



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

These are provided in PDF versions which may restrict some links. If you would like greater functionality then HTML and MHT files are available on request. All previous copies of Fishing, Abalone and Aquaculture Stories can be located at www.searead.net.
[Fishing Stories](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/12/2684014.htm>

Tasmania's Health Department has issued another warning about mercury levels in fish in the River Derwent.

Heavy metal warning for Derwent fish - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:54 PM

Heavy metal warning for Derwent fish

Posted Sat Sep 12, 2009 11:20am AEST

- [Map: Hobart 7000](#)

Tasmania's Health Department has issued another warning about mercury levels in fish in the River Derwent.

A new survey later this month will test mercury levels in a range of fish, to build on information from a pilot study two years ago which found elevated levels in trout.

People have been warned not to eat any shellfish or bream, while consumption of flathead and other species should be limited.

The Acting Director of Public Health, Chrissie Pickin, says certain groups should be especially careful.

"Potentially the problem with mercury and other heavy metals is that it can accumulate in the body," said Dr Pickin.

"So eating small amounts regularly won't do any harm, but for certain groups that accumulation - particularly in children and in unborn babies - is something we want to avoid."

The Program's Director, Christine Coughanowr, says with increased recreational fishing over summer, the reminder is timely.

"The Derwent's increasingly being targeted as a recreational fishing area, particularly for flathead, bream and trout, and this is good news, it reflects a lot of investment that's gone into sewage treatment and industrial treatment of wastes over the last five to 10 years," she said.

"But we still have a legacy of heavy metals contamination, particularly in our sediments."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/2856917/Maori-fish-reserve-a-threat>

Latest New Zealand news on politics, crime, health, farming and obituaries. Visit [Stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)

Maori fish reserve 'a threat' - national | [Stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:53 PM

Maori fish reserve 'a threat'

Crayfishing industry considers objecting

By MARTY SHARPE - The Dominion Post

Last updated 05:00 12/09/2009

[Share](#)

[Print](#)

[Text Size](#)

Relevant offers

A proposed customary fishing area in Hawke's Bay will threaten the livelihood of crews on up to nine fishing boats, an industry head says.

Daryl Sykes, spokesman for the local crayfishing association, says the industry is assessing the likely impacts of a proposed mataitai covering two areas comprising 12.5 square kilometres about 30 kilometres east of Waipukurau.

Local hapu groups Nga Ruamoko Inc, Ngai Oatua, Ngai Tamatera and Ngati Hikatoa have applied for two areas of reserve.

One covers 11 square kilometres between the high tide mark and 1km out to sea between Huarau and Mangakuri Beach. The other area covers 1.5 square kilometres around Paoanui Pt.

Hapu spokesman Libya Walker said they had made the application because stock numbers were dwindling.

"The purpose behind the mataitai is preservation and sustainability," he said.

"The community is saying crayfish are much harder to catch and we as Maori have a mechanism we can use to preserve and increase numbers.

"Everyone benefits at the end of the day. If the numbers increase, the commercial guys benefit, and everyone else is able to get a feed."

An application by hapu in 2005 for a 31sq km reserve was withdrawn after the Fisheries Ministry said it was too large and could prevent commercial fishermen from taking their entitlement.

There are 10 mataitai. If approved, this one would be the fifth largest. The ministry has asked for submissions on the proposal from residents and anyone with a fishing interest in the areas. These must be in by October 9.

Ministry spokesman Randall Bess could not say when the reserve would come into being, if approved. The crews of nine commercial fishing boats at the coastal settlement of Pourerere, 30km east of Waipukurau, would be affected if the proposal went ahead.

Mr Sykes said the Rock Lobster Industry Association would assess the impact of the proposal on fishermen in the next few weeks.

"If the current revised proposal prevents fishermen from taking their catches in future seasons then we will lodge objections ...

"If effort and catch is displaced from Kairakau then it has to relocate elsewhere ... thereby increasing the demands on the remaining fishing grounds and increasing competition for the available catch."

Mr Sykes said the latest mataitai application surprised the industry and he questioned why applicants did not talk directly with fishermen about their concerns. The ministry process had pitted the parties against each other.

A MATTER OF CUSTOM

* There are 10 mataitai reserves in New Zealand ranging in size from 0.3 square kilometres to 77sq km.

* A further 37 have been applied for, including the one in southern Hawke's Bay.

Ad Feedback

- * Mataitai are created to recognise and provide for customary food gathering by Maori within identified traditional fishing areas.
- * Commercial fishing is prohibited in these reserves, but recreational fishing is allowed.
- * Reserves cannot be created if they prevent commercial fishermen taking their entitlement.
- * Tangata whenua of a mataitai can authorise the taking of seafood for customary purposes outside normal recreational limits.

<http://www.bymnews.com/news/newsDetails.php?id=60342>

 BYM Marine & Maritime News

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:51 PM

Australia: Fisheries Minister slashes unit costs for commercial rock lobster industry

Friday, 11 September 2009

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has announced the reduction of an access fee for the commercial rock lobster sector for the 2009-10 season.

The State's rock lobster industry is subject to significant management controls - including a requirement to halve the long-term average catch - to protect the sustainability of the fishery.

Mr Moore said the reduced fee would help rock lobster fishers with their cost controls.

"I have reduced the access fee to \$112 per unit, a reduction of about 24 per cent," he said.

"This should go some way to lowering operating costs of rock lobster fishers as they go through this tough time of lower than normal catches.

"The reduction of these fees was negotiated by the Western Rock Lobster Council on behalf of their members as part of the overall strategy to help manage this industry and ensure the sustainability of this important fishery."

The Minister said he would announce the coming season's management arrangements and target catch level as soon as possible, after further discussions with the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC).

"I will consult with RLIAC - which has three new members with considerable experience in the lobster fishery - on the best way forward in matters affecting Western Australia's rock lobster industry," he said.

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/rocklobster-ang...

LOCAL rocklobster fishermen are devastated by the severe slashing of their quota this week following the worst season in history and said numerous jobs would be lost.

 Rocklobster anger - Local News - News - General - Port Lincoln Times

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:45 PM

Rocklobster anger

SOPHIE WANDEL
10/09/2009 8:48:00 AM

LOCAL rocklobster fishermen are devastated by the severe slashing of their quota this week following the worst season in history and said numerous jobs would be lost.

Earlier this week the State Government slashed the northern zone rocklobster quota from 470 tonnes to

310 tonnes for the coming fishing season.

Figures revealed the northern zone fishermen caught only 402 tonnes during the last fishing season which closed on May 31 this year.

Minister for Fisheries Paul Caica put the cut in quota down to overfishing and said the zone would see a further reduction to 250 tonnes the following year but his reasoning is being highly disputed by local rocklobster fishermen.

President of the Northern Zone Rocklobster Fisherman's Association Steve Moriarty said while it was easy to blame the fishermen, it was science that had failed them.

"PIRSA supplies the science and we've got it wrong.

"This is a quota fishery and has been since the early 2000s, fishermen are not allowed to over exploit the ocean.

"The fishery is managed in partnership with PIRSA and industry managers and the science comes from SARDI, a branch of PIRSA.

"Fishermen have always been proactive and we elected to go quota to protect our fishery years ago.

"It is an easy out for the government to say this is from overfishing when in fact the science has failed us across the whole of southern Australia."

