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Palau unveils plan at UN for shark sanctuary in its territorial waters



Johnson Toribiong,
President of the Republic
of Palau

25 September 2009 – The tiny Pacific Ocean archipelago of Palau told the General Assembly today that it will create the world's first shark sanctuary to protect endangered species by banning all commercial shark fishing within its territorial waters.

Johnson Toribiong, President of Palau, told the third day of the Assembly's annual General Debate that his country wanted to provide "a sanctuary for sharks to live and reproduce unmolested in our 237,000 square miles of ocean." That is an area bigger in size than France.

Speaking at United Nations Headquarters in New York, he urged other countries to join the tiny nation and ban shark fishing in their waters.

"The strength and beauty of sharks is a natural barometer for the health of our oceans," Mr. Toribiong said.

Palau has already banned the practice of "shark-finning," where the fins – used for cooking and in traditional cures – are removed from the shark, which is then thrown back into the sea to die.

Mr. Toribiong said rapidly diminishing fish stocks worldwide were an indication that current fishing practices were environmentally unsustainable.

"The odious fishing practice of bottom trawling, where a weighted net is dragged along the sea floor crushing nearly everything in its path, is contributing to the rapid loss of a critical ecosystem, our coral reefs. We have outlawed deep-sea bottom trawling in Palau, but no matter what we do in our own waters, there must be an international solution."

The President also called for the creation of a regional bloc to conserve tuna resources, to be modelled along the lines of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"It is anomalous that Palau is experiencing economic difficulty while it sits in the middle of the richest waters in the world. We can no longer stand by while foreign vessels illicitly come to our waters to take our greatest resource, our tuna stocks, without regard to their conservation and without regard for adequate

compensation to the island States which rely on this resource."

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32253&Cr=general+assembly&Cr1=

Scientists warn on Antarctic fishing

Sunday, 27 September 2009 12:00 AM

Scientists warn on Antarctic fishing

ANDREW DARBY

September 26, 2009

HOBART: Moves into the last great untapped resources of the Antarctic have led leading scientists to raise the alarm about the validity of the world's premier stamp of approval for sustainable fishing.

The Marine Stewardship Council's blue tick is appearing increasingly on seafood sold in Australian supermarkets - and will be the focus of a global sustainable seafood lunch next week.

But the scientists say the council's certification process is flawed, and is encouraging further depletion of already severely damaged fisheries.

At a time of crashing wild fish stocks and wary consumers, a blue tick on a seafood label is becoming sales gold.

Australians can find the council's tick for sustainable fishing on a tin of John West's Alaska pink salmon or a yellow-eyed mullet lunch in the upmarket restaurant Rockpool.

Globally, council-approved fisheries already catch more than 5 million tonnes of seafood. Such is its success that, with 50 fisheries certified, another 100 are in assessment.

However, scientists say certification may do the opposite of what was meant, and encourage the depletion of fisheries.

Alarmed by plans to certify Antarctic fisheries, the senior British fisheries scientist Sidney Holt told the *Herald*: "The MSC, which started as a good idea, has become a danger to conservation and sustainable management."

Another global authority on fish stocks, Daniel Pauly, is worried by a plan to seek certification for the keystone fish, Peruvian anchovy, to be used for fishmeal. Dr Pauly wrote recently: "The MSC is making a mistake. The issue is not whether the fishery is well managed, but what we do with the fish."

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation says consumption of fish is expected to reach a tipping point this year. Such is the loss of wild fish that more than half of what we eat will come from aquaculture for the first time.

An eminent American marine scientist, Sylvia Earle, said about 90 per cent of big predatory fish in the sea - marlin, swordfish and sharks - had gone. High-priced tunas are also down to 10 per cent of their original numbers.

Formed by Unilever and the World Wildlife Fund, the Marine Stewardship Council had a rocky beginning, but recent partnerships with companies such as the US retail giant Walmart have seen its prestige boom.

The council's deputy chief executive, Chris Ninnes, told the *Herald* from London: "I think you are seeing a consumer groundswell in the way people think about the fish they buy."

Marine scientists see the Antarctic fisheries as a vital test. A group of 30 scientists criticised draft council approval for Antarctic toothfish in the Ross Sea.

"If it is true as the report states, over and over, that very little is known about the life history and movements of the species, this in itself is enough to render any sustainability certification process entirely inappropriate," the scientists said.

www.smh.com.au/environment/scientists-warn-on-antarctic-fishing-200...

Marine radio uncertainty

Saturday, 26 September 2009 7:14 PM

Marine radio uncertainty

Posted on September 26, 2009, 8:08am



Port MacDonnell Offshore Angling Club president Paul Carrison has welcomed installation of a new VHF marine repeater at The Bluff.

Marine radio infrastructure has been installed at The Bluff, near Glencoe, to improve the safety of boat operators, but uncertainty remains over whether anyone will be listening if distress calls are made.

Volunteer Marine Rescue SA has sought interest from fishing clubs, individuals and others able to monitor VHF activity, which is expected to increase following installation of the new repeater.

The repeater operates on VHF marine channel 22, allowing an alternative to the existing internationally recognised distress frequency - channel 16.

Darryl Wright, who manages Volunteer Marine Rescue SA, which is associated with the State Emergency Service, said the new channel could be used for increased communication, including weather reports, safety warnings and exchanges between vessels.

"It will take non-emergency communication to a separate channel and leaves the other free for distress signals," he said, explaining the development extended the network from Portland to Ceduna.

However, he said groups were needed to monitor both channels as there was no dedicated full-time base in the region, with the effectiveness of the system reliant on volunteers.

Mr Wright said wheelchair-bound operators had provided a valuable contribution on Yorke Peninsula and the SES also had a team of radio enthusiasts who he hoped may become involved, stating manned bases provided the quickest response for rescues, which was crucial.

He said there was not a big presence of marine emergency services in the region, but a boat had been delivered to Kingston last year to assist with rescues and searches, which were traditionally undertaken by fishermen in the region, with police maintaining a register of contacts for assistance.

Port MacDonnell Offshore Angling Club president Paul Carrison welcomed installation of the new infrastructure, which had been sought for years.

He said he hoped it would allow activity in the region to be heard at 24-hour bases in Victor Harbour and Adelaide, as well as Portland, while a new bait and tackle shop to open at Port MacDonnell was also expected to assist with radio monitoring.

Mr Carrison said the club had monitoring and safety measures in place for its own events, using channel 88.

"There is a general understanding all boats on the water have their radio on and chat and know who is out and there is a board people to sign when they head out, which guys usually look at in the evening or see what trailers are around," he said.

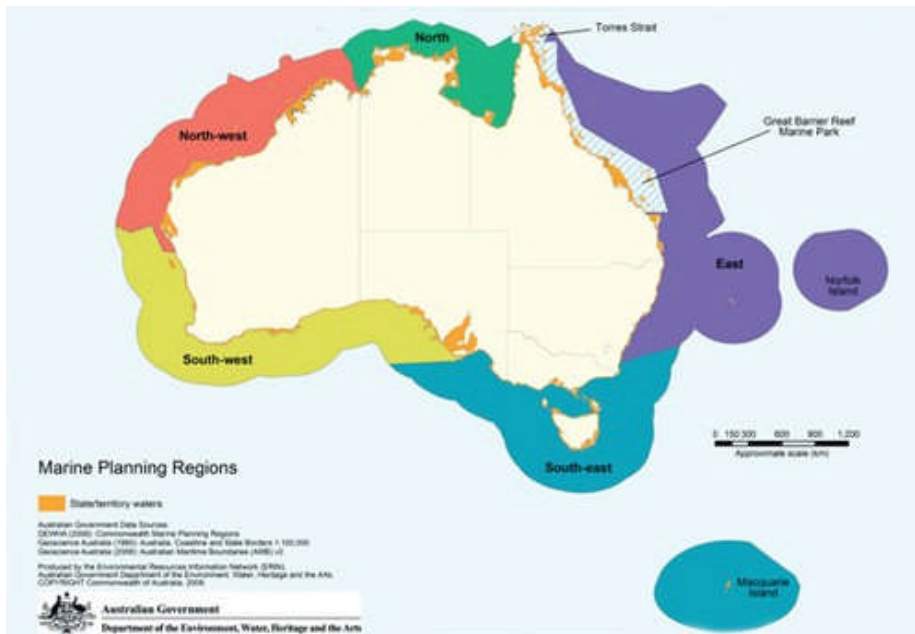
"In a fishing town there is a general understanding that if you are unsure you make a phone call - if there is one word of someone in trouble there will be 10 blokes ready to go."

