mr Mulherin says the practice is banned for good reasons.

"I was outraged to hear that commercial fishers deliberately flouted the rules - the rules are there to ensure that we have sustainability of the resource for both the recreation sector and the commercial sector," he said.

Mr Mulherin says any illegal activity should be reported.

"The rules are there to ensure that we have a sustainable fishery and we just won't tolerate this and if people have any evidence or information that could lead to a conviction of any illegal activity I would encourage people to contact the boating and fisheries patrol officers," he said.

www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2009/08/25/tassal-reaps-benefits-of-strong-d...

Tassal has reported a 47 per cent rise in profit as demand for Salmon in Australia continues to build. The ASX-listed Atlantic Salmon marketer saw volume

Tassal reaps benefits of strong demand for Salmon | Australian Food News

Thursday, 27 August 2009 3:01 PM

Tassal reaps benefits of strong demand for Salmon

- August 25, 2009
- James Ferre

Tassal has reported a 47 per cent rise in profit as demand for Salmon in Australia continues to build.

The ASX-listed Atlantic Salmon marketer saw volume growth of 31.66% in the domestic market, while profits were further boosted by cost reduction initiatives.

"It is extremely pleasing to deliver another solid profit outcome in such a difficult economic climate," Tassal Group's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mark Ryan, said. "We continue to experience strong sales momentum in the domestic market with sales revenue growth of around 30% despite the challenging economic environment."

"Salmon sales are proving resilient to the effects of the global financial crisis."

"We acknowledge the challenges ahead that the current economic environment has presented, but we remain excited by the opportunities that continue to present themselves," Mr Ryan concluded.



theaustralian.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?...WQT8AZL03

The Australian SmartEdition - The Australian - 24 Aug 2009 - Barra-metric

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:08 PM

pressure rises about NT proposal

- Article rank
- 24 Aug 2009
- The Australian
- Jared Owens

Barra-metric pressure rises about NT proposal

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BARRAMUNDI fishermen in the Northern Territory are at each others' throats over a government proposal to exclude trawlers from vast stretches of water.

Picture: Renee Nowytarger



Unhappy hookers: Fishing tour guide Geoff Corry, at Berry Springs, 40km south of Darwin, yesterday, says he has received death threats

The closures are designed to transfer the barramundi to recreational anglers.

Fishing tour guide Geoff Corry said he had received death threats from a commercial fisherman.

“ He said to me: ‘ I’m going to gut your children and hang them on the line’,” he told The Australian.

“ Then whenever he went past, he used to pretend to shoot us.”

The proposed closures would ban commercial fishing trawlers from fishing sections of Fog Bay and Port Patterson, in northeast Arnhem Land.

Mr Corry, who has been guiding for 27 years, says some trawlers are using unsustainable fishing practices in Fog Bay.

“ They throw out a kilometrelong net, and it comes back full of everything — jewfish, turtles, sawfish, dugongs. The waste is just massive,” he said.

“ And they just say: ‘ Oh, bad luck. That’s bycatch, and it dies. Tough.’ ”

NT Seafood Council chairman Rob Fish denied the commercial fishing sector was unsustainable.

“ The truth is the recreational sector wants this area for their exclusive access, and if commercial bycatch was reduced to zero tomorrow, they would still seek these and additional closures,” Mr Fish said.

“ If the recreational sector is increasing at the rate claimed, it is this sector that is posing a risk to the sustainability of the resource.”

The proposed closure is seven times larger than the government committed to at last year’s election, the Seafood Council said.

At the time, the government announced it would buy back three licences from commercial fishermen who preferred to exit the industry rather than compete for fewer fish.

Mr Fish said more trawler licensees would have considered selling out if they had known the extent of the closures.

“ Implementing the amendments as proposed would be irresponsible,” he said.


In response, Chris Makepeace, executive officer of the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the NT, said the closures were not enough to transfer Fog Bay’s barramundi to the recreational sector or to protect the area’s marine life.