Mr Moriarty said a quota drop of this magnitude would have an immediate financial effect on the region.

"This is an overcautious reaction from the minister and one that will be devastating for the industry.

"Fishermen will have to think about amalgamating licences or reassess the whole way they fish... they will actively lose parts of their saleable business."

He said it wouldn't just affect the fishermen, but the processors, small business and the wider community.

Rocklobster fisherman, processor and member of the northern zone association Trent Gregory said the repercussions on the industry would be overwhelming.

"Families have bills to pay and there is no doubt that this decision will send some fishermen to the wall.

"Everyone is absolutely furious... I wouldn't be surprised if a couple of processors close and that means another 20 or 30 jobs."

Mr Gregory said the association would start negotiating with the minister next week for some sort of compensation and compared the scenario to drought relief.

"We want the government to recognise what they have done and to compensate somehow."

Mr Moriarty said this could mean licence buy backs or a cut in the amount that fishermen pay per licence.

"Fishermen pay on average \$20,000 per licence and we would like to see this amount drop... we were still paying that in the good times."

Both men said they were confident the good times would return and the industry would recover in years ahead.

"We believe this is a natural cycle and common to all fisheries," Mr Moriarty said.

He said all cray fisheries including Western Australia, Tasmania and the South East of South Australia were all in the same predicament of lower stock.

Mr Gregory said he had spoken to abalone divers who had seen a lot of young crays on the bottom.

"Our season goes for 210 days and last season we averaged 155 days, so deep down we were already leaving quota in the water."

Mr Moriarty said the next step for the fishery was to direct an independent review of the science used to determine the quota and also to improve the fishery's management plan which is due for review this financial year.

Minister Caica said he knew the quota reduction was significant but his priority was the sustainability of the fishery.

He said it was important to him to work collaboratively with industry representatives to ensure the future of the fishery.

There are 68 rocklobster licences in the northern zone and the fishing season re-opens on November 1.

www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/2851461/Scallop-fleet-warn...

Local News - The Marlborough Express

Scallop fleet warned off Sound | Stuff.co.nz

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:38 PM

Scallop fleet warned off Sound

By BLAIR ENSOR - The Marlborough Express

Last updated 13:00 10/09/2009

[Share](#)

[Print](#)

[Text Size](#)

Relevant offers

The commercial scallop fishing season has begun, with scallops in "excellent condition" in the Pelorus Sound and Golden Bay, but it might hit a snag if the fleet enters Queen Charlotte Sound.

Environmental group Guardians of the Sounds is again warning it will protest, with a flotilla of "100 boats", against any commercial scallop fishing in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company has a voluntary agreement to fish two areas in Queen Charlotte Sound, Ship Cove and Diffenbach, and the company's chairman Buzz Falconer said a biomass survey had shown good numbers of scallops near Ship Cove. Diffenbach had not yet been surveyed.

He said some boats probably would go into Ship Cove, but the more lucrative areas in Golden Bay and Pelorus Sound would be targeted first.

The commercial season began yesterday, and Mr Falconer said he had hopes of a good season.

"We are talking about 60 to 70 scallops to the kilogram rather than 70 to 80 scallops to the kg in past seasons," Mr Falconer said.

"They're good-quality scallops for the export market."

He said Guards Bay and Forsyth Bay, both in Pelorus Sound, were looking promising.

Challenger Scallop Enhancement is a co-operative of scallop quota owners in the Marlborough Sounds, Tasman Bay and Golden Bay and shares responsibility with the Ministry of Fisheries for managing the commercial scallop fishery in the top of the south.

This year, Tasman Bay remained closed for the sixth straight season because scallop numbers were scarce. As a result, the company had budgeted on 120 tonnes of scallop meat this season, much lower than the 500 tonnes of scallop meat caught eight years ago. Twenty-four commercial vessels would fish for scallops this season, compared with 256 vessels in the 1970s, "when it was open slather", he said.

Guardians of the Sounds spokesman Peter Beech said if the fleet "show their faces", protest action would be activated.

"We have already prepared for a protest flotilla. We could have anything up to 100 boats."

"A lot of people are very angry that the commercial scalloping fleet comes here and wrecks the place. They see this as a recreational playground."

Mr Beech said dredging had a negative affect on the tourism industry in the area, "Ships Cove is probably the most iconic tourism area in New Zealand," he said.

"For people to have to weave their way through a fleet is not a good look," he said.

Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association president Lloyd Hanson said members had negotiated a voluntary agreement with Challenger for the commercial operators to fish two areas mentioned above, which left about 91 per cent of the sound available for recreational fishermen.

Commercial operators had also agreed not to dredge about 300 metres from shore to save the good cod habitat there, he said. However, he would like to see Queen Charlotte Sound become a recreational fishing area with its own set of rules and regulations. That would mean prohibiting commercial netting and scalloping.

Ad Feedback

"Those big dredges ... smashed the bottom up," damaging the habitat of the blue cod, Mr Hanson said.

Mr Hanson said small recreational dredges, by their design, did not damage the bottom to the the same extent.

Earlier this year, at the Marlborough Sounds' Fishery Forum 2009, Glen Carbine, formerly of Niwa and now a fisheries scientist with Stock Monitoring Services Ltd, showed the results of a study on the impacts of commercial dredging on blue cod in Foveaux Strait. Dr Carbine compared cod in a dredged area with those in an area that was no longer being dredged.

He said results showed significantly higher cod density and faster-growing juveniles in recovering areas. Potting in the recovering areas also yielded up to five times more cod than current dredging areas.

The more biologically complex habitat of the recovering areas had quantities of benthic (bottom-dwelling) fish that were 32 times higher than in the dredged areas, he said.

"I'm not going to get into a discussion about that [dredging's impact on blue-cod numbers]," Mr Falconer said, but "it's simple to say that the scallops don't live among rocks."

The scallop season officially closes on February 14, but Mr Falconer expected the commercial fleet to have left the Marlborough Sounds by the end of November.

Next News story:

Bids pass \$6000 for strait-crossing van

Marlborough Express

Homepage

Sponsored links

Share this page

[Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Myspace](#) [Digg](#) [StumbleUpon](#) [Delicious](#) [Reddit](#) [Linkedin](#)

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/inquiry-finds-f...

AN inquiry into the cockle industry has found the quota consultation process could have been handled more effectively and has made several recommendations after considering a significant amount of e

Inquiry finds flaws in cockle quota process - Local News - News - General - Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:36 PM
Port Lincoln Times

Inquiry finds flaws in cockle quota process

SOPHIE WANDEL

9/09/2009 11:30:00 PM

AN inquiry into the cockle industry has found the quota consultation process could have been "handled

more effectively" and has made several recommendations after considering a significant amount of evidence.

A report on the State's cockle fisheries was tabled in parliament this week as a result of a parliament inquiry instigated earlier this year following complaints from licence holders about the new quota system.

Mud cockles were subject to a quota for the first time when the fishery opened last October. Since then a number of fishers in the Coffin Bay, West Coast and Section Bank mud cockle fisheries have made complaints about the allocation process.

The inquiry investigated and has reported on how Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) should have determined the cockle quota allocations.

The Legislative Council inquiry committee visited Port Lincoln in May to obtain evidence from 14 local cockle fishermen.

After considering much evidence, the committee noted that the future viability of both the mud and pipi cockle fisheries depended on a delicate balance of fishing interests and environmental sustainability.

