



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

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

Rock lobster stocks going down, down

PAUL CARTER

October 29, 2009 - 3:39PM

AAP

Australia's dwindling rock lobster stocks, forcing severe catch cuts in South Australia and Victoria, now has Tasmanian fishermen on the front foot offering a 20 per cent quota reduction.

However it's not certain the pre-emptive offer will be enough to satisfy the Tasmanian government, which in December decides the state's next total allowable catch.

The fishermen's scientist Caleb Gardner says national stocks are at worrying lows after four consecutive years of poor recruitment, the worst such series since counting began in the 1970.

"This is really a very unusual situation," said Dr Gardner, from the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute.

Australian catch rates have slumped rapidly in the past 12 months, returning to levels that first prompted management of the lucrative fishery, while New Zealand stocks prosper, he said.

Nobody knows why the Australian lobsters have had so many bad breeding years, he said.

"Normally one area is doing poorly and another area is doing alright but the problem now is that every area has had a decline in catch rates so there's nowhere else to go," he said on Thursday.

Overfishing is not the problem, Dr Gardner said.

"The problem is recruitment. The fishery has been very well managed in the amount of eggs being produced so there should be no problem with the supply of babies," he said.

"But the juveniles haven't been recruiting back into the fishery, probably not surviving, although they can stay in a larval state for up to 18 months."

Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fisherman's Association CEO Rodney Treloggen says the minister will soon receive a letter with a suggested total 20 per cent catch cut over three years.

"We hope that the government accepts that the steps that we've taken are responsible enough to help address what we see as the problem," he said.

"Our members have always been proactive in sustaining the fishery.

"It's better to do something in the short-term than just let things drag on and end up decimated like other fisheries around the world because people have failed to act."

Tasmania's current annual catch total of 1,470 tonnes is worth \$70 million, landed, to about 300 quota holders, down from 1,523 tonnes five years ago.

A 20 per cent cut, spread over three years, will reduce that to 1,194 tonnes.

South Australia's annual catch is down to 1,800 tonnes, from 2,400 five years ago.

Victoria's annual catch is down to 285 tonne from 500 tonne five years ago.

© 2009 [AAP](#)

news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/rock-lobster-stocks-going...

☐ Rock lobster season opens Sunday

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:17 AM

Rock lobster season opens Sunday

SOPHIE WANDEL

29/10/2009 12:30:00 AM

FISHERS are three days out from the northern zone rock lobster season opening at noon on Sunday, November 1.

Commercial fishers are hoping for a good season despite their quota being slashed in September following a disappointing catch rate in 2008/09.

Last season northern zone fishers caught only 402 tonnes of the 470 tonne total allowable catch (TAC), which forced State fishing minister Paul Caica to slash the TAC to 310 tonnes for this season in an effort to keep the fishery sustainable.

With the season so close to starting, Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) Fisheries are reminding recreational fishers to read up on the number of rules that apply to rock lobster fishing in South Australia.

PIRSA Fisheries general manager Kelly Crosthwaite said it was important fishers did not put any pots in the water prior to noon on Sunday or they risk expiation.

"PIRSA Fisheries officers will be conducting regular patrols ... paying particular attention to unregistered pots, over potting, interference with other fisher's pots, the retaining of females carrying eggs and people taking undersize rock lobster."

Current data suggests there is a pulse of small lobsters growing into legal size over the next few years, which should see catches sustained.

Rock lobster pots must be registered with PIRSA Fisheries and have a current registration tag before they can be legally used in SA.

Fishers can access up to date information about the rules that apply to recreational fishing via the Recreational Fishing Guide or log onto www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing or call the 24-hour Fishwatch number on 1800 065 522 1800 065 522

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/rock-lobster-se...

☐ NSW Government sees red over blue groper deaths

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:17 AM

NSW Government sees red over blue groper deaths



Industry and Investment NSW Fisheries Officers have apprehended a man, allegedly caught red handed with an illegal haul of Eastern Blue Groper, the emblem fish of NSW, Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said.

[NSW State Government](#)

The 39-year-old man from the Sydney suburb of Lansvale was apprehended at Wattamolla in the Royal National Park last week.

'This is an absolutely inexcusable example of illegal fishing, and I commend our fisheries officers for a sterling effort in apprehending this reckless offender,' Mr Macdonald said.

'Blue Groper has been a protected species for many years and can only be caught legally by rod and line or handline.

Mr Macdonald said NSW Fisheries Officers observed the man carrying a large backpack and hessian sack, west along the rocky shore area of Wattamolla.

'A search was carried out and the man was allegedly found to be in possession of 15 Eastern Blue Groper, ranging in size from 35.7cm to 65cm,' the Minister said.

'It will be alleged that all the fish were speared, and had wounds consistent with that of a spear.

'This is perhaps one of the most deplorable fisheries crimes I have ever seen and this offender can expect to face the full force of the law,' Mr Macdonald said.

Minister Macdonald said the man is facing a range of charges including possess fish illegally taken, and exceeding the bag limit, which each carry a maximum penalty of \$11,000 and three months in jail.

'The bag limit for Blue Groper is two per person, with only one longer than 60cm,' he said.

The NSW Government has previously declared the Eastern blue groper the state emblem fish of NSW.

'Blue groper is a hugely popular and well known species because of their friendly nature and underwater antics, and are a favourite fish of divers and snorkelers throughout the state,' Mr Macdonald said.

'This appalling case should serve as a warning to all fishers that bag limits are in place to help protect our fisheries resource.

'If we want to maintain healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations, all fishers need to abide by the rules.'

'Our precious fisheries resource is finite and the Government is doing all it can to protect this valuable community owned asset,' Minister Macdonald said.

To report illegal fishing, contact your nearest fisheries office, or call the Fishers Watch phone line on 1800 043 536

www.powerboat-world.com/NSW-Government-sees-red-over-blue-groper-de...

☰ Pipi supply clams up in SA

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:15 AM

Pipi supply clams up in SA

Wednesday, 28/10/2009

South Australia's pipi industry has been overfished, forcing a slash of 50 per cent in the total allowable catch rate.

Fishers from the Murray mouth to Kingston in the south-east will only have access to 300 tonnes from December 1.

Roger Edwards, independent chair of the Goolwa Pipi Harvester's Association says catch rates have been on the decline since 1996.

"Back in 1996, rates peaked at 1250 kilograms per day. Last year, catch rates were only 330 kilos per day."

He says a shorter harvest and quota cut will hopefully see the fishery return back to sustainable levels.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2726588.htm>

☐ Crisis ahead for fishing industry

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:14 AM

Crisis ahead for fishing industry

Updated at 8:38am on 29 October 2009

Commercial fishermen say ageing vessels and crews will lead to a crisis for the \$3.8 billion industry.

The average age of inshore commercial boats is almost 40 years, while crews average at about 50.

There are about 800 inshore fishing vessels in use, many of them wooden hulled or rusting steel.

Professional Skipper magazine editor Keith Ingram, a former commercial fisherman, says profit margins are too tight for some operators to purchase new boats, which can cost well over \$1 million.

He says fishermen only get about \$4 per kg for a bulk species such as snapper and lack of profits are keeping younger people out of the trade.

He fears more fishermen being squeezed out of the industry, will mean more foreign vessels and crews.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/stories/2009/10/29/1245cea66762>

☐ Eden escapes tuna quota cut chaos

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:09 AM

Eden escapes tuna quota cut chaos

SARAH CHENHALL

29/10/2009 9:12:00 AM

Southern bluefin tuna quota cuts have been announced just five weeks away from the start of the season following new scientific evidence the internationally managed fishery is on the verge of collapse.

Nationally, Australia's quota has been cut from 5265 tonnes to 4015 tonnes.

Southern bluefin fishing in Eden is limited to two locally owned boats who have previously taken up lease offers from the South Australian quota owners.

The Port Lincoln quota owners have reconfirmed their lease offer to the local boats.

In Eden, the sight of bluefin tuna being unloaded at the wharf last season signalled the end of a long drought for fishermen of the species in the wake of acknowledged over-fishing worldwide in the 1960s and 1970s.

The cuts were announced on Monday by the Australian Government on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) who met in Korea last week to review new scientific data.

The meeting examined a report from the scientific committee, which stated the spawning population was only at five per cent on 1940 numbers.

The impact of reductions on the \$187 million dollar industry will largely affect the Port Lincoln economy where the domestic industry is at its strongest.

The 25 to 30 per cent cut in Australia's overall quota (over two years) has made Prisman P/L company spokesperson John Isles revisit his forecasting.

"We're still trying to come to terms with what this means to us and our business model," he said, "But I think we've got a long term commitment to long term tuna long lining on the east coast."

During the season, which runs from December to March, around 18 tonne of southern bluefin tuna was unloaded at Snug Cove. The tuna was caught using quota owned by Prisman P/L.

"I'm not disputing (the scientific data) but it's not what we're seeing on the water, my feeling is that the fishery was making a recovery," Mr Isles said

"I'm surprised the government supports the decision knowing that Australia sticks to the rules when Japan have acknowledged a 200,000 over-catch in the last 20 years."

Australia is a member of the CCSBT along with Japan, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and the Fishing Entity of Taiwan with cooperating non-members the Philippines, South Africa and the European community.

At the time of going to press CCSBT's executive secretary Robert Kennedy had not yet released any media statement about the cuts, nor any information about the methodology of the scientific data.

www.edenmagnet.com.au/news/local/news/general/eden-escapes-tuna-quo...

Rock lobster fears in Tasmania

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:09 AM

Rock lobster fears in Tasmania

Simon Lauder reported this story on Thursday, October 29, 2009 08:15:00

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

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

TONY EASTLEY: In Tasmania the orange roughy, a slowly maturing but good eating fish was massively over-fished in the late 80s and early 90s - almost to the point of extinction.

Now it's the highly regarded Tasmanian lobster that's under threat and fishermen are so worried about the decline in its numbers they're putting up their hands and telling the Government to cut the commercial quotas that can be taken.

With an eye to the past they've voted to push for a 20 per cent reduction in the catch, in the hope that it will help secure the long term sustainability of their industry.

Simon Lauder is in Hobart.

SIMON LAUDER: John Samson's boat is anchored at Hobart's Constitution Dock as he gets ready for the beginning of the rock lobster fishing season.

JOHN SAMSON: We go to sea with a boat load full of pots and we put them in the water and we go round and pull them twice a day. You're standing on the well now, or the tank where we keep them alive to bring them home.

SIMON LAUDER: And it's what, two or three weeks before the official start of the season. Are you ready for it?

JOHN SAMSON: Yeah, I've just got to get this engine going properly. It's just had a rebuild so I'm just lining it up and getting it ready to fire.

SIMON LAUDER: And how long have you been a rock lobster fisherman?

JOHN SAMSON: Over 30 years now Simon. Average cost for a trip for me is around about \$3,000 worth of expenses before I go, yeah.

SIMON LAUDER: And how many people are on this boat when you're out?

JOHN SAMSON: Just me, myself and I.

SIMON LAUDER: Does it get a bit lonely?

JOHN SAMSON: No, no. I enjoy it. It's a good lifestyle.

SIMON LAUDER: But things aren't as good as they have been. Tasmanian rock lobster fishermen have reported a decline in catch rates for the past three years.

JOHN SAMSON: You just notice a decrease in the number of fish in the pots, that's basically it yeah, and the keepers, there's not as many keepers in each pot as there was. We're working harder for less fish.

SIMON LAUDER: Mr Samson is the President of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association. Its members have just taken a vote that could involve massive self sacrifice in the hope of a brighter future. They're asking the State Government to cut their annual quota by 20 per cent over the next three years.

JOHN SAMSON: It's an extremely large sacrifice. I mean I don't know whether most people would realise it, you know, 20 per cent cut in your pay is a big slice of it. So, yeah, you've got to either work harder to try and make up the short fall or do without.

SIMON LAUDER: So for you what's the argument for going ahead?

JOHN SAMSON: Sustainability. It's all about the sustainability of the fishery. If we don't have a fishery, we've got nothing.

SIMON LAUDER: Neville Perryman has been a lobster fisherman for three decades. He says the association's response reflects changing attitudes in the industry.

NEVILLE PERRYMAN: You know, going from that change of oh look there'll always be fish because it's a big ocean, to sort of realising that there's only a certain amount that you can take out sustainably.

SIMON LAUDER: A lot of people must be looking at your industry putting its hand up for a 20 per cent cut and saying you're mad.

NEVILLE PERRYMAN: It helps being a bit mad when you're a fisherman I think, the lifestyle, it takes a toll on your body and your sanity at times.

But it's in the interest of the industry in the long term. You know, you've invested in the industry and you want to have that confidence that when you get out that you're leaving something behind, and probably comes down to the old adage that you know, you want to leave it in, you're only borrowing it from your children really.

SIMON LAUDER: Unsurprisingly not every member of the Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association is keen on giving up a fifth of the industry's fishing rights. John Hammond doesn't believe the scientific modelling which predicts a further decline in lobster numbers.

JOHN HAMMOND: Catchability is something that's pretty much impossible to measure.

Where we fish at Flinders Island, we're the only ones that fish that bottom, nobody else knows where the grounds are. So the fish haven't caught the last 747 and gone somewhere else. The fish are still there.

SIMON LAUDER: Mr Hammond says cuts in the lobster quota will hit small operators the hardest.

JOHN HAMMOND: All this will do is play into the hands of the big operators and the factories and at the end of the day all it adds up to now is who's got the longest pockets and half this fishery will get knocked off, out the door, finished. And you know I think it's bloody terrible.

SIMON LAUDER: The State Government is due to announce the new quota in December.

TONY EASTLEY: Simon Lauder.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2009/s2727119.htm>

☐ New restrictions on recreational lobster catch

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:04 AM

New restrictions on recreational lobster catch

Article from: PerthNow

- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Email article: [Email](#)
- Print article: [Print](#)
- Submit comment: [Submit comment](#)

October 28, 2009 10:40am

RECREATIONAL rock lobster fishers face new restrictions ahead of a predicted slump in the total crayfish catch.

The WA catch is expected to fall to its lowest level in 40 years during the next few years, prompting the State Government to introduce a range of restrictions for commercial and recreational fishermen.

The new rules for the recreational sector include a minimum size limit of 77mm and a 10mm reduction in the maximum size of female rock lobsters, Fisheries Minister Norman Moore said.

"Recreational fishers must play their part in contributing to the sustainable management of this fishery by adopting the new sustainability rules," he said.

"I have also decided the escape gap size for recreational rock lobster pots will remain at 54mm for 2009-10, before increasing to 55mm for the 2010-11 season."

Mr Moore said the new rules took into account the record low settlement of juvenile lobsters in recent seasons, which indicated that in the next two to three years the fishery would experience the lowest catches in four decades.

"This season, for the first time, the sectors will be managed to allocated shares of the sustainable harvest level," Mr Moore said.

"The commercial sector is allocated a 95 per cent share, the recreational sector's share is five per cent and the customary sector's share is one tonne.

"This season, the commercial catch's managed target is 5,500 tonnes, with a likely range of 4,950 to 6,050 tonnes. The target catch for the recreational sector will be 290 tonnes, with a range of 260 to 318 tonnes."

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,26271879-5017007,00.html>

Hooked albatross warning

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:02 AM

Hooked albatross warning

HELEN KEMPTON

October 28, 2009 12:49pm



The Tasmanian shy albatross (top) with the hook that was removed from its jaw (above). Pictures: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

A TASMANIAN shy albatross found with a fish hook in its jaw has sparked fresh warnings for fishers to take more care.

An albatross with a large fishing hook embedded in its bill was found during recent routine survey work on Albatross Island off Tasmania's North-West tip.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment wildlife biologist Rachael Alderman said the injured seabird would probably have died if it had not been found.

"The hook had been there a while and probably would have eventually killed the bird. If it was nesting at the time, it would also likely mean the loss of a chick as well," Ms Alderman said yesterday.

The bird returned to its nest after it was caught.

The hook was the kind used by recreational fishers to catch big fish such as tuna.

"Over recent years there has been a lot of work targeted towards reducing the impact of some types of commercial fishing on the survival of albatross species around the world," Ms Alderman said.

"But even recreational fishing can have an impact on albatross if people are not careful when albatross are foraging in the area.

Albatross species from around the world, some even more threatened than Tasmania's vulnerable Shy albatross, forage in our waters.