“ The proposal won’t transfer the resources from the commercial to the recreational sector, but philosophically, the Seafood Council is opposed to any closures,” he said.

Mr Makepeace said the recreational fishing sector was worth about \$90 million a year, compared with the \$6m commercial sector.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/25/2666326.htm>

Fishing groups say they are highly concerned that the clean-up associated with an oil spill in the Timor Sea could be doing more harm than good.

 Fishers air oil spill clean-up fears - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:07 PM

Fishers air oil spill clean-up fears

Posted Tue Aug 25, 2009 1:45pm AEST
Updated Tue Aug 25, 2009 1:44pm AEST

- **Map:** [Broome 6725](#)

Fishing groups say they are highly concerned that the clean-up associated with an oil spill in the Timor Sea could be doing more harm than good.

The oil spill from the West Atlas rig now stretches over 30 kilometres.

Crews have sprayed the slick with dispersant chemicals in a bid to stop it spreading.

But Bob Masters from the Kimberley Professional Fishermen's Association says members are concerned the clean-up could be dangerous.

"There is a lot of concern out there," he said.

The group has consulted marine scientist Walter Starck.

He says the slick should have been left untreated, as the chemical dispersants could poison marine life in the area.

"You could do possibly considerable damage which wouldn't occur at all if you just left it on the surface," he said.

The association hopes to consult petroleum groups today.

www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/manukau-courier/2781187/Snapped...

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 Snapped for snapper raid | Stuff.co.nz

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:06 PM

Snapped for snapper raid

Manukau Courier
Last updated 05:00 25/08/2009
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Relevant offers

A Mangere man has had a second boat confiscated after he was caught with more than 10 times his daily legal limit of snapper.

Tony Do, 51, appeared in the Manukau District Court after being caught by fisheries officers at the Kawakawa Bay boat ramp in February.

Fisheries officers found 85 snapper under the floorboards of his boat, bringing his catch to 94 snapper. The daily limit per person is nine.

It was the third time Mr Do had been caught with excess snapper. In September 2000 he was caught with 244 snapper and his boat was confiscated.

In November last year he was caught with 16 snapper – seven over the legal limit – and was fined.

For his latest offence Do has been fined \$3000 and had his boat, motor, trailer and fishing gear confiscated.

Fisheries Ministry district compliance manager Greg Keys says snapper are a finite resource.

"We have strict bag and size limits to try to ensure there will be plenty of fish for us all, now and in the future.


"It is very disappointing to see a man who has been caught twice previously – and already lost one boat – being caught again.

"This man is effectively stealing these snapper from the community."

Mr Keys urges anyone who knows of fish or shellfish been illegally caught, sold or traded to call the free, confidential 0800 4 POACHER number (0800-476-224).

"It's important we all work together to catch these poachers and protect the snapper fishery."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/25/2666060.htm?site=idx-nt>

 ABC Local - Oil clean-up 'more harm than good'

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:06 PM

Related Media

Oil clean-up 'more harm than good'

Posted August 25, 2009 11:32:00

Fishing groups say they are highly concerned that the clean-up associated with an oil spill in the Timor Sea could be doing more harm than good.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is using dispersant to clean-up the slick, which now stretches more than 30 kilometres from the West Atlas drilling site.

But Bob Masters from the Kimberley Professional Fishermen's Association says members are concerned the clean-up could be dangerous.

"There is a lot of concern out there," he said.

The group has consulted with marine scientist Walter Starck about the impact of the spill.

Mr Starck says the slick should have been left untreated.

"It's probably the worst thing that you could possibly do to an oil slick like that that's offshore because when you mix it with the water column it then poisons the marine life," he said.

"...There's been a number of studies done in different places in recent years that have found that the major damage done in oil spill clean-up activities has been done by the use of dispersants."

The association hopes to consult petroleum groups today.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2666232.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

SA fishing industry claims hobby anglers over-fishing - 25/08/2009

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:05 PM

SA fishing industry claims hobby anglers over-fishing

Tuesday, 25/08/2009

South Australian commercial fisherman claim recreational fishers are to blame for an increase in costs within the commercial fishing industry.