They said both fisheries had been under threat since demand changed the focus for cockles from bait to human consumption.

While the committee said they heard unfairness in the quota system, they concluded that any system was unlikely to satisfy all interests.

They have recommended that the regulations for the allocation of quota be reinstated to allow the mud cockle and pipi fishers to prepare for the next season beginning in November and to restore some stability to the industry.

It recommended that an audit be introduced whenever a fishery goes to management in the future and that more research into the cockle industry was required to assist with future development.

The report urged fishers to settle their differences and work together with PIRSA to ensure a positive and productive future for both fisheries.

There are currently three quota zones for mud cockles - Coffin Bay, Port River and the West Coast.

Quota holders are restricted to harvesting mud cockles from within the quota zones while other commercial licence holders, without mud cockle quotas, are permitted to harvest 10kg of mud cockles per day for their own personal bait use. A Total Allowable Commercial Catch limit was also set for each zone.

www.foodweek.com.au/main-features-page.aspx?...icleView&articleId=5042

The National Seafood Industry Leadership Program has discussed uniting all sectors of the seafood industry under one banner with with the Minister for...

☰ Key seafood industry issues thrashed out: AUS > FOODweek Online > Main Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:34 PM
Features Page



[Key seafood industry issues thrashed out: AUS](#)

By FoodWeek Online @ 9:38 AM [0 Comments](#) ★★★★★ [Manufacturing and Marketing - Primary Production](#)



The National Seafood Industry Leadership Program has discussed uniting all sectors of the seafood industry under one banner with with the Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture, Tony Burke.

"The meeting was a success with the Minister seeing eye-to-eye with the leadership group on several key issues facing the future of our industry," said Anni Conn, 2009 NSILP participant and business manager for Seafarm Aquaculture.

"Minister Burke spoke about the need for a coordinated approach when promoting seafood and the industry. He stressed the importance of stakeholders playing a proactive role in implementing strategies which would ensure the long-term success of all key sectors," Conn said.

NSILP is the only national seafood industry-specific leadership program. It is designed to

equip participants with relevant skills, networks and a well rounded industry perspective, allowing them to make informed decisions about the future of the seafood industry in this country.

The 2009 NSILP group's principle objective is to unite all sectors of the industry under the banner of the Australian 'seafood community'.

Participants in the program - there are 17 this year - have spent the last six months meeting industry leaders and key stakeholders through mentoring, information sessions and various networking events.

The program is now in its ninth year. It is delivered by Rural Training Initiatives and funded through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on behalf of the Federal Government. The program's major sponsor is Sydney Fish Market.

The program concludes on 10 September 2009 with a project presentation and graduation dinner in Canberra.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/09/2680552.htm>

Rock lobster licence holders in South Australia say they need help to survive what they say are draconian new quotas.

☒ Lobster licence fees rethink urged - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:30 PM

Lobster licence fees rethink urged

Posted Wed Sep 9, 2009 8:43am AEST
Updated Wed Sep 9, 2009 9:13am AEST

- [Map: Port Lincoln 5606](#)

Rock lobster licence holders in South Australia say they need help to survive what they say are draconian new quotas.

The president of the northern zone's Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association, Steve Moriarty, says licence fees should reflect the declining quotas.

He says fishermen across southern Australia have been hit by natural phenomena and help could include a licence buyback and cut in licence fees.

"These fishermen are paying up to \$20,000 a year in licence fees and we think it's only fair that the licence fees should come down to reflect this kind of problem," he said.

"The licence fees are set in days of very high catching - there is no doubt this fishery will come back - nobody doubts that - it's only a matter of timing and we would think that the Government could be fair on licence fees."

The Food and Fisheries Minister, Paul Caica, says help is not warranted because the quota cutback is due to overfishing, not a natural phenomenon.

"Certainly it's not our view that any compensation is available and I don't intend to look at that," he said.

"There is certainly a view that there should be some fee relief and a buyback scheme but they're not under consideration at this time.

"Is it a natural phenomena or is it that the rock lobster fishery has been overfished?"

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/4356>

The State Government will dramatically slash the rock lobster quota for the southern zone fishery by around 20pc amid alarming new research revealing a

☒ Government cuts rock lobster quota

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:29 PM

Government cuts rock lobster quota

Posted on September 8, 2009, 8:08am

The State Government will dramatically slash the rock lobster quota for the southern zone fishery by around 20pc amid alarming new research revealing a continual slide in lobster numbers.

The significant cut in the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is expected to impact on the financial viability of regional export factories, professional fishers, employment and regional communities such as Port MacDonnell and Robe.

It is understood the cut from 1770 to 1400 tonnes could potentially strip millions of dollars from the sector this season, which gets underway in October.

The extent of the industry fall-out from yesterday's shock decision will depend on the beach prices offered to fishers by exporters this year.

While some fishers are expected to welcome the government's move, it is understood some licence holders will be devastated.

Faced with the northern zone fishery nearing collapse, the government has moved swiftly to rescue the southern zone from possibly the same fate.

In a scientific government report leaked to The Border Watch yesterday, the fishery — considered in 1998 to be the fastest growing lobster fishing in the world — continued to plummet in the 2008-09 season to record lows.

The scientific research shows that in 2008-09:

- More than 650 tonne of lobster was not caught.
- Catch per pot lowest on record since 1978.
- The biomass fell "markedly" over the past five seasons.

The snapshot also failed to back arguments that the poor catches were due to low ocean temperatures.

"There is no evidence from temperature data to indicate that catchability was affected by low water temperatures during the 2008 season," the report said.

The report also claimed the decline in the fishery was across all "regions, depths and months of the fishery" and recruitment into the fishable biomass this coming season would be low.

"I am concerned that the catch rate in the southern zone fishery has declined for the sixth year in a row and that forecasts of future stock growth are uncertain," Fisheries Minister Paul Caica said yesterday.

He said his decision followed a total catch for the 2008-09 fishing season of 1406 tonnes.

"I am therefore committed to implementing management arrangements to ensure that the fishery remains sustainable," Mr Caica said.

"The revised TACC aims to constrain the catch in the fishery to enable the rock lobster stocks to commence a period of rebuilding."

He said PIRSA Fisheries had been working closely with the industry since the end of the 2008-09 season to ensure that licence holders have a good understanding of the state of the fishery.

"I advised the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council and the South East Professional Fishermen's Association of my decision on Friday and this followed a period of intense discussion and negotiation with their representatives," Mr Caica said.

"In the discussions I've had with these representative bodies, I've acknowledged that a framework for increasing the TACC in the future is important.

"The review of the management plan for the fishery, which is due this financial year, will address rules for increasing the TACC in the future."

He said it was important that government and industry continued to work collaboratively to ensure the fishery remained sustainable into the future.

Licence holders will be formally notified of the decision by letter.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0909/S00093.htm>

Fisheries Minister Hon Phil Heatley has today announced the introduction of electronic catch reporting, a move that will bring an important part of the fisheries process into the modern day and save all parties considerable time and money. The change, ...

☰ Scoop: Catch reporting goes electronic

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:28 PM

Catch reporting goes electronic

Tuesday, 8 September 2009, 1:26 pm

Press Release: New Zealand Government

Hon Phil Heatley
Minister of Fisheries

8 September 2009
Media Statement

Catch reporting goes electronic

Fisheries Minister Hon Phil Heatley has today announced the introduction of electronic catch reporting, a move that will bring an important part of the fisheries process into the modern day and save all parties considerable time and money.

