

Amateur Fishing News

in association with

Recreational Fishing NZ

Keeping you informed

Website www.recfish.co.nz

Mission Statement

"To advocate for and protect the rights of all New Zealanders who fish for food or fun"

Our primary role is to provide information on recreational fishing matters so that it remains available for all who have an interest in amateur fishing issues



May the holes in your net be smaller than the fish in it

Should you not wish to receive these news updates, please Email John a.f.n@ihug.co.nz

The aims and objectives of this Monthly News is to act as a communication conduit to the wider fishing public

Click on logo
to contact the
editor



This newsletter is
Compiled from
news over the past
month so that you
might be kept up to
date with what is
going on in both
the Recreational
and Commercial
Fishing sectors

Articles

The views
contained in
articles published
are not necessary
the views held by
the Editor

Amateur Fishing News

This months Quote

The two best times to fish is when it's rainin' and when it ain't.



Amateur Fishing News Supports Securing an amateur fishing future

Back in 2000 the minister of Fisheries the Hon Pete Hodgson introduced **Soundings** to the recreational Fishing sector the minister said at the time *"The Government is committed to improving marine management, and recreational fishing is an important part of that equation. The freedom to go fishing is one of the special things about being a New Zealander."* he was correct when he said this. Both are important to us all

Since then the then Minister of Fisheries the Hon Jim who said prior to releasing the Shared Fisheries Discussion Paper on the 25th October 2006, *"we needed to get it right"* he too got it right, what became of these proposals I will tell you **"NOTHING"** Why Because in 2000 the recreational became both divided and dysfunctional as a result of lobbying groups and differing points views without compromise.

Since then the situation has worsened we now have one organisation claiming to be one thing and another organisation that is but for the past two years has lacked strong leadership one of the reasons I resigned as a board member of it, please do not draw the conclusion that the board members of organisation in question lack sound knowledge because there are some very knowable individuals on that

board.

Securing an Amateur Fishing Future this is a proposal that if allowed to progress with support from you the recreational fisher, might well give us all a voice into the future a voice that is united a voice that will become strong and able to enter into discussions on an equal footing with both the Government of the day and the Commercial sector,

I have been in the email loop since this proposal was first released last year and have followed the progress of the individuals promoting it, Last week I rang Nelson and offered support and the use of Amateur Fishing news as a way of distributing their message to the wider public throughout New Zealand

What is disappointing is that we still see the continued exchange of emails from those wanting thing their way then when told no they boycott the meetings arranged to discuss the proposal.

I have read the minutes of various clubs who have voiced their disapproval that they were not represented at the discussions by their representatives responsible for looking after their interests this is not a good look What can you do as an individual?

You would have noticed that there are two word documents attached to the email you received this news letter Please read them and see what it is that is trying to be achieved with this proposal once you have done that and are fully informed please fill in the Questioner your views are important those of you that are disappointed at not being represented, here is your chance to have your say as an individual

I believe that now is the time to take the future of recreational fishing into your own hands, get involved as an individual have your say.

Leave those that want things their way to continue down that path to nowhere on their own we don't need them when all said and done, as the voice of the majority will in the end see them sitting wondering what happened to their views and their way.

Please fill in the questionnaire

Frankly we don't have time to cater for those that are only interested in what they want, we need change now we deserve something better than we have at present

You can email your answer's to a.f.n@ihug.co.nz and I will send it on or email them to njcross@kpwifi.net.nz

Shipping line changes tack on orange roughy orders

By KATIE CHAPMAN - The Dominion Post
29/05/2011

Shipping line Maersk has backed down over refusing to transport orange roughy from New Zealand, a day after saying it would not ship the fish for sustainability reasons.

The Denmark-based company's New Zealand

manager, Julian Bevis, said on Thursday the company would no longer knowingly take orders of the fish – a decision in line with its sustainability policy.

However, the company issued a statement yesterday saying it

was still accepting all seafood shipments from New Zealand, although it was reviewing its policy over future shipments.