Commercial fishers believe they have to travel up to three times further and take much longer to catch their fish, because some recreational fishers have been over-fishing.

During recent night patrols on Yorke Peninsula, more than 40 recreational fishers were reported for offences related to the taking of King George whiting, with many taking over the legal limit.

PIRSA Fisheries regional manager Paul Faithow says it's frustrating when people do the wrong thing. He says some people have been fined up to 1200 dollars each.

"It really isn't worthwhile. It's cheaper to go and buy your fish."

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25979955-12377,00.html

A FISHING skipper has successfully landed \$750,000 in damages from his former employer after his left hand was mangled in a boating accident.

Fishing skipper wins \$750,000 damages | The Australian

Thursday, 27 August 2009 2:05 PM

Fishing skipper wins \$750,000 damages

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August 25, 2009

Article from: [Australian Associated Press](#)

A FISHING skipper has successfully landed \$750,000 in damages from his former employer after his left hand was mangled in a boating accident.

Glenn Ronald Hunter, 49, successfully sought damages from New Fishing Australia Pty Ltd after his less dominant left hand was crushed between a winch and a rope in a boating accident in October 2001.

In a Townsville Supreme Court judgment handed down by Justice Keiran Cullinane today, he awarded Mr Hunter \$751,668.05 in damages for loss of income in past employment, future employment, pain killers, surgery costs and financial assistance for "mowing a lawn".

The court heard Mr Hunter left school at age 16 in Western Australia to become a prawn fisherman and spent until March 2005 in the fishing industry.

Despite no qualifications in any other area, he was earning a gross annual income of about \$140,000.

In his judgment, Justice Cullinane said Mr Hunter's accident occurred in the Gulf of Carpentaria in Northern Territory waters when he was holding a rope on a winch which was held there by a cleat.

"The winch was stopped but began to move and as it rotated the plaintiff's left hand became crushed between the winch and the rope," he said.

"Each finger of the hand was caught in the rope, with the main injury being sustained to the left index finger."

The court heard the injury required Mr Hunter to have his left index finger amputated, whilst other fingers required surgery.

"The plaintiff returned to work for the defendant in early 2002 and found considerable difficulty in performing the necessary tasks because of the constant pain he was suffering," Justice Cullinane said.

"The hard physical labour required of a skipper during the season was, he found, not something he was able to cope with."

The court suggested easier occupations Mr Hunter may be able to take up until he was 67 years old, such as a car park attendant or storeman, and used the average wage of those jobs to calculate the loss of damages amount.

However Justice Cullinane said he doubted that a man of Mr Hunter's "enterprise" would ever be satisfied in such roles.

"Overall he has lost the capacity to engage in the only work that he has for all intents and purposes ever engaged in," he said.

"The fact is he is now 49 years old and has no other qualifications. He must be regarded as having a substantial destruction of his earning capacity."


<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,25979807-949,00.html>

- Recreational, commercial fishermen at odds
- Talk of death threats, attacks
- [Travel: The best of Australia](#)

☰ Death threats fly over fishing in Northern Territory | PerthNow

Thursday, 27 August 2009 1:41 PM

Death threats fly over fishing in Northern Territory

Article from:  NEWS

By Nigel Adlam

August 25, 2009 01:09pm



Threats ... Geoff Corry says the recreational and commercial fishing conflict is getting nasty. Picture: Stuart Walmsley

- **Recreational, commercial fishermen at odds**
- **Talk of death threats, attacks**
- **[Travel: The best of Australia](#)**

RECREATIONAL and commercial fishermen are accusing each other of using death threats and intimidation tactics in a row over fishing rights in the Northern Territory.

One tour guide said his children's lives had been threatened after he photographed rare sawfish caught in professional gill nets.

And commercial barra fishermen said they had been forced to call police to protect them from recreational anglers.