Infrastructure Minister Patrick Conlon said the new repeater would fill the gap between Robe channel 82 and Portland channel 81, providing coverage in waters near Beachport through to the Glenelg River.

Mr Wright may call a public meeting in the South East to establish arrangements for monitoring of the new repeater channel and said people interested could call him on 8204 1672 or email wright.darryl@ses.sa.gov.au.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/4675>

Next phase in marine planning commences in Northern Australian waters



'Australian Marine Planning Regions' [Australian Commonwealth Government](#)

The Australian Government has identified 'Areas of Further Assessment' in northern Australia as part of its comprehensive planning process to protect Australia's marine biodiversity.

Announcing this latest step in the marine planning process for the North and North-west marine regions, Environment Minister Peter Garrett said the areas under assessment are not proposed boundaries for marine reserves or protected areas.

'The Australian Government has identified the areas for assessment as the first step in refining our information on how people use the marine environment, whether it's for recreation, commercial fishing, oil and gas development or other uses.

'These 'Areas for Further Assessment' are large areas within Commonwealth waters that encompass examples of the vast range of biodiversity and ecosystems in Australia's northern waters.

'Over the next few months the Government will be consulting with stakeholders to gather further information on the human activities within these areas.

'The aim of the consultation process is to gain a thorough understanding of the potential socioeconomic impacts of any new marine reserves that may be established within these areas,' Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett said the Government's objective is to achieve good conservation outcomes while minimising socio-economic impacts.

'The areas we are going to be assessing further are not the proposed boundaries for marine reserves or protected areas,' Mr Garrett said.

'Following consultation with key stakeholders in the north and north-west regions, as well as the Western Australian, Queensland and Northern Territory Governments, we will look at identifying new marine reserves within the areas. These proposed marine reserves will be included in the draft bioregional plans which are due to be released early in 2010'.

Mr Garrett said the same process had commenced in South-west marine region in May and his Department had consulted extensively with industry and other stakeholders. A draft marine bioregional plan for the South-west region, including proposed marine reserves, is planned to be released for public consultation early in 2010.

The marine bioregional plans are being developed under national environment law and will fulfill the Australian Government's commitment to establishing a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas as agreed by all Australian governments over a decade ago.

by Australian Commonwealth Government Media 7:12 AM Fri 25 Sep 2009 GMT

www.powerboat-world.com/Next-phase-in-marine-planning-commences-in-...

☐ Scientists fearful for fish stocks

Saturday, 26 September 2009 1:01 PM

Scientists fearful for fish stocks

Date: September 26 2009

Andrew Darby, Hobart

AT A time of crashing wild fish stocks and wary consumers, a blue tick on a seafood label is becoming sales gold.

Australians can find the Marine Stewardship Council's tick for sustainable fishing on a tin of John West's Alaska pink salmon, or a yellow-eyed mullet lunch in the upmarket restaurant, Rockpool.

Globally, MSC-approved fisheries already catch more than 5 million tonnes of seafood. Such is its success that, with 50 fisheries certified, another 100 are in assessment.

But attempts by industrial fishers to get MSC approval of some of the last unexploited fisheries have led scientists to question the way the tick is awarded. They say certification may encourage fisheries depletion.

Alarmed by plans to certify Antarctic fisheries, the British fisheries science doyen, Sidney Holt, told *The Age*: "The MSC, which started as a good idea, has become a danger to conservation and sustainable management."

Another global authority on fish stocks, Daniel Pauly, is worried by a plan to seek certification for the keystone fish, Peruvian anchovy, to be used for fishmeal. Dr Pauly wrote recently: "The MSC is making a mistake. The issue is not whether the fishery is well managed, but what we do with the fish."

Our consumption of fish is this year expected to reach a tipping point, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation. Such is the loss of wild fish that more than half of what we eat will come from aquaculture for the first time.

The eminent American marine scientist Sylvia Earle said that about 90 per cent of big predatory fish in the sea - marlin, swordfish and sharks - had gone. High-priced tunas such as southern bluefin are also down to 10 per cent of their original numbers.

Formed by the Unilever Corporation and World Wildlife Fund, the MSC had a rocky beginning, but recent partnerships with companies such as American retail giant Walmart have seen its prestige boom.

The MSC's deputy chief executive, Chris Ninnis, told *The Age* from London: "I think you are seeing a consumer groundswell in the way people think about the fish they buy."

The council's job is to set and maintain sustainability standards that are used by independent certification professionals who are contracted by fishing companies to measure up a fishery.

The Antarctic fisheries are seen as a vital test by marine scientists. A group of 30 scientists sharply criticised a draft MSC approval recommended by the certifier, Moody Marine, for Antarctic toothfish in the Ross Sea.

"If it is true ... that very little is known about the life history and movements of the species, this in itself is

enough to render any sustainability certification process entirely inappropriate," the scientists said.

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www.theage.com.au/national/scientists-fearful-for-fish-stocks-2009...

☐ Lobster fishers face new restrictions

Saturday, 26 September 2009 10:37 AM

Lobster fishers face new restrictions

Posted Fri Sep 25, 2009 2:12pm AEST

- **Map:** [Geraldton 6530](#)

Rock lobster fishers will face severe catch restrictions for at least the next few years in an attempt to revive the fishery.

Yesterday, Fisheries Minister Norman Moore announced a management package for the coming season.

Surveys show the number of juvenile lobsters is falling.

Mr Moore says boats will have to be kept out of the water for two to three days per week, pot numbers will be cut and the size of escape gaps in the pots will be increased.

Senior Fisheries' scientist Simon de Lestange says juvenile numbers are at record lows.

"The catches are going to be very poor next season and especially 2011-'12 and possibly 2012-'13," he said.

Rock lobster fisher Peter Burton says the restrictions will force some people out of the industry.

"Thirty-seven years I've been crayfishing, since I left school - I'm not going to go back fishing this year," he said.

Mid-west fisher Barry Hancock says more information on the package is needed.

"One thing it doesn't tell us is what days where going to be allowed to fish and the other big disappointment in there is lobsters will be set at 77ml gauge and escape gaps will be changed to 55ml now," he said.

"That is going to be a real nightmare for some people to try and change their gaps this close to the season."

Mr Moore says he is hopeful Exceptional Circumstances funding may be extended to fishers facing difficulty.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/25/2696610.htm>

☐ Fishermen nabbed for using nets in river

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:05 PM

Fishermen nabbed for using nets in river

25/09/2009 10:09:00 AM

Officers from NSW Fisheries were conducting covert investigations last weekend along the Macquarie River in Trangie.

The officers caught several people using illegal netting to catch fish on the

Saturday.

The suspects were observed checking and collecting fish from the nets.

With the assistance of police the alleged offenders were brought to Narromine police station.

The suspects were detained for making threats against the fisheries officers and an Apprehended Violence Order was taken out by the victims.

The men were released with charges or fines to be pursued by the authorities in relation to the fishing offences.

www.narrominenewsonline.com.au/news/local/sport/general/fishermen-n...

☐ WA lobster industry bracing for tough season

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:05 PM

WA lobster industry bracing for tough season

Friday, 25/09/2009

Western Australia's commercial rock lobster fishermen are bracing for a tough season.

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has announced the total allowable catch will be reduced from 7000 to 5000 tonnes, through cuts to pot allocations and reducing the number of days when fishing is allowed.

The latest cuts follow a raft of similar reductions imposed on fishermen last season.

Fishermen say they hope prices will rise, from lows of around \$12 a kilo received last year, to make up for the cuts, but are already predicting more fishermen will be forced out of the industry before the start of the season in November.

