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**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**  
**HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**  
**PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE**  
**MELBOURNE**  
**TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2009**

First, may I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on and pay my respects to their elders, both past and present.

- ? Susan Fryda-Blackwell, Executive Officer, Ports Australia;
- ? Captain Graham Mapplebeck, International Maritime Organisation;
- ? Distinguished guests;
- ? Ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to contribute to this important conference.

By bringing together a wide range of experts and stakeholders, I hope this conference will help both the Government and the private sector respond to the significant maritime security challenges facing us.

I would like to outline some key features of the Rudd Government's approach to offshore maritime security as well as announce some key reforms that we are proposing to improve the legislative framework for Commonwealth offshore law enforcement.

### **Importance of Maritime Security**

Before doing so, however, I think it is worth recalling why maritime security is of such vital importance.

Australia has always been reliant on the sea as a source of communication and trade with the rest of the world. Maritime transport remains the primary means by which Australia conducts its international trade in goods.

In 2007-08, Australia exported over 705 million tonnes of sea freight and imported over 83 million tonnes. Our total international trade by sea was in excess of \$300 billion.

Australias maritime domain is also vital source of natural resource in particular, natural gas, oil and of course, seafood. Almost all of Australia

Indeed, the Bonaparte, Browse and Carnavon Basins off the coast of Western Australia, and the Gippsland Basin off the coast of Victoria account for nearly 95 per cent of our known oil reserves and over 96 per cent of our known natural gas reserves.

The recent announcement of the Gorgon natural gas project illustrates just how significant maritime based resources are to Australia

Of course the oceans are more than just a means of trade and a source of natural resources.

AustraliaGreat Barrier Reef, as well as other features such as the pristine waters surrounding Heard Island and the McDonald Islands. Some 80 per cent of the species found in Australias southern temperate waters cannot be found anywhere else on earth.

As a surfer and beach lover myself, I can also attest to the importance of Australia

In short, AustraliaAustralia

## **Responsibility for Australian Waters**

Traditionally, it was the States that had the primary responsibility for Australia

Over time, the Commonwealths interest in maritime security grew and its enforcement approach evolved in response to a range of emerging often global trends.

These included:

- ? the expansion of international trade;
- ? the increasing use of the sea to smuggle goods and people;
- ? increasing levels of pollution at sea;
- ? the emergence of global terrorism; and
- ? the development of offshore petroleum and natural gas reserves.

The last four decades have been characterised by a growing understanding of the value of the seas biodiversity and the marine environment generally.

The emerging interest of the Commonwealth in Australia

In 1973, the Commonwealth enacted the *Seas and Submerged Lands Act* which, amongst other things, provided that sovereignty over the Territorial Sea was vested in and exercisable by the Commonwealth.

The States did not welcome this innovation and challenged the legislation in the High Court, which famously upheld the Commonwealth position in the *Seas and Submerged Lands Case*.

Subsequently, the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory agreed to the Offshore Constitutional Settlement a key feature of which was the vesting in the States and the Northern Territory of title to the coastal waters adjacent to their jurisdictions.

This jurisdictional division remains with us today and marks a critical turning point in the maritime roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States.

Around the same time as these issues were being resolved, the international law of the sea was going through an unprecedented period of development culminating in the finalisation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982.

Australia was an original party to the Convention which was ratified by the Keating Labor Government in October 1994.

The significance of the Law of the Sea Convention should not be underestimated. Indeed, the SecretaryGeneral of the United Nations at the time the Convention was signed described it as possibly the most significant legal instrument of the last century.

The Convention codified and extended existing rights at international law such as confirming a maximum width for the territorial sea of 12 nautical miles.

It also created significant new rights such as the ability of coastal states to establish a 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

## **Operational Arrangements**

As one would expect, Australia

Initially fragmented and focussed on particular threats, there has been a growing recognition of the need for a flexible, allhazards approach to maritime security that is reflected in the current operational framework.

This framework dates to the establishment of the Joint Offshore Protection Command now known as Border Protection Command.

At the centre of this framework are two operational agencies the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. These agencies operate under a common command model through Border Protection Command and where appropriate, are assisted by specialist agencies such as the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

This approach is an excellent example of agencies pooling resources and working together to respond to the wide range of maritime threats. It also ensures we can respond flexibly to new threats as they emerge.

## **Homeland and Border Security Review**

Since coming to office, the Rudd Government has taken significant steps to bolster the effectiveness and ensure the long-term sustainability of this operational framework.

Critically, one of the first things that the Government did was establish the Homeland and Border Security Review.

The establishment of the review recognised that Australias approach to national security had developed rapidly in response to a range of events and threats and it was time to take a strategic look at how things were working and how they could be improved.

The Prime Minister announced the Governments response to the review in his National Security Statement to Parliament in December last year.

In his statement, the Prime Minister emphasised a number of key themes, including:

- ? the need to take an inclusive approach to the idea of national security;
- ? the importance of engaging regionally and globally to address national security threats; and
- ? the need to simplify existing arrangements and improve coordination across agencies.

Significantly, the Prime Minister announced changes to the Australian Customs Service to augment and re-task it with a particular focus on border threats.

Reflecting this new role, the service was renamed the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. And in this years Budget, the Government committed an additional \$650 million for people smuggling and border protection. This included almost \$400 million for maritime and aerial surveillance of Australian waters.

## **Legal Arrangements**

It is widely acknowledged that Australia

While there is always room for improvement, I think it is fair to say that our operational arrangements have now reached a high level of maturity. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the legal framework underpinning those arrangements.

At present there are at least 35 separate Commonwealth Acts that contain maritime enforcement powers. These Acts differ from one another in terms of the types of powers they contain, the form of those powers, and the procedures associated with them.

In short, different Acts have different requirements for the exercise of particular powers.

This has the potential to create:

- ? operational problems for agencies on the water;
- ? legal uncertainty if enforcement action is challenged before the courts; and
- ? policy difficulties in ensuring that enforcement is kept up-to-date and consistent.

## **Maritime Powers Bill**

That is why I am today announcing new legislation to consolidate the Commonwealths maritime enforcement powers into a single Act

This will bring our legal and operational arrangements into alignment.

The new legislation to be known as the *Maritime Powers Bill* will provide a clear, simple and bestpractice set of powers for enforcement at sea.

It will contain the full suite of maritime enforcement powers, including interdiction, boarding, search, arrest and seizure. Operational agencies will not lose any powers that they currently have available to them. Duplicate provisions in other Acts will be repealed.

Significantly, the Bill will provide a mechanism to implement and enforce international agreements that have a maritime enforcement aspect. For example, the Bill will provide a comprehensive regime for Australia to implement its high seas boarding and inspection rights and obligations under regional fisheries agreements.

The Bill will also provide for the implementation and enforcement of decisions of international bodies such as the United Nations Security Council.

The legislation will be developed with a view to being introduced in the first half of 2010.

This initiative represents a major innovation in the coordination of Australias maritime enforcement activities and will support the significant advances that have been made in operational capability and coordination.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, I would like to put this proposal in a broader context.

The proposed Maritime Powers Bill reflects a number of key themes that are crucial in the current environment.

First, it will apply to all maritime threats - ensuring a common enforcement approach wherever Australia

Second, it will be specifically designed to fit in to international arrangements ensuring Australia can act quickly to enforce its rights or discharge its obligations.

And third, it will significantly simplify existing arrangements and promote coordination between relevant enforcement agencies.

These reforms will place Australia at the international forefront in its approach to maritime enforcement.

They will also strengthen our ability to effectively respond to existing and emerging maritime threats.

Thank you.

*Note: Speech delivered on behalf of the Attorney-General by Mr Bill Campbell QC, First Assistant Secretary, Office of International Law, Attorney-Generals Department.*

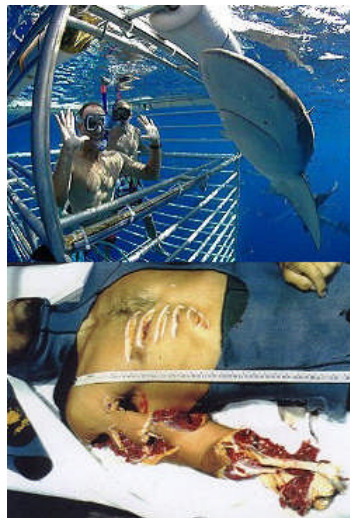
Clipboard Capture

Oahu set to ban shark feeding

Sunday, 20 September 2009 9:33 AM

## Oahu set to ban shark feeding

by EVAN T. ALLARD @ CDNN - Cyber Diver News Network  
September 19, 2009



Sharks are beautiful animals that deserve to be fully protected from all human exploitation including shark finning and shark feeding. While legitimate marine conservation groups and respected scientists do the hard, tedious work to protect endangered shark species, dive industry insiders lobby to prevent full protection of sharks, green-wash the lucrative shark feeding industry as "conservation" and "education" and argue that people have the right to die or get hurt while participating in shark feeding dives.

**HONOLULU, Hawaii** — In another setback for the dive industry and its small, but strident contingent of profit-driven shark feeders, the Honolulu City Council gave preliminary approval to a bill banning shark feeding tour operators on the island of Oahu.

CDNN previously reported on September 8 that Maui passed a similar bill that prohibits all marketing and sales of tours that solicit residents and visitors to participate in shark feeding activities on the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe.

The Maui County Council found that manipulating and provoking sharks with food has negative impacts on sharks because it changes their natural behavior and disrupts the natural balance of the ocean ecosystem.

It also found that shark feeding poses a threat to swimmers, surfers and other

ocean users because it conditions sharks to associate people with food and diminishes their natural wariness of humans.

The council also found that shark feeding is disrespectful of native Hawaiians who consider sharks sacred and are offended by profit-driven dive operators who exploit them to entertain tourists.

The Oahu bill, which would effectively shut down two Oahu-based shark feeders, is sponsored by Councilman Charles Djou.

Reflecting the findings of the Maui County Council that shark feeding is bad for sharks and people, Djou explained why he and other council members have reached the conclusion that shark feeding must be banned in Oahu.

"(Shark feeding) raises public safety concerns for ocean users, is disrespectful of Hawaiian culture, alters the natural behavior and distribution of sharks, and may be disruptive of ocean ecology and the natural environment," Djou said.

#### **Bottom line?**

Shark feeding supporters, led by dive industry insiders, argue that "Hawaii politicians and native Hawaiians are liars who don't really care about sharks because they allow Hawaii's fishing industry to legally kill and process thousands of sharks every week".

They also argue that because there is a multi-million dollar market for shark feeding, people should simply ignore Hawaiian culture, public safety and all of the scientific studies that found shark feeding damages natural shark behavior and disrupts the natural balance of ocean ecosystems.

Dive industry shark feeders also dismiss reports of divers who were attacked and severely injured or killed while participating in shark feeding dives as "media sensationalism" and assert that more tourists die every year from food poisoning and sexually transmitted diseases than shark attacks.