The long-standing antagonism between the two factions has got nasty because Fisheries Minister Kon Vatskalis is about to make a decision on whether to close stretches of the Finniss River and Bynoe Harbour to professionals, [the Northern Territory News reports](#).

Darwin-based fishing guide Geoff Corry, 48, said that he and a friend had received telephone calls at home after photographing commercial operations.

"I was told that my kids would be gutted and hung on a line," he said.

He said professional fishermen had also pretended to shoot him as they motored past.

"That's not good for tourism," he said. "My clients ask, 'What on earth was that all about?'"

But Seafood Council head Rob Fish dismissed the allegations as "nonsense".

"It's the other way round," he said. "Commercial fishermen have often spent the whole night with sinkers being hurled at them."

He said professional fishermen had at times been forced to call police.

news.ninemsn.com.au/national/853802/shark-throws-boat-keys-overboard
ninemsn news

☰ Shark throws boat keys overboard

Thursday, 27 August 2009 1:39 PM

Shark throws boat keys overboard

06:00 AEST Tue Aug 25 2009
2 days 7 hours 39 minutes ago
By ninemsn staff

Two teenagers on the NSW Central Coast were stranded at the weekend when a shark they had caught threw the keys of their boat overboard.

The Daily Telegraph reports that the pair were fishing on Sunday 2km off Killcare when they landed the 1.2m gummy shark.

The shark began thrashing around in the 4.2m runabout and apparently became entangled with the cord hanging from the boat keys.

The two youths, aged 17 and 18, jumped on the shark but failed to subdue it immediately.

When they finally had the fish under control, they could not find the boat keys anywhere and were stranded.

The were pair were rescued after four hours when a passing vessel saw their emergency flare.

www.thedaily.com.au/news/2009/aug/25/infamous-fraudster-walks-free/
A self-confessed

☰ Infamous fraudster walks free | General | Coast news | thedaily.com.au

Thursday, 27 August 2009 1:39 PM

Infamous fraudster walks free

9:02a.m. 25th August 2009

| By [Rae Wilson](#)



Ocean, formerly known as David Robin Douglas, walks free from court. Photo: Nicholas Falconer/184618

A self-confessed "fraudster" who is now infamous in sailing circles was jailed for five years yesterday for frauds totalling more than \$100,000.

But Ocean, formerly David Robin Douglas, was released on a suspended sentence because he had already served 431 days as well as two years of a three-year jail term for subsequent offences.

Ocean sparked a massive air and sea search when he faked his own disappearance on the day of his Maroochydore trial in June, 2005, for selling a \$25,000 fishing licence owned by someone else.

He told a Maryborough slip owner that his name was Doc Muir and he would bring a trawler in for repair. He never arrived and a sea-hunt ensued in rough seas.

The search ceased when Sunshine Coast police were alerted and recognised the name as an alias.

A month later Ocean missed a committal hearing for selling a yacht that never existed to a Kawana pawnbroker for \$22,507.

Ocean pleaded guilty in Maroochydore District Court yesterday to selling the fishing licence, valued at \$68,000, in 2003, selling the non-existent boat and absconding with \$70,410 from investors when his canoe manufacture business went downhill.

Crown prosecutor Alex Stark said Ocean had an extensive criminal history, including dishonesty offences.

Mr Stark said Ocean had faced fraud charges in Rockhampton and stealing charges in Cairns in the 1990s. The latter involved a yacht worth \$40,000.

Mr Stark said Ocean tried to buy Hooters in Gladstone using gold bullion bars that were actually painted bronze bars, and presented fraudulent cheques at Hervey Bay Yacht Club.

He said a jail term in NSW in 2003 also involved the theft of a yacht and Ocean had committed similar crime in South Australia, where he was jailed for three years with a two-year non-parole period.

Mr Stark said Ocean had completed improvements on the \$50,000 luxury yacht Minuet, asked to take it for a test sail and then sailed off towards NSW after painting over the name but was "caught red-handed".

"The SA offences of dishonesty were committed while he was at large for all the present offences," Mr Stark said.