People should not feed seabirds from boats and baited hooks should not be left near the surface of the water for long periods.

"If you accidentally hook a bird then try and remove the hook rather than just cut the line," Ms Alderman said.

The Tasmanian Shy albatross breeds exclusively on Albatross island and Pedra Branca and Mewstone islands in the south.

Ms Alderman said being aware that these birds foraged in local water as a simple step towards preserving albatross populations.

www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/10/28/106225_tasmania-news.html

☐ Anger in Australia over Bluefin tuna quota

Friday, 30 October 2009 8:01 AM

Anger in Australia over Bluefin tuna quota

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

Updated Tue Oct 27, 2009 3:45pm AEDT

The Pacific Tuna fishing industry says it's not surprised by the size of the reduction in annual quotas agreed to by the bluefin Tuna industry. At a meeting in South Korea the Bluefin industry agreed to an annual cut in quotas by 20 per cent. But there's anger in Australia, the biggest fisher of the species, as it must reduce its catch by 30 per cent.

Presenter: Pacific Correspondent Campbell Cooney

Speakers: Executive Officer of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Andrew Wright; Port Lincoln's mayor Peter Davis

COONEY: The decision made by the world's Bluefin tuna fishing industry in Korea to cut catch quotas by 20 per cent does not impact on Pacific tuna fisheries directly which target the Yellowfin and Big Eye species. But those involved in the Pacific Tuna industry are watching with interest and the Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Drew Wright, says the planned reduction in the Blue Eye catch comes as no surprise.

WRIGHT: What's taking place in the Atlantic and also now in the Southern Indian Ocean south of Australia and South Pacific for Southern Bluefin Tuna is incredibly relevant to what all tuna regional fisheries management organisations have got on their agenda at the moment Campbell. As you know, in the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission last year, we agreed to certain objective of reducing fishing mortality on Big Eye Tuna by 30 per cent over the next three years. It's demonstrating that unless these regional fisheries organisations do to take a more proactive and meaningful role in the management of the resources they are responsible for, then it is quite possible as is happening with Atlantic Bluefin...that the responsibilities for the administration of those stocks will be handed to another body.

COONEY: That 20 per cent cut that was handed down in Korea. Did it surprise you the size of it?

WRIGHT: No, because for many years there has been concern about the ability of Southern Bluefin Tuna to sustain the current level of fishing, there's scientific advice, there's consistently been a need for reduction of fishing mortality, so that does not surprise me at all.

COONEY: Australia is the world's biggest fisher of Southern Bluefin Tuna and as part of the 20 per cent worldwide reduction, its quota has been cut by 30 per cent.

The main fishing fleet is based in Port Lincoln in South Australia, and news of the quota cut is not being

well received.

Port Lincoln's Mayor, Peter Davis, has questioned the science behind the decision.

DAVIS: As far as we're concerned, Southern Bluefin Tuna is clearly recovering. Fish sizes are, the average fish weight is increasing per year, schools are increasing, things that all give the lie to the stock being under threat. I think it would be most appropriate for the "secret scientific report" to be made public, so that other than bureaucrats and red eyed greenies can scrutinise the evidence upon which this reduction has been imposed.

COONEY: But while Mr Davis might think the science is questionable, the group which represents the industry, the Australian Tuna Association, agreed to the 20 per cent cut. But with millions of dollars invested in fishing fleets, will fishers look to other tuna fisheries?

Drew Wright from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission says it's up to those involved in the Pacific tuna industry to police their own patch.

WRIGHT: Fishermen have got to feed their families and maintain employment and meet their payments and things like that. So it does there is two possibilities. One is that governments will become involved in retiring the fleets by some sort of buy back programs to actually remove active participants in the fishery and the other possibility is that there will be an increase in illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing. IEU fishing is prevalent in global fisheries worldwide and Western Central Pacific Fisheries Convention area is faced with high levels of IEU fishing probably and I say probably, because IEU fishing by its very nature is very hard to categorise and document and get a meaningful quantity value on and by cutting the mortality in the Southern Bluefin Tuna industry, then obviously there is going to be some displacement of effort and that effort will either relocate elsewhere and in a legitimate sense that opportunities are extremely limited. Some of those vessels may become IEU operators.

COONEY: And Mr Wright has also confirmed the eight Pacific Island nations who are participants in the Nauru agreement, whose economic zones cover the majority of the Pacific tuna fisheries are to open their own Secretariat to be based in the Marshall Islands to manage issues within their fishery.

WRIGHT: They want to promote the economic returns that the eight members of the PNA group secure from the Central Western Pacific Tuna industry and I think they can do it better with a dedicated office set up a little bit separate from as you say, it does not mean that the PNA countries will disengage from FFA. They will still maintain a presence in the FFA processes.

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/asiapac/stories/200910/s2726670.htm>

☰ Painful' road ahead for cray fishers

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:55 AM

'Painful' road ahead for cray fishers

Posted Wed Oct 28, 2009 11:40am AEDT

Updated Wed Oct 28, 2009 11:39am AEDT

- [Map: Port Macdonnell 5291](#)

A veteran Port MacDonnell cray fisherman says the poor catch rates plaguing the industry are a result of overfishing and tough times are ahead to correct it.

In a quiet start to the cray fishing season, some people in the industry are recording catch levels below 15 kilograms a day, after one of the worst seasons in decades earlier this year.

Lionel Carrison has more than 40 years experience in the industry and while he says he has experienced poor catch rates before, he says it could take up to 10 years for the industry to recover.

"Everything was going beautifully and then we had an increase in TAC [total allowable catch] and it seems like we may have gone too far with it and we are paying the price," he said.

"Back in the '60s we had a similar situation, some of the older fishermen were aware of what happened and tried to prevent it from happening but were unable to.

"Now I guess the pain starts trying to build it back up again."

Meanwhile, the executive officer of the SA Rock Lobster Advisory Council says he has been meeting Government and fishery officials to negotiate licensing over the past week.

Advisory executive officer Justin Phillips says licence holders need certainty and this could be provided by

lowering licence fees.

"We have had some talks with the Minister and the department around that and put some options forward," he said.

"I guess I would hope in the near future that we hear back from the department and the Minister's office with some ways of progressing assistance for licence holders through this period."

Poor catch levels in the previous season forced the State Government to cut cray fishing quotas in the Southern Zone by more than 300 tonnes.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/28/2726293.htm>

☐ Tuna reduction threatens game fishing industry

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:55 AM

Tuna reduction threatens game fishing industry

EVERARD HIMMELREICH

28/10/2009 4:00:00 AM

A RECOMMENDATION to cut Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch by 25 per cent is prompting vigorous debate in Portland on whether the catch by its thriving game fishing industry should also be reduced.

Game fishing for southern bluefin tuna is a significant industry in Portland with up to 11 charter boats and about 200 recreational boats chasing the big fish at peak holiday times from February to June.

The industry generates millions of dollars for the city's economy with recreational anglers coming from throughout Australia to hook the fish that can weigh more than 100 kilograms and put up an epic fight, with some taking more than six hours to reel in.

Bob McPherson of Portland, a former recreational anglers' representative on the Tuna Management Advisory Committee, said he believed tighter regulation of the recreational catch was needed.

While many recreational anglers did practise catch-and-release with the tuna, Mr McPherson feared there was still overfishing off Portland with too many of the large breeding fish being caught.

Current regulations that permit recreational anglers to take two southern bluefins, and only one at more than 1.2 metres in length, were allowing too much of the breeding stock to be taken, he said.

With 210 boats put into the water at Portland at Easter, the daily recreational catch of tuna was likely to total hundreds of tonnes at the season's peak.

Mr McPherson said the southern bluefin and albacore tuna fisheries off Portland were "world class" fisheries and their resources should be respected.

Paul Benbow, a fishing tackle salesman at Portland, said more catch-and-release was needed and excessive catches were still occurring.

Mr Benbow said there was enough southern bluefin tuna for all recreational anglers if they did not each take two large fish each day.

Two tuna weighing about 30-40 kilograms each should be enough for individual anglers, he said.

"You do not have to bring a boatload full of fish, especially the big fellas," he said.

Mr Benbow expected the cutback in the commercial catch would flow through to the recreational catch.

Wayne Sharrock of Sharkmen Charters said an accurate tally of the recreational tuna catch at Portland should be done before any reductions were imposed.

"If it is proven we have to be reduced, I would be all for it," he said.

www.standard.net.au/news/local/news/general/tuna-reduction-threate...

☐ Crean backs Japan to police tuna industry

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:52 AM

Crean backs Japan to police tuna industry

By North Asia correspondent [Mark Willacy](#) for AM

AM abc.net.au/am >

Posted Tue Oct 27, 2009 6:20am AEDT

Updated Tue Oct 27, 2009 8:15am AEDT



Japan has admitted to illegally taking more than 120,000 tonnes of southern bluefin tuna. (AFP: Yoshikazu Tsuno, file photo)

- **Video:** [Management overhaul for tuna fishery \(ABC News\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Crean confident on Japan enforcing quotas \(AM\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Tuna quota cut hits Port Lincoln \(AM\)](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna cuts to hurt Port Lincoln](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna cut may provoke illegal fishing](#)
- **Related Story:** [Australia's bluefin allowance slashed](#)
- **Related Story:** [Australia urges action to save bluefin tuna](#)

Trade Minister Simon Crean says he is confident the new government in Tokyo will move to police any future over-fishing of the southern bluefin tuna by the Japanese fleet.

In Tokyo for trade talks, Mr Crean acknowledged that the former conservative Japanese government failed to rein in the over-fishing of tuna, saying Japan was a "big culprit" in taking more than its quota.

He says this hurt Australian fishermen, particularly in the [South Australian fishing community of Port Lincoln](#).

Japan admitted several years ago it had illegally taken more than 120,000 tonnes of southern bluefin tuna, but the actual figure is believed to be much higher.

Mr Crean is the first Rudd Government cabinet member to visit Japan since the election of the centre-left government of Yukio Hatoyama.

Last week the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna slashed the global allowable catch by 20 per cent.

Australian fishing operators were hardest hit with a 30 per cent cut in their quota. The Japanese had their take reduced by 20 per cent.

In Port Lincoln there are warnings that the cut to the quota will cost jobs.

Mr Crean acknowledges that Australian tuna fishermen have a legitimate grievance with the Japanese, saying Port Lincoln in particular was hurt by the inaction of the former conservative government in Tokyo.

"The problem for them was that the previous government did hardly anything to stop the overfishing, and then the other thing that we've got to do is to actively work with those tuna farmers down there, because they've developed a process for breeding bluefin tuna," he said.

"But Japan is heavily into the technology in this field. If we can get some cooperation around that, it might actually be a good news story between Japan and Australia as to how to address this problem going forward."

But before there is any cooperation on tuna breeding between Australia and Japan, old quarrels will have to be resolved and assurances given - namely on the issue of Japanese over-fishing.

Mr Crean says that with a new centre-left government in power in Japan after decades of conservative rule, he is confident things will change.

"What I'm confident about is the preparedness by this new government to engage intensively and quickly with the Australia Government, a realisation by this government in Japan that the relationship with Australia is strong and needs to be made stronger," he said.

"A realisation by this government there's a lot we have in common, but a lot more we can do together. I'm

certain that together we can find the solutions."

While the Japanese and Australian governments try to find some common ground on tuna, at Tokyo's Tsukiji market dozens of the big fish will sell for top dollar at auction.

The tuna auction in the biggest fish market in the world. Tsukiji has an annual turnover of about \$6 billion.

Everyday the market turns over 2,000 metric tonnes of seafood and tuna remains the most sought after fish of them all.

Some very big money is spent at the sales. Earlier this decade a single tuna sold for \$250,000.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/27/2724880.htm>

☐ Clean Seas gets new Chairman as tuna quota slashed

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:51 AM

Clean Seas gets new Chairman as tuna quota slashed

- October 27, 2009
- James Ferre

Clean Seas Tuna has announced the appointment of John Ellice-Flint to the role of non-executive Chairman of the Australian aquaculture pioneer. The news comes as Australia's share of the worldwide quota of Southern Bluefin Tuna has been cut - a policy shift that is likely to benefit Clean Seas in the long-term.

Mr Ellice-Flint was until last year the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of oil and gas giant Santos Limited, playing a key role in the company's strategic turnaround. He has also been Chairman of the South Australian Museum since 2002.

Mr Ellice-Flint will replace Clean Seas founder Hagen Stehr as Chairman from December 1, subject to shareholder approval for the company's \$42 million capital raising. Mr Stehr will remain on the Clean Seas board as a non-executive Director.

"I am delighted that we have managed to attract a person of the calibre of John Ellice-Flint as the Chairman of Clean Seas," Mr Stehr said. "He has an extraordinary body of commercial experience behind him and a real passion for our business and enthusiasm for his new role."

"The appointment of an independent, non-executive chairperson is a key plank in strengthening Clean Seas' board and management team following a review of the company's corporate governance structure as we move into commercialisation of our propagated Southern Bluefin Tuna."

Mr Ellice-Flint said Clean Seas' anticipated commercialisation of propagated Southern Bluefin Tuna this summer represents a potential solution to declining wild stocks and the next major development phase for the Australian SBT industry.

Quota slashed

Last week, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna agreed to a net 20% cut in worldwide wild catch quota for SBT over 2010 and 2011. Australia's share of the worldwide quota will be reduced from 5,265 tonnes to 4,015 tonnes (a decrease of 23.4%). Substantial quota cuts for Northern Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean are also being recommended by an increasing number of European Union countries, with some countries recommending total closure of the fishery to enable stocks to recover.

"Worldwide cuts to wild catch Bluefin Tuna quotas should have a positive impact on the emerging Bluefin Tuna aquaculture industry thematics ," the incoming Chairman advised.

"Potentially, Clean Seas' propagation program could eventually duplicate the entire Australian wild catch quota and, in the medium term, should commercialisation be successful, provide additional stock for others in the Australian industry to supplement their diminished quota."

www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2009/10/27/clean-seas-gets-new-chairman-as-t...

☐ Bluefin tuna cut may provoke illegal fishing

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:49 AM

Bluefin tuna cut may provoke illegal fishing

By Campbell Cooney

Posted Mon Oct 26, 2009 7:11pm AEDT

- [Related Story: Australia's bluefin allowance slashed](#)

- **Related Story:** [Bluefin quota to cost Australian fisheries millions](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna cuts to hurt Port Lincoln](#)
- **Related Story:** [Help for SA tuna industry](#)

The Pacific tuna fishing industry says the global agreement to reduce the catch of bluefin tuna could lead to an increase in illegal fishing in the region.

The 20 per cent worldwide reduction in the catch of southern bluefin tuna will mean a large number of fishing vessels will be forced out of the industry.

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission says it expects some of those vessels will try to move into the Pacific to target yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

But those fisheries have already reduced allowable catches by 30 per cent, and the commission's executive director, Drew Wright, says there are concerns some fleets may decide to operate illegally.

"Opportunities are extremely limited. Some of those vessels may become IUU [illegal, unreported and unregulated] operators," he said.

The decision to reduce the annual bluefin catch was made during an industry meeting in Korea. Australia has been forced to reduce its catch by 30 per cent.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/26/2724692.htm?section=justin

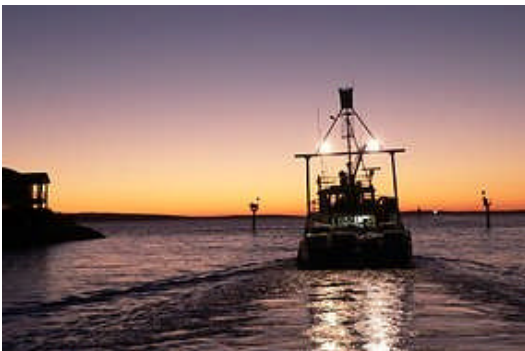
☐ Help for SA tuna industry

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:48 AM

Help for SA tuna industry

Posted Mon Oct 26, 2009 7:41am AEDT

Updated Mon Oct 26, 2009 8:24am AEDT



SA Govt says it will work with the Port Lincoln community to ensure the tuna industry survives. (user submitted: Des Woolford)

- **Map:** [Port Lincoln 5606](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna cuts to hurt Port Lincoln](#)
- **Related Story:** [Warning bluefin fishing cuts will devastate industry](#)

The South Australian Government says it will work closely with the community of Port Lincoln to ensure the tuna industry survives a drastic cut to its catch quota.