The dive industry also argues

that just because shark feeding dives are dangerous and tourists sometimes die or are severely injured during shark feeding dives, shark feeders should not be banned "because people have the right to become shark feeding accident victims provided they understand the risks and sign the liability waivers".

### **Shark feeding deaths and injuries**

In June 2009, a woman died after she was attacked by a "provoked" shark at an illegal shark feeding site in the Red Sea. Dive industry insiders later blamed the victim for "threatening the shark".

In 2008, a tourist died after he was attacked by another "provoked" shark while diving with notorious Florida shark feeder Jim Abernethy of Jim Abernethy's Scuba Adventures. Dive industry insiders argued that Abernethy was not to blame because the victim signed a waiver stating that he understood the risks of participating in shark feeding dives.

In September, 2006, a shark that had been attracted by fish bait attacked and severely injured Dave Marcel, one of shark feeder Spencer Slate's employees. Marcel nearly lost his upper lip when he foolishly flipped a shark over and attempted to kiss it, a moronic stunt pioneered by scuba hall of fame Slate.

In 2005, a tourist nearly lost his arm after he was attacked by a fed and provoked moray eel while diving with Ocean Frontiers, owned by liquor store owner and shark feeder, Steve Broadbelt. In 2002, soon after Broadbelt attempted to cash in on the shark feeding fad, the Cayman Islands banned shark feeding and shut down Broadbelt's shark feeding dives.

In April, 2002, TV shark show daredevil Erich Ritter went into severe shock and nearly lost his left leg after he was bitten by a bull shark while feeding sharks in the Bahamas. Ritter told the media "the shark made a mistake".

On August 4, 2001, Krishna Thompson, a 34-year-old New York banker lost a leg, and very nearly his life, when he was attacked just off the

beach at Our Lucaya Golf and Beach Resort near a shark feeding site in the Bahamas.

<http://www.cdn.info/news/eco/e090919.html>

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,27574,26095836-3102,00.html>

DEADLY bull sharks are cruising past some of the Gold Coast's most popular family holiday spots, covering up to 30km in just one tidal movement of six hours.

☰ Bull sharks using Gold Coast canals as nurseries | The Courier-Mail

Sunday, 20 September 2009 9:30 AM

## Bull sharks using Gold Coast canals as nurseries

Article from: **SundayMail**

Paul Weston

September 20, 2009 12:00am

**DEADLY bull sharks are cruising past some of the Gold Coast's most popular family holiday spots, covering up to 30km in just one tidal movement of six hours.**

New research reveals the aggressive creatures begin their journey in the Nerang River near the Pacific Highway, head east past Conrad Jupiters and through the canals before heading north past Budds Beach and the Broadwater Parklands.

And marine scientists like [Sea World's](#) Trevor Long, experienced from his own search to find exhibits for the theme park, warns the predators are likely to be more of a problem during summer months and at night when they move from the deep of canals to the surface for food.

Ground-breaking research by Jonathan Werry, from the [School of Environment at Griffith University](#), found the Nerang River upstream with its less salty water and supplies of mullet to be the perfect creche for young bull sharks.

### **Gallery: Watch out, sharks about**

"The sharks' strategy to have their juveniles in a river is a good one," Mr Werry said. "They're safe from predators. The adults will eat the babies."

The 32-year-old shark research scientist and his team in the past two years dropped thousands of modified long fishing lines baited with live fish, catching then tagging juvenile sharks.

Acoustic tags placed on 24 sharks connected with beacons established along the river, the canals and Seaway revealed the path sharks take through the tourist city.

"Once they become teenagers it's a different story," Mr Werry said. "They use the river and canals, they know it well, but they're confident enough to risk going out into the outside world."

He is yet to quantify the number of sharks but believes it is more conservative than widely thought, adding "it's definitely not thousands".

Mr Long agrees with the findings and has welcomed the research after several fatalities occurred in Coast canals.

Gold Coast resident [Beau Martin](#) was killed by a shark in Miami Lake in December 2002, and six weeks later champion bowler Bob Purcell was attacked and killed in Burleigh Lake.

Mr Long said adult female bull sharks moved up the river to have their pups in summer, and they needed extra food to sustain them on their way out to the Seaway.

Even 1.5m "teenagers" headed to the Seaway could "give a nasty bite".

"When I turn off the lights at our exhibit the bull sharks go to the surface," Mr Long said.

"If you're splashing your arms around (in the canal) you will be bait."

[www.powerboat-world.com/Marine-Rescue-calls-for-better-maintenance-...](http://www.powerboat-world.com/Marine-Rescue-calls-for-better-maintenance-...)

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Saturday, 19 September 2009 5:53 PM

## Marine Rescue calls for better maintenance by boaters



'Marine Rescue NSW - Vessel Uniforms comp' . [Click Here to view large photo](#)

**Chief Executive of Marine Rescue NSW, Glenn Finniss, reports an increasing number of calls for help from boaties with avoidable breakdowns.**

**85% of all distress calls currently are the result of mechanical, fuel, electrical or flat batteries.**

'The recent good weather on weekends has seen many boaties jump at the chance to get out on the water again after the Winter break. But enthusiasm has got in the way of good boating practice for many of these skippers,' said Mr Finniss.

'The breakdowns that have been reported are almost all a direct result of inadequate maintenance or poor planning. As a result NSW's marine rescue volunteers have been busier than usual, giving a hand to people whose problems simply should not have happened.'

'Marine Rescue NSW urges boat owners to take advantage of the new Boating Industry Association 50 Point Check List offer. It could be their best boating investment of the year,' said Mr Finniss. 'Skippers are responsible for the upkeep of their vessel, and the safety of all those on board.'

A link to the BIA website and full details of this offer can be found in the Links menu at [www.marinerescuensw.com.au](http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au)

In the past 6 weeks, Hawkesbury volunteers near Brooklyn have had up to three calls a weekend for engine breakdowns, battery failure and fuel problems.

Central Coast crews have had to provide tows for boats with other motor and electrical problems, and the Broken Bay rescue boat had to bring in a 5.6m fishing boat with electrical failure east of Long Reef. A similar pattern of incidents has occurred on other parts of the NSW coast.

Fortunately weather conditions were relatively mild but when seas and winds are up, simple emergencies like these can become life threatening.

NSW Water Police information shows that over 60% of calls for assistance are for mechanical breakdowns or fuel trouble and 25% for electrical or flat batteries.

'Most of these breakdowns could have been avoided with a thorough pre-season boat and engine check up,' said Mr Finniss, 'It concerns me that some people are putting themselves and their families unnecessarily at risk because you can't just

pull over to the side of the road at sea. It also concerns me that our volunteers are using precious fuel for avoidable emergencies.'

When a boat sits on its trailer or lies at its mooring, unused for up to six months, maintenance problems will occur. Fuel can become contaminated, electrical connections can corrode and any number of other minor failures can lead to major problems at sea.

Click on [www.marinerescuensw.com.au](http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au) now and check the 50 point check-list!



Marine Rescue NSW -  
...

by Ken Mc Manus 8:17 PM Fri 18 Sep 2009 GMT

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2009/s2690436.htm>

Fishermen in WAs north are worried the fish stocks near an oil slick will be poisoned because of authorities are spraying a chemical which will force the oil to sink to the seabed Conservationists s

PM - Fears for fish near WA oil slick 18/09/2009

Saturday, 19 September 2009 5:20 PM

## Fears for fish near WA oil slick

Di Bain reported this story on [Friday, September 18, 2009 18:31:00](#)

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MARK COLVIN: Worries about the oil spill off Australia's northwest coast are now being worsened by fears about the chemicals being used to control it.

The spill at the West Atlas drill rig in the Timor Sea started three weeks ago and no-one believes it will take less than three weeks to plug the oil.

The slick is now so big it can be seen from space and a light sheen has crept within ten kilometres of Ashmore Reef.

Fishermen say a fifth of their waters have been polluted by the oil and they're worried that fish could be poisoned.

Di Bain reports.

DI BAIN: It was just a few days ago that one of Bob Master's colleagues returned from a fishing trip with an oiled sea snake and a turtle covered in yellow gunk.

BOB MASTERS: They'd already commenced fishing and they saw and they collected some dead sea snakes and they saw some turtles that were all covered in this yellow gunk and stuff like that.

DI BAIN: Bob Masters is the treasurer for the Kimberley Professional Fisherman's Association he says millions of dollars worth of red emperor, snapper, cod and coral trout are found in the waters known as the northern fishing ground.

He says the leaking oil well is right in the middle of the ground and he's concerned that the dispersant which is being used to break up the oil is causing more harm than good.

BOB MASTERS: When dispersants are used to clean up this light crude it forces the dispersed oil into the water column and that's where the fish stocks are and the marine life, living in the water column.

We think it's better that if it was just left alone because it's quite volatile and the sun and the normal natural environment will break it down fairly rapidly.

DI BAIN: So could the oil potentially kill the fish, or could the fish consume it and become poisonous to eat?

BOB MASTERS: Dispersant mixed with the oil can be ingested or flow through the gills and cause irritation when they swim through it, and that's what happens then. You have this effect that will be a slow and painful existence for that fish if it actually dies.

But what also happens is how recruitment of fish eggs and larvae when the fish spawn are in the water column, you see? So if you put this chemical on the oil and send it down into the water column it's got more chance of having a big effect on the recruitment of the fish.

DI BAIN: The Federal Minister for Environment, Peter Garrett, was unavailable to talk about the oil spill. His office has issued a statement saying trained observers are in the area and they're monitoring the wildlife and analysis of fish specimens show no visible oil contamination.

But conservationists say the Government is playing down the scale of the disaster.

While the slick is getting smaller the light crude sheen is marching towards the sensitive Ashmore Reef where ten birds have been found oiled.

Darren Kindleysides is the director for the Marine Conservation Society. He wants more rigorous testing with the results made available to the public.

DARREN KINDLEYSIDES: There's been this - oh, it's out of sight, out of mind. The fact that oil hasn't washed up on the coastline yet shouldn't

be taken as a sign that there's no impact on the marine environment.

It really is something of a myth that only when oil reaches a coastline is there an impact. The area of a spill is very important for a range of species of turtles, dolphins, whales, sea snakes.

And so the fact that we've had a month of oil entering the ocean and perhaps another month before that well is clamped, this really is shaping up in a very bad way for the marine environment.

DI BAIN: Authorities say it'll be at least another three weeks before the oil leak can be plugged.

The Federal Opposition's Environment spokesman Greg Hunt says the timeframe for fixing the problem seems to be growing.

GREG HUNT: We need independent monitoring. We need the Government to support independent monitoring by a body such as Charles Darwin University or James Cook University to have a genuine environmental assessment of the impact, not just of the spill, but of the clean-up process.

DI BAIN: Fishermen in the Kimberley say they're no longer fishing anywhere near the oil slick so there's no danger the seafood they catch will be toxic.

This season a fifth of their fishing ground is off limits.

MARK COLVIN: Di Bain.