The WA Opposition is calling on the Minister Norman Moore to offer exit packages to those who wish to leave the industry.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2696513.htm>

☐ Forced out: Lobster fishers

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:03 PM

Forced out: Lobster fishers

Posted Thu Sep 24, 2009 5:21pm AEST



Rock lobster fishers are facing fewer days on the water under new restrictions (ABC Local: Carol Raabus)

- **Map:** [Perth 6000](#)

Lobster fishers say they will be forced out of the industry due to the restrictions on this year's catch.

Today, the Fisheries Minister, Norman Moore, announced the management package for the coming season.

He says lobster fishers must keep their boats out of the water for 2-3 days a week, pot numbers will be cut and escape gaps in the pots will increase in size.

Mr Moore says the measures are necessary to protect the future of the fishery in the face of fewer juvenile numbers.

The President of the Mid West Fishers Association, Barry Hancock, says the restrictions are too severe.

"I think there'll probably be quite a number of boats go out of the industry, a lot of young people that have sort of grown up in fishing families, they'll have to rethink their whole career outlook," he said.

He says more information on the package is needed.

"One thing it doesn't tell us is what days where going to be allowed to fish," he said.

The other big disappointment in there is lobsters will be set at 77ml gauge and escape gaps will be changed to 55 ml, now that is going to be a real nightmare for some people to try and change their gaps this close to the season."

The Minister says it may be necessary to further tighten the restrictions during the season.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/24/2695746.htm>

☐ Pilchard deaths a puzzler

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:01 PM

Pilchard deaths a puzzler

North Harbour News

Last updated 05:00 25/09/2009

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MYSTERY REMAINS: Pilchards washed up on Rodney and North Shore eastern beaches in July did not die from a herpes virus as widely suspected. The cause remains unknown.

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Pilchard deaths in the northern Hauraki Gulf have no connection to herpes, says Annie Wright of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity.

Thousands of pilchards washed up on Rodney beaches from Martins Bay to the Whangaparaoa in July.

While a disease specific to pilchards is suspected to be the cause, because no other fish species are known to be affected, herpes was not the cause of the deaths, MAF Biosecurity says.

Tests ordered by the Department of Conservation on pilchards taken from dead dolphins' stomachs, mussels and pipis were negative for brodifacoum, a rat poison used on Rangitoto and Motutapu islands to eradicate pests.

Further independent laboratory tests on dolphins that died recently in the Hauraki Gulf are negative for both brodifacoum and tetrodotoxin – the toxin found in sea slugs and puffer fish, and judged responsible for recent dog deaths.

The tests – on dolphin livers and stomach contents – were commissioned by DOC and carried out by independent laboratories in Nelson and Wellington.

The results confirm earlier findings by veterinary scientists and pathologists which ruled out any link between the dog deaths and that of other marine life.

"We commissioned the tests to try to find out how the dolphins died, but also to reassure the public that the dolphin deaths were not related to the recent Rangitoto-Motutapu restoration project," says DOC Auckland area manager Brett Butland.

The cause of the dolphin deaths is still unknown.

DOC has asked the Cawthron Institute to test the dolphin samples for domoic acid – an algal toxin known to be a common cause of dolphin deaths.

The department also commissioned Landcare to carry out toxicology tests on five blue penguins.

Low level traces of brodifacoum were found in the livers of two of the penguins, but this has been ruled out as the cause of death.

Additional test results from the New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine indicate that starvation is the likely cause of penguin deaths in the region, confirming its earlier findings.

Penguin deaths are not uncommon for this time of year, and have been reported in the Far North, Rodney,

Auckland, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty regions.

www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/north-harbour-news/2898508/Pilc...

☐ Rock lobster industry calm over warming waters

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:00 PM

Rock lobster industry calm over warming waters

Posted 11 hours 28 minutes ago

Updated 11 hours 9 minutes ago



Mr Gardener says warming waters in the state's north-east have already reduced the catch. (ABC News: David Hudspeth)

Tasmania's rock lobster industry says it is not concerned by a report that calls on the fishery to adjust to climate change conditions.

A report prepared for the Climate Change Minister Penny Wong predicts that in 20 years there will be fewer baby rock lobsters and more pests like long spined sea urchins.

One of the report's authors, Dr Caleb Gardner, says waters are already warming in the north-east.

"That's exactly what we've been seeing at the moment."

"We've been seeing less catch coming from the north-east and more coming from the south-west," he said.

Rodney Treloggen from the Rock Lobster Fisherman's Association says the industry is not alarmed by the report.

"I don't think that just a very quick snapshot like they've done can really be used to make definitive statements."

Fishermen plan to meet next month to discuss ways of managing rock lobsters.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/25/2696111.htm>

☐ Lobster restrictions will 'cripple' industry: fisherman

Friday, 25 September 2009 8:00 PM

Lobster restrictions will 'cripple' industry: fisherman

JOSEPH SAPIENZA

September 25, 2009 - 6:38AM

New restrictions put in place by a "misinformed" Fisheries Minister will "cripple" the lobster industry, a crayfisherman has warned.

After Norman Moore [set a lobster catch target of 5500 tonnes](#) as well as restricting fishing days to only four days a week during peak periods, Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishers' Federation spokesman James Paratore believed the new restrictions will have a devastating impact on the people and communities who rely on the fishery.

He also accused the Minister of undermining the Fisheries Department by setting a lower catch target than the recommendations put forward by the latter.

Mr Paratore even went as far as to say the iconic way of life for WA lobster fishermen was on the brink of "extinction".

"The new round of severe restrictions will cripple the industry," he told WAtoday.com.au.

"... A cultural link to the early pioneers of our fishing fleet is about to be lost forever.

"This unique bond all fishermen share has been destroyed today by the swift pen stroke of a misinformed Minister.

"The Department of Fisheries' Research Department suggested we could comfortably catch between 6000 and 6300 tonnes, and we believe this to be a conservative figure, (but) the Minister has targeted a catch well below even his own department's recommendation."

Mr Paratore accused the State Government of implementing its contentious management plan for lobster fishing in order to guarantee the survival of the processing sector.

"These inefficiencies are now being paid by the operators of fishing vessels," he said.

"Being a public resource, the community deserves answers that explains why such a profitable industry, with 'the world's best' fishing practice is now an international example of 'the world's worst'."

There was "overwhelming disappointment" among local fishermen in the current process, which required a full investigation and scrutiny of the people charged with deciding their fate, Mr Paratore said.

Meanwhile, Labor Fisheries spokesman Jon Ford acknowledged the seasonal target will have a severe impact on the income of struggling fishers, and he urged the State Government to develop an exit strategy for fishermen facing financial hardship.

"Despite Mr Moore's willingness to try and save the fishery, he seems to be ignoring the financial desperation of families facing the loss of a life's work, their homes and their retirement savings," he said.

"It is time the Minister partnered with the industry and put together an adjustment package to assist these families leave the industry with dignity."

www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/lobster-restrictions-will-cripple-indust...

☐ State slashes rock lobster catch limit

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:57 PM

State slashes rock lobster catch limit

24-September-09 by Jonathan Barrett

[There is 1 comment for this article.](#)

Fisheries minister Norman Moore has imposed new restrictions on the rock lobster industry in a bid to halve the annual harvest from its long-term average of 11,000 tonnes to 5,500 tonnes.

The restrictions include reductions in pot usage and limits on fishing days and follow an unprecedented low count of puerulus, or juvenile lobsters, which raised concerns over the future sustainability of the industry.

Mr Moore said that the catch target was set to protect the sustainability of the western rock lobster fishery, smooth the catch and reduce the economic impact of the record low puerulus count during the past three years.

The decision was flagged in July when an assortment of politicians, fishermen and other industry stakeholders gathered at a conference in Fremantle. With the price of boats and pots ravaged in recent years, and debts and repayments piling up, all agreed the restrictions would put many out of business - however there was disagreement over the science used to determine the predicted catch.

Announcement is below:

Minister announces rock lobster fishery management arrangements.

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has announced new management arrangements for the commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery for the 2009-10 fishing season.

The arrangements include reductions in pot usage, restrictions on days when fishing is allowed and minimum and maximum size changes, and are intended to achieve an overall catch of 5,500 tonnes.

"However, I recognise that under the fishery's current input-based management system it is extremely difficult to manage an exact catch figure," Mr Moore said.

"The catch range around this target is likely to range between 4,950 and 6,050 tonnes."