Mr Bevis did not return calls from The Dominion Post, but Maersk said the company was still taking orders for fish that

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had been legally caught while it carried out the review.

Earlier, Seafood Industry Council spokesman Owen

Symmans said the shipping line had turned its back on New Zealand's fifth-largest exporter. After Maersk altered its position, he welcomed its

commitment to not transporting illegal seafood.

Orange roughy exports were worth \$51 million to New Zealand last year.

Whaling talks keep going despite lawsuit

By KATIE CHAPMAN - The Dominion Post
29/05/2011

New Zealand will keep negotiating with Japan, despite legal action by Australia to stop whaling in Antarctic waters.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith announced yesterday that his government would lodge a formal application in the International Court of Justice in The Hague next week.

"Australia will initiate action in the International Court of Justice, seeking to prevent Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean."

But New Zealand would not yet be joining Australia in the court action, New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said.

All avenues would be looked at before action was chosen.

"New Zealand has been disappointed by the progress of diplomatic negotiations in the International Whaling Commission, and we have made it clear the current proposal is not adequate,"

he said.

Last month's proposal by the commission would have let Japan, Norway and Iceland continue commercial whaling for another decade, despite a global ban.

It was claimed between 4000 and 18,000 whales could be saved under the proposal, which set lower catch limits for all three whaling nations than their own self-imposed quotas.

There was still time to make progress in negotiations before the commission's annual meeting in Agadir, Morocco, next month, Mr McCully said.

Prime Minister John Key said advice to the Government was that diplomatic channels were the best way to reduce or eliminate whaling.

"A court action may or may not be successful, but it's certainly far from an assured bet. If they go to court and they lose, there are real risks here."

However, if diplomatic efforts at the International Whaling Commission failed, the Government could join Australia in legal action, he said.

"In the end, if that diplomatic route is unsuccessful, then New Zealand will make a decision about whether it's going to join Australia in the International Court of Justice."

New Zealand's representative to the commission, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, believed a solution via negotiation was still possible. "We've been working very hard toward that end and we're not going to give up."

But both the Greens and Labour called for New Zealand to join Australia's legal battle.

Greens spokesman Gareth Hughes said the Government had to be courageous. "You can't save whales by killing them. The appeasement plan is a mistake."

New Zealand fisheries are well managed

M/Fish
27 May 2010

The Ministry of Fisheries has moved to assure seafood consumers that they can have confidence in the management of New Zealand's fisheries.

New Zealand's fisheries, including southern bluefin tuna and orange roughy are carefully managed to ensure sustainability using the world leading quota management system. New Zealand works closely with other countries as part of the CCAMLR international conservation convention to manage the Ross Sea and its fisheries.

Southern bluefin tuna

There is cause for concern about the state of southern bluefin stocks internationally with fish numbers falling to low levels.

"New Zealand has been a leading

voice on putting in place effective global measures to manage southern bluefin tuna and encouraging all nations to take action" said Ministry of Fisheries Deputy Chief Executive Fisheries Management Gavin Lockwood.

New Zealand has worked hard with the other countries involved in the Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery and a package of measures has been put in place to address the problem. The package includes a 20% reduction in catches, increased monitoring and surveillance of fishing and a catch certification scheme requiring all southern bluefin caught to be certified and reported.

This package also includes improvements in the scientific research and information. If the improvements in science are not

ready by 2012 there is already agreement to reduce catches by at least a further 37%.

Orange roughy

The Ministry of Fisheries has not hesitated to take decisive management action in our orange roughy fisheries. For example in New Zealand's main orange roughy fishery catch limits have been reduced by almost 40% over the past five years. Fisheries in other areas have been closed if the science shows that is needed to protect sustainability.

"Reducing catches and closing fisheries if we need to is evidence of responsible and responsive management" said Mr Lockwood.