[www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/latest\\_releases?...Rjc5NDquaHRtbCZhbGw9MQ==](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/latest_releases?...Rjc5NDquaHRtbCZhbGw9MQ==)

Latest Media Releases - NSW Police Force

Saturday, 19 September 2009 5:14 PM

### Boys fishing catch large sum of cash - Lismore

Saturday, 19 Sep 2009 12:03pm

Police have appealed to the public for help in returning a large sum of cash found by two teenagers near their home in the north of the state earlier this month.

About 11am yesterday police were called to a business premises in Lismore where two teenage boys handed to police a large quantity of cash they had found.

The boys told police that earlier this month whilst fishing at Tuntable Creek they discovered the cash in various Australian denominations.

Their find was recently revealed to a carer and after seeking legal advice the cash was handed into police.

Checks have revealed almost \$100,000 was located and police have commenced inquiries to try and locate the lawful owner.

Police have since conducted a search of the area where the two boys indicated they found the cash without result.

Lismore Police have appealed for anyone with a claim or information regarding the discovery of the money to contact them on 02 6626 0599.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10598314](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10598314)

Pilchards that washed up during a month of fish, dolphin and dog deaths did not die of the virus initially blamed for their deaths. MAF Biosecurity said tests on pilchards that washed...

Fish deaths a mystery - National - NZ Herald News

Saturday, 19 September 2009 11:02 AM

### Fish deaths a mystery

5:00AM Saturday Sep 19, 2009

Pilchards that washed up during a month of fish, dolphin and dog deaths did not die of the virus initially blamed for their deaths. MAF Biosecurity said tests on pilchards that washed up near the Whangaparaoa Peninsula and Martins Bay, north of Auckland, in July were negative for the herpes virus - the culprit blamed for previous large strandings of pilchards near Auckland. However the cause of the recent deaths may never be known.

[www.smh.com.au/environment/hightech-fishing-devices-wipe-out-tuna-2...](http://www.smh.com.au/environment/hightech-fishing-devices-wipe-out-tuna-2...)

High-tech fishing devices wipe out tuna

Saturday, 19 September 2009 10:53 AM

### High-tech fishing devices wipe out tuna

MARIAN WILKINSON ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

September 19, 2009



Fatal attraction...fish swim towards a banned fish aggregation device in the Pacific. Japan has insisted on an exemption from the ban. Photo: Greenpeace

ENVIRONMENT groups are calling for a permanent ban on "deadly" artificial fishing devices used to attract huge tuna catches in the Pacific after scientific reports found that stocks of bigeye tuna are collapsing.

Greenpeace activists aboard the Esperanza confiscated several of the devices known as FADs (fish aggregation devices) in Pacific waters this week and forced a Korean fishing vessel to leave a closed fishing zone in an effort to highlight the threat to the tuna fisheries.

"Bigeye tuna are seriously overfished and have a strong affinity for FADs," a Greenpeace Oceans campaigner, Genevieve Quirk, said. "Juvenile fish are found more frequently with FADs. This seriously undermines the population as fish are removed before they have the chance to breed."

The Pacific fishing nations that make up the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission have implemented a two-month ban on the devices, although Japan has insisted on an exemption from the ban.

The commission's scientific committee reported last month that catches of bigeye tuna would need to be reduced dramatically for stocks to remain sustainable. Despite efforts to cut catches by 35 per cent, last year's total catch was the highest on record. Bigeye last month was found to be already "overfished", which means the stocks have been reduced to an unacceptable level.

More than half of the world's tuna is now caught in the Pacific and is valued at between \$US3 billion and \$US4 billion (\$3.4 billion and \$4.6 billion). And almost one-third of all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna is being caught by vessels using FADs, says a report by the Australian Bureau of Rural Sciences. But what began as simple wooden platforms to attract tuna for local fishermen are now sophisticated devices often employing satellite beacons and sonar. The devices are operated by vessels with encircling purse seine nets that can be the size of several city blocks.

These purse seine vessels are primarily chasing skipjack to supply the supermarket canned tuna trade. But Australian and Pacific scientists agree that the FADs also catch large numbers of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, seriously affecting adult numbers. "There is a common consensus globally that current catch levels for some tuna species are unsustainable and that the use of FADs needs to be more tightly controlled," the Bureau of Rural Sciences reported.

Australian vessels do not employ the devices because they are mainly long-line fishing for adult bigeye and yellow fin tuna for the export market. But among other Pacific nations, such as Japan, Taiwan, Korea and New Zealand, their use is widespread. This is leading to growing concerns that bigeye and yellowfin tuna fishing will face commercial extinction.

The vessels coming to the Pacific tuna grounds have been increasing in number and size as the Mediterranean is fished out. Spanish, Latin American and US fleets are working with small Pacific nations in their grounds. Between 2007 and 2008 the US almost doubled the vessels fishing in the region under its flag.

"Introducing this extra capacity into the Pacific ... when there is an urgent need to cut fishing is irresponsible of the US ... ," said a Greenpeace Pacific campaigner, Lagi Toribau.

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[www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/18/2690285.htm?section=justin](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/18/2690285.htm?section=justin)

The Federal Opposition is calling on the Government to pay for an independent organisation to carry out environmental monitoring of an oil spill off the Kimberley coast.

Oil spill impact: call for independent review - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Saturday, 19 September 2009 10:48 AM

## Oil spill impact: call for independent review

By Jane Bardon

Posted Fri Sep 18, 2009 4:02pm AEST



"What we're seeing now is a big gap ... in relation to environmental monitoring" ... Greg Hunt. (AAP: Australian Maritime Safety Authority)

- **Map:** [Darwin 0800](#)
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The Federal Opposition is calling on the Government to pay for an independent organisation to carry out environmental monitoring of an oil spill off the Kimberley coast.

At least 1200 tonnes of oil have leaked from the Montara well head, 130 kilometres off the north-west coast of Australia.

The rig's manager, PTTEP Australasia, says it will be weeks before the leak can be plugged.

Fishermen and environmental groups do not believe the Government is doing enough surveying of the environmental impact in the area.

The Opposition's environment spokesman, Greg Hunt, says it should pay for an independent organisation, such as Charles Darwin University or James Cook University, to carry out a survey of marine life.

"What we're seeing now is a big gap, a wall of silence, in relation to environmental monitoring," he said.

"So let's have an immediate environmental monitoring body appointed, such as a university.

"And let's have a genuine deep review into what happened here, how it happened and whether there are better ways to prevent it."

The Northern Territory Environment Centre says proof the oil slick is killing birds gives more weight to calls for new protected marine areas in the region.

Speaking from the shore of Fannie Bay in Darwin, the centre's director, Stuart Blanch, says the oil spill has raised serious concerns.

"I'm looking out over the water and about 70 metres offshore I can see a dugong," he said.

"It's coming to the surface, then slowly going back down to the bottom to feed ... and then coming up again.

"And a marine oil spill, if that happened here in the harbour or washed into the harbour, animals like dugong would be in big, big trouble and that's why we need a network of marine parks."

The company responsible for the oil spill says it is making progress in its plan to stop oil leaking, but it will still take about three weeks to complete.

The company plans to drill an oil well parallel to the Montara well, intersect it, and then inject mud into the leaking well.

It says it expects to have drilled 1600 metres of the 2.6 kilometre deep relief well by Sunday night.

[www.hydroworld.com/index/display/article-display/0249013666/s-artic...](http://www.hydroworld.com/index/display/article-display/0249013666/s-artic...)

After issuing a new federal plan to manage dams and restore salmon populations in the Northwest, the Obama administration has agreed to provide an additional \$40.5 million to improve the salmon habitat in the Columbia River estuary.

Washington state, Obama sign salmon agreement

Saturday, 19 September 2009 10:30 AM

## Washington state, Obama sign salmon agreement

OLYMPIA, Wash., U.S. 9/17/09 (PennWell) --

After issuing a new federal plan to manage dams and restore salmon populations in the Northwest, the Obama administration has agreed to provide an additional \$40.5 million to improve the salmon habitat in the Columbia River estuary.

The agreement between Washington state and three federal agencies – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation – is tied to the Obama administration's new conservation plan for salmon, which was submitted to a federal judge in Portland, Ore.

The extra funding would be spent over the next nine years on estuary improvements, in addition to the improvements in the new federal plan. The estuary acts as a nursery for salmon before they migrate downriver, providing forage and shelter from predators.

"Estuary habitat improvements benefit all anadromous species in the Columbia Basin with a particular emphasis on those that are listed as threatened or endangered," said Steve Wright, head of the Bonneville Power Administration.

But the Obama administration's new federal plan for salmon restoration also directs the U.S. Corps of Engineers to study the removal of four dams on the lower Snake River. Those dams are the 635-MW Ice Harbor, 810-MW Little Goose, 810-MW Lower Granite, and 810-MW Lower Monumental projects.

However, dam removal would be an "action of last resort," the Obama administration said. ([HydroWorld 9/15/09](http://HydroWorld.com/9/15/09))

U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., railed against Obama's revised plan, saying it could lead to further job cuts and higher energy prices. Hastings is the highest ranking Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee.

"The Obama administration has put dam removal back on the table and delivered just what dam removal extremists have been demanding," Hastings said. "No one should be fooled by talk of dam removal as a last resort when the Obama administration is immediately launching studies and plans for such action."

American Rivers, a conservation group for healthy rivers, said Obama's new federal plan is similar to the controversial plan adopted by the Bush administration and does little to help restore salmon populations.

"The new administration has kept the 2008 Bush salmon plan intact, which sets the bar so low that many Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead runs will remain at a high risk of extinction," said Michael Garrity, the Washington conservation director for American Rivers.

<http://www.canada.com/salmon/2007804/story.html>

Do they all die after spawning? Yes. Even the pink salmon after a life of less than two years? Even

The salmon

Saturday, 19 September 2009 10:28 AM

## The salmon

By Roderick Haig-Brown, Courier-Islander September 18, 2009

Do they all die after spawning? Yes. Even the pink salmon after a life of less than two years? Even the great and powerful king salmon? Even the jacks, the precocious males that come back after only one short year in the sea? Yes, they all die. Not a single one of all the hosts upon hosts that come in from the sea lives to spawn a second time.

It is natural for a man to resent this, I suppose, to feel that it is wasteful and shocking, in some way unnatural. Many years ago, when I first came to the rivers of the Pacific salmon, I refused to believe it. After all, some steelhead and Atlantic salmon live to spawn a second time, even a third and fourth and fifth time. One sees them, bright and clean and strong again, in the rivers after spawning and knows that the power of recovery is in them. For years I searched among Pacific salmon for some sign of recovery, for even one fish that seemed to have renewed its grip on life. I did not find it. I have seen chum salmon back in salt water but invariably they were pathetic, worn-out creatures still in the immediate process of dying.

Now I have lived so long with this fact of collective, simultaneous death that I no longer resent or question it. Instead I find it fitting and beautiful, certainly useful in some way or ways that are not entirely clear and a yearly occasion of high drama.