The Minister said that the catch target was set to protect the sustainability of the western rock lobster fishery, smooth the catch and reduce the economic impact of the record low puerulus count in the past three years.

"Poor puerulus settlement in recent years means the number of lobsters available to the fishery is expected to be significantly reduced in seasons 2010-11 and 2011-12," he said.

"By setting a target of 5,500 tonnes in 2009-10, it should be possible to maintain a similar catch in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons.

"As well as ensuring there is a more consistent catch over the next few years, it is also important to improve the economic return from the available catch.

"To assist this, separate catch targets and likely ranges will apply to the three fishing zones and for the first and second halves of the season."

The catch will be monitored on a weekly basis during the season with a formal review scheduled for January 2010.

"If the catch level in any of the zones differs significantly or looks like it will differ significantly from its target, adaptive management action could be taken," Mr Moore said.

"Any action will focus on varying the number of days available for fishing in a particular zone, to ensure the catch targets are achieved," he said.

"This approach of varying days fished, rather than unit values, reflects feedback from fishers."

The Minister said that a set of business rules was under development to help guide how such adjustments should be decided. The rules will be made available to industry before the start of the season.

"In developing these management arrangements, I have considered advice from the Western Rock Lobster Council, the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee and the Department of Fisheries," he said.

"I have listened to industry's views and believe this new management package balances the sustainability and economic objectives at the same time as providing a practical operating environment for fishers and processors."

Mr Moore added that the 2009-10 season would also be the first time that the Integrated Fisheries Management shares of 95 per cent commercial and five per cent recreational for the rock lobster fishery would be implemented.

The Department of Fisheries will keep fishing groups informed of management issues, through its regular newsletter.

[» Click here to have your say](#)

Latest comments

Posted by

To all who are concerned

This package in my opinion is flawed in several ways

1; It does not take out the race to catch the product
2; There will also still be the race to sell as we do not have enough processors, and in this economic climate processors must sell product to pay fishermen
3; We talk about improving economic returns, but do nothing to fish to market opportunities

This package does not address this at all

4; The TARGET CATCH has not been divided fairly as a total catch of 5.5 mill should be 50% for zone C and 50% for zones A&B as the long time average catch

shows that C zone traditionally has always caught in excess of 50% of the total catch

5; Saying that the catch is now for the first time split at 5% recreational and 95% commercial, it will effect C zone fishers more than A&B as there is a larger population growth in the C zone coastal area

6; The size limits set for Gaps and Gauges should be uniform for all participants, as it is ludicrous for one section to return stock to water and then let another section take the product

7; As mentioned under the input control system it is very hard to predict catches and lots of different management arrangements have to be implemented to try and obtain targets

Why not go to ITQs (Individual Transferable Quotas) which once implemented would allow you to fish to the markets and do away with a lot of guess work that has to be altered all the time

8; the reason most people are afraid to embrace Quotas is that so far All Allocations be they Wet Fish or gauge size, season start times, have never been Fair or consistent as once again can be seen by the allocation of the total catch of lobster being divided between A&B north zone and C zone the southern zone

All indications show that there has been far more damage done in the Northern zone of the fishery and last season C zone retained a 77mm Gauge while A zone and all rec. fishers were able to use a 76 mm gauge and these are measures to help rebuild the stock where it is most depleted. We must have Fair and equal and industry consistent management measures as ALL Participants have a bearing on this Industry

Regards John Servaas Snr.

www.wabusinessnews.com.au/en-story/1/75491/State-slashes-rock-lobst...

☐ Lobster catch quota would be 'disastrous'

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:56 PM

Lobster catch quota would be 'disastrous'

Posted Thu Sep 24, 2009 11:39am AEST

- **Map:** [Geraldton 6530](#)

Western Australia's rock lobster fishers are bracing for today's announcement of new fishing restrictions, saying it could make or break the industry.

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore will today reveal the Government's new management package for the coming season.

Last season, the Government imposed limits, including pot reductions of 30 per cent, after record low counts of juvenile lobsters in WA waters.

Mid-west lobster fisherman Greg Hill says the industry expects today's announcement will include a strict quota on the total catch which he says will be disastrous for fishers.

"If we take 25 per cent less catch we would then need a 25 per cent price increase and I don't think that's

going to happen, so this fishery is certainly becoming unviable," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/24/2695195.htm>

New limits imposed on rock lobster industry

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:56 PM

New limits imposed on rock lobster industry

Posted Thu Sep 24, 2009 1:23pm AEST
Updated Thu Sep 24, 2009 1:33pm AEST



The total allowable catch this season will be reduced to 5,500 tonnes. (ABC News: Fiona Blackwood)

- **Map:** [Perth 6000](#)

The Fisheries Minister, Norman Moore, has imposed tighter restrictions on the rock lobster industry.

The total allowable catch this season will be reduced to 5,500 tonnes, from 7,000 last season.

Fishermen will be restricted in the number of pots they can use and the minimum size of the lobsters caught will be increased, as will the size of escape hatches in lobster pots.

It is hoped the measures will protect the industry from over fishing.

Restrictions severe

The United Mid West Fishers Association says the new restrictions are severe.

The Association's President, Peter Burton, predicts more smaller operators will be forced out of the industry.

"I think there will probably be quite a number of boats go out of the industry, " he said.

"A lot of young people that have sort of grown up in fishing families.

"They'll have to rethink their whole career outlook, and I just think there will come a time when we'll be down to probably 250 boats

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/24/2695393.htm>

Rock lobster catch restrictions introduced

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:49 PM

Rock lobster catch restrictions introduced

Article from: PerthNow

- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
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September 24, 2009 11:00am

ROCK lobster fishermen face new catch restrictions as the State Government moves to protect WA's declining crayfish stocks.

The arrangements announced by Fisheries Minister Norman Moore today include reductions in pot use,

restrictions on days when fishing is allowed and changes to the legal size for keeping crayfish.

Mr Moore said a reduced catch target of between 4950 and 6050 tonnes - down from 7000 tonnes last season - was necessary to ensure the sustainability of the western rock lobster fishery following falls in juvenile crayfish stocks during the past three years.

"By setting a target of 5,500 tonnes in 2009-10, it should be possible to maintain a similar catch in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons," he said.

"As well as ensuring there is a more consistent catch over the next few years, it is also important to improve the economic return from the available catch.

"To assist this, separate catch targets and likely ranges will apply to the three fishing zones and for the first and second halves of the season."

Mr Moore said the catch would be monitored weekly during the season ahead of a formal review in January next year.

"If the catch level in any of the zones differs significantly or looks like it will differ significantly from its target, adaptive management action could be taken," he said.

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,27574,26118895-2761,00.html>

☐ Marine Park lockout petition

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:48 PM

Marine Park lockout petition

24/09/2009 9:57:00 AM

NSW communities are speaking out loud and clear against Labor's marine park lockout, the Member for Bega Andrew Constance said today.

The NSW Liberals and Nationals have launched an online petition campaign, www.stopmarinelockout.com.au

"The petition calls on Nathan Rees to place an immediate moratorium on the creation of any more marine parks in NSW until they are based on rigorous scientific evidence," said Mr Constance.

"My concern is the proposal for a marine park that extends from the Batemans Marine Park down to the Victorian border, which would cause untold social and economic damage for the Far South Coast," Mr Constance said.

"In less than one week we have collected more than 1800 signatures of concerned fishermen and families from across NSW who have been hurt by the Rees Labor Government's lockup of waterways.

"By locking up fishing areas into Marine Parks, the incompetent State Labor Government has damaged coastal economies and tourism industries, hurt local families and compromised lifestyles.

"The Liberals and Nationals recognise the need to properly protect NSW's marine environment. We also recognise the need for current and future generations of fishers to have access to fishing areas.

"I really encourage people to log on and sign the petition. The more people that sign the more leverage we will have in parliament to safeguard NSW's marine environment, whilst ensuring that future generations of fishers are not locked out of our waterways," he said

www.edenmagnet.com.au/news/local/news/general/marine-park-lockout-p...