The change, effective from 1 October, will allow the fishing industry to use computer technology to report their catch directly to the government electronically.

"In these tight economic times, it's crucial that while we work towards more sustainable fisheries we also get more efficient and look at ways to cut costs and increase flexibility," Mr Heatley said.

All commercial fishers are legally required to report the fish they catch to the government. This catch reporting provides important information for monitoring catch levels and the health of fish stocks as well as ensuring that fishers do not exceed their catch entitlements under the Quota Management System.

Currently each of the 170,000 catch reports completed each year must be filled out by hand on paper forms, mailed in, manually data entered and then scanned for filing. Around 27,000 forms a year have to be returned and resubmitted due to errors and problems interpreting handwriting.

"This is a laborious, manual process that costs the fishing industry over \$2 million a year in levies to administer. These changes should reduce the industry's annual costs significantly," Mr Heatley said.

New rules will allow fishers to use computerised reporting systems that will capture catch information and electronically report accurate data directly to Fish Serve (a fishing industry owned company that administers the catch reporting regime under contract to the Ministry of Fisheries). This system has been proposed by industry leaders for many years.

After the successful completion of a pilot scheme, scheduled to start in early 2010, electronic reporting will be rolled out on all foreign charter fishing vessels and New Zealand fishing vessels fishing on the high seas. The system will then be available to all fishers who wish to use it.

"Electronic catch reporting will make better use of the technology we have and will bring significant cost savings to the industry and government" Mr Heatley said.

"This is good news for the fishing industry and good news for Government. I am very pleased to see the new system being developed."

ENDS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/08/2679510.htm>

The South East Professional Fishermen's Association say it is dumbfounded by the big cut to the southern zone rock lobster quota.

☰ Lobster quota cut puzzles fishers - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:27 PM

Lobster quota cut puzzles fishers

Posted Tue Sep 8, 2009 10:04am AEST

- [Map: Mount Gambier 5290](#)

The South East Professional Fishermen's Association say it is dumbfounded by the big cut to the southern zone rock lobster quota.

It has been set at 1,400 tonnes and the association expects it to have a dramatic effect on the financial stability of the industry.

The South Australian Government says the cut comes after six years of declining catch rates, but the association's president, Joel Redman, says it is a knee-jerk reaction based on one poor season.

"We want to make sure the industry's managed sustainably but we don't think that the evidence necessarily suggests the sort of knee-jerk reaction that we've seen from the department at this point in time," he said.

"However, we have [to] support the Minister's decision to want to protect the sustainability, it doesn't mean we have to like it though."

Fisheries Minister Paul Caica says the reduction will not be popular, but it is needed to protect the sustainability of the industry.

"This isn't an easy decision to make but on the evidence I've been provided, 1,400 tonnes for the coming season is an appropriate level for the total allowable catch for this coming season," he said.

Lobster quotas in the state's northern zone will be cut dramatically in response to what the State Government says is the fishery's weakest-ever position.

Quotas will be cut from 470 tonnes, which was never reached last year, to 310 tonnes for the zone, west of the Murray mouth.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/08/2679389.htm>

Lobster quotas in South Australia's northern zone will be cut dramatically in response to what the South Australian Government says is the fishery's weakest-ever position.

☒ Northern zone lobster quotas to be slashed - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:26 PM

Northern zone lobster quotas to be slashed

Posted Tue Sep 8, 2009 8:44am AEST

Updated Tue Sep 8, 2009 8:43am AEST

- [Map: Port Pirie 5540](#)

Lobster quotas in South Australia's northern zone will be cut dramatically in response to what the South Australian Government says is the fishery's weakest-ever position.

Quotas will be cut from 470 tonnes last year to 310 tonnes for the zone west of the Murray mouth.

Food and Fisheries Minister Paul Caica says more cuts will be needed in the years ahead to counter what is a disturbing situation for the fishery.

"The rock lobster fishery is certainly overfished and historically is at its weakest-ever position," he said.

"That's a serious situation so that requires a serious remedy," he said.

In the southern zone, the quota has been cut from 1,406 tonnes to 1,400.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/07/2678317.htm>

The Southern Zone Rock Lobster quota will be known today, with some people in the industry expecting it to be cut by more than 25 per cent.

☒ Fears aired over lobster quota cut - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:24 PM

Fears aired over lobster quota cut

Posted Mon Sep 7, 2009 10:03am AEST

Updated Mon Sep 7, 2009 10:02am AEST

- [Map: Mount Gambier 5290](#)

The Southern Zone Rock Lobster quota will be known today, with some people in the industry expecting it to be cut by more than 25 per cent.

A cut of that size would have a big impact on financial returns to the industry and some operators say it would be a knee-jerk reaction to the unexplained poor catches last season.

The total allowable catch for licence holders will be announced today by state Fisheries Minister Paul Caica.

The rock lobster season officially starts on October 1.

www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2009/09/07/victorian-seafood-industry-celebr...

Minister Responsible for Fisheries in Victoria, Joe Helper, has commended the top shelf of Victoria's seafood crop as the state's seafood industry celebrated

Victorian seafood industry celebrates night of nights | Australian Food News Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:23 PM

Victorian seafood industry celebrates night of nights

- September 7, 2009
- James Ferre

Minister Responsible for Fisheries in Victoria, Joe Helper, has commended the top shelf of Victoria's seafood crop as the state's seafood industry celebrated its annual award night last week. Attending the Victorian Seafood Industry Awards at Port Melbourne, Mr Helper said the industry deserved high praise for its environmental awareness, innovation and commitment to sustainability.

"Many Victorians enjoy eating seafood and it is important we have a sustainable and profitable seafood industry in this state to provide fresh seafood to the Victorian community," Mr Helper said. "Victoria supports diverse commercial fisheries from abalone, rock lobster, scallops and eels, to King George whiting, snapper, flathead, bream, calamari and garfish."

"Fresh fish is an important source of omega-three fats, known to assist in reducing the risk of heart disease."

Mr Helper added that the industry was a major source of employment in the state.

"Commercial fishing is also an important source of regional employment in places as far east as Mallacoota and far west as Portland, with more than \$120 million worth of fresh seafood landed in Victorian ports," he noted. "The Brumby Labor Government is proud to be a major sponsor of these awards."

Award winners:

- Seafood Business Award - She Sells Seafood, Castlemaine;
- Seafood Restaurant Award - Fishermen's Pier, Geelong;
- Seafood Training Award - Rural Training Initiatives for the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program and 3M's;
- Seafood Industry Producer Award - Victorian Fisheries Association into Resource Management;
- Seafood Industry Promotion Award - Cliff Rossack for the Queenscliff Seafood Feast;
- Environment Award - Victorian Abalone Divers Association for work on the Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis;
- Research and Development Award - Victorian Abalone Industry for improved spatial management of the Victorian abalone industry; and
- Seafood Industry Icon Award - Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd

www.theage.com.au/environment/oil-spill-a-national-emergency-say-gr...

Oil spill a national emergency, say groups Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:20 PM

Oil spill a national emergency, say groups

JANE HAMMOND

September 5, 2009

ENVIRONMENT groups are calling on the West Australian and federal governments to declare a national emergency in response to an oil spill off the Kimberley coast.