(From Fisherman's Fall 1964.)

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[www.canada.com/Biologist+lays+charges+over+salmon+deaths/2007807/st...](http://www.canada.com/Biologist+lays+charges+over+salmon+deaths/2007807/st...)

Biologist Alexandra Morton has laid charges under the Federal Fisheries Act against Marine Harvest

## Biologist lays charges over salmon deaths

Courier-IslanderSeptember 18, 2009

Biologist Alexandra Morton has laid charges under the Federal Fisheries Act against Marine Harvest Canada Inc. for illegal possession of wild juvenile salmon from an endangered stock.

Hundreds of small salmon were apparently seen spilling onto a dock in Port McNeill June 16, during a transfer of live Atlantic salmon brood stock from the fish farm vessel M.V. Orca Warrior. The vessel's registered owner is Marine Harvest.

"When I received photos of the incident minutes later," says Morton, "I was really surprised the fish lying on the road were young pink salmon, I could not understand what were they doing in Marine Harvest's boat."

"Marine Harvest emailed stating that the young wild salmon had come from the Potts Bay fish farm, just west of Glendale River in Knights Inlet," says Morton. "They were apparently in the farm salmon pens and were scooped up with the Atlantic salmon. We have no idea how many pink salmon ended up going down the highway in the tanks on the truck."

When Morton took her boat to the Potts Bay fish farm she said she saw large schools of pink salmon leaping inside the pens.

"While millions of tax payers dollars and environmental donations have been spent to protect the Glendale River pink salmon from fish farms, last fall was the lowest return yet.

"These are the offspring from that generation and far from safe, they are right in the farm and in their fish packers," said Morton.

Morton has published 15 scientific papers on juvenile pink salmon.

Morton's lawyer, Jeffery Jones corresponded with DFO for six weeks but the Department did not taken any action.

"I have received many reports over the years of herring, black cod and wild salmon in farm pens. The escaped Atlantic salmon that fishermen bring me often have wild fish in their stomachs.

"Are Norwegian farm salmon fattening up on wild BC fish?"

"What happens to the wild fish when the nets are pulled?"

"What happened to the pink salmon that may have been in the truck?"

"DFO has often charged commercial and sport fishermen with illegal possession to protect wild fish, why won't they charge fish farms for the same violation?," asked Morton.

Morton asks that anyone with information on other wild fish in fish farms to contact her at [www.adopt-a-fry.org](http://www.adopt-a-fry.org)

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### Assessing recreational fisheries: Current and future challenges

**Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference and Workshop,  
Sydney 15-18<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Each year, the Australian Society for Fish Biology hosts a conference and workshop to discuss fisheries and aquatic resource issues of national importance. This is a summary of the main findings from the conference and workshop sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and NSW Department of Primary Industries in partnership with the Murray Darling Basin Commission, WA Department of Fisheries, DPI Fisheries Victoria, Museum Victoria, NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts, and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute. The proceedings are now available to the public from the website [www.asfb.org.au](http://www.asfb.org.au).

#### REVIEW OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

#### AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH

#### RECREATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH METHODS

#### RECREATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT IN 2028. WHAT SHOULD SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES LOOK LIKE IN 20 YEARS

There has been significant scientific progress since the Australian Society for Fish Biology held the recreational fishing workshop in Canberra in August 1994 to answer the question "What's the catch?". After the 1994 workshop, many of the participants embarked on a range of recreational fishery projects that have now established monitoring baselines in several States and collaborated in the design and implementation of the first National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. With these achievements and national coordination through ASFB's Recreational Fishing Committee, there has been significant progress in the science that underpins the large, diverse and valuable recreational fisheries in Australia.

More investment is needed to advance recreational research and monitoring. With funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Commonwealth and State agencies, ASFB members are playing a pivotal part in fostering research co-operation and information exchange in this rapidly evolving aspect of fisheries science. It is vital that the monitoring methods are improved and consistent between states. By working together we can develop cost-effective, statistically robust methods for assessing recreational fisheries so trends can be tracked over time. This conference and the proceedings will help to convey key messages to the fisheries management agencies, the fishing and tackle industry and to angling community.

#### Major Outcomes

There were four major outcomes from the workshop on how we can improve recreational fishing research in the future.

*The need for a licence system to create a robust sampling frame*

*Traditional and novel methods of measuring recreational catches need validation*

*Innovation and the application of new technology*

*Collaboration and support from anglers and the recreational fishing industry*

**Papers presented at the 2008 Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference and Workshop**

Why, Who, What and How? Key Questions about the Assessment of Recreational Fisheries in Australia.

Assessing Recreational Fisheries : Current and Future Challenges

An overview of monitoring and assessment of recreational fishing in Victoria.

Recreational fisheries management and research in Tasmania

South Australian recreational fisheries – participation, management and assessment.

Western Australian recreational fisheries

A summary of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory

An overview of recreational fisheries-related monitoring and research being carried out by Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Management and assessment of the recreational fisheries in New South Wales: an overview.

The marine recreational fisheries statistical survey in the US: challenges and changes.

Overview of recreational fisheries policy, management and research in New Zealand.

Information – the biggest issue for the recreational fishing sector

Development of a plan to address national needs for recreational fishing data for fisheries management and development.

Understanding the recreational fishing sector.

Managing many with little: herding chooks in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Strengths and weaknesses of recreational fisheries management and research strategies: a recreational sector perspective

New ideas and methods for assessing catch and effort in marine recreational fisheries.

Application of the telephone diary methodology in large scale recreational fishing surveys.

The evolution of recreational harvest estimation in New Zealand from indirect to direct approaches.

Angler licence sampling frames : how can they be used to improve survey designs and reduce costs?

In the year 2025...will recreational fishing be alive...

A grass roots perspective – more fish and more access

Australian fishing media's vision of sustainable recreational fisheries in the 2030's.

Future sustainable game fishing for pelagic species – considerations

Recreational fishers: the champions for fish habitat rehabilitation?

Liz Baker, Conservation Action Unit, NSW DPI

MPAs vision for the future is focused on conservation of marine biodiversity.

Research challenges arising from differing stakeholder objectives and perceptions.

Thirty years down the line: Changes in the recreational fishery in the Blackwood estuary,south-western Australia.

Where have all the fishers gone?: declining participation trends in recreational fishing in Queensland.

NSW gamefish tournament monitoring – past, present and future

The WA recreational logbook program – evaluation of progress after three years.

A boom and bust recreational scallop fishery.

The Western Australian charter boat industry: working towards long-term sustainability.

Recreational fishers' attitudes towards the 2004 rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Ongoing research and management for the long term sustainability of the west coast demersal scalefish recreational fishery, Western Australia.

Developments in using aerial fishing effort surveys to scale up observed harvests.

Trends in Queensland's recreational fishing catch, harvest and release

Gone fishing? – Using recreational fish catch data to assess trends in fish stocks in Queensland.

Do club-based anglers have a disproportionately large influence on estimates of total fishing catch and effort estimates in a recreational fishery?

Monitoring recreational catch in remote Queensland – a change in tactics.

Patrick Coutin

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Poor boat load checking MARINE and Safety Tasmania did not actively enforce load limits on abalone boats, a coronial inquest heard yesterday.

✉ Poor boat load checking Scales of Justice - The Mercury - The Voice of Tasmania

Friday, 18 September 2009 1:58 PM

- [print](#)

## Poor boat load checking

NICK CLARK

September 18, 2009 02:00am

**MARINE and Safety Tasmania did not actively enforce load limits on abalone boats, a coronial inquest heard yesterday.**

Workplace Standards Tasmania inspector Lawrence Jovich said he had investigated the death of deckhand David Colson on October 8, 2007.

Mr Jovich told Coroner Steve Carey that there were stricter load limits on recreational fishermen than commercial fishermen.

The inquest has previously heard that the vessel Too Easy owned by abalone diver Tony Burton was carrying 744kg of abalone on the day it sank -- compared with the 235kg limit it was later assigned.

Mr Jovich said police did not look at load limits but rather the carrying of safety equipment.

MAST manager of vessel standards and survey Gwynne Alway said MAST had no load limits in place at the time.

He said MAST did not have people available to inspect vessels but relied on police to do surveillance work.

The inquest heard in June that the vessel had no life jackets or VHF radio on board and that an EPIRB (emergency beacon) was never found by police.

Mr Colson died of hypothermia but Mr Burton was found by police on Perkins Island.

[www.timescolonist.com/technology/Jack+Knox+Retired+fisheries+expert...](http://www.timescolonist.com/technology/Jack+Knox+Retired+fisheries+expert...)

For retired fisheries biologist Gordon Hartman, it was the sight of Nero fiddling while Rome burned.

✉ Retired fisheries expert slams minister

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:43 AM

## Retired fisheries expert slams minister

By Jack Knox, Times Colonist September 17, 2009

- [Story](#)
- [Photos \( 1 \)](#)



**Jack Knox**

**Photograph by: File, Times Colonist**

For retired fisheries biologist Gordon Hartman, it was the sight of Nero fiddling while Rome burned.

With a full-scale salmon crisis on the West Coast, the famed Fraser River sockeye run approaching total collapse, where was federal Fisheries Minister Gail Shea? In Norway, banging the drum on behalf of the fish-farming industry.

Which, after hearing some of her comments, told Hartman all he needed to know about Shea's priorities when it comes to Pacific salmon.

"It was the straw that broke the camel's back," Hartman says from his Nanaimo home.

So Hartman recruited another retired Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientist, Casey McAllister, and drafted an Aug. 31 letter accusing Shea and DFO of doing a poor job of protecting wild salmon while giving unrestrained support to the aquaculture industry.

"Historically, we recall times when DFO stood out clearly on environmental issues," they wrote. Marine oil exploration, fish habitat, coastal logging, the Site C dam proposal -- DFO was always there, on the side of the angels.

"As opposed to this, DFO's performance during the past 25 years or so is lamentable." That's particularly true regarding the protection of Pacific salmon, they wrote. The letter accuses DFO of sitting quietly by while fish-bearing streams are pre-empted for private power development, condoning massive gravel removal in salmon habitat in the lower Fraser River and playing hand-maiden to the aquaculture industry.

On the phone, Hartman is quick to say he doesn't know why the Fraser sockeye run fell to 1.3 million fish from the predicted 10.6 million. Salmon runs can collapse for many reasons. But it was disturbing that DFO, with no evidence, was so quick to dismiss sea lice from Broughton Archipelago fish farms as a cause.

"In regard to aquaculture in coastal B.C. we are deeply concerned about the policy direction and the inadequacy of federal government science," the letter read. "We are concerned not only because the high-profile conflict in the Broughton Archipelago area is unresolved, but because the industry apparently wishes to expand beyond where it now extensively operates."

The letter rips DFO for failing to adhere to the precautionary principle and for backing the expansion of aquaculture despite independent research, "refereed" by other scientists, that shows open-net fish farms carry a risk of serious or irreversible harm. "While being quick to criticize outside research, DFO's own research provides a weak and fragmentary foundation for management of aquaculture in B.C."