☐ Kiwis angry at US overfishing claim

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:47 PM

Kiwis angry at US overfishing claim

The Dominion Post

Last updated 08:12 24/09/2009

Industries [Govt to boost bond issuance](#) [Working group looks at clamping down on LAQCs](#) [US interest boost for wool](#) [Hi-tech moves for irrigation](#) [Rural confidence improving](#) [Gloves off for Yealands, Oyster Bay](#) [Treasury warns of ETS risks](#) [Super fund's \\$600m meltdown](#) [Consumer confidence at four-year high](#) [Storm sparkles amid HGH gloom](#)

A New York Times report that New Zealand is overfishing its hoki stocks has angered the Fisheries Ministry and the Seafood Industry Council.

The article, earlier this month, said the allowable hoki catch had been cut by two-thirds since 2000 and the fishery was losing its image as a showpiece of oceanic sustainability.

"The answer to the eternal mystery of what makes up a Filet- O-Fish turns out to involve an ugly creature from the sunless depths of the Pacific, whose bounty, it seems, is not limitless," science writer William J Broad wrote.

Ministry chief executive Wayne McNee has written to the paper saying catch limit cuts were evidence of responsible management and showed that the quota management system was working as it should. Latest research had showed a marked increase in hoki numbers.

"I am pleased to inform your readers that hoki stocks are once again within international best practice management levels and have in fact never been at levels where they would be classified as depleted or 'overfished'," Mr McNee wrote.

The Seafood Industry Council complained that the paper quoted four different environmental activists but did not contact anyone in the New Zealand seafood industry.

The council's deep water group chief executive George Clement said the report was one-sided and "doesn't represent the true situation". Quotas were cut because warm winters had reduced spawning, and not because of fishing.

There is no sign of the paper backing down, but the council has posted a statement on its website saying it has apologised.

Science editor Laura Chang has emailed a response apologising for publishing a hoki photo off the council's website without permission, but otherwise standing by the story.

"We feel the article gave a fair and accurate glimpse into the challenge of meeting consumer demand for fish," she said.

The Forest and Bird Protection Society has rated hoki as one of its worst choices on a list ranking species according to the amount of habitat and ecological damage caused by fishing, and the World Wildlife Fund is also concerned at the hoki quota-setting process.

www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/2897473/Kiwis-angry-at-US-overf...

☐ Tauranga Maori object to harbour dredging

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:44 PM

Tauranga Maori object to harbour dredging

Updated at 6:51am on 24 September 2009

Tauranga Maori are objecting to Port of Tauranga's plan to deepen the harbour to accommodate giant container ships, fearing the loss of traditional pipi beds.

The company intends to spend up to \$70 million dredging 15 million cubic meters of sand from the harbour and dumping it at sea.

The chair of Te Runanganui o Tauranga Moana, Colin Bidois, says local iwi fear the harbour's kaimoana may eventually be lost through pollution.

He says they must weigh up the loss of traditional pipi beds against the economic benefits of the port becoming the first in the country able to handle the next generation of super sized ships.

Mr Bidois says taonga is being lost, little by little, over many years, and the effect of that gradual loss is eventually very significant.

Port of Tauranga spokesperson Tony Reynish says the company has offered to relocate the pipi beds using divers.

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<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2009/09/24/1245c864605b>

☐ Researchers standing with a giant squid they caught. (NOAA)

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:41 PM

A rare giant squid was found in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana on July 30 by a team of American researchers trawling the ocean with nets.

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service were searching the ocean depths as part of research on the diets of sperm

whales when they netted the mammoth squid, reports [Reuters](#).

Alas, the giant squid, who measures 19.5 feet long and weighs 103 pounds, "did not survive the rapid change in water depth when brought to the surface" from a depth of 1,500 feet, states Reuters. The giant squid was preserved and sent to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History for study.

The last time a giant squid was found was in 1954 off the Mississippi Delta, reports Reuters, and that one was found floating dead at the surface.



Researchers standing with a giant squid they caught. ([NOAA](#))

www.examiner.com/x-1028-Pet-News-Examiner~y2009m9d23-Giant-squid-fo...

Fishery officers seize illegal holding pots The discovery of two highly illegal crayfish

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:41 PM

Fishery officers seize illegal holding pots
The discovery of two highly illegal crayfish pots off Kaiti Beach has disgusted fishery officers.

The pots, full of undersize female crayfish carrying eggs, had no escape gaps and were fully covered in plastic mesh.

They were lifted out of the water by officers on the fisheries patrol vessel Te Tiaki after a surveillance exercise on Monday morning.

Officers watched the activities of the occupants of a small aluminium dinghy, fixing the position of their pots for later removal.

"Those involved have been interviewed and a three-metre vessel, outboard motor and boat trailer were seized yesterday," said East Coast district fisheries compliance manager Tom Teneti.

It was particularly disappointing to see the use of illegal holding pots containing very small crayfish, even more so the taking of berried female rock lobster, he said.

The pots contained 38 undersize rock lobsters, many of them females in berry.

"Decisions will be made in relation to appropriate charges for those involved in due course," he said.

Fishery officer Martin Williams said the use of rock lobster pots without escape gaps was illegal in the East Coast or central area.

"All pots capable of catching and holding rock lobster must have escape gaps under the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations.

"The regulations state clearly that a rock lobster pot means any pot, whether baited or not, that is capable of catching or holding rock lobsters. If they do not have escape gaps they are illegal," he said.

"In this case it was clear the pots were used to hold the 38 illegal rock lobsters. The pots had a large amount of bait inside them to keep the rock lobster fed while in the holding pot."

Mr Teneti warns those engaged in illegal fishing practices that they will be caught.

Fishery officers were constantly observing the activities of people out in the water and the 0800 4 Poacher line was working exceptionally well at the moment, he said.

People were becoming more alert to suspicious activities in this area and becoming more inclined to report them.

"This type of information provides valuable support to fishery officers in our area," Mr Teneti said.

Patrols were stepped up in all fisheries for the summer season.

<http://www.gisborneherald.co.nz/article/?id=14017>

☐ Fishing fee furore

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:40 PM

Fishing fee furore

23/09/2009 10:10:00 AM

THE State Government has stepped back from plans to hike recreational fishing licence fees, after a backlash of criticism.

In June, Fisheries Minister Norman Moore announced that from October fishing licence fees for demersal species would cost anglers \$150 annually, \$60 fortnightly or \$20 daily.

The plan drew flak from recreational fishermen, scientists and environmentalists, who claimed raising fees would do nothing to protect vulnerable fisheries.

Last week the Minister said the idea of raising licence costs had been ditched in favour of tightening bag limits to reduce the catch of vulnerable species.

The mixed daily bag limit is now two demersal scalefish, only one of which may be a dhufish.

The daily boat limit is two dhufish, however, for charter boats the daily limit is six dhufish.

Anglers fishing for all demersal species will be required to carry a release weight to improve survival rates of fish returned to the water.

The two-month season closure from October 15 to December 15 is still in force.

Boat fishermen will still need an annual \$30 recreational boat fishing licence.

Non-licensed fishers, and those under the age of 16, can fish for free alongside a licensed fisher, but the provisions of the licence are to be upheld.

Charter boat clients who don't already hold a boat fishing licence will be catered for by way of a simple \$15 ticket.

Other licences will be standardised to \$40 for marron, lobster, rock lobster, abalone, net fishing and

freshwater angling.

All funds raised through the sale of recreational licences will be placed in trust to fund recreational fishing activities.

The new licence system is expected to generate an additional \$1.9 million, bringing the total estimated revenue to \$4.9m.

www.margaretrivermail.com.au/news/local/news/general/fishing-fee-fu...

Seafood buyers being short-changed

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:39 PM

Seafood buyers being short-changed

23/09/2009 12:29:00 PM

Seafood lovers are getting the proverbial raw prawn by being sold underweight packages, authorities say.

Consumer affairs inspectors have tested frozen seafood in South Australia for the first time, with almost half found to be underweight.

One of the pre-packed products was a supposed one kilogram pack of prawns that was nearly 100 grams under weight, South Australia's Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago said in a statement today.

Ms Gago said inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs tested 102 pre-packed products and 46 were underweight - all but one being prawns.

"All pre-packed prawns checked in this exercise came from local fishmongers who had sourced the packs from the same interstate wholesaler," she said, declining to name the wholesaler.