The calls come as reports trickle in from fishermen who have seen the impact of the spill on the environment.

The skipper of a vessel fishing in waters near the stricken West Atlas rig yesterday described finding a flatback turtle excreting yellow gunk similar to the dispersant being used to break up the oil slick.

George Hamilton, skipper of the Sea Pearl 3, returned to Broome last night after a commercial fishing trip that took him close to the rig and in the slick. He said the boat had pulled up alongside a flatback turtle last week that was bobbing in the water.

"We see a lot of turtles and they usually disappear as soon as you pull up. This one was crook, he was just bobbing there," Mr Hamilton said, adding that the turtle was found a long way outside the slick.

Conservation Council of Western Australia director Piers Verstegen said reports from boats of sick turtles

and oil "from horizon to horizon" confirmed the extent and impact of this disaster was worse than authorities had admitted.

"What we need now is a national emergency response effort. Instead we are seeing a complacent oil and gas industry and minister sitting on his hands in Canberra."

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,28124,26027363-36418...

BEING an entrepreneur on the Sunshine Coast would seem to tick many boxes as a sea change destination -- beautiful location, community spirit and a local culture supporting innovation. Former sports management entrepreneur James Turner concurs. Turner, who spent 20 years in Europe based in Milan, says: "You miss the laid-back Australian way."

☐ Saving dolphins trawls in net profits | The Australian

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:18 PM

Saving dolphins trawls in net profits

- Font Size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Print Page: [Print](#)

ENTREPRENEUR: Morris Kaplan | *September 05, 2009*

Article from: [The Australian](#)

BEING an entrepreneur on the Sunshine Coast would seem to tick many boxes as a sea change destination -- beautiful location, community spirit and a local culture supporting innovation. Former sports management entrepreneur James Turner concurs. Turner, who spent 20 years in Europe based in Milan, says: "You miss the laid-back Australian way."

His Sunshine Coast-based venture, Fumunda, is developing and marketing the \$100 "pinger", a device that might save many dolphins from excruciating death as by-catch in fishing nets. He says it emits a signal that deters dolphins, porpoises and whales from commercial fishing gear.

"As a surfer growing up in Australia, you hate seeing all those dolphins and porpoises lost as a result of entanglement in commercial fishing," he says. "It brought me back home."

Barely a year into commercialising the technology, the company is achieving revenue, with orders from Queensland's Department of Primary Industry for use on shark nets, and from Ocean Watch, a national environmental not-for-profit company that works to achieve sustainability in the seafood industry.

The venture has achieved some important milestones, with distributorships signed up for potentially lucrative international markets and an expansion in the range of products to four models. Turner says manufacturing, currently carried out in Thailand, has been significantly upgraded to cater for future expansion.

By-catch accounts for about 300,000 dolphins and porpoises a year as a result of entanglement in commercial fishing equipment. Pingers, when bound to the nets, deter marine mammals because the sound is picked up by their sonar-like sensor system. "They try to avoid it," Turner says. Pingers are mandatory in the US and parts of Europe. "The fishers have to use them over there. The devices were tested with success rates of up to 90 per cent."

A longtime surfer and snowboarder, Turner felt "burnt out" by his European business experience. "I sold my business, I sold my chalet. I'd made a good living doing something I really loved."

He says his 20-year stint was founded on his capacity to deal effectively with multinationals such as Nokia, Pepsi and Valentines, which wanted to reach the GenY market. "As a snowboarder, they saw me as link to the 18 and 19-year-olds. That's how I got into the sports marketing business."

On his return to Queensland, he was offered a business development role for Fumunda by the inventor of the device. "A lifelong interest in marine conservation piqued my interest. I saw a market opportunity. Here was an effective solution. I couldn't understand why there wasn't one in every fishing net."

Turner acquired a "near-defunct" business to secure the technology. "You could say I liked the product so much I bought the company. If we can't address those issues with charismatic fauna -- dolphins, porpoises and whales -- then what hope do we have? That's really what drove me."

Passion may have driven his decision, but Turner is under no illusions about his bottom line. The market potential for pingers is relatively easy to assess. Creating a demand for the product and raising the capital are bigger challenges. "Literally you calculate the number of vessels operating around the world -- that gives you your total market. We know there are 1680 relevant licences in Australia, I worked out how many nets and how long the nets were and you arrive at a very accurate number. In Australia we need 12,000 pingers to fit out every vessel. Then you extrapolate the cost, let's say it's \$100 a unit. That's \$1.2 million -

- not a lot of money to save dolphins and porpoises across Australia."

The business case is based on a co-operative approach between government and industry. "Looking at the US model brought a realisation that to make long-term changes to the practices in the fishing industry, you had to work with the industry. You had to make sure your product provides benefits to fishers. It's one thing to go out with a product and say, 'Hey, this will save dolphins', but if there's not a genuine benefit for the fishers, they're likely to resist taking it up. They are, after all, small businesses.

"It's a world first -- a non-legislative approach with some government support -- where we can mitigate the by-catch of marine mammals to reduce 85-90 per cent of losses. It's a model we want to take internationally."

He says he has expressions of interest from Denmark, Argentina and Peru. "You need industry to take up the technology voluntarily. So I started working with a Sydney-based group, Ocean Watch, an NGO controlled by the commercial fishing industry in Australia."

His marketing experience with multinationals has been invaluable. "It's pretty clear we can go to the oil companies, for example. There's a big commercial opportunity for them. There are thousands of fishermen, all of whom drive big boats that guzzle fuel, oil and lubricants. Putting the oil companies together with the fishing industry, giving them a targeted approach. If these companies are perceived to be helping small businesses operate in a more sustainable and efficient manner -- no down-time removing dolphins from nets -- then they're building a relationship. It'll help their image.

"It's about promoting awareness of the product. Nobody knew about pingers 12 months ago. What I've been doing is getting it out of the lab and putting it into the public consciousness.

"I need to get corporate Australia involved. They'll see the benefits. After all, it's one of the most iconic species on the planet."

Turner says his days of being a one-man show are numbered. "It's now a case of ramping the business up. At what point are you willing to take on more risk by expanding the business to bring staff on? I'd like to have 10-15 staff, including some researchers for product development. This is now a serious endeavour -- if I disappear, nobody in Australia will pick it up."

Imperiled species the catch in fishing methods

THE capture and collateral mortality of non-target marine animals resulting from fishing activity is referred to as by-catch.

It occurs worldwide in every type of fishing gear, including in recreational and commercial fishing. According to the Marine Technology Society Journal (Autumn 2006 issue), unintended injuries and fatalities to non-target marine species -- a major component of by-catch -- is one of the principal threats to the survival of many endangered marine populations and species.

One example of by-catch is dolphins caught in tuna nets. As dolphins are mammals and do not have gills they may drown while stuck in nets underwater.

But stopping one commercial fishing practice, for example gill netting, which some researchers advocate, does not stop the problem of by-catch, it merely moves it to another area. Whether we like it or not, commercial fishing is vital. It's Australia's fourth-largest primary industry.

Fumunda Marine director James Turner says commercial fishing needs to become sustainable. "It has to; 35 per cent of world grain is used to feed livestock instead of people." (National Geographic June 2009).

By-catch reduction is a dynamic field with many examples of effective techniques. Millions of dollars, much sourced from industry and universities, are spent each year in the research and development of fishing techniques.