The letter accuses DFO of putting too much weight on the relative tonnage of fish produced by the wild and farmed fisheries, to the exclusion of broader considerations. "The effects that we make to sustain wild salmon and their habitats also help to support an array of other wildlife."

"It is clear that wild salmon face a daunting array of man-made environmental challenges, including other land uses, climate change, forest loss, water abstraction and ocean condition changes that we do not understand well. This given, your government should protect them as well as possible for as long as possible. This can be done. However, it requires a more sincere concern for wild fish than is evident to date on behalf of DFO. In the long term, it requires a vision on the part of elected people and senior bureaucrats that goes beyond winning two- to four-year electoral popularity contests and serving the apparently biggest 'business' on the block."

What makes all this disturbing to read is the source. When it comes to the salmon debate, most of us, those whose understanding of marine science is no greater than that of George Costanza, are mired in uncertainty by our own ignorance.

But Hartman and McAllister have real credentials, are retired DFO scientists with doctorates in biology and oceanography, have a passion for their life's work and a combined 85 years experience in their fields.

If Gail Shea has the same sort of passion for her portfolio, for the fish and oceans placed in her care, then she should at least give them a listen.

jknnox@tc.canwest.com

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[http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2009/09/17/85381\\_ntnews.html](http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2009/09/17/85381_ntnews.html)

COULD this be the Loch Alexander Monster ... or is it something a lot less mysterious?

Satellite shots reveal a mysterious lake monster - Northern Territory News

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:28 AM

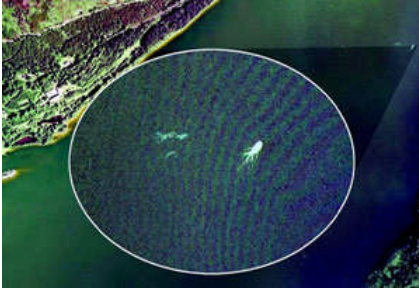


OUR NESS: The Google Earth image showing the "mystery" shape. Is it the Loch Alex Monster or something much less mysterious?

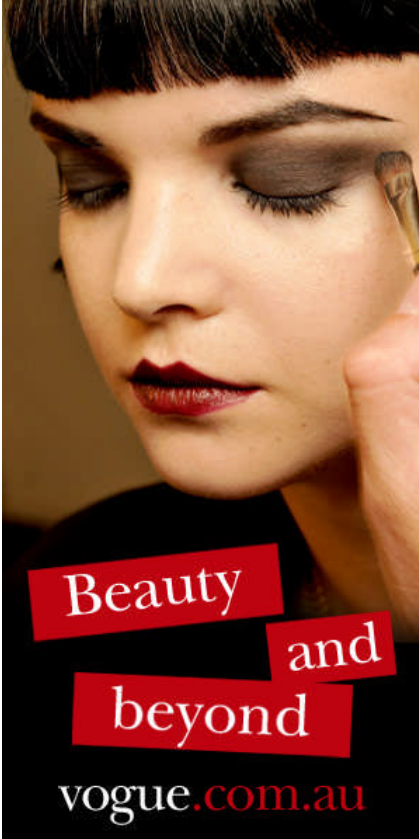
Satellite shots reveal a mysterious lake monster

MATT CUNNINGHAM

September 17th, 2009



BIG NESS: Is this it? Jason Cooke says this Google Earth image looks just like the Loch Ness Monster. Picture: THE SUN



**COULD this be the Loch Alexander Monster ... or is it something a lot less mysterious?**

The images captured on Google Earth show a large brown object in the murky water at Lake Alexander, where a giant cod bit a woman on the foot last month.

The image has some wondering if the Loch Alexander Monster could still be at large despite Darwin City Council's claims it has caught the man-eating fish.

It follows a similar Google Earth sighting at Loch Ness in Scotland - home of the infamous Loch Ness Monster.

The London Sun newspaper reported that a websurfer believed Google Earth had picked up an image of the Loch Ness Monster.

Security guard Jason Cooke said the 65ft oblong shape followed by thin strands is actually an image of the possibly mythical creature supposed to inhabit Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands.

Mr Cooke told the Sun: "I couldn't believe it. It's just like the descriptions of Nessie."

But sceptics believe it might be a boat.

Sceptics a bit closer to home have suggested that the object seen in Lake Alexander might just be the pump that filters the water.

But that would just be boring.

We estimate our own "mystery" Loch object or beast to be approximately 5m long or wide.

There has been a rush on mystery aquatic beast sightings recently.

Two weeks ago Sydney cryptozoologist Rex Gilroy said he had sighted Sydney's own "Nessie", claiming he witnessed a 12m giant surface in the Hawkesbury River.

Through binoculars Mr Gilroy saw a dark shadow "with a longish neck" near Wiseman's Ferry.

Mr Gilroy, who has been searching for Sydney's beast since 1965, said he believed it was a plesiosaur from the Jurassic period.

Mr Gilroy, known for his research on the western Sydney panther, said neither the NSW nor Scottish "Nessies" were alone (we haven't told him about Darwin's yet).

"We'd have to have a breeding population of no less than 300 to 600," he said.

"We're dealing with ocean creatures coming into the river to breed. There are areas of ocean ... anything could live down there and you wouldn't know it."

After hearing of the Hawkesbury Monster in 1965 he found accounts dating back to pre-colonial times, with stories told of children being attacked by the "moolyewonk".

When fishing boats were found overturned and the occupants missing in the 1980s, the Hawkesbury Monster was the prime suspect.

"We have rock art depicting them. It seems the Aboriginal people knew of these creatures," Mr Gilroy said.

Enthusiasts also believe the Loch Ness creature is a plesiosaur - an aquatic reptile that appeared at the start of the Jurassic period and is widely believed to now be extinct.

Adrian Shine, a researcher on the Loch Ness project, said the new images publicised by Mr Cooke were "really intriguing" and deserved further study.

The Loch Ness Monster has been a subject of mass intrigue and debate since it came to the world's attention in 1933.

The latest tantalising sighting can be seen on Google Earth using the co-ordinates latitude 57012'52.13"N, longitude 4034'14.16"W.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/17/2688359.htm>

The WA Conservation Council says the State Government's strategy to reduce recreational fishing will not stop the decline in fish stocks.

WA fisheries at risk - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:27 AM

## WA fisheries at risk

Posted Thu Sep 17, 2009 8:13am AEST

Updated Thu Sep 17, 2009 8:36am AEST



Marine sanctuaries needed to protect fish stocks say conservationists (User Contribution: Pete Zeroni)

The WA Conservation Council says the State Government's strategy to reduce recreational fishing will not stop the decline in fish stocks.

The Fisheries Minister Norman Moore introduced measures earlier this year in an effort to halve the yearly catch.

The Government announced yesterday it will scale back the restrictions.

The annual \$150 demersal fishing licence fee will be scrapped.

However, bag limits will remain as will a daily limit of 6 dhufish per charter boat.

The Council's Tim Nichols says the measures do not go far enough to protect fish stocks.

"Without marine sanctuaries we will continue to see a decline in our fish stocks," he said.

"These measures may help to slow that decline, but to really reverse that decline the science is telling us sanctuaries are the best option and the only option that will really ensure a future for our fish."

[www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/74336/cockle-harvesting-upsets-runanga](http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/74336/cockle-harvesting-upsets-runanga)

Cockle harvesting upsets runanga | Otago Daily Times Online

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:23 AM

## Cockle harvesting upsets runanga

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Dunedin](#)

By [Hamish McNeilly](#) on Thu, 17 Sep 2009

News: [Dunedin](#)

The first commercial catch of cockles for more than three decades was taken from Otago Harbour yesterday, prompting a customary fisheries guardian to liken the move to Japanese whaling.

Southern Clams was awarded a special permit in July, allowing the Dunedin-based fishing company to carry out research trials on commercial cockle fishing in the middle banks of the harbour for three years.

The company's purpose-built barge, Tuaki, returned to Dunedin with four tonnes of cockles yesterday, raising the ire of Otakou runanga tangata tiaki/kaitiaki (customary manager) Hoani Langsbury.

"We are shocked commercial harvesting is happening under the guise of research. It is akin to how they do Japanese whaling."

Mr Langsbury, one of the organisers behind a mataitai for Otago Harbour, said the harbour had been closed to commercial harvesting for more

than three decades and he was disappointed to see cockles taken from the area.

While the mataitai - if approved - would exclude commercial fishing, Southern Clams would still be permitted to fish in the designated area as part of its research permit.

Catch taken under the research permit was allowed to be exported overseas.

Mr Langsbury said the runanga had approached the Ministry of Fisheries to revoke the research permit, but that was unsuccessful.

Southern Clams operations manager David Redshaw said the company was pleased with yesterday's harvest.

Seven people using body dredges harvested a total of four tonnes of cockles in just over an hour, he said.

Under the permit, the company could take 650 tonnes of cockles a year from Otago Harbour for three years, with a possibility of a two-year extension.

The permit would enable research to be carried out on the sustainability of the harvest.

The quality of the cockles was similar to those harvested from Blueskin Bay and was a "niche" product, Mr Redshaw said.

The majority of the catch would be exported to the United States and then to some Asian markets, with 20% for the domestic market, he said.

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Hoani Langsbury

[thegovmonitor.com/world\\_news/asia/australia-releases-climate-change...](http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/asia/australia-releases-climate-change...)

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today released a case study report on the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of Tasmania's east coast rock lobster fishery system to climate change.

Australia releases climate change study on Tasmanian east coast rock lobster fishery | The Gov Monitor

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:21 AM

## Australia releases climate change study on Tasmanian east coast rock lobster fishery

Source: [Government of Australia](http://Government of Australia)

Posted on: 16th September 2009

**Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today released a case study report on the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of Tasmania's east coast rock lobster fishery system to climate change.**

The report - East coast Tasmanian rock lobster fishery - vulnerability to climate change impacts and adaptation response options - predicts future climate change impacts on the system and assesses the capacity of rock lobster fishers to adapt to predicted climate impacts.

It identifies a range of possible adaptation responses available to resource users and managers on the east coast of Tasmania - an area already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

"Climate change is already having an impact on species, habitats, and ecological communities in the area and this is expected to continue in the future, impacting on dependent industries, such as the rock lobster industry," Senator Wong said.

"The east coast of Tasmania has experienced warming over the last few decades at three to four times the global average and this has been impacting catches for a considerable period."

The team - led by Dr Gretta Pecl of the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute - included researchers from the University of Tasmania, CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, University of Washington.

"The report provides industry and government with longer term horizons to plan adaptation and management and demonstrates how actions today should consider climate change projections," Professor Colin Buxton, Director of the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, said.

Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association chief executive officer Rodney Treloggen said industry involvement in the project had raised awareness of the significance of climate change to the industry, and would encourage the industry to be more proactive.