Retailers found selling the underweight packages have been issued warnings.

www.independentweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/seafood-buyers...

print Send this article: email

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:35 PM

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Article from:

Water price plunge

Peter Hunt

September 23, 2009

TEMPORARY water prices dropped 20 per cent last week as 495,000 megalitres of Victorian carryover and allocation water poured into a drought-starved market.

An embargo on temporary trade out of the Murrumbidgee irrigation system and low allocations elsewhere had seen prices soar to \$440-\$460 a megalitre earlier this month.

- Have Your Say in the form below

But [Goulburn Murray Water's](#) allocation announcements last Tuesday of 7 per cent on the Goulburn and 13 per cent on the Victorian Murray irrigation systems led to prices tumbling to \$360-\$385 a megalitre this week.

Prior to Tuesday's announcement Goulburn irrigators had access to just 85,000 megalitres of carryover, while Victoria's Murray irrigators only had 210,000 megalitres on hand.

Water broker Tom Rooney said the drop in price so early in the season showed Tuesday's allocation increases exceeded growers' expectations.

"The total volume of water allocated to Murray growers has now increased by 276 gigalitres, bringing the total volume allocated to 387 gigalitres," Mr Rooney said.

NSW State Water increased Murray high-security allocations to 50 per cent last week on the back of about 190,000 megalitres of entitlement, while South Australian irrigators' allocations reached 16 per cent.

But while water is freely moving around the Murray Valley, the NSW Government has maintained its embargo on Murrumbidgee irrigators selling temporary (allocation) water to others in the southern Murray Darling Basin.

The embargo was put in place due to NSW State Water struggling to find the extra water it needed to cover losses on Murrumbidgee temporary trade to the South Australian Government and Murray irrigators. Continuation of trade would have led to cuts in Murrumbidgee allocations to cover the losses.

Just last week, Murrumbidgee allocations rose to 60 per cent.

However, the embargo means the valley's irrigators can only sell water at a discount of about \$50 a megalitre compared to Murray River temporary trade.

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2009/09/23/116361_water.html

☐ A fishy tale as two hook \$100,000

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:34 PM

A fishy tale as two hook \$100,000

MANUEL MITTERNACHT

September 20, 2009

TWO teenage boys on a fishing trip have landed the catch of a lifetime, reeling in almost \$100,000 cash from a northern NSW creek.

The two boys, from a small farming community near Lismore, discovered the money in various denominations while fishing at Tuntable Creek earlier this month.

Police said the boys handed the cash over yesterday after getting legal advice on whether they would be able to keep it.

Police declined to give the names or ages of the two as investigations were continuing.

"These boys come from a small community nearby and, while we are gathering details, it wouldn't be in the interest of them or the rightful owner to identify them," a police spokesman said.

Authorities searched the area where the money was discovered but failed to find any more cash.

Nimbin real estate agent John Wilcox had a similar tale: "A bloke told me he found \$30,000 in a brown paper bag in a phone booth here in Nimbin."

Tuntable Creek is a popular fishing spot about halfway between Nimbin and The Channon village.

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

www.smh.com.au/national/a-fishy-tale-as-two-hook-100000-20090919-fw...

☐ Fishing accident prompts barway anger

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:33 PM

Fishing accident prompts barway anger

Posted Wed Sep 23, 2009 8:49am AEST

Updated Wed Sep 23, 2009 8:51am AEST



The four crew members clung to the upturned boat in rough seas. (ABC News)

- **Video:** [Annah Yard reports on the problems at the St Helens barway. \(ABC News\)](#)
- **Map:** [St Helens 7216](#)

The Tasmanian Government has defended work on the St Helens barway after a boating accident yesterday morning.

Four fisherman had to be rescued when their boat capsized on the barway.

The men escaped with hypothermia and minor cuts but locals say they were lucky.

They are blaming the state of the barway for the accident.

The Government has spent about \$2.5 million deepening the barway but rock lobster fisherman John Hagg says it has only made things worse.

"Before they started work the bar was deeper then what it is now," he said.

Charter boat operator Rocky Carossi says the work is taking too long.

"We can't afford to waste anymore time," he said.

The Infrastructure Minister Graeme Sturges says more than 200,000 cubic metres of sand has already been pushed back into the dunes.

"This is not going to fix it overnight the barway will always be there."

He says the work has been undertaken on expert advice.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/23/2693826.htm>

22 Sep 2009 - Web Exclusive Greenpeace: 'Best managed fishery a disaster' Friday, 25 September 2009 7:33 PM

22 Sep 2009 - Web Exclusive 

Greenpeace: 'Best managed fishery a disaster'

Responding to an announcement from the National Marine Fisheries Service reporting the results of this year's pollock stock survey, John Hocevar, Greenpeace oceans campaigner director in the US, gave the following statement:

"Contrary to projections, pollock stocks have not recovered, remaining at near record low levels. While the fishing industry and others continue to cite the pollock fishery as a model of fisheries management, the pollock population has declined sharply in recent years. In spite of concerns raised by Greenpeace and many scientists, unsustainable fishing rates have been allowed to continue, as has heavy trawling on spawning aggregations.

"The fate of pollock has dire implications for the ecosystem, due to the importance of these fish as a food source for everything from whales and fur seals to endangered Steller sea lions. Pribilof fur seal populations have been dropping steadily, with females spending longer and longer at sea looking for fish. When even the 'best managed fishery in the world' is in this kind of trouble, it is clearly time for policymakers to rethink the way we take care of our oceans. We need a network of marine reserves not only in the Bering Sea, but as part of a global network of protected areas to stop the devastation of our oceans.

"What we are witnessing with pollock is yet another example of a global overfishing problem that stretches from bluefin tuna in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean to the hoki off New Zealand. Clearly, the collapse was not enough to convince governments that they are fishing out our oceans.

"When the pollock, tuna and hoki are gone, what will the boats take next? Will governments take a precautionary approach so we still have a fishing industry for the next generation, or will they just keep going until the nets come up empty?"

http://www.worldfishing.net/news/news_story.ehtml?o=3261

Sanctuaries mooted for northern waters Friday, 25 September 2009 7:28 PM

Sanctuaries mooted for northern waters

Posted Tue Sep 22, 2009 5:10pm AEST

- [Map: Darwin 0800](#)

Conservation groups have welcomed the release of potential areas for marine protection in Australia's northern oceans.

The Federal Government is considering areas extending from the border of Western Australia and the Northern Territory across to Cape York in Queensland.

There are different levels of protection, but it is possible that all kinds of industry could be banned from some areas.

The Marine Conservation Society's Prue Barnard says it is part of the Government's commitment to create a network of marine parks by 2012.

She says the move should not be a concern for fishermen.

"Often some fish, when they're bigger, they produce more eggs and larvae and actually go out of those areas and create more fish for surrounding regions," she said.

"There's many positive impacts."

She says the recent oil rig leak off the Kimberley coast underlines the need for sanctuaries.

"If the marine protected areas are well designed with high levels of marine sanctuaries, the marine environment will have its best chance of surviving such an impact," she said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/22/2693425.htm>

☐ Juvenile lobster counts underway in WA

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:28 PM

Juvenile lobster counts underway in WA

Tuesday, 22/09/2009

Western Australian rock lobster fishermen are hopeful the first counts of juvenile lobsters signify a recovery of the fishery is underway.

The numbers of puerulus, or juvenile, lobsters settling on collectors have risen slightly in comparison with the same period last year.

At that time, numbers were so low the Fisheries Minister imposed severe restrictions on commercial rock lobster fishermen in an effort to reduce the catch.

However, senior rock lobster scientist Simon de Lestang says even though numbers are slightly higher, it's too soon to be sure the fishery is coming back.

He says the next count, due at the beginning of October, will be the most telling indication of how the fishery is faring.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2692911.htm>

☐ Marine parks controversy

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:25 PM

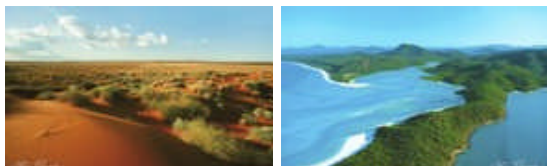
Marine parks controversy

Belinda Scott | 22nd September 2009

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Photos

Steve Parish: Qld and NSW landscapes



[View Photo Gallery »](#)

A MORATORIUM on new marine parks would not mean dismantling any existing marine parks or their protection zones, Duncan Gay said yesterday.