"Bottom trawling is the main fishing method for catching orange roughy. It takes place within New Zealand's

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comprehensive fisheries management system" he said.

"New Zealand bottom trawling is very closely managed, we know which fishing vessels are bottom trawling, we use satellite monitoring so we know exactly where they are fishing and we require detailed catch reports so we know how much is being caught."

17 areas have been closed to bottom trawling, providing protection to an area of seafloor equal to 1.2 million square kilometres, or an area four times the landmass of New Zealand. These are among the largest closures of their type anywhere in the world.

"1.2 million square kilometres of pristine, un-fished seafloor is

protected to ensure that the natural bio-diversity and eco-systems are preserved" said Mr Lockwood.

Ross Sea Antarctic Toothfish

The Ross Sea Antarctic toothfish fishery is one of the most effectively managed fisheries in the world. Conservative limits on the number of fishing vessels and the amount of fish that can be caught are set every year by CCAMLR. All fishing vessels have to meet strict requirements on fishing and bycatch mitigation as well as carry two independent observers.

The New Zealand Government, including the Ministry of Fisheries supports the effective management of the fishery and New Zealand fishers through monitoring, vessel inspections and patrolling as well as a

substantial programme of scientific research and stock assessment.

Quota Management System

New Zealand's Quota Management System is internationally regarded as one of the world's best fisheries management systems. The World Bank has praised New Zealand's QMS and absence of subsidies as an example of how other countries should manage their fisheries. A major study published in the prestigious journal, Science, rated New Zealand's fisheries management as first equal out of all marine regions around the world. Most recently, a report published in the Marine Policy journal ranked New Zealand's fisheries management as the best of the world's 53 major fishing nations.

Tolaga Bay fishermen rescued

May 2010

Two Gisborne fishermen were rescued last night after their boat's engine failed to restart after a day's fishing.

The men sent a distress signal about 5.30pm which was received by maritime radio in Tolaga Bay, 50km north of Gisborne, police said.

The signal was faint and efforts to contact the men to confirm their location were met with no response. After it became apparent the men's boat could receive communications

but not transmit, they were asked a series of questions to which they responded yes or no with radio clicks. This helped establish that the boat was likely to be in the Gisborne area and a search was mounted.

The five-metre aluminium runabout was found at 9.15pm after an hour-long search, about 4km off Wainui Beach, just north of Gisborne. Coastguard crew were able to restart the men's boat, which had a flat battery, and escort it back to

Gisborne.

Police said the men were lucky the Wellington Rescue Coordination Centre and the Tolaga Bay maritime radio operator were persistent in trying to identify the call and a starting point for the search.

They would have otherwise faced a night at sea with searchers having to cover thousands of square kilometres

Shipping Company Says No To Unsustainable Seafood



Thursday, 27 May, 2010 - 18:58

Wellington, May 27 NZPA - An international shipping company is refusing to ship some at-risk marine species worldwide, including orange roughy caught in New Zealand waters.

Denmark-based Maersk will not carry Antarctic and Patagonian toothfish, orange roughy or any species of shark and whale aboard its ships because of concerns about sustainability.

"We recognise the global concerns over the overfishing of toothfish species and support efforts to curb this trade," Maersk Line head of global seafood David Pawlan said.

"The checks and processes that we have implemented with our global offices help prevent the

transportation of these species as well as illegal, unreported, and unregulated catches of other species."

This comes after Greenpeace reported in March that supermarkets -- Trader Joes in the United States and Loblaws in Canada -- stopped the sales of orange roughy. Local fishers using Maersk will now have to find another shipping company to distribute their catch.

New Zealand's total allowable commercial catch for orange roughy was set at 11,062 metric tonnes for the 2009/10 fishing year and exports last year were worth \$51 million.

Greenpeace oceans campaigner Karli Thomas said if the New

Zealand government and fishing companies did not stay ahead of the global sustainability movement, New Zealand's seafood industry could end up gutted.