"A well informed industry will be more proactive and will therefore more effectively manage the impacts of climate change, compared with an industry that ignores the threat," Mr Treloggen said.

The report is available at [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au) .

SIEMENS



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Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed Tuesday to "enforce Canadian law in our territory" on the eve of

NDP press Harper to raise U.S.-Canada boundary dispute with Obama

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:16 AM

## NDP press Harper to raise U.S.-Canada boundary dispute with Obama

By Randy Boswell, Canwest News Service September 15, 2009 [Comments \(1\)](#)

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**Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed Tuesday to "enforce Canadian law in our territory" on the eve of a trip to the White House and amid a dispute with the U.S. over fishing rights in the Beaufort Sea.**

**Photograph by: Chris Wattie, Reuters**

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed Tuesday to "enforce Canadian law in our territory" on the eve of a trip to the White House and amid a dispute with the U.S. over fishing rights in the Beaufort Sea.

NDP Leader Jack Layton, perhaps days away from allying with the prime minister to help avert a federal election, targeted the Conservative government in question period for allowing "the largest encroachment on Canadian territory in our history," and pressed Harper to raise the issue of Arctic sovereignty with U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday when the two leaders meet for talks at the White House.

Last month, the U.S. government declared a moratorium on new fisheries off the Alaskan coast pending further research about the effects of climate change on Arctic waters.

But the U.S. action — widely applauded by environmentalists — ruffled Canada's feathers because the no-fisheries zone included a 21,436-square kilometre section of the Beaufort Sea that both the U.S. and Canada claim is theirs.

Canwest News Service revealed earlier this month, shortly after Harper returned from a tour aimed at asserting Arctic sovereignty, that Canada has filed a diplomatic protest in Washington over the inclusion of the disputed waters in the U.S. moratorium.

"The prime minister had a photo op on a frigate in the Arctic," Layton said Tuesday, "but will he really protect Canadian sovereignty by asking President Obama tomorrow to withdraw the fishing moratorium the United States has imposed on Canadian territory?"

Harper didn't commit to raising the issue with Obama, but indicated the government would hold fast to Canada's claims in the region.

"The Beaufort Sea has been the subject of a territorial dispute between the United States and Canada for some time," he responded. "Obviously, we would like to find a resolution of that dispute but, of course, in the meantime, we will assert our right to enforce Canadian law in our territory."

Canada formally voiced its objections to the proposed new U.S. fisheries policy in April, but the filing of the "diplomatic note" was only revealed

Sept. 3 — the day after the NDP's critic on northern issues, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington, slammed Harper for his apparent "silence" over the U.S. "encroachment" on Canadian jurisdiction in the Beaufort.

The NDP's call for a stronger stance followed a Canwest News Service story about a potential U.S.-Canada boundary clash in the region after U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke's announcement in late August that he was implementing the proposed fishing moratorium as a "precautionary" conservation measure.

The Department of Foreign Affairs later disclosed that Canada had, in fact, filed a formal protest in April over the geographic scope of the U.S. fisheries plan.

But Locke's approval of the moratorium in August — with the designated management area encompassing the disputed waters along the Yukon-Alaska maritime boundary — made clear the U.S. government was unmoved by Canada's protest.

The diplomatic note, said Foreign Affairs, also made clear that "the Government of Canada does not acquiesce in any measure taken by the Government of the United States of America or by the State of Alaska which would infringe upon Canadian sovereignty or sovereign rights in that area."

The Beaufort dispute — which involves a resource-rich area of ocean four times larger than Prince Edward Island — is mired in complex arguments based on various maritime law conventions and an 1825 boundary treaty between Britain and Russia.

Britain's possessions in the Arctic were formally ceded to Canada in 1880, and the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

In the past, both the U.S. and Canada have awarded oil exploration rights within the disputed zone but — because of the overlapping claims — the two countries have prohibited any work from taking place pending a diplomatic or legal resolution of the matter.

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[www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/government-backdown-on-new-fishing-fees-...](http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/government-backdown-on-new-fishing-fees-...)

Government backdown on new fishing fees | Norman Moore

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:15 AM

## Government backdown on new fishing fees

### STAFF REPORTER

September 16, 2009

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WA recreational fishers will not be slugged with an extra charge to catch 'at-risk' species.

The State Government has bowed to pressure from the recreational fishing lobby and wound back some of its proposed reforms to protect high-risk species.

Barely two months after **announcing a raft of measures** in an effort to halt the decline in stocks of demersal, or bottom dwelling species, Fisheries Minister Norman Moore today announced changes to some of the proposals.

Included among the reversals is the abolition of the proposed demersal scalefish licence, which would have cost \$150 a year, \$60 a fortnight, or \$20 a day.

Fees for all other species will be standardised at \$40, which is \$5 less than originally proposed.

A \$30 boat fishing licence will now apply to people fishing from registered boats only, while charter boat clients will have to buy \$15 tickets.

Non-licenced anglers can fish for free if they are with a licenced fisher. Previously this only applied to those aged under 16.

Bag limits have also been changed, in a trade-off for abolishing the licence fee.

There will now be a mixed limit of two demersal scalefish, of which only one can be a dhufish, while the dhufish limit for boats will be two.

However, charter boats can catch six dhufish "in recognition of the business pressures on charter operators", Mr Moore said.

All anglers fishing for demersal species will have to carry release weights, to improve the survival rate of the fish when they are returned to the water.

But the two-month season closure, from mid-October to mid-December, would remain, Mr Moore said.

The new proposals will come into effect from October 15, the day the season closure starts. They apply for the West Coast fishing region, between Kalbarri and Augusta.

"I appreciate the original measures to achieve the reduction target was unpopular but I've always said if there's a better way to achieve the sustainability objectives, I'm prepared to listen," Mr Moore said.

"And that's what I've done. I've listened, I've reviewed the options and today we are at the crossroads.

"I am prepared to take tougher measures down the track if a review of these new regulations finds that our catch reduction targets (50 per cent) are not achieved."

But Conservation Council director Piers Verstegen said the new reforms fell short of what was necessary to protect vulnerable species.

"(Mr Moore) is continuing to fiddle whilst Rome burns," he said.

The Government needed to establish marine sanctuaries which protected both marine life and recreational fishing.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan/KI16Dh01.html>

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Asia Times Online :: Japan News and Japanese Business and Economy

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:14 AM

## Japan

Sep 16, 2009

### Sushi lovers tense in Tokyo

By Peter J Brown

A few European countries are taking steps to save the world's bluefin tuna population. This month, the European Commission (EC) announced its support for a formal listing of the species as endangered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which would in effect ban any international trade in bluefin tuna.

Japan is the world's biggest importer of bluefin tuna, which can weigh as much as 300 kilograms or more. Considered a highly prized delicacy by the Japanese, the fish are often sold to customers in wafer-thin slices at sushi bars and restaurants. Whereas a fishing boat owner or captain might sell the fish to a buyer at the dock for \$30 to \$40 per kilo, that price could increase

tenfold or more by the time it lands on someone's plate in Japan.

Prices tripled from 2007 to 2008. One bluefin tuna caught [in Japanese](#) waters sold at auction in Japan [this year](#) for over \$100,000, well short of the all-time record which was set in 2001 at over \$150,000.

According to the Asahi Shimbun, Japan consumed 43,000 tons of bluefin tuna last year, and "a total ban on trade of [Atlantic](#) and Mediterranean bluefin tunas would translate to a cut of about 20,000 tons".

It is easy to see why any deliberate and meaningful action taken that might result in a global trading ban on tuna's bluefin [species](#) puts Japan and its suppliers on edge. Chinese consumers are starting to show some degree of interest in the fish, but it is nowhere near the Japanese consumption rate.

With 175 signatory countries, the CITES treaty requires a two-thirds majority vote, and bans only affect [international trade](#). Any bluefins caught in Japanese waters and then shipped domestically within Japan's borders would not be subject to provisions of a ban, if approved.

The EC will make its case to [European Union](#) (EU) member states on September 21. However, a final decision will be made in Doha in March at the next meeting of CITES signatories. EU states alone do not hold the majority of votes. Still, it is widely believed that there will be enough votes in favor of the ban at the Doha meeting if the EU elects to proceed.

Monaco, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are leading the EU campaign for a ban. In July, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced France's support as part of a firm government endorsement of sustainable fisheries. This represents a 180-degree turn by France. While Monaco is not an EU member state, it deserves credit for initiating the process in earnest. The US and Canadian positions are unclear.

Japan, Italy, Spain, a handful of North African nations and the island nation of Malta are seen as the biggest sources of resistance to this measure. Bluefin tuna exports account for a substantial percentage of Malta's estimated \$120 million in annual fresh tuna exports, for example. There is no question that since Sarkozy gave his speech, this situation is now being taken much more seriously by those who frequent Japan's high-end sushi bars.

Also feeling the heat are the thousands of people who catch bluefins. Sushi bar owners, chefs, along with fish transporters and distributors, are all likely to feel the sting if a ban on fishing bluefin tuna is imposed.

On average, the annual bluefin tuna harvest, which is primarily conducted in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, has been capped at around 30,000 tons per year. The total catch represents just a tiny fraction - 1% or less - of the annual worldwide harvest of all tuna species combined, according to statistics compiled by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Last November, a team of researchers at the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - which describes itself on its web site as "an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas" - recommended that the annual bluefin catch be reduced by more than half from 32,000 tons in 2007 to 15,000 tons or less.

Some are hoping that this will be seen as an acceptable solution that will offset the need for a total ban, which they label as too extreme a measure. Others disagree. Critics contend that the actual annual bluefin catch is higher than 50,000 tons, that these caps are always ignored, and that bluefin catch numbers are deliberately and substantially underreported.

"Despite the fact that the quota has been ranging from some 30,000 tons to 22,000 tons in 2009, the ICCAT Scientific Committee on Research and Statistics estimated in 2008 that catches in 2007 may have been up to 61,000 tons. This means that this is one of the fisheries in the world with higher rates of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, a lot of which has been carried out by the European fleet," said Sebastian Losada, Madrid-based oceans policy advisor at Greenpeace International.

However, "ICCAT does not yet have a formal position on the matter of a potential proposal to include Atlantic bluefin tuna in Appendix 1

of CITES. The issue will be discussed at the 21st regular meeting of the commission in November 2009," replied the ICCAT secretariat in Madrid to an e-mail query from Asia Times Online.

Another item subject to approval later this year is an ICCAT proposal to limit 2010 total bluefin tuna catches to 19,950 tons, and to 18,500 tons in 2011.

Japan is estimated to consume roughly anywhere from 70% to 90% of the European bluefin catch.

Among other things, what this heated debate is doing is focusing attention on bluefin trade and catch statistics, where the numbers in terms of total catches of the species and their value in dollars do not seem to add up.

The widespread practice of ranching bluefin, which is quite common in southern Europe, Malta and Turkey, is an important factor. Ranching involves the netting of juvenile tuna which are then transferred into large pens at sea where they are fattened and ultimately harvested. Malta ranks as the world leader in bluefin ranching.