"He was brought back to Queensland... after being extradited from SA."

Barrister Eoin Mac GiollaRi said he believed his client would have got eight years if the SA and Queensland offences were together.

Based on that calculation, his client had already served about 40% of the sentence.

Judge Julie Dick said she could discount Ocean's sentence to some extent because three trials for the all the offences would have cost tens of thousands of dollars.

"You have a background in boat building and that may help explain the fascination," she said.


"You described yourself as a fraudster. I don't think there's any doubt about that, I don't think there's any other way to describe you."

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www.westcoastsentinel.com.au/news/local/news/general/jetty-rail-que...

Transport, Energy and Infrastructure Minister, Patrick Conlan, has been asked to reconsider removal of the hand-trolleys and trolley rails from Streaky Bay jetty.

 Jetty rail query to Minister - Local News - News - General - West Coast Sentinel | Thursday, 27 August 2009 11:47 AM

Jetty rail query to Minister

MAL GILL
27/08/2009 4:00:00 AM



OFF TRACK: Marks on Streaky Bay jetty show where trolley rails have been removed.

Flinders MP, Liz Penfold, wrote to Mr Conlan last week conveying the concerns of a local rock lobster fisherman about the potential conflict between vehicles unloading fishing boats and pedestrians on the jetty which is currently being refurbished.

A short section of the rails leading onto the jetty has already been removed.

"The trolleys are manually pushed along the rails on the jetty giving him (rock lobster fisherman) and recreational fishers for example, ample time to get out of each other's way," Mrs Penfold wrote.

"He is very concerned that the Streaky Bay jetty is not wide enough to allow the safe movement of both vehicles and fellow jetty users."

Mrs Penfold pointed out the summer influx of tourists who used the jetty and that it had a swimming enclosure attached to it.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/26/2666936.htm?section=australia

Environment Minister Peter Garrett will today meet conservation groups to discuss the Commonwealth's review of marine protection zones.

 Garrett, green groups to discuss marine review - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) | Thursday, 27 August 2009 11:46 AM

Garrett, green groups to discuss marine review

Posted Wed Aug 26, 2009 8:22am AEST
Updated Wed Aug 26, 2009 8:21am AEST

- [Map: Geraldton 6530](#)

Environment Minister Peter Garrett will today meet conservation groups to discuss the Commonwealth's review of marine protection zones.

The Government is currently considering creating marine sanctuaries in the south-west region, from Geraldton to Kangaroo Island.

It has also made a commitment to assess the need for greater protection along the entire Australian coastline by 2012.

A new poll has found that more than 60 per cent of Australians want greater marine protection on the south-west coastline.

Up to 90 per cent of the marine life here is found nowhere else in the world, yet less than 1 per cent of the region is protected.

The survey of 4,000 people found nearly two-thirds want at least half the area to be given greater protection.

Michelle Grady, from the Pew Environment Group who commissioned the poll, says people are concerned that so little of the ocean is protected from major activities.

"It's very, very important that we take this opportunity to protect them," she said.

Ms Grady says large marine parks must be established if key ocean species are to survive.


"The Australian people want to see far higher levels of marine protection than currently exists in Australian waters," she said.

"Less than 1 per cent of this area is protected and with the oil spill this week, it's clear there are significant risks out there in the marine environment and the insurance we need to put in place is large marine sanctuaries."

Tags: [environment](#), [conservation](#), [government](#)

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/26/2667150.htm?section=business

The Northern Territory Seafood Council is calling on the Federal Government to set up more independent monitoring of the oil and gas industry.

 Fishos concerned about oil spill impact - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Thursday, 27 August 2009 11:38 AM

Fishos concerned about oil spill impact

By Jane Bardon

Posted Wed Aug 26, 2009 10:49am AEST

- **Map:** [Darwin 0800](#)

The Northern Territory Seafood Council is calling on the Federal Government to set up more independent monitoring of the oil and gas industry.

It says it is very worried about the impact an oil slick coming from the West Atlas offshore drilling unit will have on the current and long-term health of fish stocks.