There's an entire industry devoted to preventing or reducing by-catch, experimenting and adopting a variety of techniques to mitigate losses and to highlight priorities for research and development, with the majority directed at reducing by-catch in longline fisheries, and intended to benefit primarily seabirds, sea turtles, and small mammals.

Most investment in conservation occurs in economically developed countries (principally the US, Canada, Australia and Europe).

mkaplan@bigpond.com

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/04/2676307.htm?section=business

A row is brewing in South Australia over the future of a proposal to ship iron ore out of Port Lincoln's

harbour.

☰ Mine v tuna row brews in SA - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:16 PM

Mine v tuna row brews in SA

By Nance Haxton for AM

AM abc.net.au/am >

Posted Fri Sep 4, 2009 8:30am AEST

Updated Fri Sep 4, 2009 8:34am AEST



Row brewing: Sunrise over tuna farms near Port Lincoln (user submitted: Des Woolford)

- [Map: Port Lincoln 5606](#)

A row is brewing in South Australia over the future of a proposal to ship iron ore out of Port Lincoln's harbour.

The fishing industry argues minerals should not be exported from the town because they could pollute the harbour and destroy the city's clean, green image.

But the mine's proponents say fishing and mining can coexist.

Where the aquaculture industry has led the way in Port Lincoln, the tourists have followed.

Matt Waller's charter business takes tourists out to the tuna feedlot pens in Boston Bay, where they can feed and swim with the tuna.

He's afraid for the future of his business if the proposal to ship iron ore out of that same harbour goes ahead.

"It has the potential to cause environmental impact of a severe nature that will wipe out a billion-dollar industry," he said.

"And it has the potential to tarnish an image, which whether it's seafood, tourism or lifestyle, has a great chance of being affected."

Pollution fears

Tuna industry spokesman Brian Jeffriess says the mining industry has admitted that iron would go into the water.

"We have a CSIRO study which shows that that's enough iron to create algal blooms on a continuing basis, and algal blooms kill fish," he said.

Andy Dyer oversees the harvest and production of 800 tonnes of mussels a year from the waters surrounding Port Lincoln.

He is worried that could come to a halt if large Panamax ships carrying iron ore churn up sediment in the harbour.

"With those extra shipping movements, it's going to mean that sites located close to the shipping channel, we won't be able to harvest on more days of the year," he said.

"It just makes it harder for us to get a quality product to market."

But further away from the port, other towns do not necessarily share these concerns.

The small township of Cleve is near the proposed mine, and council chief executive Tony Siviour wants it to go ahead to stop people leaving the district.

"In the last 12 months Cleve has seen the third largest decrease in population in the state as a percentage, so that's concerning for us, and we need to look at ways we can have a sustainable population," he said.

'Zero threat'

Centrex Metals is the company behind the proposal to mine hematite or iron ore from its Wilgerup site, about 150 kilometres north of Port Lincoln.

The company recently signed multi-million dollar deals with two Chinese steel groups to develop the mine and buy the iron ore.

Centrex managing director Gerard Anderson says the fishing industry has nothing to lose from its proposal.

"There is absolutely no - zero - threat to the marine environment," he said.

"The whole notion of algal blooms, let's just say it's been fallacious at best.

"The other aspect is that Port Lincoln is a port, it's not called Lincoln, it's not called Cape Lincoln, it's called Port Lincoln, and it's called Port Lincoln for a reason. It exists to service the hinterland."

South Australia's Development Assessment Commission has given its final recommendation on the proposal to South Australia's Planning Minister Paul Holloway, who is expected to announce his decision in a matter of days.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/4320>

New uniforms have been rolled out to 40 South Australian Fisheries officers, who will now be clearly identifiable across the state's rivers and coastal areas to

 New uniforms for Fisheries officers

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:16 PM

New uniforms for Fisheries officers

Posted on September 4, 2009, 9:09am

New uniforms have been rolled out to 40 South Australian Fisheries officers, who will now be clearly identifiable across the state's rivers and coastal areas to boost their engagement with the public and fishing industry.

Fisheries Minister Paul Caica unveiled the new navy and white embroidered uniforms at Marina Adelaide recently.

The uniforms clearly identify the wearer as a Fisheries Officer and provide staff with comfortable, hard wearing and functional uniforms designed to hold personal equipment.

The new uniform is the first to have a separate design for women, reflecting growing numbers of female officers over the past decade and the need for increased practicality.

Fisheries SA Limestone Coast regional manager Mel Snart said it reflected changing times and had been updated to suit the Fisheries role, the previous uniform being about 14 years old.

"A new image gives the community confidence in our role," Ms Snart said.

"Through increased recognition among the general public, recreational fishers and the fishing industry, we're hoping people will more often approach us with fisheries-related queries."

Mr Caica said PIRSA Fisheries had sought advice from field officers and studied uniforms used by other agencies.

"The result is an ideal fit for the nature of their work, providing the versatility they need as they go about their monitoring, enforcement, educational and administrative duties," he said.



Mount Gambier PIRSA Fisheries officer Renee Tietzel models the new Fisheries uniform.

www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/200909/2676114.htm?desktop

ABC Radio Australia News: Stories: Taiwanese tuna boats broke law: Greenpeace

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:14 PM

Taiwanese tuna boats broke law: Greenpeace



PHOTO

Environmental group Greenpeace says it caught two Taiwanese fishing boats illegally transferring tuna fish in international waters.

Last Updated: Thu, 3 Sep 2009 21:35:00 +1000

Environmental activists say two Taiwanese longline tuna fishing boats have been discovered to be illegally transferring fish at sea.

Greenpeace says the boats were found in international waters between Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

They say the Her Hae and Jia Yu Fa boats were carrying tuna and shark fins and were photographed while transferring tuna from one ship to another.

The area has been proposed as a marine reserve.

Greenpeace says the boats abandoned their transfer process and fled the area as its boat - the Esperanza - approached the vicinity.

It says the Esperanza peacefully escorted the vessel Jia Yu Fa out of international waters and into the waters of the Federated States of Micronesia where it has license to fish.

• **Tags:**

- [micronesia](#)
- [papua-new-guinea](#)
- [fishing-aquaculture](#)

<http://solomontimes.com/news.aspx?nwID=4410>

September 03, 2009. Western Pacific Ocean, , Australia - Two Taiwanese longline tuna fishing vessels were yesterday caught by Greenpeace in the act of illegally transferring fish in Pacific waters.

☰ Taiwanese Ships Caught Illegally Transferring Tuna in Pacific Waters |
Regional | Solomon Islands News

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:14 PM

Friday, September 04, 2009 5:00 AM

Taiwanese Ships Caught Illegally Transferring Tuna in Pacific Waters

BY GREENPEACE: PRESS RELEASE

Related articles:

- [Taiwanese Ships Caught Illegally Transferring Tuna in Pacific Waters](#)
- [Government to Take Drastic Measures to Build Fishing Industry](#)
- [U.S. Supports Coral Triangle Initiative](#)
- [Solomons Pledge Loyalty to Coral Triangle Initiative](#)
- [Successful End to Fisheries Management Workshop](#)
- [Tuna Meeting a Failed Compromise](#)
- [show all](#)

In the same category:

- [Greenpeace Calls on Governments to Support a Ban on Bluefin Tuna Trade](#)
- [First Scholarships Awarded under China-PIF Scholarship Scheme](#)
- [ADB Hosts Meeting of Joint ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative](#)
- [Public Health Emergency Declared in PNG Province](#)
- [Samoa Now Driving on Left Side](#)
- [Fiji: Systematic Human Rights Violations after Military Crackdown](#)
- [show all](#)

September 03, 2009. Western Pacific Ocean, , Australia - Two Taiwanese longline tuna fishing vessels were yesterday caught by Greenpeace in the act of illegally transferring fish in Pacific waters.