"The net is closing on destructive fisheries as retailers continue to reject unsustainable seafood and now a major shipping company is refusing to transport a number of species plundered from our oceans."

Ms Thomas said Maersk's refusal to ship Antarctic toothfish is in line with a growing movement to protect the Ross Sea.

But the Ministry of Fisheries said New Zealand worked closely with other countries as part of the international conservation

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convention to manage the Ross Sea and its fisheries.

It said fisheries, including southern bluefin tuna and orange roughy, were carefully managed to ensure sustainability using a "world leading quota management system".

The ministry said New Zealand's main orange roughy fishery catch limits had been reduced by almost 40 percent over the past five years, and others had been closed when science showed that was what was needed to protect sustainability.

Ministry of Fisheries deputy chief executive of fisheries management Gavin Lockwood said bottom trawling was the main fishing method for catching orange roughy,

and it was closely managed.

"We know which fishing vessels are bottom trawling. We use satellite monitoring so we know exactly where they are fishing and we require detailed catch reports so we know how much is being caught."

Mr Lockwood said 17 areas had been closed to bottom trawling, equal to 1.2 million square kilometres -- among the largest closure of their type anywhere in the world.

The Green Party said the Maersk's refusal to ship orange roughy added to the rising tide of international rejection of the country's seafood industry.

Its oceans spokesman Gareth Hughes said New Zealand could

have a better performing industry if our fisheries were managed with precaution and the export brand was enhanced.

"Consumers have power, and because of them, companies like Maersk, which carries around 40 percent of New Zealand's seaborne trade, are sending some clear signals to our government."

Fishing company Sanford Limited supported Maersk's move to stop shipping illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, but said international scientists noted New Zealand has one of the best fisheries management systems in the world.

Major research boost for NZ deepwater fisheries

FISH NEWS.COM

THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2010 09:59

NEW Zealand Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Phil Heatley has announced a funding boost for research into New Zealand's valuable deepwater fisheries and deep-sea environment.

"A new 10-year research programme will increase our knowledge and understanding of deepwater fishstocks such as orange roughy, hoki and squid, the environment they live in and the impacts of fishing activity," Mr Heatley says.

The programme will cost \$17 million (£7.9 million) a year, a boost of \$5 million a year on current spending levels and is the largest increase in

fisheries' science spending since 2002. It will be largely funded through levies to the industry.

"The information from this research programme will flow through to support robust, future-focused fisheries management decisions," he says.

"Our deepwater fisheries are a valuable resource for New Zealand, bringing in hundreds of millions in export earnings every year," Mr Heatley says. "It's important we manage these fisheries to make sure current catch limits are sustainable and there will be fish around to catch for generations to come."

The increased research funding will go into three areas – fishstock assessment, environmental research and boosting observer coverage.

Planning has already started with the first research projects scheduled to start in the next fishing year, which runs from 1 October 2010 to 31 September 2011.

"I would like to thank deepwater quota owners for working constructively with government on this project and for their commitment to increasing scientific research funding and observer coverage in these fisheries," Mr Heatley adds

Basa lobs NZ fish out of water

By WILMA McCORKINDALE - The Southland Times

26/05/2010

Concern is growing over consumers being hooked into buying a cheap Vietnamese species of fish.

The South Island fishing industry is warning the public that when the boat comes in, it's not necessarily the fresh meaty white shark that will be sold to fish and chip shops. Instead its cargo could be container loads of Vietnamese catfish, otherwise known as Basa.

The Vietnamese import is savaging local fishermen, who have been told to temporarily stop fishing domestic species as companies are struggling to sell New Zealand fish.

Basa looks like a reasonably good product but it is farmed in the putrid waters of the Mekong River, polluted with raw sewage and other contaminants.

New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen Southern Region liaison officer Peter Scott, who fishes from Bluff, said the fish was being landed in the south to the detriment of the domestic fishing industry.