The NSW National and Liberal parties last week launched an on-line campaign calling for a moratorium on the creation of any new marine parks in NSW until they were supported by scientific studies.

The petition move is being led by Mr Gay, the State Opposition spokesman on Industry.

Greens MLC Ian Cohen struck back on Monday, saying that NSW Environment Minister John Robertson had confirmed that the government had no plans for new marine parks and Mr Gay was creating a baseless fear

campaign.

Mr Cohen said the recent rescue of a grey nurse shark damaged by fishing tackle near Byron Bay proved the need for more protected areas and there was concern a Coalition state government would erode current regulations in existing parks.

Mr Gay said yesterday what Mr Robertson had actually said was that the government had no intention of creating new parks 'at this stage'.

He said this was remarkably similar to a government statement before the 2007 election, which had been followed after the election by the creation of the Port Stephens and Batemans Shelf marine parks.

He said there were proposals to establish five more marine parks covering 215,280 ha and stretching from Sydney to the Coffs Coast.

"It is not scare mongering, given the government's track record," Mr Gay said.

www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/story/2009/09/22/marine-parks-controv...

☐ Algae leads way to sustainable biofuel

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:23 PM

Algae leads way to sustainable biofuel

Article from: **TheAdvertiser**

NIGEL AUSTIN, RURAL EDITOR

September 22, 2009 11:30am

SA's intention to focus on biodiesel production from algae has been supported by a review of the Australian biofuels sector.

The Australian Biofuels 2009 report declares that algae has significant potential advantages over existing biofuel crops.

APAC Biofuel Consultants joint chief executive Mike Cochran said that South Australia had taken a lead in producing biofuels from algae.

Mr Cochran said SA seemed to be on the right track with its focus on biofuel production from algae which was backed by the Premier's Department and the Government.

Alternative fuel sources were becoming an imperative as Australian crude-oil production declined and imports increase, he said.

"Australia is facing a large fuel security problem in the next 20 years as demand grows and domestic production declines," Mr Cochran said.

"A significant benefit of algae is it is not competing with food supply."

Mr Cochran said SA had the right strain of algae with high oil content, good sunlight, water and land and the intellectual resources.

"It is a high-yielding crop, an absorber of carbon dioxide, low cost and does not compete with other plants as a source of food," Mr Cochran said.

"This includes having an excellent research capability, through organisations such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), universities and private investors."

Mr Cochran said a benefit of algae was that it was many times more productive than canola or other similar food crops.

"CSIRO makes the statement that 100 square miles of algae farm can produce Australia's diesel requirements," he said.

The report said that global interest in algae research and development was at an all-time high. Major world oil companies were investing hundreds of millions of dollars in developing the technology.

SA's leadership includes the Algal Fuels Consortium, comprising SARDI and CSIRO, which has a pilot plant on Torrens Island.

General Atomics, which owns the Beverley Uranium project has also committed to support it.

Mr Cochran said fuel company Exxon Mobil had committed \$600 million to algae research. Shell was also looking closely at algae development as an alternative to fossil fuels.

www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26109255-5003680,00.html

☐ Sydney Seafood School has seen many changes in 20 years

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:22 PM

Sydney Seafood School has seen many changes in 20 years

September 22nd, 2009 [Leave a comment](#) [Go to comments](#)

Twenty years is a long time in the food world. In 1986 farmed Tasmanian Atlantic salmon entered the market – available only in season from October to February. By 1989 leading food magazines were heralding aquaculture (then confined to a very few species such as salmon, mussels and oysters) as the way of the future. In that year the NSW Fish Marketing Authority (which later became Sydney Fish Market) opened Sydney Seafood School, a purpose-built training facility with tiered seating and a large overhead mirror for demonstrations and an adjoining practical kitchen for hands-on cooking.

Although Sydney-siders were starting to become more interested in food, the average palate was still at best quite uneducated and at worst quite staid. French was the largest category in leading restaurant guides and Asian flavours, which we take for granted today, were still considered exotic. The NSW fishing fleet caught plenty of whiting, bream, snapper and flathead to supply the local market. But in doing so, they also netted a fair amount of octopus, squid, red mullet, crabs, mussels and other species with which shoppers weren't familiar, at least not familiar enough to take them home and cook them. A large part of the fishermen's catch was unwanted and sold as bait or for next to nothing to those who did appreciate them.

Sydney Seafood School was born with a mission to show Sydney-siders how easy it is to prepare a wide variety of seafood species at home, and so help create demand for this largely untapped wealth from Australian waters. Twenty years later it's regarded as one of Australia's leading cooking schools. From an initial focus of creating demand for lesser known varieties of seafood, it now teaches over 12,000 local, interstate and overseas "foodies" (a term coined in the 1980s) how to cook a huge variety of cuisines, and hosts classes with Australia's leading chefs. While seafood is still its focus, there's no longer any need to convince most people to try cooking with mussels, octopus or crabs; in fact abalone, sashimi, pipis and sea-snails don't daunt many of the food-savvy cooks who fill classes most weekday evenings and weekends.

Some things haven't changed of course. Chef Peter Doyle (now Executive Chef of est. restaurant) appeared on the first program with a class entitled "Christmas Entertaining with Seafood" on 5 December 1989 and will be teaching on the School's 20th anniversary program on 8 February 2010. Master Sushi Chef Hideo Dekura, who taught his first "Understanding Sushi & Sashimi" class on 31 January 1990, still conducts regular Sushi & Sashimi Workshops at the School (next on 30 January 2010), and Seafood Barbecue, also on the first program, is now the School's most popular class, filling 6-8 times a month (although the recipes have changed a little over the years). Other early classes such as Microwaving with Seafood, Slimming with Seafood and Budget Seafood Cookery didn't seem to catch the zeitgeist and have dropped off the program to be replaced by Tapas, Salt & Pepper Prawns, Chilli Crab and Quick 'n' Delicious. Asian flavours are now much more in demand with a class starting in the Thai shops of Chinatown among the most popular.

Leading Australian chefs helping to celebrate the School's 20th anniversary include expat David Thompson (now running Michelin-starred London restaurant, Nahm), Cheong Liew (Grange Restaurant, Adelaide), Tetsuya Wakuda (Tetsuya's) and Neil Perry (Rockpool). While a trawl through the School's archives reveals recipe kits for classes by Damien Pignolet, Owner-Chef of Claude's (and also a presenter on the 20th anniversary program); Tony Bilson, Owner-Chef of Bon Gout; and Philip Searle, Owner-Chef of Oasis Seros. Twenty years certainly is a long time in the food world.

ENDS

For more information please contact Sydney Seafood School Manager, Roberta Muir, at robertam@sydneyfishmarket.com.au, or on +61 2 9004 1140.

www.reversepr.com.au/2009/09/22/1420/sydney-seafood-school-has-seen...

☐ St Helens barway rescue after boat capsize

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:21 PM

St Helens barway rescue after boat capsize

MATTHEW MALONEY
22/09/2009 5:39:00 PM



The capsized trawler on the St Helens barway. Picture PAUL WILSON.



The capsized boat on the St Helens Barway. Picture MATT MALONEY

FOUR occupants of the 16m fishing boat Anmaropa who survived a capsizing on the St Helens barway this morning were treated for hypothermia after being rescued and taken to St Helens.

Their vessel, which was loaded with scallops and heading to unload in St Helens, remains overturned on the barway.

Rescue crews arrived to the scene sometime after 8am to find two crew clinging to the overturned hull of the boat, with waves breaking over it.

St Helens Marine Rescue Association operations manager Greg Schmerl said two were trapped in the wheel house.

``They're very lucky – they were under water for a little while," he said.

The two men received immediate medical attention when brought back to land at Akaroa, outside St Helens, for shock and exposure and minor lacerations.

The scallop crew had requested St Helens Coast Guard by radio to escort them over the barway just before 8am, which was referred onto St Helens Marine Rescue Association.

``We had to go there and have a look but we probably would have told them to wait three hours for the tide to get full over the bar and then have a try," Mr Schmerl said.