Fishing vessels *Her Hae* and *Jia Yu Fa* were carrying tuna and shark fins, and were photographed while transferring tuna from one ship to another in a pocket of international waters between Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia, an area proposed as a marine reserve. They abandoned their transshipment process and fled the area as the Greenpeace ship *Esperanza* approached the vicinity.

The *Esperanza*, campaigning to end the destruction of the world's oceans, peacefully escorted the vessel *Jia Yu Fa* out of international waters and into the waters of the Federated States of Micronesia where it has license to fish. Greenpeace has reported the Taiwanese vessels' illegal transshipment at sea to relevant authorities.

Pockets of international waters in the Pacific, which are regulated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), are known to be especially vulnerable to pirate fishing as previous Greenpeace expeditions in the region have demonstrated. The WCPFC has agreed to close two of the pockets to purse seining from January 2010 but the areas will remain vulnerable to overfishing by longline fleets.

"Members of the WCPFC must now shut down all pockets of international waters to all fishing including longlining and ban the transshipment of fish at sea, which currently gives pirate tuna fleets the opportunity to keep plundering the Pacific Ocean," said Josua Turaganivalu, Oceans Campaigner of Greenpeace Australia Pacific on board the Esperanza.

Longliners like Her Hae and Jia Yu Fa are part of a vast Taiwanese fleet of such vessels and mainly target bigeye and yellowfin tuna, destined for luxury sashimi markets. Many also fish exclusively in international waters where little regulation exists. Scientists have warned that both species are already seriously overfished and fishing must be drastically reduced (2). In addition, approximately 35 per cent of longline catch consists of non-target species, including threatened oceanic sharks and turtles (3). Many tuna longline vessels also engage in controversial shark-finning activities.

Pirate fishing by longline fleets is also thought to be significant, and often facilitated by the transfer of fish at sea (4). A recent report estimated pirate fishing in the Pacific makes up an average of 36 per cent of the entire fish catch, which is much higher than the global average of 19 per cent (5).

The Esperanza's "Defending Our Pacific" tour is part of an international campaign for clean and healthy oceans through the creation of a global network of marine reserves and effective enforcement of laws that protect ocean life. Greenpeace is monitoring the pockets of international waters that Pacific Island Countries want closed from all fishing activities in order to protect the declining tuna stocks (6). The WCPFC has already agreed to close two of the areas to tuna purse seining from January 2010 onwards, but the areas are still vulnerable to overfishing.

"Time and tuna are running out. The WCPFC can become a global leader in oceans conservation by agreeing to immediately reduce fishing by half and by closing all four pockets of international waters in the Pacific at its summit in December," said Karli Thomas, Greenpeace New Zealand oceans campaigner, on board the Esperanza. "Unless it takes this action, the fishing industry will simply fish the Pacific to death."

Greenpeace is campaigning for a global network of fully protected marine reserves, covering 40 per cent of our oceans. They are essential to ensure clean and healthy oceans and protect marine life from overfishing and habitat destruction. Healthy oceans can also play a vital role in building resilience against the devastating effects of climate change.

Category: [Regional](#)

Topic: [Fisheries](#)

Source: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/news-and-events/media/releases/overfishing/taiwanese-ships-caugh>

www.radioaustralia.net.au/connectasia/stories/200909/s2675398.htm

ABC Radio Australia: Connect Asia: Stories: Australian port torn between iron exports and tuna Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:08 PM

Australian port torn between iron exports and tuna

- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)

Updated September 3, 2009 11:07:44

A row is brewing in South Australia over a proposal to ship iron ore to China out of Port Lincoln's harbour.

The fishing industry argues that minerals should not be exported from the town because they could potentially pollute the harbour and destroy the city's clean, green image. But the mine's proponents say that fishing and mining can co-exist.

Presenter: Nance Haxton

Speakers: Matt Waler, business owner; Brian Jeffries, tuna industry spokesman; Andy Dyer; Port Lincoln worker; Gerard Anderson, Managing Director of Centrex Metals; Ross Halidon, founder of the fishing industry in Port Lincoln, Tony Siva, Cleve Council ECO

<http://www.canada.com/Mystery+disappearing+sockeye/1953527/story.html>

The Fraser River's sockeye salmon are in trouble. And when the salmon are in trouble, we're all in

Mystery: B.C.'s disappearing sockeye Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:04 PM

Mystery: B.C.'s disappearing sockeye

By David Suzuki With Faisal Moola, Special to The Citizen September 2, 2009

The Fraser River's sockeye salmon are in trouble. And when the salmon are in trouble, we're all in trouble.

The number of sockeye returning from the ocean to the Fraser River this year is one of the lowest in the past 50 and follows two years of dangerously low returns. In fact, we have witnessed decades of decline for diverse sockeye populations from the Fraser Watershed, some of which are now on the brink of extinction.

Many salmon runs besides Fraser sockeye are also endangered, while others have disappeared altogether. As populations decline, so does genetic diversity. This diversity allows salmon to adapt to the challenges they face and keeps the populations strong and healthy.

The total disappearance of Pacific salmon would be devastating not just for First Nations and families that depend on the fish for food, but for all who consider salmon a healthy and tasty food source and who rely on the money salmon fishing brings to the economy. Salmon are also essential to the healthy functioning of ecosystems. They bring nutrients from the oceans to the rivers and forests and are a valuable food source for whales, bears, birds, and other wildlife.

The Fraser sockeye fishery is one of Canada's most valuable, accounting for close to 50 per cent of the economic value of all salmon caught in B.C. Their extremely low returns have been called a mystery because finding one simple cause or solution is difficult. However, even though we can't always link an exact cause to every salmon population decline, we do know the major threats, and that gives us hope that we can change things for the better.

Sockeye have been heavily fished over the years, their spawning habitat in rivers and lakes is being destroyed, their survival is threatened by warming oceans and rivers due to climate change, and they are vulnerable to sea lice and diseases from open-net salmon farms.

While we need to invest more funding in science to understand the exact details behind saving our disappearing salmon, we can and must take precautionary actions to curtail activities that we know harm salmon. Canada's Wild Salmon Policy provides the tools to do this, but although the government adopted this policy in 2005, it has yet to fund it and put it to work. Now is the time to do so.

Specifically, we need to work with government and industry to find ways to catch salmon from healthy stocks while avoiding catching salmon from threatened populations.

Freshwater habitat needs to be conserved and rebuilt, and destructive practices such as converting fish-bearing lakes to mine-tailings ponds or destroying streamside vegetation should be stopped.

We must also make sure that seafood labelled as sustainable truly meets the necessary criteria. Third-party eco-certification, like that offered by the U.K.-based Marine Stewardship Council, must be reserved for fisheries that are well-managed and don't further endanger threatened salmon populations.

We need to change salmon farming to remove the impacts of sea lice and disease by creating a thriving closed-containment industry that separates farmed fish from wild.