One would think that ranching would help to keep the population of the species stable, but as growing numbers of juvenile tuna are penned up in various ranches, critics contend that the population's reproduction rate declines and that stocks are not sufficiently replenished over time in the wild. Greenpeace sees this practice, coupled with rampant over-fishing throughout the fishery, as putting the species very much at risk.

In a recent report entitled, "The 2008 BlueFin Tuna dossier: An analysis of Japan's 2008 Fresh Ranched Bluefin Tuna Auction Markets Vs ICCAT's 2008 Bluefin Tuna Caging Declarations," which was prepared by Madrid-based Advanced Tuna Ranching Technologies, SL, the authors echo the criticism of Greenpeace, and other organizations which contend that the current state of international bluefin tuna fishery management as a whole is not good, and that mismanagement often involves simply looking the other way.

"Once again, ICCAT and most of its contracting parties have proven that their fishing management policies for bluefin tuna are to be considered as an international disgrace and that they should no longer be allowed to continue dictating preposterous decisions that for the past 10 years have literally wiped out a species that has been fished for over 7,000 years, from the [Mediterranean](#) Sea," said the ATRT report. "The level of bluefin catching and caging underreporting by ICCAT CPs [contracting parties] for 2008 could well exceed 50% of the officially reported figures. Blatant cases of false 2007/2008 bluefin tuna catch declarations and unreported caging of live bluefin tuna, have taken place ..."

The report mentions one EU country which reportedly "caged 692,550 kilograms of live bluefin tuna at its two operative Tuna ranches

during the 2008 [bluefin tuna fishing](#) season; and yet, according to the EU Trade Statistic Database Eurostat, [it] exported to Japan alone during the period July 1 to December 31 2008, 1,019,600 kilograms of fresh bluefin tuna".

During the bluefin [fishing season](#), planes play a vital role. Pilots locate large schools or "pods" of the fish. Once spotted from the air, pilots provide directions to [fishing boats](#) that are often so-called "purse seiners" which feed out a large net that sits on the surface, and then is gradually drawn shut, leaving the slowly surrounded school of bluefin tuna with no avenue of escape.

If the bluefin tuna which have been caught are not designated for ranching, they are brought ashore. From there they are trucked to an airport and whisked away on cargo planes to a large auction house in Tokyo, where they are sold for an enormous sum. The whole process guarantees a fresh supply of bluefin tuna each day.

Years ago, this writer worked on bluefin tuna fishing boats operating in the waters of Cape Cod Bay off Massachusetts, and loaded the fish onto trucks usually around 3am to 4am. The fish were taken to Boston's Logan Airport where JAL (Japanese Airlines) 747 cargo planes were loaded every morning before departing for Tokyo. Vast quantities of bluefin tuna moved through Boston in this manner, despite its relatively short fishing season.

Greenpeace and others assert that the over-exploitation of bluefin tuna has taken place, though the fishing has been tightly regulated for years, via shortened fishing seasons, annual catch quotas, partial bans and fishing exclusion zones or closures. There was a temporary ban on European purse seiners last year, for example.

"Bluefin tuna populations have fallen to critically low levels. Anyone who is opposed to the proposed trade ban is clearly putting short-term commercial interests above the survival of the species," said Saskia Richartz, EU oceans policy director at Greenpeace in a release issued just after the EC decision was announced. "Bluefin tuna has become endangered because of disgraceful fisheries management in the EU. The suspension of trade is a last resort and it merely buys the EU time to put its fisheries management in order."

Among other things, a curious split has emerged at the EU as the EU's environment commissioner, Stavros Dimas, is supportive of the ban, and acknowledges the need for urgent action. Meanwhile, EU fisheries commissioner Joe Borg is described as stuck between a rock and a hard place because of his Maltese constituency. Borg is not in favor of the ban, while trying to make all of the ICCAT's 48 contracting parties understand the gravity of the situation and trying to convey a sense that nothing short of full compliance with existing bluefin tuna regulations will prove viable. But it may be too late.

As the bluefin ban moves steadily ahead to its formal passage next March, another potential tuna crisis looms for Asia, according to Greenpeace. This has to do with the many tuna species which are harvested in huge numbers, and not just bluefins.

Noting that the highest annual tuna catch ever recorded in the Pacific - an estimated 2,426,195 metric tons - took place in 2008, Greenpeace is calling attention to a disturbing pattern where once again signatory states to various international agreements are largely ignoring those same pacts and allowing rampant over-fishing of tuna species to occur. The nations responsible include the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan and the US in particular, along with China and Spain to a lesser extent.

In an attempt to greatly reduce the level of tuna fishing in specified international waters, and perhaps reduce the total catch by as much as a half in the process, several Pacific Island nations together with Greenpeace and others are requesting the closure of all four zones which are collectively known as the "Pacific Commons" to all fishing, and declare them as marine reserves.

In mid-2008, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and other island nations declared two areas of the Pacific Commons adjacent to their territories to be off-limits to tuna boats.

These nations were frustrated by the lack of oversight and the otherwise poor fishery management practices of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to which they belong, along with other Pacific island nations and Australia, Korea, Chinese Taipei, China, Canada, France, the Philippines, Japan, New Zealand, the US, Indonesia, Senegal and the European Community.

In this instance, the collective action being taken is intended to preserve and strengthen not only the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, but also other fish and endangered species.

Further tuna fishing restrictions may be imposed as part of a new Pacific Commons-centric regime in December.

So, tuna is a hot topic in Japan these days. Swine flu fears are already resulting in fewer sushi bar patrons. Tensions are rising at the fish auctions in Tokyo, where tons of valuable tuna may disappear in the coming months. Simply put, an EU-proposed ban on bluefin fishing is bound to make lot of people nervous in Japan. Billions of dollars are at stake.

***Peter J Brown** is a freelance writer from the US state of Maine. He wishes to thank the staff of Greenpeace and the ICCAT secretariat in Madrid for their assistance.*

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THREATS of legal action by commercial fisherman for compensation over the West Atlas oil spill were premature until claims of harm to wildlife could be confirmed, according to the offshore oil industry's peak body.

Too soon to claim compo: oil body | The Australian

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:12 AM

## Too soon to claim compo: oil body

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Nicolas Perpetch | September 16, 2009

Article from: [The Australian](#)

**THREATS of legal action by commercial fisherman for compensation over the West Atlas oil spill were premature until claims of harm to wildlife could be confirmed, according to the offshore oil industry's peak body.**

Kimberley fishermen have warned they will take the well head's operator, PTTEP Australasia, to court if it is found the sweet light crude oil leaking into the Timor Sea has damaged the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery.

They have also said they would take action against the Australian Maritime Safety Authority if it was found the dispersants used to break up the spill were hurting marine life.

Fishermen have reported finding sea snakes and turtles covered in an oily substance in the area around the drill rig, 250km off Western Australia's far north coast.

But Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association chief executive Belinda Robinson said any claims needed to be checked first.

"At the moment, we're not aware of any incidents of the fishery being affected by the oil spill," she said.

"But anyone who sees any evidence should be providing that to the authorities so it can be handled and dealt with as quickly as possible."

She said it was too early to talk of legal action.

"I think it's premature. At this stage, the industry's not aware of any impact on fisheries, so it seems a little early to be making claims of compensation."

The fishery takes in all West Australian waters east of longitude 120, which crosses the coast about 150km east of Port Hedland in the Pilbara.

It extends to the edge of Australia's fishing zone, 200 nautical miles out to sea.

The seven commercial fishing boats that operate in the area come from Broome, Darwin and Port Hedland and catch mainly red emperor, goldband and other coral trout and cod, in a fishery worth \$8 million a year.

Kimberley Professional Fisherman's Association secretary Bob Masters said the spill was in the middle of the northern part of the fishery. PTTEP had said it would pay AMSA for clean-up costs and nothing else.

"What worries me there is if there is more damage than the clean-up, potential future damages to fish stocks and the marine environment which would have a very large effect on our income," Mr Masters said. "Then there's the potential damage to our brand of the pristine, clean Kimberley fish from the area."

The federal environment department is working with its WA counterpart to monitor the potential effects of the spill on wildlife.

It said five birds had so far been confirmed as affected by oil and treated at Ashmore Island.

[tvnz.co.nz/business-news/govt-launches-plan-fisheries-management-29...](http://tvnz.co.nz/business-news/govt-launches-plan-fisheries-management-29...)

The government has released its new plan of action for New Zealand fisheries.

Govt releases plan for managing fish stocks | BUSINESS News

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:09 AM

## Govt launches plan for fisheries management

Published: 11:57AM Tuesday September 15, 2009

Source: ONE News

- [Read](#)



ONE NewsCommercial fishing boat

The government has released its new plan of action for New Zealand fisheries.

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley says Fisheries 2030 focuses on maximising benefits from the sustainable management of fisheries stocks.

He says recent international research places New Zealand in the top two marine areas in the world in terms of the way fisheries are managed, but he believes there is much to be done.

"Our precious fisheries resources have the potential to add value in many ways. Fisheries 2030 will play a role in delivering balance between economic development and sustainability," he says.

The plan incorporates existing and future work programmes aimed at helping the government and the fisheries sector improve productivity and

better manage fisheries.

The government says it will continue to consult all stakeholders, from commercial fishers to environmental groups, as the plan is implemented.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2686513.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

WA lobster fishermen cautiously welcome pot fee cuts - 15/09/2009

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:05 AM

## WA lobster fishermen cautiously welcome pot fee cuts

Tuesday, 15/09/2009

Western Australia's rock lobster fishermen have cautiously welcomed a reduction in pot fees.

Minister for Fisheries Norman Moore recently reduced management fees from \$147 to \$112 per pot, ahead of expected cuts to the number of pots allocated to fishermen this year.

With low numbers of juvenile lobsters in the water, the total allowable catch has been lowered by about 2000 tonnes for the season due to begin in November.

Fishermen are also expecting cuts to fishing days in the season ahead.

Anthony Pirrottina, president of the Geraldton Professional Fisherman's Association, says in the face of the cuts, the government had to offer some savings to fishermen.

"Industry's really reduced from basically 100 per cent usage of pots down to 42 per cent," he says.

"You'd have to expect some sort of reduction. There isn't as much management now required by fisheries."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2685189.htm>

Coverage of rural industries and issues.

Rough seas hamper WA fishermen - 14/09/2009

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:05 AM

## Rough seas hamper WA fishermen

Monday, 14/09/2009

Fishermen on the south coast of Western Australia say this winter has been the worst season for almost a decade.

Wild and windy weather with huge swells has severely limited the days at sea for scale fish and gummy shark boats.

Esperance Professional Fisherman's Association president Neville Manstead says unfortunately he expects the bad weather to continue for a bit longer.

"Blokes are out there fishing, but there is a lot of time when they are not able to fish because the weather has been that rough, and we've had some tremendous wind and some huge swells," he says.

"I can't remember seeing swells as big as this for such an extended period of time."