The Government says the international decision to cut Australia's tuna quota by 30 per cent is understandable.

The Minister for Fisheries, Paul Caica, says while he is concerned about the implications the cut will have on the state, he does not dispute the decision.

"Australia is party to that decision-making process and that decision has been made based on the science that's available with respect to the sustainability of that fishery going forward," he said.

"So no, it won't be disputed, it's about accepting that decision, it's about working through the implications."

Independent MP David Winderlich says the State Government needs to support the tuna industry the same way it plans to support Bridgestone workers.

The Government has promised to provide assistance to help the 600 tyre plant workers find new jobs.

Mr Winderlich says the same sort of response is needed for the tuna industry.

"The tuna industry is going to take a big hit because of the cut in fishing quotas," he said.

"The Government should get in early and start planning for that to help the industry adjust, rather than wait for things to unfold."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/26/2723674.htm>

Seaweed harvesting raises habitat concerns

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:47 AM

Seaweed harvesting raises habitat concerns

4:00AM Monday Oct 26, 2009

By [Isaac Davison](#)

A decision to open up the North Island for commercial farming of seaweed has drawn concerns that harvesting could affect other fishery industries.

This month, most of the North Island was opened for the gathering of beach-cast seaweed - the loose weed that is blown ashore in storms. Collection had previously been limited to selected areas.

But concerns have been raised that a quota system allowing harvesting below the waterline could harm the marine environment.

Seaweed Association chairwoman Jill Bradley supported the Ministry of Fisheries' move to allow more beach collection.

"Beach-cast seaweed is a natural occurrence, and [it] is a hand-harvested industry. The environmental issue is secondary, as all the seaweed is not removed - about 10 per cent is always left."

She said it could provide a new source of income for remote coastal communities.

The association was more concerned about the ministry's proposal to introduce a quota system for seven seaweed species, which could allow the cutting of the weed below New Zealand's waterline.

"The Quota Management System [QMS] is a world-leading framework, but it may not be the best option here because seaweed is the only fishery that has the potential to negatively affect all other high-value inshore fisheries." Ms Bradley wanted the ministry to wait until 2011 to make a decision, awaiting the results of a five-year scientific study.

Her family-owned company, AgriSea, is funding the study, which monitors the effects of harvesting on target species. Interim results from the project have been promising, showing that seaweed regenerated rapidly.

However, she said any harvesting of wild seaweed would have to be stringently managed to prevent environmental damage.

Forest and Bird New Zealand marine advocate Kirstie Knowles said commercial harvesting had the potential to upset fragile coastal habitats.

"When you start fishing down the food chain and putting your efforts into species that are at the foundation of food webs, it is a bit of a downward spiral."

Ms Knowles said beach-cast seaweed might look dead but it formed a habitat in itself, supporting myriad forms of life. It was a source of food, shelter and nesting material for marine and coastal species, including dotterels, pipits, gulls and other birds.

Two large areas of the east coast of the South Island will be opened up to commercial harvesting of kelp in October next year.

New Zealand Kelp, based in Christchurch, supported the introduction of a quota system for seaweed species. It sells edible seaweed which it gathers from Akaroa Harbour, Tory Channel and the Chatham Islands. It applied for a permit to harvest wild seaweed before the moratorium came into force.

Owner Roger Beattie said a \$380,000 Canterbury University research project, which he half-funded, showed the harvesting of kelp was "as sustainable as mowing your lawn".

"QMS is a robust and scientifically verifiable method of assessing how much can be harvested per year. It gives people certainty over the long term, so they can put money into marketing, branding and research."

Mr Beattie said he was already in promising negotiations with Japanese investors and estimated that the edible seaweed market was worth tens of millions of dollars a year.

* Export potential

New Zealand has vast forests of seaweed which have been protected under moratorium for the last 18 years.

Seaweed grows quickly and is a resilient plant capable of surviving and regenerating in rough surf. New Zealand's seaweed has good export potential because it comes from relatively pollution-free waters.

Mostly used as a fertiliser ingredient, it is also a valuable medicinal, pharmaceutical and food product.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10605393

☒ Job loss fears over reduced tuna take

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:46 AM

Job loss fears over reduced tuna take

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

October 26, 2009

Article from: Agence France-Presse

AUSTRALIA is to slash its fishing take of the endangered Southern blue-fin tuna by 25 per cent, leading to concerns jobs will be lost.

Australia had agreed to cut its average annual tuna allocation to 4,015 tonnes, Science Minister Kim Carr told the Senate on Monday.

The reduction will take place over two years.

Fishing nations met in South Korea last week and decided to take action to preserve stocks of the overfished species, which is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Liberal senator Cory Bernardi raised concerns that jobs would be lost in Port Lincoln (South Australia), where the Australian industry is based.

"You want to close the industry down," he heckled Senator Carr during question time.

The government had displayed a "complete lack of support for the Southern blue-fin tuna", Senator Bernardi said.

But Senator Carr said if action was not taken to save the species then the entire industry faced collapse.

"You cannot simply put your head on the sand on this issue senator," he told Senator Bernardi.

The government would carefully consider the employment ramifications of its decision to cut the take, he promised.

Australia has the largest allocations to catch the tuna of any nation.

The Southern blue-fin tuna lives in the southern oceans and has been overfished globally.

AAP

www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26261159-2702,00.html

☒ Bluefin tuna cuts to hurt Port Lincoln

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:44 AM

Bluefin tuna cuts to hurt Port Lincoln

By Nance Haxton for AM

AM abc.net.au/am >

Posted Mon Oct 26, 2009 8:39am AEDT

Updated Mon Oct 26, 2009 9:21am AEDT



More than 90 per cent of Australia's tuna catch comes from the waters surrounding Port Lincoln. (Getty Images: Koichi Kamoshida, file photo)

- **Video:** [Bluefin tuna stock heading towards collapse \(Lateline\)](#)
- **Video:** [Australia to slash bluefin tuna catch \(Lateline\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Tuna quota cut hits Port Lincoln \(AM\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Scientists and environment activists worried about Southern Bluefin Tuna \(The World Today\)](#)
- **Map:** [Port Lincoln 5606](#)
- **Related Story:** [Help for SA tuna industry](#)
- **Related Story:** [Australia's bluefin allowance slashed](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin quota to cost Australian fisheries millions](#)
- **Related Story:** [Warning bluefin fishing cuts will devastate industry](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna catch 'should be halved'](#)
- **Related Story:** [Australia urges action to save bluefin tuna](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna stocks close to collapse](#)

The impact of the international decision to cut Australia's southern bluefin tuna catch by 30 per cent is already being felt in Port Lincoln, with one of the major tuna fishermen saying he expects job cuts to start almost immediately.

The founder and chairman of Clean Seas Tuna Hagen Stehr says the decision by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna will cost the tuna fishery and related industries millions of dollars.

Port Lincoln Mayor Peter Davis is concerned about the impact on the town, saying it will take some time before the full effects of the new quota are felt.

More than 90 per cent of Australia's tuna catch comes from the waters surrounding Port Lincoln, where the fish are caught in the wild and then fattened up in tuna farm pens off the coast before being sold.

Hagen Stehr is one of the founders of the industry and this year pulled off a world first by successfully spawning southern bluefin tuna in captivity.

But that captive breeding aquaculture program is not yet at a commercial stage, which he says makes the quota cut an even bigger blow.

He says the implications are horrendous and job cuts are inevitable.

"As little as tomorrow we cut our loss, as little as tomorrow we will start to make an assessment exactly where we are, starting to pay less for staff," he said.

"To do something like this two weeks or three weeks before the season, I mean this is absolutely ludicrous. I can tell you once and for sure that there will be millions and millions and millions of dollars at stake here."

The decision to cut the southern bluefin tuna catch came after reports that fish numbers were down to as low as three per cent of original stocks.

Mr Stehr has not ruled out appealing against the decision.

"We will, over the next week or so you know, we will just have to have a look at it," he said.

"We never saw so much fish on the east coast and on the west coast and here in the south coast of South Australia that we saw over the last couple of years."

Councillor Davis is upset the Japanese quota was not cut by more, given that the country is accused of overfishing tuna by more than 200,000 tonnes in the past 20 years.

"Japan has illegally caught far in excess of the total production of the Australian industry," he said.

"It is outrageous and so I suspect lay-offs will occur but not in one great rush. What is galling is that as far as we are concerned, southern bluefin tuna is clearly recovering. The average fish weight is increasing per year, [the number of] schools are increasing.

"The area of the schools are increasing, fishermen are starting to pick and choose which school of fish they will catch. Things that all give the lie to the stock being under threat.

"I think it would be most appropriate for the secret scientific report to be made public so that other than bureaucrats and red-eyed greenies can scrutinise the evidence upon which this reduction has been imposed."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/26/2723765.htm>

print Fears for iconic fish

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:43 AM

- [print](#)

Fears for iconic fish

DANIELLE MCKAY

October 25, 2009 07:53am

THERE are fears Tasmanians looking for a traditional feed of freshly caught flathead will find it difficult this summer.

As hundreds of people prepare to head to their shacks, the recreational fishing community is rife with talk of diminished numbers of flathead and smaller sizes close to shore.

The Tasmanian Agricultural and Fisheries Institute said several reports had identified limited flathead in popular recreational fishing areas such as Storm Bay, Marion Bay and Bridport. Commercial boats also operate in these areas.

However, scientists say they have no confirmed indication of a change in flathead numbers, although they admit a full scientific investigation has not been done because the industry cannot afford it.

Recreational fishers are calling for a probe and consideration of increased control measures for recreational and commercial fishing.

Recreational Fishing Tasmania president Don Paton said the body supported an investigation and would not oppose a closure in the spawning season if it was warranted.

"We've seen shops selling flathead for \$32 a kilo, or more," he said.

"It's valuable and people want more and more of it. There is major competition for the stock and we need to make sure we protect it."

However, TAFI senior research scientist Jeremy Lyle said all indicators suggested the stock was not under threat.

Dr Lyle said that in 2008 more than 300 tonnes of flathead, predominantly sand flathead, were caught by recreational fishers, slightly less than 320 tonnes caught in 2001 when the last data was collected.

More than 70 tonnes of flathead, predominantly tiger (king) flathead, were caught by commercial fishers in Tasmanian waters (within three miles of shore) in 2008, compared with 63 tonnes in 2001.

However, an absence of scientific evidence meant the fish's future was clouded by uncertainty, Dr Lyle said.

"We can't give a definitive answer because we don't have the data," he said.

Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council CEO Neil Stump said the industry reserved research dollars for higher value species, not lower value fish such as flathead.

Mr Stump said there was a precedent for a spawning closure without a scientific report.

He said the striped trumpeter had a no-catch-during-spawning limit introduced this year, on the basis of anecdotal evidence from fishers.

"What it comes down to is the fact that there are limited resources in the industry to investigate properly," he said.

Dr Lyle believes present management measures are enough to protect the species.

Today's measures limit recreational fishers to 30 flathead and limit both recreational and commercial fishers to fish that are more than 30cm long. There are no quota limits for commercial fishers in Tasmanian waters.

"Fish that meet the required measurement are about 7-8 years old, they've been productive for several spawning seasons," he said.

"It's well above the size that they mature and is very effective."

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2009/10/25/105501_lifestyle.html

☐ Tuna quota slashed, jobs to go

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:41 AM

Tuna quota slashed, jobs to go

Article from: **The Advertiser**

- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Email article: [Email](#)
- Print article: [Print](#)
- Submit comment: [Submit comment](#)

BEN HYDE

October 23, 2009 10:45pm

AUSTRALIAN fisheries must cut their take of southern bluefin tuna by 30 per cent, the world governing body has ruled.

Meeting in South Korea, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna decided to cut the global quota by 20 per cent amid fears their stocks could collapse.

Port Lincoln tuna fishers say the decision will cost jobs, forcing a major cut to their \$180 million worth of quotas. The talks centres on a scientific report that estimates the spawning stock of the fish is as low as 5 per cent of 1940s levels.

The commission is made up of countries including Australia, Japan and Taiwan, who fish the prized stock. It decides the total allowable catch and how much each country can take each year. Australia's current quota of 5265 tonnes a year which is 40 per cent of the member countries' catch will cut by 30 per cent.

Australian Tuna Association chief executive Brian Jeffriess, who is in South Korea, said a cut to quotas would be unreasonable.

"Our (Port Lincoln) boats head out to sea on November 8," he said yesterday, before the decision was announced. "It's not believable that anyone could change the quota at this stage."

A spokesman for Port Lincoln producer Sarin Marine Farm said the decision was difficult to understand and would cause job cuts across the industry.

"Australia's the only country that's affected. (The) decision is beyond comment," he said.

Mr Jeffriess said that while a cut may push up tuna prices, it still "would have a dramatic effect" on the industry. "It (the price) might be expected to rise but it certainly can't compensate for the disruption to people's lives and a whole range of other social effects," he said.

Conservation Council SA campaigner James Danenberg said it was time for a moratorium on southern bluefin tuna fishing.

"The science we have seen would support the call for a moratorium," he said. "It may have economic implications but if we don't get the long-term sustainability right, there will be no industry for anyone."

www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26250492-5006301,00.html

☐ Australia's bluefin allowance slashed

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:40 AM

Australia's bluefin allowance slashed

By investigative reporter Suzanne Smith - analysis

Posted Fri Oct 23, 2009 7:05pm AEDT

Updated Fri Oct 23, 2009 9:17pm AEDT



Nations have agreed to a 20 per cent cut, but Australia will cut their take by 30 per cent (AAP: Kerstin Fritsches, file photo)

- **Video:** [Bluefin tuna stock heading towards collapse \(Lateline\)](#)
- **Audio:** [Scientists and environment activists worried about Southern Bluefin Tuna \(The World Today\)](#)
- **Related Story:** [Bluefin tuna catch 'should be halved'](#)
- **Related Story:** [Australia urges action to save bluefin tuna](#)
- **Related Link:** [Interview: CSIRO's Dr Campbell Davies outlines the threats to bluefin tuna](#)

Australian fisheries will have to cut their take of southern bluefin tuna by 30 per cent, according to a decision agreed on tonight.

But the decision to cut the total allowable catch of the prized southern bluefin tuna by only 20 per cent will concern conservationists and trouble the world's best marine scientists.

The decision was made tonight at the crucial Commission for the Conservation of South Blue Fin Tuna meeting in South Korea.

The commission is made up of countries like Australia, Japan and Taiwan, who fish the prized stock. It decides the total allowable catch and it decides what each country can take each year.

Australia had pushed for a 50 per cent cut of the total allowable catch, but it is believed the motion was subject to significant opposition by other member countries.

It is believed New Zealand effectively lobbied to increase its quota and then sold its increase to Japan.

It is also believed that Japan increased its quota and was not penalised for overfishing the stock over a 20-year period.

Australia tried to do the right thing, but ended up taking the hard decision on its own, with a 30 per cent reduction in quota.

This type of quota horse trading coincides with the release of a scientific report presented to the meeting which revealed the spawning stock had sunk to 5 per cent of the original 1940s levels - a level in fisheries management terms that constitutes an emergency.

Species may not recover

The report is believed to recommend a significant cut in the quotas, otherwise the fish may not recover.

The Commission must reach a consensus and there is no guarantee the quotas will be maintained.

Illegal fishing is rife and many of the high seas areas of the Pacific are unpatrolled and unregulated.

The areas known as high seas are outside the exclusive economic zones.

Only last week, Greenpeace claimed they caught a Japanese registered vessel fishing illegally inside the exclusive economic zone of the Cook Islands.

The current state of the southern bluefin tuna is now worse than its northern hemisphere cousin, the northern bluefin tuna.

The European Union is considering whether to ban all trade and export in the northern bluefin tuna and whether to list it as a critically endangered species.

The southern bluefin tuna is Australia's main fishing export.

The cod did disappear in North America and Europe, decimating fishing communities.

The decisions of this meeting are crucial to the long-term future of the southern bluefin tuna.

All eyes will now be on Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett, to see whether he lists the fish as an endangered species next April

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/23/2722871.htm>

☰ Talks to tackle troubled times for tuna

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:38 AM

Talks to tackle troubled times for tuna

Timothy McDonald reported this story on Friday, October 23, 2009 12:22:00

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

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

SHANE MCLEOD: It's one of the worlds most sought after fish and it could soon be even harder to land on a restaurant plate.