It is also worried the public will stop buying Territory fish in reaction to worries about the quality of fish from the area.

The council's chairman, Rob Fish, says there are several Territory fishing operations which will be affected.

"We've got a range of fishermen who are Darwin-based who operate in that area, ranging from mackerel fishermen.

"We have some trawlers that operate in that area.

"And there's quite a large prawn fishery with Darwin interests which also operates there.

"They are not all operating now, but it's that longer term impact that people would be concerned about."

The council says normal drilling operations are causing problems, including seismic activity moving fish stocks out of traditional fishing areas.

Mr Fish says he is very concerned about plans for more oil and gas industry developments offshore from

the Territory.

"When oil companies put in projects, they self-assess themselves under an environmental plan.

"That's very difficult and it's not independently looked at.

"We like to see the social impacts.

"Can we catch our fish straight away afterwards?

"What are the impacts on fisherman and the fishing industry, independently looked [at], as opposed to done by the company involved?"

<http://www.cnbc.com/global-affairs/in-deep-water/1022/>

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☰ CNBC European Business | In Deep Water

Thursday, 27 August 2009 11:38 AM



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August 2009

global affairs

In Deep Water

The EU's Common Fisheries Policy lies in tatters, as fears grow that fish stocks are reaching crisis point. Could a controversial system of fishery management be the saviour of an industry all at sea? Trevor Huggins reports

Hordes of jellyfish are floating aimlessly in a clear, sunlit sea and there is not a single fish in sight. The underwater camera shows a Mediterranean that has been transformed into a saltwater void, a damning indictment of greed and bureaucratic incompetence. This is not science fiction, but a haunting image from *The End of the Line*, a campaigning documentary about the plight of the world's crumbling fish stocks and an industry in crisis. Fishing, particularly in Europe, is in deep trouble.

In a humbling admission of the failure of its Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), a Green Paper from the European Commission said in April that a staggering 88% of the continent's stocks were over-fished and that 30% were in danger of collapse. In the North Sea, 93% of all cod are being fished before they can breed. Meanwhile, breeding stocks of bluefin tuna, a predator of the jellyfish and a prime source for Japanese sushi, will collapse within three years without drastic action, according to the WWF. Faced with the crisis, the Commission is looking for answers and environmental groups are demanding action. A possible solution, though controversial, is beginning to emerge: Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ).

Already well-established in countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Iceland, an ITQ entitles a fisherman to catch a given annual quota, typically from a fishing ground within his country's 200-nautical-mile limit, though it could extend into vast areas of open sea for migratory species. For shrimps, an ITQ might cover a few square miles, for fish it could be 100,000 square miles or more. The right is usually given indefinitely, or for a long period of time, while the 'T' in ITQ means he can sell all or part of his quota,

either to retire or simply get out of the industry. The system has immediate implications; the main one being that the fisherman now has an asset whose market value is closely tied to the state of the fish stocks that swim beneath his boat. Suddenly, the poacher becomes gamekeeper. Armed with an ITQ, he now has a vested interest in laying nets that only catch mature fish, thereby allowing the stock to recover, and using his time, money and equipment more efficiently. Since ITQs are sold to fellow fishermen, the number of boats tends to reduce while the profits of those left tend to rise. It's a sharp contrast with the blunt instrument of limiting fishing to certain times of the year and pitching boats against each other in an often dangerous race against the clock.

Fridrik Arngrimsson, chief executive of the Federation of Icelandic Fishing Vessel Owners and an ITQ advocate, has seen both approaches at work. "ITQs have really made a difference compared to 20 or 30 years ago," he says. "I was a fisherman when I was studying at university and it was just a race to get as much as possible in as short a time as possible. It was a waste of money and energy. Now the thinking has completely changed. Although quantity is important, we are focusing more on the quality and value of what is caught. And now the interest of the vessel owners and the management of fish stocks go hand in hand. If you have a secured right you are willing to reduce the fishing effort to build up the stock because you will benefit from it when it recovers. We have seen that in many cases in Icelandic fisheries."