"This basa has been a big seller in New Zealand because it is very very cheap. It could knock our domestic sales around severely, if not our exports," he said.

President of the Port Chalmers Fishermen's Federation Steve Little confirmed the concerns.

The fisherman said an example of the Basa's impact was an advisory from fishing industry giant Talley's Fisheries to its fishermen around the South Island last Monday which said it was halting its purchase of

domestic ghost shark for a five-week period.

"Our current stock is at an unacceptable level and we must ensure that we can dispose of the stocks prior to the expiry of their official use-by date."

The company put the blame squarely on the impact from Basa importation to New Zealand.

Talley's deals with 130 fishing vessels South Island wide, including 25-30 out of Dunedin, Bluff and Timaru. New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen President Doug Saunders-Loder – who is also resource manager at Talley's – said New Zealand needed to be more upfront about what it was selling the public.

In Dunedin, a growing number of

distributors are being pressured into buying Basa by some takeaway shops and supermarkets.

Mike Wilson of Dunedin's Link Food

Distributors said he had stocked a high grade of Basa in the past but would not buy a lower quality fish now being imported.

Wilson had sold "heaps of it" quickly

in the past. However, he understood two distributors were now bringing a lower grade cheaply priced product into Dunedin.

Fishing Industry Pushes For Self-regulation

Written By: [Guest post](#) - Date published: 11:00 am, May 24th, 2010 - [36 comments](#)

Categories: [Conservation](#), [food](#), [privatisation](#) - Tags: [fishing industry](#)

In a move that can only be described as the fox guarding the hen house, the fishing industry has released plans for self-regulation. At this year's Seafood Industry Council (NZSIC) conference the new plan is being called "[Managing Our Own Ship](#)".

A "conservative estimate" from NZSIC said the strategy could increase the quota value of the industry by \$2.5 billion. We all know how much the National government loves the old money carrot on the stick approach but hopefully they have enough sense not to welcome this new plan with open arms. Going by National's ideology driven approach though I don't have a lot of hope. Let's repeat the National mantra: "What's good for the economy is good for New Zealand. What's good for the economy is good for New Zealand. What's good for the economy is good for New Zealand" ad infinitum.

The "Managing Our Own Ship" plan includes proposals to harvest species and fishing areas in line with when world markets will give the best price, such as when there are shortages in supply from other countries or national holidays when a lot of seafood is consumed. The odd thing however, is that the seafood industry has been doing this for at least the last 20 years, so what is "Managing Our Own Ship" really all about?

Further into the plan we see proposals such as the industry taking control of research into whether quotas are sustainable and regulating the impact the industry has on seabirds. The official word from NZSIC is "Industry can do it more efficiently and we want to look after our own business. We want the benefits and we should be the ones to put in the investment to get the benefits and rewards."

But should we trust the New Zealand fishing industry to manage itself? The NZSIC run website '[The Greatest Meal on Earth](#)' states that "New Zealand is an area where ecosystems have never been overfished and are effectively managed for ecological sustainability". However the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) website sings a slightly different tune: it talks about how orange roughy stocks [effectively collapsed in the late 80s](#). And orange roughy stocks are currently estimated to be between 13-30% of their original biomass, an amazing statistic for a species that has "[never been overfished](#)". As well as this the Challenger (ORH7A) orange roughy fishery has been [effectively closed since 2000](#) and the MoF website states, "Of our 11 roughy stocks, scientists think six are probably near or above the government's target level." NZSIC also says that Hoki "[is not and](#)

[has never been over-fished](#)". This is despite the fact that the total allowable catch was slashed by MoF from a high of [250,000 tonnes in 2000 to 90,000 tonnes in 2007](#). Those are huge cuts for a fishery that has never been overfished.

Another point against self-regulation is a [2009 paper](#) released in the journal Marine Policy that found "unobserved vessels' reported catches were significantly different to observed vessels' catches. There was clear evidence of misreporting in the hoki fishery". I imagine if the fishing industry was self-regulated information like this would never even come to light.