Scientists say a dramatic drop in numbers of the southern bluefin tuna means there needs to be big cuts in the allowed global catch.

An international meeting of fisheries agencies in Korea is considering cutting the take by up to 50 percent.

While fishermen are concerned about the financial impact of such a dramatic cut, environment groups say there has to be immediate action.

Timothy McDonald reports.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is meeting in Korea where it will come up with a plan to help the species.

It's been reported that they have scientific evidence before them that the bluefin has declined massively since fishermen started pulling it from the water.

Dr Campbell Davies from the CSIRO says the species is under significant strain.

CAMPBELL DAVIES: The southern bluefin tuna stock has been fished for some time, since the mid 1950s. And as best as we can estimate at the moment the stock is likely to be less than 10 percent of its original level. So it's at a historical low.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: He says the species is unlikely to go extinct but it could fall to levels that significantly affect its breeding cycle. If that happens it could take a long time to recover.

CAMPBELL DAVIES: The concern now is that you might get substantial drops in the level of reproduction and therefore the numbers of young fish coming into the population and that that would lead to an ongoing decline, at least the population staying at very low levels for some time.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: The meeting in Korea is reported to be considering cutting the total allowable catch by up to 50 percent.

Activists groups say the move is necessary and timely.

Darren Kindleysides is the director of the Australian Marine Conservation Society. He says the sooner the governments agree the better.

DARREN KINDLEYSIDES: Yes governments do agree that some sort of reduction in quota is needed. The question is just how much and with a species that is reported to be at historically low levels then a really major cut is needed. And yes a 50 percent cut probably is appropriate now to save this threatened species.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: Darren Kindleysides says even if the catch is reduced the southern bluefin tuna fetches high prices at market and could be vulnerable to illegal fishing.

DARREN KINDLEYSIDES: With a fish like southern bluefin tuna that is just so valuable then yes, I mean there is illegal fishing.

And you're not necessarily pointing the finger at some of the countries involved in these negotiations but you have a valuable fish, it will be caught illegally. And so in addition to having quotas that allow the stock

to recover you need to have the enforcement, you know, the fisheries patrol vessels out there making sure that the quota is being followed.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: Even if the catch is reduced it could be some time before there's any effect. The commission substantially reduced the total catch at a meeting three years ago. But Campbell Davies says the jury is still out about whether or not the move has had the desired effect.

CAMPBELL DAVIES: The systems don't work on, if you like, command and control in that if you turn the switch down a bit then immediately the stock responds. So as I said the sort of things like the longevity of the species and the time it takes them to grow into spawning age means that you're likely to see quite a long delay if you like between the management action and then seeing a response.

So I think it's probably a little bit early to judge there. But I think what you're seeing in terms of the concern at the commission level is that they are concerned about the stock and they are taking management decisions to try and rebuild it.

TIMOTHY MCDONALD: Dr Campbell Davies from the CSIRO. Timothy McDonald the reporter.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2009/s2722369.htm>

Bluefin tuna catch slashed

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:38 AM

Bluefin tuna catch slashed

ANDREW DARBY, HOBART

October 24, 2009

C

THE crisis for the prized southern bluefin tuna is worsening, forcing Australian fishers to slash their catch in an international cut-back.

Recent attempts to stem decades of over-fishing of the rich sashimi fish in waters around Australia appear to have failed.

Local tuna fishers, who have the world's biggest quota of the tuna, face a 30 per cent cut to less than 4000 tonnes as regulators step in.

A 20 per cent global cut was being finalised last night by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, reducing the catch to about 9560 tonnes, a source at the talks in Jeju, South Korea, said.

But Australian fishers have been hit hardest.

"We are stunned and deeply disappointed with this," said Brian Jeffries, Australia's industry representative at the meeting. "Until now the quota has always been allocated equitably. And we don't think the stock is anywhere as bad as they say," he said.

The state of the fishery turns the focus on Environment Minister Peter Garrett to make the tuna the first Australian commercial fish to be listed as critically endangered.

Humane Society International is pushing for the listing, but Mr Garrett has been awaiting the outcome of the meeting, which was told by an Australian Government delegation that a 50 per cent cut was needed.

"There needs to be a suspension of fishing," Nicola Beynon from HSI said. "Critically endangered listing would mean any trade could be banned."

Such a move would hit the industry based in Port Lincoln, South Australia, that earns hundreds of millions of dollars in exports based on netting tuna at sea and fattening them in cages. "We would have to stop catching," Mr Jeffries said.

It would also encourage local attempts to artificially breed the tuna by aquaculture pioneer Cleanseas, which has succeeded in taking the fish through early stages of life.

Catches of the tuna have been cut over the past decade, but the Australian Government's discovery in 2006 that Japanese fishers had plundered the fishery in a \$2 billion fraud raised alarm about the fish's future. Japan took a cut in its catch in response to the finding.

www.theage.com.au/national/bluefin-tuna-catch-slashed-20091023-hdfv...

Big penalties for recidivist commercial fisher

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:37 AM

Big penalties for recidivist commercial fisher

Friday, 23 October 2009, 2:58 pm
Press Release: Ministry of Fisheries
23 October 2009

Big penalties for recidivist commercial fisher

A Chatham Islands commercial fisher has received financial penalties totalling more than \$170,000 for illegal paua fishing.

Valentine Croon Junior, 36, took an estimated 1200 kilograms of paua with a commercial value of about \$39,000 using underwater breathing apparatus (UBA), which is not a permitted method.

The Chatham Islands businessman was observed by a Fishery Officer in 2007 removing scuba equipment from his fishing vessel Energizer. The scuba equipment was hidden in a small cave.

Related Stories on Scoop

- [12 months jail for recidivist paua thief 27/10/2009](#)
- [Recidivist Paua Poachers Nailed 08/09/2009](#)
- [Recidivist Paua Poachers Nailed 07/09/2009](#)
- [Fisher caught selling rock lobster on black market 04/05/2009](#)
- [Sentencing sends message to commercial fishers 16/03/2009](#)

Results powered by search.scoop.co.nz More Related Stories [>>>](#)

His argument that "diving on air" should be permitted in what he saw as the unique Chatham Islands fishery was not accepted by the court. District Court Judge McKegg said that despite the different views on this - Croon claimed it promoted preservation and protection from shark attacks - the current law was that UBA was prohibited in the paua fishery.

This was the offender's fourth conviction for having UBA on a commercial vessel and his second for taking fish using UBA.

Judge McKegg took into account the premeditated nature of the offending and the need to set penalties at a level that made it "patently uneconomic" rather than a justified commercial risk in imposing these penalties:

A \$20,000 fine on the charge of possession of UBA aboard a commercial vessel
A \$65,000 fine on the charge of possession of paua taken with UBA
A \$3,350 fine on the charge of using a vessel when not the notified user
\$390 total court costs (\$130 per charge)
A \$10,000 redemption fee for the return of the vessel Nancy Kay II
A \$20,000 redemption fee for the return of the offender's vehicle
Permanent forfeiture of the Energizer valued at \$50,000
Permanent forfeiture of scuba gear valued at \$4,000.

Croon was also banned from commercial fishing for three years.

Not permitting UBA was "an effort to protect the paua fishery in deeper water, beyond the reach of divers holding their breath," said Ministry of Fisheries Christchurch Field Operations Manager Peter Hyde. "In this way there will always be some paua left behind to maintain the breeding stock."

Ministry of Fisheries Chief Executive Wayne McNee said he was very disappointed that Croon had not changed his behaviour despite his previous convictions for similar offences. "I hope these penalties serve as a warning to others who might be similarly tempted, wherever they are fishing," Mr McNee said.

"I applaud the work of our staff following through on one of the actions in the Fisheries 2030 goal and action plan: 'Optimise the level of voluntary compliance with fisheries laws and standards and maintain an effective deterrence against illegal activity'," Wayne McNee concluded.

ends

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU0910/S00647.htm>

☐ Tassie fishermen want lobster quota cut

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:30 AM

Tassie fishermen want lobster quota cut

Thursday, 22/10/2009

The Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association is asking the Tasmanian Government to cut lobster catch quotas by 20 per cent.

The association says members voted yesterday for a plan to cut quotas by 10 per cent next year, 5 per cent in 2011, and 5 per cent in 2012.

Chief executive Rodney Treloggen says in all but one area, the numbers of lobsters are declining.

"Overall, our trends are all going down," he says.

"The industry decided that in the long-term interest of the fishery and the people that are in it, and particularly the sustainability of the fishery, that they had to do something."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2721020.htm>

☐ Fishers' marine park worries 'not addressed'

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:21 AM

Fishers' marine park worries 'not addressed'

Posted October 21, 2009 13:21:00

- **Map:** [Mount Gambier 5290](#)

The South East Professional Fishermen's Association says the South Australian Government is yet to address its objections to the development of marine parks.

The association wants information about the threats the fishing industry poses to marine life and how people will be compensated if they are affected by the parks.

It also wants a meeting between independent researchers and the State Government about the development of the parks.

The association's Joel Redman says the Government may be avoiding the issue because of the election in March.

"It is interesting that marine parks have gone quiet since the revised boundaries were released," he said.

"I would suggest that in the lead-up to the election probably more than likely the marine park debate will ramp up after that."

The State Government says the next phase of its community and industry engagement about the parks will begin soon and will put considerable emphasis on involving local communities in developing the marine parks.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/21/2720132.htm?site=southeastsa

☐ QSIA rejects fishery closure calls

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:20 AM

QSIA rejects fishery closure calls

Posted Wed Oct 21, 2009 1:00pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Normanton 4890](#)

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) says criticism of fishing practices is jeopardising the future of some of the state's fisheries.

The association's president, Michael Gardner, says there is no scientific evidence to support conservationists' claims that the Gulf of Carpentaria shark fishery is unsustainable.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society wants bans on shark fishing and finning in the region.

Mr Gardner says offshore producers are the only people to benefit from fisheries closures.

"This mindless promotion of anti-fishing promulgated by these conservation groups is just promoting an ever increasing amount of offshore product coming into the country when we have got perfectly well

managed sustainable fisheries in this state," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/21/2720081.htm>

Fishermen fear shark finning ban

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:20 AM

Fishermen fear shark finning ban

Wednesday, 21/10/2009

Conservation groups are stepping up their campaign to have shark finning banned in Queensland.

Commercial fishermen in Queensland can sell the fins of the sharks they catch, so long as they bring the carcass back to land.

The fins are exported to Asian countries.

Ben Birt, from the Australian Marine Conservation Society, says the Queensland Government should ban the practice while it reviews the Gulf of Carpentaria fishery.

"We feel that shark fishing as it's managed in the Gulf of Carpentaria has not been demonstrated to be sustainable," he says.

"Our hope is to influence the State Government to seriously curtail shark fishing in the short term, and eventually put a stop to it."

But Queensland shark fishermen aren't impressed, saying they are already heavily regulated and that many Australian families eat shark meat because it's affordable.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2719785.htm>

Skipper faces charges over seal deaths

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:16 AM

Skipper faces charges over seal deaths

Posted Tue Oct 20, 2009 3:11pm AEDT

Updated Tue Oct 20, 2009 8:44pm AEDT



The maximum penalty for killing fur seals is \$110,000, two years jail, or both. (AAP: Victoria Police Media)

A commercial fisherman from Western Australia has been charged with killing seals while trawling off Tasmania.

It is alleged the 44-year-old's trawling practices killed 31 Australian fur seals between July and August in 2006.

He has been charged with taking an action that led to the death of a listed marine species while in Commonwealth waters.

The maximum penalty for killing the animals is \$110,000, two years jail, or both.

The man will appear in the Perth Magistrates Court next month.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/20/2719169.htm>

15,000 fine for illegal prawn trawling

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:15 AM

\$15,000 fine for illegal prawn trawling

Article from: Cairns Post

- Font size: [Decrease](#) [Increase](#)
- Email article: [Email](#)
- Print article: [Print](#)
- Submit comment: [Submit comment](#)

Margo Zlotkowski

October 21, 2009 07:35am

A PRAWN trawling company has been fined \$15,000 for fishing without a licence off Weipa in the biggest fine given for the offence to an Australian vessel.

The fine was for a haul, valued at more than \$240,000, caught by the trawler Roper Therese while it was unlicensed in the first three weeks of last year's season.

Bundaberg company Agnes Fisheries Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to commercial fishing without a licence in Cairns Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Identical charges against the company's sole director and the boat's owner Roger Martin, 44, of Bundaberg and skipper Corey Edwards, 36, of the Sunshine Coast were withdrawn in light of the company's guilty plea.

[Go to the Cairns Post to read more about the fine for illegal prawn trawling](#)

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,26240012-3102,00.html>

David Llewellyn, MP

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:14 AM



Tasmania

Explore the possibilities

David Llewellyn, MP Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Tuesday, 20 October 2009

Rock Lobster Season Opens

The recreational rock lobster season opens on November 7 this year, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, announced today.

"Fishers should note that the 2009 season opening does not coincide with the Northern Tasmania Recreation Day long weekend as it has previously," Mr Llewellyn said.

Mr Llewellyn said that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has been receiving a large number of enquiries about the recreational rock lobster season this year.

"The Department can confirm that there have been no changes to the fishing rules including size, bag or possession limits for this season."

Recreational rock lobster licences are available from Service Tasmania and online at www.fishing.tas.gov.au

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=28163>

Lobster quota cuts on the table

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:14 AM

Lobster quota cuts on the table

Posted October 20, 2009 16:09:00

Tasmania's rock lobster industry is considering reduced catch quotas in an effort to ensure its sustainability.

About 100 industry representatives are attending a forum in Hobart today ahead of tomorrow's annual meeting.

Rodney Treloggen from the Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association says it is a contentious issue but a vote at tomorrow's meeting will be the culmination of 12 months of planning and research.

"There's probably no easy way but there are varying degrees of hard ways of doing it," he said.

"We're just trying to ensure the sustainability of the fishery and the sustainability of our participants in that fishery."

The recreational rock lobster season opens on November 7.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/20/2719243.htm?site=hobart>

☒ Fisherman climbs tree to escape crocodiles

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:13 AM

Fisherman climbs tree to escape crocodiles

TIM CLARKE

October 20, 2009

A WA fisherman has spent the night perched in a Mangrove tree after his boat became jammed in a Wyndham river - and two local crocodiles took a liking to him.

Stan Martell was fishing on the Lynne River in the Kimberley on Friday. He was woken up at 2am by increasing winds which pushed his boat into a mud bank and then into a mangrove tree, where it became stuck.

As Mr Martell shone his torch around to survey his position he spotted two crocodiles - one around four metres, and another even bigger - which prompted him to seek safety at the top of the tree that had trapped his boat.

There he stayed for four hours until first light, when he was able to set off his EPIRB distress beacon and spark a rescue.

"There was two of them there, one of them about 10 or 12 feet and there was a bigger one," Mr Martell told ABC radio.

"They seem to know when something is wrong, crocs, and they were hanging around.

"I got up the tree but I knew I was not up high enough - it was a dead tree and (I) hoped it had not broken.

"I crawled up as high as I could, and just sat there like a koala bear all night.

"Then I set me EPIRB off and that started a big chain of events, with planes, helicopters and people coming out to rescue. That I am very grateful for."

Senior Sergeant John Kazandsis of Wyndham Police said Mr Martell's forward planning by taking the beacon had been a wise move.

"It just reinforces the value of keeping an EPIRB on board and being able to get hold of help when you need it," Sergeant Kazandsis said.

"If he didn't have the EPIRB or any other form of communication, I really don't want to think about what the outcome could have been."

Mr Martell said while he kept his eye out for the crocodiles, he was also wondering how his fishing trip had turned so dangerous so quickly.

"I suppose anyone would be a bit scared - I did not fall asleep, and I was looking around for crocs ... and thinking is this for real," Mr Martell said.

"But was a bit wary about the crocs. I saw two crocs right where I was, one was a big one, and one was about 10 foot.

"I didn't want to go swimming anywhere, so I just sat there watching my boat and thinking, 'I can't believe this has just happened'.

"In that sort of situation, you've only got a split second to make up your mind what you're going to do, and that tree that brought me undone actually saved me too."

www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/fisherman-climbs-tree-to-escape-crocodil...