Ad-hoc evidence that stocks recover has been around for some time. What helped get the ITQ bandwagon rolling was a detailed study co-authored in September 2008 by Professor Chris Costello of the University of California, Santa Barbara, which proved that stock collapse can be prevented by ITQs. Separate research by other scientists showed that stocks then recover and the bandwagon has gained further momentum thanks to EU Fisheries Commissioner Joe Borg, who wants to reform the CFP. Having launched a period of consultation until December, Borg cannot appear to pre-judge its outcome. However, reading between the lines of his speech to the German Bundestag two months after launching the Green Paper is not a taxing exercise. "An effective management system building on individual rights relies on giving fishermen a right to fish which is secure enough to enable them to optimise the use of their vessels and maximise their income," he said. "[By making] these rights transferable, we could facilitate the long-term adjustment of the fleet and promote an economically self-reliant fishing fleet." Removing any lingering doubt, he later added: "A number of Member States – Spain, Portugal, Estonia, the UK, Netherlands and Denmark – have ITQs in place for parts or all of their fleets."

Professor Ragnar Arnason of the University of Iceland, a leading expert on fisheries management systems, is even more categorical: "The virtually uniform success of ITQs in a wide range of fisheries all over the world shows there can no longer be any reasonable doubt about its economic efficiency."

Better still for its supporters, business and politics are not the only forces behind the ITQ cause. Environmental groups also see the benefits of a system that could prevent the oceans from emptying. Aaron McLoughlin, head of the WWF's European Marine Programme, says: "We're very sympathetic towards ITQs and we'd support them. Europe still has too many boats chasing too few fish... and this is a very effective way of getting the capacity of the fleet down to the right size." However, his support comes with a caveat. "You could still have the right nominal size [of fleet] but if they weren't doing the right thing you'd still have the stocks being fished out. You still need fishing nets which don't catch juvenile cod and of course we wouldn't support the destruction of coral forests undersea, which is still happening."

Yet if ITQs are seen by many as the way ahead, they are also bitterly opposed by a section of public and political opinion for being a privatisation of the sea. Opponents also fear the effects on communities if ITQs are sold to boats from other, possibly far-flung ports and there has been anger too at so-called "armchair fishermen", who lease out part or all of their quota in return for a share of the profits. Scotland's fisheries secretary, Richard Lochhead, launched a frontal attack on the system as he unveiled a quota management review last year. "The measures I am outlining today will safeguard one of our national assets – our fish quota," he said. "They will also mean that any prospect of ITQs being introduced is dead in the water. ITQs are effectively the privatisation of fishing rights, which we do not support."

Though such attacks clearly carry some weight, there are good reasons to think they will not carry the day. Costello is one of many experts who rolls with the punches. "Privatisation is a real issue that needs to be discussed and confronted," he says "But there are different degrees to which you privatise... you can have caps on consolidations, so you don't have any one entity owning lots of rights, and sunset clauses where every 10-20 years there's a review of stewardship. The bottom line is the evidence and that certainly suggests that the more control the public sector has – and does not give rights or exclusivity to fishermen – the worse the thing performs." He believes half of the world's fish could be landed via some form of rights-based system within 10–15 years and that the key is choosing the right format. It's a view shared by Arnason, who believes that for the more artisanal fisheries, with low technology, low individual catch rates and primitive landing facilities, the cost of enforcing ITQs is simply too great. For these fisheries, possibly up to half of the global total in terms of value, a form of community rights would be more appropriate.