It is clear that the fishing industry cannot be trusted to regulate itself anymore than any other business sector. There is little doubt that self-regulation will be more profitable in economic terms for the businesses involved but it will be at a huge cost to the ecosystems that they derive their income from. National would be making a huge mistake to hand over more power to the fishing industry and in the end it would be the people who would have to deal with the consequences.

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Barge company involved in similar fatal accident

ABC North West WA

May 18, 2010 15:07:00



The boat's bow was split open when it crashed into the side of the barge on a pre-dawn fishing trip

An inquest into a boating accident which killed four people off the Gascoyne coast has heard more

evidence that the barge the vessel slammed into was not illuminated.

The 82 metre long barge was anchored about three nautical miles west of the Carnarvon boat harbour. Asgar Pedersen, Stanley Timlin and husband and wife Frank and Norma Stock were on a pre-dawn fishing trip when their boat crashed into the barge in March 2007.

Frank Stock died almost instantly when the boat's bow split open while the other three in the group drowned following the crash.

The court heard that the company which owned the barge was involved in a similar fatal accident in New

Zealand and that a coroner recommended then that it investigate the feasibility of illuminating their hulls.

A coronial inquiry is examining if the barge had lighting and why it was positioned in a path commonly used by recreational fishers.

Today, the inquest heard from the skipper and the first mate of a commercial fishing trawler who both testified seeing the barge as a blob on their radar but were unable to visibly see it from their boat.

Outside the court, one of the men Corey Weeks said the four victims stood no chance.

"You wouldn't see it at all if you didn't have a radar."

All four people who died were members of the local sea rescue group.

Then-president Gary Hornhardt says the rescue operation was a very traumatic time for the group and the inquest is being watched closely.

"That's what made it so hard, once we

found out who they were and you couldn't do anything but you knew where they were.

"I think it's only with time that things are starting to heal themselves."

Union gleans support for seafood industry inquiry

By HAMISH RUTHERFORD

BusinessDay.co.nz

A petition calling for a wide-ranging government inquiry into the seafood industry is collecting signatures after its launch in Nelson.

Neville Donaldson, assistant national secretary of the Service and Food Workers Union (SFWU), which created the petition, said the organisation was primarily concerned about employment, but the petition had been worded to encourage an inquiry into all aspects of the industry. "It is about looking at the fishery as a resource of all New Zealand. It is not owned by the industry," Mr Donaldson said.

"They (commercial fishing interests) have a privilege through purchase of quota to harvest and sell that product, but along with that goes a responsibility, and hopefully that's not just assessed in simple dollar terms." The union claims 1500 jobs have been lost from the industry in the past three years, with international companies replacing local workers with foreign crews paid the minimum wage, well below industry standards. Mr Donaldson said he wanted an inquiry that also delved into issues such as whether quotas levels were sustainable, but it was not an attack

on the industry.

"The industry, if they thought about it, should be supportive of this – it is about having a look and trying to come out with the best industry we can." SFWU said the petition had the support of the Labour Party, the Maori Party and the Green Party. It will be presented to Parliament in September.

Mr Donaldson said the union would use "every resource available" to attract enough support to influence government thinking.

Industry fishing for control

By HAMISH RUTHERFORD –

The Dominion Post

17/05/2010



ANDREW GORRIE/The Dominion Post

GONE FISHING: New Zealand's fishing industry says it could save billions in inefficiencies if it regulated some of its own activities.

New Zealand's commercial fishing industry is drawing up proposals to take control of regulating some of its activities which it claims could save billions of dollars in efficiencies.

Dubbed "Managing Our Own Ship", the new strategy is the key theme at this year's Seafood Industry Council (NZSIC) conference, which will be opened by Prime Minister John Key on Wednesday.

The council claims some government backing for the concept although Minister of Fisheries Phil Heatley appeared cautious about the plan on Friday.