``It's full of scallops so it would have been weighing a bit."

Both the rescue vessel Break O'Day and police vessel Rentless attended the scene. Police reported that 2-3 metre seas were breaking over the barway at the time.

The vessel remains overturned on the barway, showing one metre of its keel.

The boat was fully laden with scallop catch and was coming to St Helens to unload.

Mr Schmerl said there was debris in the water, and a crew would go to the spot this afternoon to assess the likelihood of an oil spill from the ship's diesel tanks.

www.examiner.com.au/news/local/news/arts-culture-entertainment/st-h...

Posted on September 22, 2009, 7:07am

A Tantanoola man has been convicted and fined more than \$6300 in the Mount Gambier Magistrates Court for using more than the legal number of rock lobster pots.

Under South Australian legislation recreational fishers may only use a maximum of two rock lobster pots, which must be registered through PIRSA Fisheries.

The man pleaded guilty to six counts of taking fish using excess gear.

He was fined \$5400 with an additional penalty of \$910 imposed by the magistrate.

Fisheries Officers observed the man's activities over a period in January 2009 at Lighthouse Bay, near Carpenter Rocks.

He was found to have been using four rock lobster pots at one time.

In addition to the fines, the magistrate ordered the man be prohibited from any rock lobster fishing activity for five years as well as ordering the forfeiture of four rock lobster pots and a quantity of rock lobster.

PIRSA Fisheries manager regional operations, Peter Dietman, said this type of illegal fishing activity would not be tolerated.

Mr Dietman reminded fishers that it is unlawful to operate more than two rock lobster pots or to operate rock lobster pots which are registered in another person's name.

"These rules are in place to protect the long-term sustainability of the fishery and hopefully this penalty will act as a deterrent for fishers looking to ignore these rules," he said.

Fishers are also reminded that recreational rock lobster pots are not permitted to have a buoy attached that displays the licence number of a commercial fishery.

Anyone can report illegal fishing activity through the 24 hour Fishwatch number on 1800 065 522. Callers can choose to remain anonymous.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/4599>

Police crack down on illegal fishing

Friday, 25 September 2009 7:19 PM

Police crack down on illegal fishing

Posted Mon Sep 21, 2009 1:16pm AEST

- **Map:** [Dongara 6525](#)

Mid-west Western Australian police have teamed up with the Fisheries Department to catch illegal fishers in the region.

Officers have started conducting random traffic stops along the Brand Highway, searching cars for drugs and any large quantities of seafood or fish caught out of season.

A recent report by the auditor-general found that in the past six years, the number of recreational fishers caught breaking the law has increased by 52 per cent.

Sergeant Paul World says over the weekend, officers searched about 150 cars and found at least 10 items of interest for the Fisheries Department.

"We regularly team up with fisheries in Dongara and Jurien Bay and conduct these static checks on vehicles," he said.

"We ... target the holiday periods, the beginning of them, the end of them and of course we coincide with the beginning and end of each fishing season."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/21/2691951.htm>

Ethanol, or E10 – it will never be 'mates' with boats

Thursday, 24 September 2009 2:40 PM

Ethanol, or E10 – it will never be 'mates' with boats



**It's marketed through Australian
Brazilian, European, US service stations
as E10, signifying the pump will**

'Outboard Motor repairs can be expensive'

ethanol added.

dispense gasoline with 10 percent

Many 'good things' are claimed for this additive – many it believe burns cleaner, substantially reduces carbon monoxide emissions and green house gases.

Sounds good, right? Wrong! Not if you're boat owner.

Personally, I have found the subject rather confusing and have been fortunate in having some 'gold plated' assistance in delving into the ethanol situation in the form of Gary Fooks.

Gary Fooks is chairman of the Eco-Friendly Fishing Association and a man who has been a consultant to government authorities, boating industry associations and even boat builders.

Despite the fact that has been issuing warnings for some time, Fooks was astounded when he visited the Melbourne Boat Show three months ago and discovered many boat manufacturers remained blissfully unaware of the problems posed by ethanol.

'I spoke with several manufacturers while I was in Melbourne and the vast majority were simply unaware of the problem or failed to recognise any seriousness with it,' he explained, and added 'I feel the main issue is that people are assuming it's an outboard problem.

'But it's actually a hull problem. Most modern outboards can cope with E10, yet very few fuel systems are ready.



'Manufacturers in the automotive industry have reacted somewhat faster and plastics and rubbers with the durability to withstand ethanol's corrosive effects on fuel tanks, hoses, and seals have been developed.

'Sadly, boat manufacturers have been much slower to react and for that reason there are many boats in use today that will succumb to malfunctions that can be attributed to ethanol, be it disintegrating fuel tanks to destroyed fuel lines. 'It's these dissolved elements that get into engines and destroy outboards' he added.

Modern fuel tanks withstand ethanol corrosion, but they can't solve the phase separation. -

anything but unaware – Greg Haines, of the Haines Marine Group, says all boats produced by the company, Signature, Traveller, Ensign, Seafarer, Walker Bay and Correct Craft, all carry a sticker prominently placed.

It reads – WARNING The use of fuel containing ethanol may cause damage to your fuel system and/or engine.

'We've been placing this message on all our boats now, probably for the past four-years or so,' Greg Haines said.

So what exactly is the ethanol problem?

Is your engine going to fail, explode, seize? Nothing like that, ethanol introduces its own problems for boat owners.

We've mentioned earlier the 'good side' of ethanol, so let's take a look at its bad side

Gary Fooks lists what he terms 'three crucial characteristics' associated with ethanol that boat owners should be aware of.

Basically, these three major problems are; it can totally dissolve fibreglass or corrode an aluminium fuel tank, it can 'eat' fuel lines and dissolved elements pass through the best filters into an engine causing fatal damage.

Next it has a very poor shelf life compared to regular petrol.

And third, the ethanol can separate compromising the fuel mixture and releasing a dose of 100% ethanol into fuel systems and engines that can only cope with a 10% dose.

Firstly, it must be remembered that ethanol, although produced from grains such as corn and sugarcane, is actually a strong solvent.

So any old fuel stains and crud in fuel tanks will be dissolved. It's nice that it will clean the tank, but the residue either blocks fuel filters, or passes through the filter and damages engines.

The shelf life area is alone a major problem for boaters; let's face it, few recreational boats are used on a daily basis.

If there's a spell of inclement weather, for instance, a boat may sit unused for weeks.



Phase Separation in Gasoline -

During that time the ethanol evaporates away quickest, leaving 'sour' low octane fuel behind.

We know that stale fuel can spell all sorts of gumming and engine problems.

The trouble is that the shelf life of E10 is only two weeks!!! Shorter in hot weather or the boat is in the sun all day.

Idle time, especially when there is humidity about will also cause what is known as 'phase separation' ethanol separates, sinking to the bottom of the tank. There is absolutely no way in can be avoided or re-mixed.

So what is 'phase separation'?

Like brake fluid, ethanol is 'hygroscopic', which means it absorbs or attracts moisture. If it absorbs any water, even that from the air, 'phase separation' occurs when the ethanol separates from the gasoline.

The gasoline floats to the top of the tank, the ethanol sinks to the bottom.

When this layer of ethanol builds up to more than a few mm, the fuel pickup tube inside the tank will deliver a dose of near 100% ethanol to hoses, filters and engines that are only rated to handle 10%.

Once phase separation has occurred there is no way to remix the ethanol and gasoline.

This leaves the boat owner with only one option – the fuel tank must be completely drained.

Disposing of the fuel then presents a new problem.

No problems have been revealed with clean, fresh E10 and engines; all outboard manufacturers and distributors state most engines are designed to operate efficiently with 10 percent ethanol added to standard unleaded fuel. (check with your manufacturer for specific advice)

Next week, in part two of this important feature, we'll take a look at the alternatives and discuss some of the problems in more detail.

by Bob Wonders 5:21 PM Wed 23 Sep 2009

<http://www.powerboat-world.com/index.cfm?Nid=61595>

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Sunday, 20 September 2009 9:54 AM

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 o 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 Governments 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 Commonwealth's 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 sea's 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 Secretary General 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 year 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 tlock 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

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Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



SeaRead P/L

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