In fact, the success or failure of any rights-based system in saving the world's fish stocks could come down to the policing and paperwork. Mike Park, a boat owner and chairman of the Scottish White Fish Producers Association, recalls a quota-busting practice known as 'black' fish landings, once rife in Scottish waters: "If

you were better than your neighbour and caught more than him, you were faced with a dilemma – either you discard it or you land it illegally. Most fishermen chose the latter, which meant that during the 1990s and early 2000s anarchy prevailed." The introduction of a Register of Buyers and Sellers, which forced fisherman and customer to fully document the catch, stopped the illegality "almost overnight." Satellite tracking has also proved another effective way of making sure that boats stick to their areas, while fishermen's knowledge of what each other is up to also has a big part to play in keeping everyone on side. "There's a degree of peer pressure involved," says Park. "We now have vessels reporting on other vessels who they think are using illegals gears, for example." That said, the problem of policing the high seas beyond national 200-mile limits has yet to be solved.

As the world's fish stocks continue to dwindle, there is no doubt that action is needed and the time for simply wringing hands is over. Costello, like many experts, believe that while they cannot solve the problem alone, ITQs have a key role to play. "I think the biggest mistake would be to pretend that everything's fine and to not do anything," he said. "We're heading downhill and we're going to keep heading in that direction if we do nothing. The second biggest mistake would be to blindly apply only the ITQ tool and to say 'Gee, they worked in New Zealand, let's just replicate them everywhere... but I do think that rights-based reforms of many, or all fisheries around the world would dramatically improve their performance." Clearly, most fishermen, politicians and scientists would welcome that; the challenge, though, is to make it happen.

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/illegal-fishing...

ILLEGAL fishing is still a major problem in fisheries around the world according to Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Association chief executive Brian Jeffriess. Mr Jeffriess said a report i

Illegal fishing a major problem - Local News - News - General - Port Lincoln Times

Thursday, 27 August 2009 11:29 AM

Illegal fishing a major problem

SOPHIE WANDEL

24/08/2009 11:30:00 PM

ILLEGAL fishing is still a major problem in fisheries around the world according to Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Association chief executive Brian Jeffriess.

Mr Jeffriess said a report in 2006 concluded that the illegal catch of southern bluefin tuna in the previous 15 years had been almost the same as the legal catch.

For atlantic bluefin tuna, a report in 2007 found that the illegal catch had increased the total catch by about 40 per cent.

He said these two reports were important because for the first time they identified the actual catch and who was taking the illegal catch.

However in the last three years, the illegal catch has been reduced through a series of measures.

These measures include better cooperation between Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

"For example, each RFMO has a black list of boats illegally catching and a white list of boats allowed to catch," Mr Jeffriess said.

There has also been a much stronger document trail to confirm fish is legally caught.

Mr Jeffriess said for example, from 2010, every southern bluefin tuna will have to have an individual tag with its own special number so it could be traced back.

Also in both the United States and European Union there will be full history documents for all fish sold.

"The US publicly names countries which are owners of boats catching illegally," he said.

Thirdly, governments are spending more on international enforcement.

"Australia, South Africa and France have done a very good job reducing illegal catches in the Antarctic fisheries."

Meanwhile, Mr Jeffriess said the tuna harvest this year had gone very smoothly with a higher percentage of the catch going fresh by air freight than in recent years.

He also said the quality had been very good this year, partly due to the southern bluefin tuna being of a higher quality when they were first captured in the Great Australian Bight in December to March.

He said the stock was now recovering so fast that fishers were able to be very selective about which fish

they take.

The tuna harvest will continue until November.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2666198.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Bad weather holds back Tassie lobster catch - 25/08/2009

Thursday, 27 August 2009 10:56 AM

Bad weather holds back Tassie lobster catch

Tuesday, 25/08/2009

Tasmanian lobster fisherman are bemoaning the rough weather they've had lately.

They've spent only a third of the usual time out on their boats this winter.

Smithton fisherman Ian Heathorn says his catch is down 20 per cent, and he's hoping for a fine summer to make up for the loss.

But there's one good thing - he says the drop's come at the same time as a drop in demand.

"For some lucky reason, or unlucky, I don't know which you'd call it, China, which is our big live supplier has a calendar called a lunar calendar," he says.

"And this year, one in every four years, the lunar calendar has a double month where there are no celebrations.

"So ironically we haven't caught any fish either."

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

Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



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