Conservationists are warning that an attempt to take control of important elements of regulation would lead to a "major brawl".

The council admits that Managing

Our Own Ship is at an early stage but the possible gains could be significant. Its official publication said a "conservative estimate" said the strategy could increase the quota value of the industry by \$2.5 billion. NZIC policy manager Nici Gibbs said the conference would try to thrash out agreement on what elements the industry would like control of, and how it would work.

Possible issues included where and at what time of year certain fish are caught, to enable the industry to harvest particular species when the market is strongest. For example, rock lobsters demand a substantial premium around the Chinese New Year compared with other months.

Ms Gibbs said the industry would only seek power over "things that are entirely within the scope of the commercial fishing sector".

More controversial proposals could include the industry taking control of research into whether quotas are sustainable, or regulating the impact the industry has on seabirds. Ms Gibbs said the industry would be more nimble at managing the process than the Ministry of Fisheries.

"Industry can do it more efficiently and we want to look after our own business. We want the benefits and we should be the ones to put in the investment to get the benefits and rewards."

NZSIC told its members in February that key Government ministers, including Mr Heatley, were "in behind the idea". Its official magazine quoted a letter from Mr Heatley which said he "supported the proposals in the strategy".

On Friday Mr Heatley issued a statement which said that while self regulation was "an excellent goal" for the industry, the Government would continue to monitor activities closely.

"There are some key responsibilities that must remain with government such as setting sustainable catch limits as well as setting and monitoring standards for managing environmental impacts," Mr Heatley said.

"What we will be looking for is for the industry to develop firm proposals with options for implementation that the Government can then work through."

Environmental groups said they had been given little information about the strategy.

Victoria University School of Government and Environmental Studies senior lecturer Cath Wallace said the public was responsible for managing fisheries and that the power for regulation must lie with the Minister of Fisheries.

"It shouldn't be that the fishing industry holds the pen and other people have to become supplicants."

Regulations pertaining to minimum mesh size.

MFish

we committed to provide you with information on the enforceability of regulations pertaining to minimum mesh size.

Regulations which relate to the use of nets are set out in the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986. However, they are not currently included in the penalty provisions so effectively cannot be treated as an offence liable for prosecution or fines. This error occurred during the amendment of the regulations where a comma was mistakenly inserted in place of the word 'to' so that the regulation which should read '7 to 15A' reads '7, 15A.'

This means that those regulations which fall in-between these numbers (which includes minimum net mesh size) are not technically offences. The Ministry is aware of this error and

is seeking to have it corrected as soon as possible.

There are however, other means by which the Ministry can deal with net offences. Non-compliance with regulation 7 which outlines the requirements for marking nets is still an offence under the regulations as are closures enacted for the protection of Hector's and Maui's Dolphins. Furthermore, if the use of nets contravenes any net regulation and contains fish, Fisheries Officers are able to seize or remove gear pursuant to s232 of the Fisheries Act 1996 which states that an offence is committed by any person who buys, sells or possesses fish contrary to the Act.

Fisheries officers are therefore able to treat some of the regulations as offences and on most occasions

where breaches of the netting regulations are detected the net is unmarked so it can be seized and follow up action taken.

Offences are just one tool that the Ministry uses to promote compliance with fisheries regulations. We encourage all fishers to fish responsibly and to follow the fishing regulations, even when an offence is not possible.

For those of you interested, the full Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 can be found here: http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1986/0221/latest/DLM112671.html?search=ts_regulation_fisheries+amateur_resel&p=1

Celina Garcia

Green lobby wins review of NZ fishery certification

NZPA

May 10, 2010

An independent adjudicator has ordered a review of "sustainability" certification won by two New Zealand fishing companies in the Southern Ocean.

The Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) independent adjudicator, Michael Lodge, today remanded the proposed MSC certification of the Ross Sea Antarctic toothfish fishery back to the certifier, UK-based consultant Moody Marine, for major reconsideration.