☒ Undersize crays bode well for fishers

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:08 AM

Undersize crays bode well for fishers

Posted Mon Oct 19, 2009 2:00pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Kingston Se 5275](#)

Exceptional numbers of undersize crayfish are being caught along the south-east South Australian coastline, giving hope there might be an improvement in the season.

The season has started poorly for the industry, with prices expected to drop to \$40 and some people averaging catches of less than 15 kilograms a day.

Gary Steele from the Kingston Professional Fishermen's Association says the undersize crays are one positive to an otherwise quiet season.

"You don't see a lot of undersized down especially off Kingston [and] Cape Jaffa," he said.

"But this year we have seen a lot of undersize and the word off the coast from down Port Macdonnell way, they've seen exceptional amounts of undersize, which they didn't see last year which is encouraging."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/19/2717971.htm>

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:07 AM



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Monday, 19 October 2009

Elephant Rock Research Area Boundary Extension

The Elephant Rock Research Area off St Helens, where control of the long-spined sea urchin by rock lobster predation is being trialled by Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute scientists, is to have its boundaries extended from November 1st.

As with the established area, the extended area will also be closed to commercial and recreational fishing by diving and the use of rock lobster pots or rings for up to three years.

However, recreational fishing for scalefish by rod and line is permitted and the use of setlines and gillnets is permitted outside the Shark Refuge area.

The boundary extension will reduce the inadvertent capture of the large research rock lobsters, which initial trial results show are preying on the destructive introduced long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*).

The urchins overgraze on seaweeds and algae on rocky reef areas, which are a key habitat for abalone and rock lobster as well as a nursery area for many scalefish species.

The Elephant Rock Research Area was declared in April 2008 as part of a research project attempting to control long-spined sea urchin numbers in an urchin-affected area around Elephant Rock.

To test how effective rock lobster are at preying on the urchins in wild conditions, researchers increased the population of large rock lobsters there.

Observations so far indicate a small downward trend in urchin numbers. The research also indicates that the released lobsters are ranging toward the extremities of the current designated research area while foraging for food.

Some regrowth of seaweed and algae on the barrens created by the urchins has also been noted.

The large rock lobster released into the research area are specially marked with two separate holes of at least 5mm in diameter in the tail fan and two lines of blue and/or yellow coloured dye in the muscle tissue on the underside of the rock lobster's tail. A new blue T-bar tag under the tail has the words: "TAFI RESEARCH ILLEGAL TO TAKE".

As well as the fishing restrictions within the research area, it is an offence to be in possession of these marked research rock lobster, which must be immediately released if taken in State waters.

For more information about the research area, please contact the Wild Fisheries Management Branch, DPIPWE on (03) 6233 7042 (03) 6233 7042 or visit www.fishing.tas.gov.au

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=28155>

☒ Fisher fined for undersize lobster

Friday, 30 October 2009 5:06 AM

Fisher fined for undersize lobster

Posted Mon Oct 19, 2009 1:16pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Leeman 6514](#)

A 23-year-old Leeman fisherman has been fined nearly \$1,300 for possessing undersize rock lobster.

The Department of Fisheries charged Jay Mola in August after the heads and tails of 13 undersized crayfish were found in the freezer of his home.

Last week in the Jurien Bay Magistrates Court, Mola pleaded guilty to possessing the undersize crays, but said he had picked them up on the beach.

Fisheries mid-west compliance manager Robert Bogumill says Mola is in the commercial rock lobster industry and should have known better.

"It's very disappointing having a commercial fisherman who's got a good understanding of the industry to have undersized rock lobsters at his house," he said.

"This man would be more aware of the rules than the average fishermen on the street, so it's very disappointing to find someone like that with that many undersize rock lobsters."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/19/2717917.htm>

☒ Lonely inmate's \$2 million home

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:57 AM

Lonely inmate's \$2 million home

NIGEL ADLAM

October 17th, 2009

AN INDONESIAN caught fishing illegally in Australian waters has become the loneliest man in the Northern Territory.

He is the only inmate at Darwin's \$2 million immigration detention centre. The *Northern Territory News* understands he has been taken out on excursions to stop him getting bored.

"He's treated in a very civilised way," a source said. The man has been guarded by security officers and cared for by catering staff for the past week.

He was one of seven fishermen detained - but the rest have been sent back to their home island of Roti via Bali and West Timor.

The detention centre, which is on the Stuart Highway next to Defence Establishment Berrimah, can hold 380 people.

It is housed inside a barbed wire fence and screened from the road by palm trees.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said on Thursday that the Darwin detention compound may be reopened to house boatpeople because Christmas Island was full. But the Immigration Department said yesterday that the centre was not closed, and it was functioning.

Juvenile fishermen caught by the Australian Navy are put up in a Darwin motel and regularly taken to the cinema.

The youngest Indonesian detained is believed to have been a nine-year-old boy.

Six boatloads of asylum seekers are now reported to be heading for Australia.

http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2009/10/17/93461_ntnews.html

☒ Bluefin tuna stocks close to collapse

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:55 AM

Bluefin tuna stocks close to collapse

By senior investigative reporter Suzanne Smith

Posted Fri Oct 16, 2009 3:29pm AEDT

Updated Sat Oct 17, 2009 1:15am AEDT

« » Slideshow: Photo 1 of 2



The true state of southern bluefin tuna stocks will be revealed later this month (AFP, file photo)

- **Video:** [Prized tuna stocks close to collapse \(Lateline\)](#)
- **Video:** [Tuna stocks in trouble: CSIRO \(ABC News\)](#)
- **Related Story:** ['No bluff': fishing industry threat to move](#)
- **Related Story:** [Scientists make tuna breeding 'breakthrough'](#)
- **Related Story:** [Overfishing to 'wipe out bluefin tuna in 3 years'](#)
- **Related Link:** [Q&A: Dr Campbell Davies on southern bluefin tuna](#)
- **Related Link:** [Lateline](#)

The southern bluefin tuna is at an all-time low, below 10 per cent of its original population size, and what that means is at any time it could collapse.

– Glenn Slant, TRAFFIC

The stock is recovering, there is no question about that. What everyone agrees on is that the stock is not at risk. Where people disagree is how quickly will it take to recover.

– Brian Jefferies, Australia Tuna Association

The prized southern bluefin tuna industry, worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Australia, could be heading for a major collapse unless a moratorium on fishing the species is adopted.

That is the view of TRAFFIC, a program of the conservation organisation WWF, and several scientists who are becoming increasingly concerned at the low level of spawning stock and the low levels of annual recruitment of young fish to that of breeding stock.

The issue will come to a head at the annual Commission for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), which meets in South Korea next week.

Lateline understands the scientific report to be presented at the meeting is expected to show a dramatic fall in stocks.

The delegates to the commission have all signed confidentiality agreements and the true state of the stock will only be revealed once the meeting finishes on Friday, October 23.

One of the delegates to the CCSBT, CSIRO scientist Campbell Davies, cannot reveal the latest scientific data but says the information from the 2008 reports shows the stock is not recovering, despite significant cuts to quotas over the past 10 years.

He says "this level is below the level of many nationally and internationally recognised limit points for fisheries management". In other words, below this point is crisis time.

The global marine program leader for TRAFFIC, Glenn Slant, puts the situation more bluntly: "The southern bluefin tuna is at an all-time low, below 10 per cent of its original population size, and what that means is at any time it could collapse."

"Just this week the Australian Government released its status report ... and I can tell you there is a lot of red ink in it which represents continued overfishing and overfished levels."

The report Mr Sant is referring to is the Fishery Status Reports 2008, put out by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

But Lateline believes the evidence to be presented to the CCSBT next week may show the southern bluefin tuna is now in a worse state than its northern cousin - the northern bluefin tuna, which has just been submitted by the Prince of Monaco for what is known as a CITIES listing.

The CITIES parties will now consider whether the tuna should be listed as an "endangered species". If accepted it would ban the trade in the species for commercial purposes, placing much more pressure on the southern bluefin tuna.

Scientists are improving their methods of stock assessment. Since the 1990s, electronic tags have revealed information about how the southern bluefin tuna migrates over large distances and how it hunts for food.

This information is helping scientists to more accurately determine the size of the spawning stock. Also, there is some hope that the use of genetic tags - a type of DNA fingerprinting technology - will allow scientists to estimate the size of the spawning stock independent of fishery reports.

Data questioned

The Australian Tuna Association, which represents the Port Lincoln community, disputes the scientific claims. Chief executive Brian Jefferies says the current data is not "transparent".

"The stock is recovering, there is no question about that. What everyone agrees on is that the stock is not at risk. Where people disagree is how quickly will it take to recover."

Australian tuna fishermen are angry the benefits that should have flowed from large cuts to the quota in 1990, and then by 50 per cent in 2006, were cancelled out by years of illegal overfishing by Japan.

Several years ago, the Japanese Government admitted it had illegally taken more than 120,000 tonnes of tuna above their total allowable catch (TAC). The figure is believed to be closer to 200,000 tonnes.

Mr Jefferies says the Japanese Government is "pulling their fishermen into line" and should be given credit for that.

However, Mr Jefferies say there should be a debate about whether Japan needs to pay back the thousands of tonnes of tuna it was illegally catching and selling.

"They should pay back 200,000 tonnes, when they only have a quota of 6,000 tonnes - this is a political issue for the two countries. Let's see if the Government takes into account other issues such as the health of the Australian tuna industry."

But Mr Jefferies does not believe next week's CCSBT meeting in South Korea will decide to significantly cut the total allowable catch for south bluefin tuna.

"The season is about to start, the boats and pontoons are in the water already. That is not realistic. That is not going to happen," he said.

"The real debate will be 2011, but it will be informed by the data available in 2010. We shouldn't panic and be driven by short-term decisions."

The Australian Tuna Association says it could cope with a cut to quotas if it was given enough time to adapt and the market conditions were right.

"If we were given plenty of notice, and the prices in the market were right, we will do what's best for the long-term of the resource," Mr Jefferies said.

"Australia is the only country that relies on this resource. Other countries have other fish and remember Port Lincoln has 5,000 working families relying on this resource.

"The data is not transparent enough. By 2011 we will have a better idea of where the stock actually is instead of just speculating."

Crunch time

But Mr Sant says there is enough evidence on the public record to show the stock is in severe decline.

"Unfortunately, when we talk about fisheries we are talking about communities and people," he said.

"Here we are in a fishing port, this port 20 years ago was dependent on eastern gem fish catches. The management of that stock was too little and too late, so the stock collapsed. At some stage we have to make hard decisions if we want a long-term future for the industry and the communities."

Mr Sant says he has been attending CCSBT meetings for 16 years but now it is "crunch time".

"What we would like to see in Korea is for the commissioners at this meeting to substantially reduce the catch of tuna and consider a zero catch for the next couple of years. We need to get the southern bluefin tuna on a firm footing if we are going to see a recovery of the stock and the industry."

For more on this issue watch [Lateline](#) tonight at 10:30pm on ABC 1.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/16/2716201.htm>

France delivers enviro-friendly fishing, aquaculture 0 COMMENTS | ADD A COMMENT

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:54 AM

France delivers enviro-friendly fishing, aquaculture
0 COMMENTS |

[ADD A COMMENT](#) [PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#) [↓](#)

By: [Karel Smrcka](#)
16th October 2009
TEXT SIZE



France's focus on environment-friendly fishing, supported by its cutting-edge research into aquaculture, has helped boost investment in this sector by inter-national companies.

The Grenelle de la Mer series of round-table talks about issues relating to the sea, which was launched by the French government in February this year, with work to be completed by the end of this summer, is bringing together all the relevant players to define "a national strategy for the sea and the coast". A government Bill based on this work will contribute to the development of sustainable fishing practices.

France controls the world's second-largest maritime area, covering one-tenth of the world's coral reefs and parts of three great oceans – the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

Algal culture, together with fish, oyster and mussel farming, accounts for around 30% of the volume of aquacultural products consumed in France each year. France is ranked second in Europe for trout production, with 43 000 t of trout produced each year. Marine aquaculture also produces bream, sea bass, turbot and salmon (reaching more than 8 000 t in total, including 4 000 t of sea bass), as well as molluscs (13 000 t of oysters and 60 000 t of mussels).

Several of France's oyster farming companies have a long-standing tradition of exporting. One of the most innovative companies is Britexa, of Chateaulin, in the region of Brittany. It is a small company with eight employees and sells crepidula, a shellfish that is very popular in China, as well as in Scandinavia and Russia.

Ifremer, the French public-sector marine research institute, is structured around five centres located in Boulogne, Brest, Nantes, Toulon and Tahiti, and also has 26 sites along the coastlines of mainland France and French overseas territories. Thanks to an annual budget of €235-million, Ifremer is at the leading edge of aquaculture research, providing operators with essential information on the yields for marine farms, as well as the fight against diseases that may affect resources.

Powerful value-added innovation clusters are supporting French research and contributing to the development of new fishing-based products.

The Aquimer cluster, based along the French stretch of the English Channel and the North Sea, has launched Seamineroil, a €2-million programme to develop new marine products. The Brittany Marine cluster, which focuses on the environment in collaboration with experts from leading aquatic laboratories, is developing the Ormeaux project, focusing on abalone, a valuable and rare mollusc that is highly sought after on the Japanese and Chinese markets.

The PACA Marine cluster, for its part, has launched the Aquapecten applied research programme to establish a protocol for farming Mediterranean scallop.

Invest in France chairperson and CEO **David Appia**, says: "France offers a very favourable climate and ecological conditions to attract aquaculture businesses unable to find suitable sites in their own countries.

"France's innovation clusters represent a range of attractive business ecosystems in which innovative products can be developed, against the backdrop of the Grenelle de la Mer roundtable talks which are opening up new prospects for this sector."

Edited by: Martin Zhuwakinyu

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/xxxxx-2009-10-16>

Strong dollar 'bad news' for cray prices

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:53 AM

Strong dollar 'bad news' for cray prices

Posted Fri Oct 16, 2009 2:47pm AEDT

- **Map: Mount Gambier 5290**

A south-east South Australian crayfish processor says he expects the strong Australian dollar will lead to a large drop in the price paid for crays.

Processor Andrew Laurie says major importers of South Australian crayfish such as China are starting to source product from other countries because of the strong dollar.

Mr Laurie says he expects to see the price drop from about \$70 per kilogram to about \$40 in the coming weeks, making it even tougher for those catching the crays.

"Very hard, it's a frustrating time for them in terms of the price and very frustrating in terms of the catching," he said.

"They've put a lot of effort in and to get such a low return for their effort just builds frustration."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/16/2716333.htm?site=news>

☐ Fishing puts southern bluefin tuna on the brink

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:52 AM

Fishing puts southern bluefin tuna on the brink

Posted Fri Oct 16, 2009 3:28pm AEDT

Updated Fri Oct 16, 2009 3:31pm AEDT

The southern bluefin tuna is one of the world's most advanced fish. The fish are warm blooded, allowing them to migrate and live in four of the world's oceans, and they have a life span of up to 40 years. However overfishing and climate change are threatening global stocks.

CSIRO's Dr Campbell Davies speaks with Lateline's Suzie Smith ahead of a meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

SUZIE SMITH, REPORTER: Can you explain why there is some concern about the southern bluefin tuna? What is the publicly available science saying about the stock?

DR CAMPBELL DAVIES, CSIRO: The current concern about the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) stock stems from the low level of the spawning stock, low levels of annual recruitment of young fish, and evidence of several historically low year classes since the end of the 1990s.

The spawning stock is the adult component of the population that spawn to provide the next generation of juveniles. The 2008 advice from the CCSBT Scientific Committee (Commission of Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna) is that spawning biomass of SBT is likely to be less than 10 per cent of the unfished level.

This level is below the level of many nationally and internationally recognised limit reference points for fisheries management. In addition to the state of the spawning stock, a number of year classes of juvenile SBT with historically low abundance have occurred in the period 1999-2002.

As a result, the spawning biomass will decline further over the coming four to five years, irrespective of catch levels, as these year classes move into the spawning population. Hence, there has been concern about the stock for some time.

SUZIE SMITH: How do you monitor a species such as SBT?

DR CAMPBELL DAVIES: Monitoring a highly migratory species, such as SBT, provides some substantial scientific and logistic challenges because of the large seasonal migrations SBT undertake and their wide distribution - from east of New Zealand, to west of South Africa and from the tropical north-east Indian Ocean, in the north, to the sub-Antarctic convergence, in the south.