Canada must also combat global warming by committing to major reductions of greenhouse gases at upcoming negotiations in Copenhagen if the salmon are to survive their long journey from spawning grounds to the sea and back over the long term.

Fortunately, leaders are starting to emerge in the struggle to protect the salmon. Fishermen are working with First Nations in the Skeena watershed to use beach seines to selectively harvest abundant salmon runs. Commercial-scale trials of closed-containment salmon farms are underway off the East Coast of Vancouver Island and at other sites around the world. Municipalities such as Maple Ridge have adopted improved development practices to protect salmon streams.

These efforts employ a holistic, ecosystem-based approach that acknowledges the many factors that affect salmon's ability to survive and thrive.

By embracing our role as a significant part of the ecosystem and acting with the knowledge that we are connected to it for good or for ill, we have a chance to reshape the way we fish, build communities, and live our lives so that salmon remain a healthy part of this coast. We will all be richer if we succeed.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org

© Copyright (c) Canwest News Service

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/02/2674117.htm?site=southeastnsw

ABC South East NSW - More prawns for Wallagoot Lake

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:03 PM

More prawns for Wallagoot Lake

Posted September 2, 2009 10:11:00

- **Map:** [Merimbula 2548](#)

A lake on the New South Wales far south coast is to benefit from a State Government fishing program.

A total of three million juvenile eastern king prawns have been released into Wallagoot Lake, north of Merimbula, to enhance recreational catches.

The Government estimates that amateur fishers harvest more than 100 tonnes of prawns a year.

<http://www.cpa.org.au/guardian/2009/1426/18-oil-rig.html>

CPA - The Guardian - #1426

Sunday, 13 September 2009 7:00 PM

Oil rig leakage a very bad omen



The West Atlas oil drilling rig off the Kimberley coast.

Peter Mac

The leakage of natural gas, condensate and oil from beneath the West Atlas oil drilling rig off the Kimberley coast is ominous. The leakage commenced on August 21, and is potentially very dangerous for the marine environment.

By August 23 the leakage plume was 14 kilometres long by 30 metres wide. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) used Hercules aircraft to spray absorbent chemicals over the spill, and the federal Minister for Resources, Martin Ferguson, has declared that it is now stable. However, last Saturday the WA Greens claimed that the spill was within 20 kilometres of the Kimberley coast.

Workers were evacuated immediately after leakage commenced because of the high danger of fire around the rig, which is being sprayed with sea water to disperse the gas. Despite this, the company still has workers laying new pipes only 500 metres from the rig – well within the 2 kilometres aircraft exclusion zone which has been declared around it.

A slow boat to disaster

Initial operations to cap the leak were unsuccessful. Joe Martins, chief executive officer of PTTEP, the Thai company that owns the rig, claims that the capping plan has the "highest probability of success and the lowest risk". However, he admitted that the company is "not sure exactly what caused any fracture or leakage", and that "We're dealing with a well that's uncontrolled."

A second mobile rig, which will be used to relieve pressure and seal the leak, won't arrive before September 14. PTTEP refused the offer of a rig from Woodside Burma, which could have been in place two weeks earlier, citing safety considerations. According to the company's undoubtedly optimistic estimate, the leak won't be capped for eight weeks.

Martins has stated that "We don't know how much is flowing out...". However, according to one source, about 470,000 litres is escaping each day – and over an eight week period that would amount to the same quantity that was released during the Exxon-Valdez disaster.

The federal government will investigate the accident, and the company may face prosecution if it has violated its operational conditions. But the government itself faces criticism for having approved the company's manifestly inadequate spill contingency plan.

The Howard government approved the project, and the Rudd government approved the contingency plan in June. The company commenced operations almost immediately, but when the leakage occurred, the oil dispersal chemicals had to be flown in from Geelong via Darwin.

WA Greens Senator Rachel Stewart has said that the resultant two-day delay was too long, and that an emergency response unit should be located near the Kimberley exploration and drilling area.

The region is an important nursery ground and migration route for whales and turtles, and includes a very rich coral reef. On hearing about the estimated time for capping the leak, the Australian Marine Conservation Society's director, Darren Kindleysides, commented: "...that's seven or eight more weeks of oil that's entering the environment. ...

"Our northwest coast and seas are globally important for their marine wildlife. As development continues to expand off Western Australia, there will be an increased risk of this sort of incident occurring again.

"Beyond immediate action to minimise the impact of this spill on the marine environment, government must act to better safeguard our marine life. A safety net of large marine sanctuaries needs to be set up around our coastline as safe havens to buffer our marine life from development.

"Protection is currently the exception, not the norm. Less than one percent of the region is safeguarded within our marine parks."

Who pays the piper?

The West Atlas spill illustrates the hazards involved in extracting oil from ever more remote regions, as oil wells in accessible areas are being exhausted. The West Atlas oil well is 3.6 kilometres below the ocean surface.

AMSA has indicated that the cost of using the aircraft "could run into the millions". The company has called in global experts to advise on dealing with the spill. The total clean-up cost will undoubtedly dwarf the initial cost.

Senator Stewart wants PTTEP to establish a fund to cover the costs of long-term monitoring and repair after environmental damage. The company has stated it will pay for all the current repair costs. But will they? That's what Exxon said after the Exxon Valdez oil spill twenty years ago, but the pollution from that disaster still fouls Alaskan beaches, and the local fishing industry has collapsed. Exxon fought all compensation claims from the victims, who received only ten percent of what they had sought. (See Rob Gowland's articles in last week's Guardian).

Chemical dispersal of the oil slick will remove evidence of the disaster from the public gaze, but local fishermen have claimed that is an extremely damaging approach, because the mass of treated material will be highly toxic and will kill the fish as it sinks to the sea bed. Marine scientist Walter Starck has stated: "There's been a number of studies ... that have found that the major damage done in oil spill clean-up activities has been done by the use of dispersants."

Wider implications

The West Atlas leakage raises wider issues concerning our continued use of fossil fuels as energy sources. The site is one of many oil and natural gas fields being explored off the Kimberley coast with a view to exploitation.

With great gusto and fanfare the Rudd government recently hailed the agreement to open up the Gorgon natural gas field off WA's Barrow Island. It dismissed environmental concerns, focusing attention on the stupendous wealth to be made from the resource.

The Gorgon operations will produce huge carbon emissions, which the consortium of corporations involved in the project intends to capture and store in subterranean fissures beneath Barrow Island.

Yet despite the consortium's reassurances, their scientists have revealed that the emission fluids may well

leak from the fissures.

And just in case you thought that rectifying such problems is the company's concern, think again! To ensure that the project cleared environmental guidelines, the federal and West Australian governments have agreed to pay the potentially astronomical expenses for repairing environmental damage, in the event of a leakage of the fluids.

This not only underwrites the consortium's operations at huge expense to the taxpayer, but also increases the risk of accidents, because the company won't have to pay to fix things up.

Moreover, all the Kimberley operations will contribute to the build-up of atmospheric greenhouse gases. The use of fossil fuels certainly can't be shut off overnight, but the contracts being entered into will lock in use of the facilities for decades.

We should be taking extremely urgent steps to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. But that's not on the agenda of the Rudd government, or of the oil and gas corporations whose interests they're so eagerly serving. 🇺🇸

Next article – *Culture & Life – Universal health hazard*

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

Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



SeaRead P/L

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

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