[www.guide2.co.nz/politics/news/heatley-announces-20-year-fish-plan/...](http://www.guide2.co.nz/politics/news/heatley-announces-20-year-fish-plan/...)

Heatley Announces 20-Year Fish Plan Wellington, Sept 15 NZPA - Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley today released Fisheries 2030, aimed at improving the management of the country's fisheries., Wellington, Sept 15 NZPA - Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley today released Fisheries 2030, aimed at improving the management of the country's fisheries.

Heatley Announces 20-Year Fish Plan | News | Guide2.co.nz

Friday, 18 September 2009 7:04 AM

## Heatley Announces 20-Year Fish Plan

[Home](#) > [Politics](#) > [News](#)

Contributor:



**NZPA**

Tuesday, 15 September 2009 - 5:38pm



Wellington, Sept 15 NZPA - Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley today released Fisheries 2030, aimed at improving the management of the country's fisheries.

"This is the plan by which the Government aims to enable the sector to make a significantly greater but sustainable contribution to the New Zealand economy," Mr Heatley said.

The plan has 15 objectives, ranging from ensuring sustainability of fish stocks, through managing impacts of fishing and aquaculture and delivering on obligations to Maori.

It brought together work programmes, providing overall direction and enabling the Government and the fisheries sector to improve productivity and achieve better management, Mr Heatley said.

He cited the aquaculture sector as an example of the industry's potential, as it had set a goal of becoming a \$1 billion industry by 2025.

Mr Heatley claimed international research placed New Zealand in the top two marine areas in the world "in terms of the way our fisheries are managed".

Phil Heatley

But he emphasised in a cabinet paper that Fisheries 2030 was a 20-year strategy and not all aspects could be implemented at the same time.

There was no need for urgent law change, and officials would report to him on progress by June next year.

[news.brisbanetimes.com.au/breaking-news-national/messy-fight-likely...](http://news.brisbanetimes.com.au/breaking-news-national/messy-fight-likely...)

## Messy fight likely over oil spill: judge

**DAVID BARBELER**

September 15, 2009

At least 18 businesses and individuals are lining up to sue Swire Shipping over the oil spill off the Queensland coast.

A Federal Court judge says this may cause a messy fight over who will receive a share of the \$17.5 million liability fund.

Swire Shipping made applications to the Federal Court in Brisbane on Tuesday in which the company agreed to pay \$17.5 million to a court-administered limitation fund to cover valid claims arising from one of Australia's worst environmental disasters.

On March 11, the Hong Kong registered ship Pacific Adventurer was seven nautical miles off Moreton Island when it was hit by Cyclone Hamish.

It lost 31 containers of ammonium nitrate that sank to the bottom of the ocean, two of which punctured the ship's hull and leaked 270 tonnes of fuel into Moreton Bay.

Swire Shipping has agreed to pay a total of \$25 million for clean-up costs, \$7.5 million of which will go into a trust established to help improve marine protection and maritime safety.

The other \$17.5 million, which is made up of \$16.9 million plus interest, must be paid to the courts by September 29.

An advertisement must also be placed in The Courier-Mail and The Australian newspapers before September 19 calling for private claims to be lodged.

Private parties then have until November 23 to make a claim against Swire Shipping.

Crown lawyer Peter Davis said that while the state would be the major claimant against Swire, it would step aside and allow private parties to make claims first.

If none of the \$16.9 million, plus interest, remains in the fund by the time the state makes a claim, the state government will then make a claim through the commonwealth.

The commonwealth will then in turn increase shipping levy fees to make up the shortfall.

In an affidavit submitted to the court, there are currently 18 respondents expressing interest in making a claim against Swire.

Claimants include surf life saving clubs, ferry services, water sport and fishing charters and tourism businesses.

Justice John Dowsett said that with all the private parties looking to make a claim against Swire Shipping it might end up "messy".

"(There may be) a fight between claimants on who will be heard first," he said.

"There's undoubtedly going to be a very large number of claimants."

Sandy Thompson, SC, for Swire Shipping, said many of the claims were unlikely to be controversial.

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[www.eyretribune.com.au/news/local/news/general/atlantic-tuna-ban-to-...](http://www.eyretribune.com.au/news/local/news/general/atlantic-tuna-ban-to-...)

A possible worldwide trade ban on the sale of Atlantic bluefin tuna would have a dramatic affect on the price of southern bluefin tuna grown on the Eyre Peninsula, potentially boosting Clean Seas Tuna breeding efforts at Arno Bay.

## Atlantic tuna ban to boost local industry

16/09/2009 3:43:00 PM

A possible worldwide trade ban on the sale of Atlantic bluefin tuna would have a dramatic affect on the price of southern bluefin tuna grown on the Eyre Peninsula, potentially boosting Clean Seas Tuna breeding efforts at Arno Bay.

The European Commission has supported a proposal from Monaco that Atlantic bluefin be put on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) list, which would mean countries could not sell the fish to lucrative markets.

If the ban goes ahead when the vote is made in coming months, it will mean an initial two-year moratorium on the sale of Atlantic bluefin - one of two sub-species of northern bluefin tuna.

The other sub-species, pacific bluefin, would not be affected by the ban and will continue to be supplied mainly to Japan for domestic production with some new restrictions.

According to some experts, the level of northern bluefin wild catch is three times higher than is sustainable and some estimates put the population of northern bluefin tuna at about 18 per cent of 1970 levels.

Stehr Group and Clean Seas chairman Hagen Stehr says the local tuna industry would be delighted if the ban on Atlantic bluefin sales goes ahead.

"It would be a win-win situation for everyone in the industry and in Port Lincoln," he said.

At the same time that the world's wildcatch fisheries are facing low prices and reduced stock, southern bluefin tuna Clean Seas propagated at Arno Bay earlier this year are fast approaching one kilogram in weight and all is on track for the company to take the next step towards the commercialisation of the fish on a large scale.

The company is putting all of its efforts into expanding its operation in readiness to have fingerlings in the water early next year.

According to Hagen, this season's wildcatch tuna harvest has seen some of the worst prices on record and fishers were "fishing for nothing".

He said dramatic over fishing in the northern hemisphere highlighted how important the quota system in Australia has been.

"I do not always agree with our management system but it has proven to be a great thing for the industry as far as fish stocks are concerned," he said.

Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Association chief executive Brian Jeffriess said there was no doubt the issues with Atlantic bluefin would increase demand for southern bluefin tuna.

"There will be a large price increase in 2010, even if there is no trade ban on Atlantic bluefin."

## Court halts logging in East Gippsland

September 14, 2009 - 6:54PM

An owl, a potoroo and a crayfish have helped a Victorian environment group win a Supreme Court injunction to temporarily stop logging in the state's east.

The group launched the action to stop VicForests logging parts of Brown Mountain in East Gippsland in a bid to protect endangered wildlife.

"This is the first time a court order has been made to prevent the destruction of old growth forests in Victoria until a trial about the lawfulness of the logging is completed," Environment East Gippsland coordinator Jill Redwood said in a statement.

The group says endangered species in the area include the sooty owl, long-footed potoroo and Orbost spiny crayfish as well as the greater glider and yellow-bellied gliders.

Justice Jack Forrest said photos of the logging area showed the "total obliteration" of the area of native forest.

"To put it bluntly, once the logging is carried out and the native habitat destroyed, then it cannot be reinstated or repaired in anything but the very, very long term," he said.

The parties will return to court on Thursday to argue about a security payment VicForests has asked the environment group to pay to cover damages from the granting of the injunction.

The Victorian Association of Forest Industries (VAFI) called on environmentalists to respect the final decision of the court when it rules on logging activities at Brown Mountain.

VAFI chief executive Philip Dalidakis said logging at Brown Mountain complies with strict regulations including the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

He said the injunction covered two areas, each about 30ha.

Logging was expected to start in the area over the next two weeks but will now be suspended until the outcome of a trial.

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## WA state lets fishermen sell salmon-eating squid

Large Humboldt squid have shown up in the Strait of Juan de Fuca where commercial fishermen say they are stealing their catches. Now, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife is giving the fishermen some revenge by allowing them to sell squid they accidentally catch as they troll for salmon.

The Associated Press

PORT ANGELES, Wash. —

Large Humboldt squid have shown up in the Strait of Juan de Fuca where commercial fishermen say they are stealing their catches. Now, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife is giving the fishermen some revenge by allowing them to sell squid they accidentally catch as they troll for salmon.

Until recently, the squid, which can grow to 6 feet long and weigh more than 100 pounds, were found in the Pacific from the southern tip of South America to the California coast. Researchers suspect warmer ocean temperatures are allowing the voracious squid to range as far north as British Columbia and parts of Alaska.

Greg Bargmann, Fish and Wildlife marine ecosystem manager, said the state decided last week that commercial fishermen could sell squid they inadvertently catch.

"This has never been done before," he told the Peninsula Daily News. "We had to dig out the regulations. We didn't know if a provision existed."

It's good news to fisherman Gary Willmet of Neah Bay, who said he has between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds of squid he accidentally caught while fishing for salmon on his boat, White Eagle.

He said the big squid are a threat to fish stocks and his livelihood, nabbing salmon right off his hooks while he trolls the strait that separates Washington from Canada's Vancouver Island.

In four days of fishing earlier this month, Willmet said he caught two king salmon, 42 silver salmon - and 30 squid. Normally, he would have caught up to 100 salmon.

Kent Baltz, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration oceanographer in Santa Cruz, Calif., said two NOAA researchers from his office will be in Westport, Wash., this week to study the squid, tagging them with electronic monitors to follow their movements.

Baltz said a "strong hypothesis" for why the squid have moved north is that the ocean water is warmer than usual.

Because of an El Nino weather pattern, the ocean off Washington is between 1 and 2 degrees above normal, said National Weather Service meteorologist Jay Albrecht, though he noted the waters off Neah Bay at the tip of the Olympic Peninsula have been average this summer at around 55 degrees.

Although Humboldt squid showed up off the Washington coast briefly in the 1930s, they disappeared until 2004, when large numbers were reported seasonally here and in Alaska and British Columbia waters. This year, fishermen are reporting the largest numbers yet.

There are no official estimates of how many squid are here, but Willmet said there are too many to avoid.

Although the state will allow him to sell the squid he accidentally catches, Willmet said he wants to be able to specifically fish for squid to bring down their numbers.

Bargmann said a decision on whether to allow that won't be made until next year.

"We are concerned about what the bycatch of salmon might be," he said.

Bargmann said he expects the squid will leave the area later this month once the water temperature starts to drop.

"I don't think it's a major threat," he said.

But he said that if the squid keep returning each summer, the state would be concerned about their effect on the fishing industry.

Baltz said no one knows how long the squid will keep coming back. They were rare even off most of the Southern California coast until roughly 10 years ago, and have been wreaking havoc on ecosystems all along the West Coast, he said.

"They are pretty opportunistic hunters," he said, adding they will eat 15 percent of their body weight daily.

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