A combination of data, from the fishery and from scientific monitoring programs, is used in statistical models to estimate SBT population size. Fisheries data are, for example; catch, effort, the sizes of fish in the catch.

Data from scientific programs are, for example; counts of schools of juvenile SBT in the Great Australian Bight in summer done via a scientific aerial survey; and releases and recaptures of tags on SBT.

The statistical models estimate quantities such as spawning biomass and recruitment, taking into account uncertainties about the stock dynamics and the available data. The models provide results in the form of probabilities of meeting management objectives of the Commission.

SUZIE SMITH: How important is the upcoming meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Bluefin

tuna?

DR CAMPBELL DAVIES: This will be a very important meeting of the CCSBT. The Commission will be considering the latest advice from the Scientific Committee and making decisions on the Global total allowable catch for the 2010 fishing season.

They will also be finalising a series of resolutions for future monitoring, compliance and surveillance measures for the fishery.

The latter is essential for improving the management of the global fishery and for the quality and accuracy of the data available to the Scientific Committee to assess the status of the stock and the effectiveness of management measures.

SUZIE SMITH: What are the biggest threats to the SBT?

DR CAMPBELL DAVIES: Fishing is the main threat to the SBT stock. This includes regulated fishing under the CCSBT, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for SBT and unmanaged by-catch of SBT as part of fishing operations for tropical tunas.

Given its offshore pelagic habitat there are few, if any, other substantive impacts on the stock. There may be potential for climate change to impact on the stock in the future, in terms of changes in oceanographic conditions influencing migration patterns or having positive or negative impacts on the survivorship of larval and juvenile SBT.

However, this has not been investigated in any substantial way to date.

The main focus of current science is on reducing the uncertainty in the stock status and implications of future catch levels for rebuilding the spawning stock.

SUZIE SMITH: Where does the SBT exist? Does it travel long distances? How does it reproduce? What can science tell us about the fish so we can preserve it for the future?

DR CAMPBELL DAVIES: SBT is an amazing animal. As I have already noted, they range across the southern portions of four of the world's oceans; Pacific, Indian, Southern and into the south-eastern Atlantic.

They mature when they are 10-12 years old, which is relatively late and migrate to the only known spawning ground in the north-east Indian Ocean in summer.

Once there, they spawn multiple times in a spawning season, with millions of eggs released each time and then return to the cool-cold temperate and sub-Antarctic waters in the winter to feed.

They are able to achieve this amazing migration between the tropics and the sub-Antarctic as they are warm blooded.

They have an advanced circulation system similar to some sharks and billfish, which allows them to maintain their core body temperature about 4 degrees above the surrounding water temperature by circulating blood close to heat generating red muscle, which is the source of their ability to sustain high swimming speeds over long periods.

This warm blooded" nature allows them to feed in productive temperate waters in the winter and dive to considerable depths - greater than 400 meters - to seek out different prey.

As eggs and larvae, what we know indicates that they drift and later swim down the west coast of Australia, arriving south of Perth in their first year or so of life.

By the time they are two, they appear off the south-west coast of Western Australia, the Great Australian Bight, Indian Ocean and Tasman Sea.

Direct tracking using electronic tags indicates that they make annual migrations to and from the Great Australian Bight in summer, to feed and grow in the warm coastal waters, while spending their winters feeding in the colder more productive Southern and Indian Oceans and Tasman Sea.

Since the late 1990s, electronic tags capable of measuring position, temperature and depth and archiving several years' of information have been attached to SBT.

Information from these tags are providing major insights into the details of the annual migrations and feeding behaviour of juvenile and adult fish.

This information is now also being used to develop population models that more accurately reflect the spatial dynamics of the stock and its interaction with the fishing fleets across its range.

Some of the really exciting developments in SBT science are also in the realm of tags. We are now in the middle of a project investigating the use of DNA fingerprinting technology to genetically tag SBT.

One application of this technology, if successful, will provide a means to estimate the size of the spawning stock independent of the fishery.

If successful, this would be a major advance in our ability to assess and monitor pelagic species such as SBT and provide advice on the management of the fisheries that harvest them.

Further information about the Southern Bluefin Tuna can be found at on the CCSBT Scientific Committee website at: www.ccsbt.org/meeting. The information included in this interview draws on the 2006, 2007 and 2008 meeting of the Scientific Committee and Stock Assessment Group.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/16/2716391.htm>

☒ Cray catch rates drop

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:51 AM

Cray catch rates drop

Posted October 15, 2009 14:14:00

- **Map:** [Kingston Se 5275](#)

Fishers around Kingston say catch rates are already starting to decline at a worrying rate, with some catches being only 15 kilograms a day.

Gary Steele from the Kingston Professional Fishermen's Association says people were expecting a good start to the year and he is still optimistic the season will pick up.

"I honestly think the crays are there, I mean it should have started out really well - the moon was coming up, we had the swell and there was no tides when we first started and everything should have been pretty rosy, but they've been hard to catch but for what reason, I don't know," he said.

Crayfish prices continue to remain around \$70 a kilogram, about the same at this time last year.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/15/2715185.htm?site=southeastsa

☒ Fishing deaths 'despite advances'

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:50 AM

Fishing deaths 'despite advances'

Fishermen's deaths at sea have not been "reduced significantly" despite advances in technology and training courses, the RNLI has said.

The lifeboat institution said 150 fishermen had died over the past 10 years while working in UK waters.

It said that last year Scottish lifeboats were called out to 129 incidents involving fishing vessels and 171 people were rescued.

New technology includes the RNLI's "man overboard safety system" MOB Guardian.

The electronic unit gives hourly updates on its position at sea and the institution's operations room is alerted if connection is lost and cannot be re-established.

The RNLI has been offering advice to fishermen on the Western Isles.

John Fulton, the organisation's Scottish fishing safety manager, has been touring the islands.

He said: "The RNLI is firmly committed to improving safety within the fishing industry, primarily by providing free safety advice.

"As a former fisherman, I appreciate how busy fishermen are, and how their time at work and at home is precious.

"Therefore I want to make myself available at convenient places and times by visiting piers and quays where local fishermen are based and work."



Crews were called to 129 incidents involving fishing vessels in 2008

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/highlands_and_islands/8307458.stm

☐ No help for fishers

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:49 AM

No help for fishers

SOPHIE WANDEL

13/10/2009 12:30:00 AM

ROCKLOBSTER fishers have made no progress on fee negotiations with the State Government following a severe slashing of their quota early last month.

The government angered the fishermen by slashing their quota on the grounds the fishery had been overfished.

But the fishermen say the lack of lobsters is due to a common natural cycle and is expected to recover in years ahead.

Last month the quota was cut from 470 tonnes to 310 tonnes after figures revealed fishermen caught only 402 tonnes last season.

An expected fallout could see many local jobs lost and processing businesses close as well as people selling up.

Northern Zone Rocklobster Fisherman's Association president Steve Moriarty said the quota drop had had a financial effect on the region.

He said he had met with Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) officials to discuss issues such as high licence fees.

"We haven't made any progress yet, we're still discussing and negotiating."

Mr Moriarty said the fishers had broached the subject of providing Exceptional Circumstances (EC) funding for struggling rocklobster fishermen but the government hadn't responded.

"At this stage there hasn't been any indication they would entertain such payments," he said.

A similar scenario has been playing out for lobster fishermen in Western Australia but last week the Federal Government ruled out any EC funding saying while it was sympathetic to the fishermen, the WA government managed the fishery and it was therefore its issue to resolve.

Meanwhile, Mr Moriarty said some local fishers had pots and equipment for sale but the gear wasn't selling.

"The government has created an uncertain future for this fishery with quota cuts and marine parks, and jobs are being lost."

Fishermen pay on average \$20,000 per licence and there are 68 rocklobster licences in the northern zone.

The northern zone quota is expected to be cut even further next year with a reduction to 250 tonnes.

The rocklobster fishing season opens on November 1.

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-help-for-fis...

☐ Fishing industry boss not forced to resign: Minister

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:47 AM

Fishing industry boss not forced to resign: Minister

Posted Tue Oct 13, 2009 2:00pm AEDT



The Fisheries Minister Norman Moore says his department did not pressure John Newby to resign.

The Fisheries Minister, Norman Moore has defended his department over claims that it pressured the head of the WA Fishing Industry Council to resign.

The council's chairman, John Newby says Mr Moore's Chief of Staff left a message on his answering machine last month, asking him to stand down or face the threat of funding cuts.

Mr Moore says he told the Council to reconsider the way it operates, or face a review of the way Government funding is allocated.

But, he says the message left for Mr Newby has been misinterpreted by the former Chairman.

"There was never any intention on the part of my Chief of Staff that Mr Newby should stand down," he said.

"All we said to him was that we want some renewal in WAFIC and if he's drawn the conclusion that meant him, then I'm disappointed because that's not what the intention of the exercise was."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/13/2712793.htm>

Awesome fish has hefty price tag

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:46 AM

Awesome fish has hefty price tag

Andrew Korner | 13th October 2009

-
- -
- -
- -



WHAT A CATCH: Steve Kutija and wife Jaclyn show five-year-old son Luca their massive catch.

Sarah Keayes

THE 130kg fish Steven Kutija and wife Jaclyn caught a fortnight ago will end up costing them \$800 in fines.

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers were called in to investigate after *Queensland Times* and other media reported the catch, which was soon suspected to be a protected Queensland grouper.

It took the patrol until the weekend to confirm the 30-year-old, 160cm fish's species and interview Mr and Mrs Kutija, who were subsequently fined \$400 each.

Mr Kutija is from Summerholm in the Lockyer Valley but landed the grouper while fishing 25km off the coast of Bundaberg. He maintained he had made an error in judging the species.

Relying on an on-board fish identification chart, he confused his catch with a large cod species.

"The fish I caught actually looked nothing like the image of a Queensland grouper provided in the Fisheries' guide," Mr Kutija said.

"I thought it must have been either a bar cod or a really big Maori cod, neither of which have a size limit."

Fisheries District Officer Steve Dunn said Mr Kutija had been using an outdated copy of the fishing rules.

"This case highlights that fishing isn't just about putting a line in the water. There's a lot more to it," Mr Mulherin said.

"If people are unsure about the identity of a fish, or the rules relating to a particular fish species, they should always return it to the water," Mr Dunn said.

"This fish was probably over 30 years old based on its size of approximately 1.8 m. It's a real shame to lose such an iconic species in this way."

Mr Kutija, 29, said he was an experienced offshore fisherman, who always did his best to abide by the rules.

"Everyone has been judging me as some kind of yobbo fisherman," he said. "I would never risk losing my boat over one fish. That's why I double-checked before I took it."

Information on protected species and size limits for all fish is available on the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries website at <http://www.dpi.qld.gov>.

<http://www.gt.com.au/story/2009/10/13/awesome-fish-hefty-price-tag/>

☐ Nobel Prize in Economics possible repudiation of central planning

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:45 AM

Nobel Prize in Economics possible repudiation of central planning

By: J.P. Freire
Associate Commentary Editor
10/12/09 4:26 PM EDT

Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson have won the Nobel Prize for economics. The former is most interesting not merely because it's the first female winner of the prize, but because of the intellectual drift of her work. While primarily interested in sustainability, a line that stands out in numerous news reports is that "that most people, when presented with a resource problem, can cooperate and act for the common good." This isn't an opus about forcing people to work together -- it's that people freely enter into such cooperating actions.

Take her work looking at fisheries, for example, in an [article](#) appearing in "Polycentric governance and development: Readings from the workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis." Using empirical data across several different coastlines, she finds that some property rights are integral to fishery success.

Her work undermines much of the conventional wisdom that government planning alone can manage effectively a shared resource (lakes, etc.). Instead, as in [this interview](#), she notes the efficiency of "polycentric systems," that is, a system where citizens are able to organize not just one but multiple governing authorities, as well as private arrangements:

"Serious empirical research has now shown that polycentric systems tend to generate higher levels of output at similar or lower costs than monocentric systems governing similar ecological, urban, and social systems."

While some may suggest that this means that we need more bureaucracy, not less, it actually suggests that monopolies on power are counterproductive. In fact, it's free community-based associations, similar to that observed by Alexis de Toqueville and Edmund Burke, that allow these resources to thrive.

Why is this important? Because a free-market message on environmentalism, depends on locally-based governance, rather than boondoggles like the National Park Service. For a good example of how self-regulation has allowed Australia's fishing industry to thrive, look to John Tierney's multiple writings on the subject.

It would be interesting to hear Mrs. Ostrom's take on health care as a limited resource, or, more relevant to

sustainability, what conclusions are drawn from her work about cap-and-trade.

www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/Nobel...

Blacklist of tuna vessels to grow following FSM meet

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:44 AM

Blacklist of tuna vessels to grow following FSM meet

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

Updated Fri Oct 9, 2009 9:11am AEST

The blacklist of fishing vessels that will be banned from catching tuna in the main Pacific fishery could grow dramatically by year's end. The blacklist was a hot topic at the Central and Western Pacific Fisheries Commission - also known as the Tuna Commission - which has just completed its annual compliance meeting in Phonpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

*Presenter: Geraldine Coutts, with reporting by Sean Dorney in Federated States of Micronesia
Speaker: Ambassador Satya Nandan, Chairman of Central and Western Pacific Fisheries Commission;
Transform Aquorau, Deputy Director of Forum Fisheries Agency; Wendell Sanford, Compliance Meeting
Chairman; Glen Joseph, Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority Director*

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

COUTTS: The meeting attracted delegates from more than 40 countries - some full members, and others classified as Co-operating Non Members. The Commission's Chairman, Ambassador Satya Nandan, told the opening session co-operation was essential to prevent the collapse of fish stocks happening elsewhere in the world.

NANDAN: Our stocks in the Pacific are reasonably healthy relative to all other seas and we have to maintain it that way.

COUTTS: Fish are hugely important to Pacific people and their countries have a major say in the Tuna Commission. One effort they all support is an attempt to eliminate illegal fishing which costs the region dearly. Transform Aquorau is the Forum Fisheries Agency Deputy Director.

AQUORAU: There's various figures ranging from 300 to 500 million dollars. That's a fairly significant amount of money that we're losing.

COUTTS: The Compliance Meeting considered referrals of more than a dozen vessels to the black list -- vessels engaged in illegal, unreported or unknown fishing operations. The full Commission meeting in December will make a final decision, where Wendell Sanford will be the Compliance Meeting Chairman.

SANFORD: We will provide more names. So yes, the list that we're providing to the Commission for its consideration this year will be longer than the list last year.

COUTTS: Most of those to be referred are Taiwanese or Chinese owned. Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority Director Glen Joseph says they'll certainly feel the impacts.

JOSEPH: It means that they're not allowed to fish any more in these waters and hopefully all waters of the world. And that's how serious this IUU List is!

COUTTS: What the distant water fishing nations and the fishing boat owners are finding is that this Tuna Convention is giving significant power to the Pacific Island Countries.

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/200910/s2709177.htm>

Fishing spots drying up in SA: council

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:43 AM

Fishing spots drying up in SA: council

Posted Fri Oct 9, 2009 2:08pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Mount Gambier 5290](#)

The Recreational Fishing Advisory Council says anglers are gradually losing access to fishing spots around

South Australia.

Executive officer Trevor Watts says marine and national parks, beach closures and industrial progress have turned many fishers away.

He says the council will be keeping a close eye on the situation.

"We know that various government departments have a responsibility for the coastline and coast care groups," he said.

"We're starting to pick on the fact that a lot of conservation-minded people want to close beaches down for all sorts of reasons.

"These sometimes are some of our popular fishing areas, but even when they're not, we don't know where people have their favourite little spots that they're going to."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/09/2709668.htm>

High prices for start of lobster season

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:40 AM

High prices for start of lobster season

Posted on October 7, 2009, 7:07am and updated on October 7, 2009 at 7:28 pm

Hopes of a return to the boom years for professional fishers have faded following only poor to reasonable rock lobster catches being reported across the South East coastline.

The region's multi-million-dollar rock lobster sector is now in full swing after the 2009-10 season opened last Thursday.

Fishers yesterday reported that catches have been sluggish, but lobster prices have been buoyant, hovering between \$60 and \$75 per kilogram.

But one fishing leader claimed there was anecdotal evidence suggesting a possible jump in rock lobster numbers out to sea.

The State Government has swept in a significant cut in the total allowable commercial catch this season following one of the worst catch seasons in history of the fishery.

The commercial catch has been slashed by 300 tonnes to only 1400 tonnes, which potentially could strip millions of dollars from the industry if catch rates improve.

The southern zone fishery is the most lucrative wild fishery in South Australia.

South East Professional Fishermen's Association president Joel Redman said catch rates have been lacklustre across the coast.

"They have been reasonable to poor, depending on the conditions," said Mr Redman, who fishes at Southend.

"But there has been a little anecdotal evidence that some people are seeing more lobsters out to sea this season," Mr Redman said.

He said the industry would have to wait and see how the season progressed.

"We would like to see catch rates improve and fishers receive reasonable returns this season," Mr Redman said.

He said good prices would be critical this year because of the cut in the quota.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/4821>

Dead fish plan for lower Murray

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:40 AM

Dead fish plan for lower Murray

Posted Wed Oct 7, 2009 6:34pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Meningie 5264](#)

South Australia's Primary Industries Department says it hopes about 70 tonnes of fish will be caught from Lake Albert in the lower Murray during a two-week trial.

The Department has employed a group of fishers, with the aim of reducing any smell caused by dying fish in the Lake during summer.

The fish will be sold for rock lobster bait and fertiliser.

The Department's manager of aquatics, Vic Neverauskas, says the fishers are being paid \$4 per kilogram for their catch.

"I think the last time I checked we had 17 fisherman registered so if we get that participation rate up around 17 then we can probably be expecting to pull out over five tonnes a day," he said.

"What we saw today, out of those five tonnes in round figures, probably 4.8 tonnes was the combination of european carp and to a lesser degree bony bream, they are sold off to rock lobster fishermen for bait."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/07/2707671.htm>

☐ Trawling decision expected soon

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:39 AM

Trawling decision expected soon

Posted Wed Oct 7, 2009 2:00pm AEDT

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

The question of whether bottom-trawling will be permitted in waters off the Gascoyne and Kimberley coasts is expected to be resolved next week.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority has proposed changing Commonwealth fishing boundaries to include 10,000 square kilometres of ocean floor currently under state control.

The change would open up the seabed to bottom-trawling, a high-intensity technique opposed by local fishers who say it will destroy marine habitats and decimate stocks.

Federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke says the decision has been delayed at a state level.

"It's probably not appropriate, it's probably not the right thing for me to be second-guessing what an independent authority is going to do in advance of them reaching their own conclusion and announcing it," he said.

"But certainly some of the things that were meant to happen during the intervening time haven't happened, but the WA Government has made some pretty strong commitments in good faith that they will now progress those legislative changes."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/07/2707216.htm>

☐ Ban on bech-de-mer harvest

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:39 AM

[Ban on bech-de-mer harvest](#)

THE National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has imposed a three-year blanket ban on the gathering of bech-de-mer, or sea cucumber, because it has been over-fished and its stock could face exhaustion if nothing is done.

This three-year ban, which took effect last Thursday, is likely to impact more than 300,000 fishermen nationwide.

The sea cucumber market is big in Asia and locals are making a living from it, sedentary fisheries manager Luanah Koren-Yaman said.

"Bech-de-mer fishery has touched nearly all the lives of every coastal community ... that's probably 300,000 fishermen alone, plus buyers and exporters," Mrs Koren-Yaman added.

Despite the impact on livelihoods, NFA is insisting that the move has to be undertaken to ensure the beche-de-mer fishery sector is not entirely fished out.

To save the beche-de-mer fishery from being exhausted completely, the NFA had opted for a three-year total closure to maintain sustainability, Mrs Koren-Yaman said.

<http://www.thenational.com.pg/?q=node/1385>

☐ Lobster catch rates 'improving'

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:37 AM

Lobster catch rates 'improving'

Posted Mon Oct 5, 2009 12:26pm AEDT

- **Map:** [Robe 5276](#)

Lobster prices at Port MacDonnell have opened around \$65 a kilogram, while further up the coast in Robe, fishers are getting as much as \$72 a kilo.

The Southern Zone rock lobster season officially opened at the beginning of the month and a lobster processor and exporter Andrew Lawrie says catch rates are improving by the day.

"The first day they pulled them was a bit disappointing considering the quota had been reduced by 370 tonne - that was a bit worrying - but the last day especially showed a little bit of sign," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/05/2704927.htm>

☐ Governments 'handballing' crayfish issues

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:29 AM

Governments 'handballing' crayfish issues

JOSEPH SAPIENZA

October 2, 2009

The State and Federal governments are "handballing" the problems surrounding the embattled rock lobster fishery in WA, according to some in the crayfish industry.

Days after the WA Government introduced measures aimed at protecting the low numbers of juvenile (puerulus) lobsters off the coast - including reducing next season's catch target to 5500 tonnes and restricting commercial fishing in some zones to four days a week during peak periods - Fisheries Minister Norman Moore said he was disappointed the Federal Government would not chip in to help the fishery.

Mr Moore had hoped his Federal counterparts would provide money to rock lobster fishers who were looking to leave the industry for good.

He said the industry was facing exceptional circumstances similar to those that farmers face in a long drought and it was the Federal Government's responsibility to provide help.

"As a result of three years of low puerulus counts, the WA Government had to make the responsible decision to halve the Western Australian rock lobster catches over the next three years to ensure the industry remained sustainable into the future," he said.

"The Commonwealth has benefited from all the taxes that have been paid by this industry so it is quite appropriate that they take financial responsibility for helping these fishers in these exceptional circumstances."

Mr Moore said although the WA Government was not in a "financial situation to assist individual fishers", they would continue to invest in research.

The Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Moore, told WAtoday.com.au the Federal Government had offered to jointly manage the fishery, but this was refused by WA.

He acknowledged WA rock lobster fishers were facing some of the "toughest times in their working lives".

"When the West Australian Minister approached me on this issue, we had to explain that the legislation covering drought doesn't allow for fisheries assistance, but if they wanted us to play a joint role in the management of the fishery, we were willing to talk about that," he said.

"The WA Government decided they they wanted to continue to manage the fishery themselves, which puts them in charge of how these issues are managed.

"That was their call and I'm not critical of that decision (but) our offer for joint management was genuine."

Western Rock Lobster Council board member James Paratore said the two Governments were "handballing" the issues surrounding the fishery to each other.

He said the Federal Government would only help as long as the WA Government handed over control of the industry - which was once worth \$300 million.

"We do need help, especially for guys struggling most and help may not necessarily mean Exceptional Circumstances funding, but may mean funding for research in finding the actual problem," he said.

"The industry needs help, the State either doesn't have the means to help or doesn't want to help.

"It would be nice for the Federal Government to give us a hand somehow.

"It just looks like a lot of handballing, that's certainly the impression we get. No one wants to take responsibility and the consequences of that management of our fishery."

In March this year, the Federal Government announced over \$408,000 in funding to the WA Department of Fisheries to identify factors affecting the low puerulus settlement in recent years.

www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/governments-handballing-crayfish-issues-...

☐ Sea cucumber case could dictate boat seizures

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:29 AM

Sea cucumber case could dictate boat seizures

By Jane Bardon

Posted Fri Oct 2, 2009 3:04pm AEST

- **Map: Darwin 0800**

Lawyers for an Indonesian fisherman say an appeal they have been granted in the High Court could stop the Navy from seizing foreign fishing boats that are caught outside the Australian fishing zone.

Muslimin, 41, was convicted last October for intending to illegally catch trepang, which is a type of sea cucumber, outside the Australian fishing zone, but within the Australian continental shelf zone.

He was not actually fishing but was deemed to be equipped to fish, and therefore intending to illegally fish for trepang.

Muslimin was today granted leave to appeal his conviction.

His barrister, Alistair Wyvill, will argue that the law under which his client was convicted is only valid inside the Australian fishing zone.

"It means that all the prosecutions that rely on that same provision in this area will have to stop because there will not be any right to convict a person for this offence," he said.

"It simply won't apply in this area.

"That will not stop those cases where Indonesian fishermen have been caught fishing for trepang, but it will stop those cases where they've been apprehended when in fact they've been doing nothing and that has been happening quite a lot."

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/02/2703375.htm?section=justin

☐ Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:28 AM



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Thursday, 1 October 2009

Deep Water Rock Lobster Trial Season 2009-10

Ten commercial rock lobster fishermen are participating in a deepwater research trial in a designated west coast offshore area, and under stringent monitoring conditions will be allowed to fish during the 2009 commercial closed season for male rock lobster (1 October -14 November).

To address ongoing concerns within the industry and DPIPWE regarding the status of inshore rock lobster stocks, commercial rock lobster fishers are being encouraged to fish in deeper waters as part of a broad Tasmanian Aquaculture Fisheries Institute (TAFI) research project that will inform consideration of new management options.

The primary aims of the 12-month trial are to collect additional data on deepwater lobster stocks, and to evaluate different ways to encourage fishers to target deep water lobsters to reduce pressure on the more lucrative inshore rock lobster stocks.

The data collected by fishers will include information on size, sex, condition and catch/ effort; and will assist scientific assessment of deep water rock lobster stocks to determine if there is capacity for increased sustainable catch in the

fishery.

For more information contact the Wild Fisheries Management Branch DPIPW, phone 6233 6036.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=27954>

Feds: Rudder loss led Alaska fishing boat to sink

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:27 AM

Feds: Rudder loss led Alaska fishing boat to sink

By MATTHEW DALY (AP) – Sep 30, 2009

WASHINGTON — A fishing boat that sank off the Alaska coast last year most likely lost its rudder, then flooded and went down, killing five crew members, federal safety officials said Wednesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the 35-year-old boat did not have internal controls that would have prevented flooding in the so-called rudder room from spreading into other areas of the 189-foot vessel. In a report, the board said uncontrolled flooding was the probable cause of the tragedy, but conceded that much about the ship's sinking is unknown.

The Alaska Ranger sank in March 2008 in the Bering Sea, west of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Five of the boat's 47 crew members — including the captain, chief engineer and mate — were among the dead.

The vessel now lies under 6,000 feet of water and has never been examined by safety officials.

The safety board recommended that the Coast Guard seek authority from Congress to require that commercial fishing vessels be inspected, a process that now is voluntary. The board has recommended that Congress impose mandatory inspections three times in recent years to no avail.

NTSB Chairwoman Deborah Hersman said current laws protect the quality of fish better than they do the safety of fishermen — despite the dangers inherent in commercial fishing.

"It's not called the 'Deadliest Catch' for no reason," she said, referring to a popular cable TV series. "This is the deadliest industry. We need to do more to protect fishermen."

Despite a substantial reduction in deaths during the past two decades, the fishing industry still has the nation's highest worker-fatality rate. In recent years, fishermen died at a rate more than 35 times the national average for occupational deaths, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Alaska has some of the most treacherous fisheries. Besides the Alaska Ranger, seven people died when the Seattle-owned Katmai fishing boat went down last October in a storm off Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

The Alaska Ranger, owned by the Seattle-based Fishing Company of Alaska, used trawler nets to catch mackerel and other fish that were then processed on board. The boat lost power after it began flooding early on Easter Sunday and went into reverse. The backward movement of the boat made evacuation more difficult. Only 22 crew members made it into life rafts.

Among those who died in the accident was Satoshi Konno of Japan, who represented Japan-based Anyo Fisheries. The company bought the fish caught and processed by the Alaska Ranger.

The incident led the Coast Guard to issue a safety warning to ship owners about controllable-pitch propellers. Nationwide, hundreds of seagoing vessels have controllable-pitch propulsion systems, which allow the angle of the propeller blades to be adjusted to improve efficiency and directional control.

Karen Jacobsen of Hingham, Mass., the eldest daughter of boat captain Eric "Pete" Jacobsen, said she was distressed to learn that some of the boat's interior doors were not made watertight, as recommended, and that many of the crew members had apparently been drinking in the hours before the accident.

Jacobsen said her father, 65, of Lynnwood, Wash., was an experienced captain who had worked for the fishing company for more than 20 years. The March trip was his first as captain of the Alaska Ranger.

Jacobsen, who called her father a "by-the-book" type and said attending the hearing was "harder than I thought."

A bill pending in the House would require safety inspections of commercial fishing vessels at least once every other year.

On the Net:

- NTSB: <http://www.nts.gov/>

www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iRqWOC0y0Cr3x0rn1WbVrNXg...

Burke urged to rethink lobster fishers' aid

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:27 AM

Burke urged to rethink lobster fishers' aid

Posted Thu Oct 1, 2009 1:20pm AEST

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

The Western Australian Fisheries Minister, Norman Moore, has urged his federal counterpart to listen to the plight of lobster fishers when he visits Geraldton today.

Federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke this week said it was up to the State Government to fund any exit payment schemes for fishers considering leaving the struggling industry.

Mr Moore says he is disappointed with Mr Burke's decision and hopes lobster fishers will make their situation clear to him during his visit today.

"So I hope they might indicate to Mr Burke, who belongs to a Government who seems to have a lot of money to spend on giving everyone \$900 to spend [on] whatever they want to, when you've got fishermen who may genuinely have a claim to make under Exceptional Circumstances," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/01/2701945.htm>

 Fishers up-beat about lobster season opening

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:26 AM

Fishers up-beat about lobster season opening

Posted Thu Oct 1, 2009 8:35am AEST

- **Map:** [Mount Gambier 5290](#)

The South-East Fishermen's Association says it is optimistic as the southern zone rock lobster season opens today, despite the fishery's poor performance last year.

Association president Joel Redman says there are signs that prices may be similar to last year and the decision to lower the total allowable catch has given fishers some food for thought.

"There's some people that do support the 1,400 tonne position, there's quite a few that don't," he said.

"It's a matter of reconciling yourself that it's about the protection of the fishery.

"We still maintain our position that we think it'll recover, and if it recovers to a certain level then we'll be expecting questions to be answered about what has to take place from here on in to see the fishery recover back to the strong position it was in only a year or two ago."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/01/2701492.htm>

 Crackdown on Moreton Bay green zones

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:25 AM

Crackdown on Moreton Bay green zones

Posted Wed Sep 30, 2009 7:27am AEST

- **Map:** [Brisbane 4000](#)

The Queensland Government is cracking down on fishermen who break the law in protected fishing zones in Moreton Bay.

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones says rangers have handed out hefty fines in recent weeks after fishing restrictions were ignored.

She says one fisherman was fined \$500 in the new green zone off Woody Point while another five were caught in the Pumicestone Passage, near Bribie Island.

"Under the Moreton Bay Marine Park we now have 16 per cent of the Moreton Bay tied up in Green zones you cannot fish," Ms Jones said.

"If you are caught fishing in the green zone you face a \$500 dollar penalty.

"We are reminding all users on Moreton Bay to make sure they are across their requirements when fishing in this area," she said.

Ms Jones says rangers are conducting regular patrols of the marine park and deliberate breaches will not be tolerated.

"If you are thinking about heading out before the school holidays end we remind everyone to read up on what the requirements are in the Moreton Bay Marine Park in green zones."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/30/2700171.htm>

WA Govt unhappy with lobster fishers EC snub

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:25 AM

WA Govt unhappy with lobster fishers EC snub

Posted Wed Sep 30, 2009 12:17pm AEST

- [Map: Geraldton 6530](#)

The Western Australian Government has expressed disappointment at the Commonwealth's decision not to provide Exceptional Circumstances funding for the state's struggling rock lobster fishermen.

WA Fisheries Minister Norman Moore wanted the Federal Government to consider offering financial exit payments to support those wanting to leave the industry.

There are predictions up to one-third of lobster fishers could be forced to leave the industry after the State Government introduced new restrictions last week.

In a statement, Mr Moore accused federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke of being more interested in running the WA rock lobster industry than helping fishers cope financially.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/30/2700611.htm>

September 30, 2009

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:21 AM

September 30, 2009

MSC scheme proves a boon for fishermen despite fears over stocks

Frank Pope, Ocean Correspondent

- [1 Comment](#)

[Recommend? \(6\)](#)

A conservation scheme intended to protect stocks has also led to a massive boost in income for fishermen around the world.

The [Marine Stewardship Council](#) was established ten years ago to give a stamp of approval to fisheries meeting strict criteria that ensure their sustainability and minimise damage to other species. Fishermen are finding that consumers are increasingly willing to pay more for seafood sporting the MSC's blue badge. In Yorkshire, they can charge upmarket restaurants a 25 per cent premium for sea bass and, in Hastings, sole, herring and mackerel are fetching 10 to 15 per cent extra.

In the Pacific, the world's only MSC-certified tuna fishery became accredited in August 2007 and saw the value of its fish rise from \$1,700 to \$2,250 per tonne.

However, some environmentalists fear that the scheme is flawed as fish stocks are at record lows, meaning that a fish population may be certified as sustainable when it is in fact close to collapse.

Related Links

- [Mediterranean states reject tuna fishing ban](#)
- [Healthy eaters put wild fish stocks at risk](#)
- [How green is your fish dish?](#)

Multimedia

- [Graphic: pollock and hoki](#)

The MSC was founded by the World Wildlife Fund and Unilever in response to the collapse of the Grand Banks fisheries, the once-huge reserves of cod off Newfoundland, and has become the world's leading

certification scheme.

Its market is worth more than \$1.5 billion a year and accounts for more than six million tonnes of seafood, or seven per cent of the global wild harvest. More than 150 fisheries are either certified, or undergoing assessment. "The market has taken off," said Rupert Howes, the head of MSC. "The programme is driving positive change in the way the oceans are fished which is good news for fishers, the environment and consumers."

Not that the shifting borders in the sea always co-operate. Fishermen in the Thames estuary near the Blackwater river invested in getting their herring-fishing operations certified, and when they won certification in 2000, the value of their catch rose immediately from £2 to £3 a stone.

Soon after, however, the population moved further out into the estuary to spawn, beyond the range of the certified fishermen. Fishing methods that reduce damage to other species are among the criteria for certification.

In South Africa, hake fishermen were killing 18,000 seabirds a year in their trawls. Forced to find a way around the problem before winning their badge, the vessels mounted streamers to scare the birds away.

Now legally required, the streamers have cut seabird mortality to just 200 birds a year.

Despite the success of the programme, there remains a rift between scientists over how to calculate the level of a safe harvest.

The Alaskan Pollock — the world's most valuable stock worth more than \$1 billion a year — is among the most tightly controlled in the world, yet environmentalists warn that it is still at risk of going over the edge.

John Hocevar, of Greenpeace, said: "The stocks are at record low levels, lower than they've been for 30 years."

Environmentalists blame a scientific model that only takes into account the single target species, not the others with which it may interact.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6854530.ece>

☐ Marine park action

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:20 AM

Marine park action

HELEN MANUSU
29/09/2009 1:00:00 AM

MANNING district people are being urged to sign an online petition aimed at stopping the government's mooted lockout of coastal waters via a new marine park from Crowdy Head northwards.

In its first week, the online petition gained 1800 signatures of concerned fishermen and families from across the State.

It showed that NSW communities were "speaking out loud and clear" against Labor's marine park lockout policy, shadow primary industries minister Duncan Gay said.

The NSW Liberals and Nationals have launched the petition at www.stopmarinelockout.com.au, calling on premier Nathan Rees to place an immediate moratorium on the creation of any more marine parks in NSW, until they can be based on rigorous scientific evidence.

The petition campaign won immediate support from ECOfishers, the recreational fishing group whose slogan is 'conservation through sustainable use ♦ making people part of the solution'.

ECOfishers CEO Ken Thurlow said he believed the petition would buy some time until all the facts and figures are known.

He joined Mr Gay in calling on the government to halt all proposed new parks "until we can put some real science ♦ and fishers ♦ back into existing marine parks".

The NSW recreational fishing community applauds the Liberal/Nationals' scientific approach to marine parks, Mr Thurlow said.

"Recreational fishers have been insulted by the lies, deceit and fraudulent science of the Labor government and their needless lock-out of family recreational fishers from our traditional fishing grounds.

"Tens of millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent by Labor, for a nil environmental return to our marine biodiversity and associated ecosystems, in their marine parks."

Businesses have gone belly-up, he claimed, from the needless imposition of Labor's "political parks," upon reluctant coastal communities.

"NSW recreational fishing families want marine parks they can actually use and not be locked out of.

"The community wants marine parks that literally address the real problems impacting upon our marine biodiversity and ecosystems ♦ not political parks!

"The real impacts are habitat destruction from coastal development, pollution in all its forms to some agricultural practices and introduced species."

ECOfishers supported Mr Gay's call for all fishers to add their voices to the online petition.

"The more people we have log on and 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," Mr Gay said.

www.manningrivertimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/marine-park-ac...

☐ Hoki quota increase under international spotlight

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:18 AM

Hoki quota increase under international spotlight

Tuesday, 29 September 2009, 3:02 pm

Press Release: Green Party

29 September 2009

Hoki quota increase under international spotlight

Today's Government decision to increase hoki quota is irresponsible, and comes at a time when global markets have the sustainability of New Zealand's fisheries in the spotlight, say the Greens.

"The Government has made a rash decision to fish for short-term cash rather than long-term sustainable exports and jobs," said Green Party Co-leader Metiria Turei.

"The hoki fishery needs to prove its sustainability, and clean up its environmental act, before the quotas should be increased."

"This decision may damage our fish exports, and fishing jobs, because there are already international concerns about the sustainability of hoki."

Earlier this month, a New York Times feature article highlighted sustainability concerns about New Zealand hoki. Hoki is often used in 'Filet-O-Fish' burgers in US takeaway chains.

A major fast food chain in the United States – Yum Brands, who own Long John Silver's – has revoked its "certified as sustainable" rating for hoki, and now says it is "not on the menu."

Hoki catch limits were progressively reduced from 250,000 tonnes in 2001 to 90,000 tonnes in 2007 – a massive cut of two-thirds – because the fishing rate was unsustainable.

"The fishery was clearly overfished – it is now slowly recovering, but is far from healthy" said Mrs Turei. "It is naive to presume all is well again and raise the quota so soon."

The latest stock assessment shows that hoki are still less than half their 1990 abundance, and the Western stock only marginally within the 'target zone'.

"A 2009 Ministry of Fisheries report that concluded 'there was clear evidence of mis-reporting in the hoki fishery' also shows that the assessments need to be treated with caution," said Mrs Turei.

Stock assessments note that 48% of last year's catch in the largest fishing ground on the Chatham Rise were juveniles, the fishery uses bottom-trawling methods extensively, and that the fishery kills over 300 fur seals annually.

"The increase in quota is likely to result in more needless damage to our sea-floor and more seal deaths."

"Hoki can become a sustainable fishery for New Zealand, and is slowly improving, but it needs to apply a good dose of caution, cease destructive bottom-trawling, and drastically reduce its by-catch of New Zealand fur seals and albatrosses."

Mrs Turei has revived a former Government bill for the Member's ballot to ensure the Minister is required to act with caution where information is incomplete or absent.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0909/S00424.htm>

☐ Radar system at Whalers Way

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:17 AM

Radar system at Whalers Way

SOPHIE WANDEL

29/09/2009 12:30:00 AM

A SYSTEM to collect marine information and benefit local fisheries has been installed at the southern most point at Whalers Way.

The Southern Australian Integrated Marine Observing System will provide information on ocean currents, waves, temperatures, weather fronts and plankton movements.

Data collected will be made available to fishing industries including valuable information on the best fishing spots.

Information from the ocean radar system will also benefit search and rescue operations, pollution management and improve weather predictions during bushfires.

Each station collects data within a 150-kilometre radius and others are planned for Yorke Peninsula and in the South-East of the State.

Information can be collected from www.imos.org.au

An information session will be held in Port Lincoln on Monday, October 12 about the new system.

Bookings are essential for the session which begins at 7.30pm at the Port Lincoln Hotel.

Email louise.renfrey@sa.gov.au or call 8207 5370 to book no later than October 1.

www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/radar-system-at...

☐ EC payments ruled out for lobster fishers

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:16 AM

EC payments ruled out for lobster fishers

Posted Tue Sep 29, 2009 2:19pm AEST

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

The Federal Government has ruled out providing Exceptional Circumstances (EC) funding for Western Australia's struggling rock lobster fishers.

There are predictions, up to a third of fishermen will be forced to leave the industry, after the State Government imposed tough new restrictions last week.

WA Fisheries Minister Norman Moore says he is in discussion with his federal counterpart about the possibility of the Commonwealth providing financial support to those wanting to leave the industry.

But federal Fisheries Minister Tony Burke says while he is sympathetic to the plight of the industry, under current arrangements he is unable to intervene.

"If the WA Government wanted us to play a role in the management of the fishery, then that's something we were open to and willing to talk about," he said.

"The WA Government made their own decision, that they wanted to continue to manage the fishery themselves and that then puts them in charge as to how these sorts of issues are managed."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/29/2699590.htm>

☐ All at Sea

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:15 AM

All at Sea

September 28, 2009

[Be the first to comment](#)

Troubling legal advice, a lack of money and the soaring energy demands of the planet - Environment Minister Peter Garrett must be sweating.

For over ten years now [Australia has promised to set up marine conservation zones](#) right around the coast of

Australia. The Howard Government moved slowly but eventually established a marine reserve system around Victoria and Tasmania.

The complete gamut of zones are supposed to be rolled out around the entire country by 2012. Garrett is now grappling with the oil and gas rich seas off Western Australia, which also happen to contain some of the most important marine biodiversity in the world.

Last week Garrett's office released the excitingly named "areas for further assessment" in the north and resources rich north-west oceans. In short, these are areas which will be looked at over the next year to see whether they can become marine conservation zones and if so whether they will be "no-take" for mining and fishing.

The north-west was always going to be the most contentious region.

The marine life in the region is unique which green groups like the WWF have are at pains to point out. But the resources in the ocean are substantial and oil and gas interests are quickly developing major industrial developments in the region.

The risks and rewards of such development are immense. The continuing oil leak drama from the *West Atlas* rig in the Timor Sea will hurt animal life and coral, even if the Government has yet to report it officially. The environmental pressures created by the Gorgon gas plant on the sensitive Barrow Island and the gas hub at James Price Point in the Kimberley are pronounced and real.

But the development brings huge financial rewards for a country in deficit, energy security to the developing world and in the case of natural gas, a low(er) emissions but proven energy source for many decades to come.

Garrett approved Gorgon last month to much fanfare, but he also has another four major gas projects to review soon in the area under national environment laws. The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association estimate their members have a potential 12 major projects in the region. There is a lot of gas and oil out there.

This is all creating great pressure on the marine zones process.

Earlier this year in preparation for the north-west zones the Environment Department commissioned some outside private legal advice on displacement costs for both the resource and fishing industry. This was to feed in to a committee process set up to develop a displacement policy for industry which has since been delayed a month.

The 66-page report was delivered to the Department last month outlining the potential displacement costs for the zones.

Crucially it finds that if a zone is established around an existing exploration license then the Government will incur costs. This is because when a exploration permit holder applies for an extension of the license (or applies for a full blown mining permit) and finds it has additional consideration to meet to operate (or shut down) in a marine zone, take or no-take, it can claim the Government changed the rules of the permit and recover associated costs. A Department of Resources spokesman told me last week there are currently 198 exploration licenses in the north-west ocean, and 39 active petroleum licenses.

The legal advice of course also found that the Federal Government would be subject to huge costs (tens to hundreds of billions) if a full-blown no take conservation zone was established over an existing drilling operation, shutting it down. It could open the Government up to compensation for the loss of earnings of the entire earning potential of the gas or oil in the permit region.

The rumours, and I stress they are rumours, is that Garrett is worried about soaring expectations among green groups such as the ACF and Pew for strong zones in the region. In part this is because there are stresses on his budget to pay for the zones - both the displacement costs and also the monitoring of "no-take" zones.

The 66-page report also finds there is no legal reason to compensate fishing interests effected by the zones, the other big sticking point. A source within the Resources Department gleefully told *Greenlines* last month the Environment Department and Fisheries Department are squabbling about whether to pay compensation to fisherman.

The draft "bioregional" zones, or conservation zones, are due out sometime next year.

The question is now whether Garrett, who is regarded as a skillful negotiator, can traverse tricky legal advice, the expectations of green groups and the power of the resource companies to achieve a strong outcome for the protection of marine life in the region.

It will be one of the most fascinating environmental issues in the upcoming election year.

www.smh.com.au/opinion/blogs/greenlines/all-at-sea/20090928-q942.html

Hoki quota increased

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:14 AM

Hoki quota increased

By NICK CHURCHOUSE - BusinessDay

Last updated 12:24 29/09/2009

[Share](#)

[Print](#)

[Text Size](#)

[1 comment](#)

Relevant offers

Industries [Bank's NZ debt stain on results](#) ['Tough' negotiations ahead for Indian trade deal](#) [Telecom, TiVo, Sony partner for launch](#) [Wellington house prices fall](#) [Sept trade deficit narrows to \\$424m](#) [Reserve Bank holds cash rate steady](#) [TelstraClear sets up in exchanges](#) [Kiwis struggle to pay rising debts](#) [Fonterra to boost Malaysian output](#) [BNZ warns of rising interest rates](#)
 Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has increased commercial fishing limits for hoki for the first time in 13 years, putting another \$29 million into industry pockets.

Mr Heatley announced a 20,000 tonne increase in the total allowable catch for hoki, New Zealand's largest finfish export.

Fears for the sustainability of the west coast stock of hoki had underpinned cuts to the catch limit since 2001, bringing it down to 90,000 tonnes last season.

The latest increase will allow an extra 22 per cent take for the valuable species, but Mr Heatley said he was still unsure about the population's viability.

Science from the Ministry of Fisheries indicated a larger increase would have been justifiable but the minister said he preferred to be prudent.

"I am taking a cautious approach to make sure we keep the stock at target levels over the long term."

The hoki catch limit was 250,000 tonnes in 1996 but was gradually reduced from 2001 to allow the fishery to rebuild.

"The reductions in catch over the last seven years have come at significant cost to the fishing industry and the economy but this careful management is now paying dividends," Mr Heatley said.

"We will continue to monitor the hoki fishery closely to make sure we keep the fishery within the target range."

www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/2913484/Hoki-quota-increased

Scientists aim at putting omega fats into other foods

Friday, 30 October 2009 4:13 AM

Scientists aim at putting omega fats into other foods

George Roberts reported this story on [Tuesday, September 29, 2009 08:06:00](#)

[Listen to MP3 of this story \(minutes\)](#)
Alternate [WMA version](#) | [MP3 download](#)

TONY EASTLEY: Imagine a lamb chop with the same health benefits as a fillet of fish.

CSIRO scientists are working towards making it a reality, putting the omega-3 fatty acids, which help fight heart disease and improve brain function, into all sorts of other food.

George Roberts has the story.

GEORGE ROBERTS: Tasmanian farmer and CSIRO researcher Will Bignell says lamb is a good candidate to become a source of omega-3, and potentially replace fish.

WILL BIGNELL: Fish are a good source of it. The best source is wild caught fish however the number of those wild caught fish is plateaued at the moment and aquaculture is the alternate source. Aquaculture based fish don't have the high levels of omega-3s that we see and they also need supplementation, however that is unsustainable.

Basically it is 88 per cent of the world's fish oil is going into aquaculture and that's coming from natural sources.

GEORGE ROBERTS: Mr Bignell found the omega-3 levels in a flock of sheep varied by about 600 per cent.

He's working on selectively breeding the best and then boosting the omega-3 levels.

The aquaculture industry boosted it in fish using fish oil but it's expensive, in demand and strains the world's fish stocks

That's where Dr Surinder Singh comes in. His team at the CSIRO has already engineered omega-3 rich oil seeds.

SURINDER SINGH: The refined oil can be incorporated into different food matrixes like bread, cereals and also the mill from the hull seed can be fed to lambs for example and enrich these meats with the omega-3s as well.

GEORGE ROBERTS: The oil seeds still need to pass the tests for safe genetically modified foods, but if the theory works there may be a new alternative to fish.

Mr Bignell says thinks boosting omega-3 levels in lamb could have significant health impacts, in the way other food supplements have.

WILL BIGNELL: Folic acid is a good example of that. It's just become law to add that to flours that are going to be used for bread making so that we reduce the incidents of spina bifida so it is another example of trying to increase the healthy nutritional values of our food that are commonly eaten in the Western diet.

TONY EASTLEY: CSIRO researcher Will Bignell, ending that report by George Roberts.

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2009/s2699087.htm>

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

Thursday, 16 July 2009 12:00 AM



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

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