New Zealand Long Line, a division of Sealord, and Sanford New Zealand last year joined forces with British-based Argos fishing company to get the right to put a "green" eco-label on the toothfish they catch in the Ross Sea area.

Sanford is the biggest fisher listed on the NZX and Sealord is owned by

Maori interests and Japanese fishing group Nippon Suisan Kaisha, or Nissui.

A New Zealand-based environmental group, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), last December pointed out serious procedural errors in the approach taken by Moody Marine.

Mr Lodge said that for several performance indicators, he found that the scores given by Moody Marine were not justified by available scientific evidence.

The Southern Ocean coalition submitted a formal objection to the recommendation by Moody Marine, that part of the toothfish fishery in New Zealand's Ross Sea territory be given MSC certification.

The environmentalists said the scarcity of information about the stock

and a lack of scientific rigour in the assessment made certification unjustifiable, and argued that certification would undermine efforts to have the Ross Sea established as a fully protected marine reserve.

They said that Moody Marine had ignored the scientific views of its own expert peer reviewers and detailed scientific concerns raised by 39 marine scientists from seven nations who had worked in the Ross Sea.

Certification of the fishery as "sustainable" was scientifically indefensible, the scientists said.

Available information on the life history of Antarctic toothfish was very limited, and neither eggs nor larvae had ever been found, and it was not known where or when the fish spawned.

New Zealand salmon judged 'exceptional' by global food experts

10 MAY 2010 09

Fish News

THREE New Zealand salmon products have been judged by international taste awards experts as being 'exceptional' with a further three called 'remarkable'.

Nelson-based New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) entered six products

in the International Taste and Quality Institute (iTQi) Superior Taste Awards in Brussels and each was awarded either the maximum three stars or two.

NZKS's Regal brand achieved two 3-star awards and three 2-stars. The

company's Seasmoke brand gained the third three-star award.

Three stars are awarded for 'exceptional' products with 90 per cent and more total marks while 'remarkable' products achieve two stars and score between 80 and 90

per cent.

Judges for the April awards are selected from within the 12 most prestigious European culinary and sommeliers associations and all the products are blind tasted solely on their own merit.

NZKS CEO Grant Rosewarne says the awards represent huge endorsement for the two brands in key markets.

She said: "We are delighted to gain prestige endorsement of our products from members of 12 of the most famous European culinary associations. The awards reflect well not only on our brands but also the pure New Zealand brand we are so closely associated with.

"Only a small number of products tested each year are recognized with the three-star award – in fact, this year only 129 of 902 products entered achieved that status – and three of those were ours. Based on customer and consumer feedback we have always believed that we had an

outstanding product in terms of taste and quality.

"This independent evaluation by European culinary experts certainly confirms our beliefs," Mr Rosewarne says. "And from a personal point of view, it's pretty amazing and remarkably rewarding to see your brand logo featured next to those of Carlsberg and Coca-Cola, Schweppes and Unilever."

In a communication notifying NZKS of its success the managing partner of iTQi Christian de Bauw warmly congratulated the company on its "remarkable achievement".

"Your company and your team should be particularly proud to market products that are so valued for their superior taste," Mr Bauw said. "Being the first New Zealand food products to achieve three star status is a unique result and (represents) a unique opportunity to differentiate yourself."

NZKS is awaiting full evaluation reports from the awards organisers

complete with comments from the judges. The company has been invited to attend the Superior Taste Award Ceremony in late May in Brussels to collect its certificates and medals.

New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) is New Zealand's biggest integrated aquaculture producer employing more than 400 skilled workers. Currently the company produces 7,500 metric tonnes of King salmon annually from five sea cage farms in the Marlborough Sounds of New Zealand's South Island. With 55 per cent of the global market, the company is the world's biggest farmer and supplier of the King salmon variety earning around NZ\$34 million a year in foreign exchange. It accounts for 70 per cent of New Zealand's salmon production.

For more information about NZ King Salmon visit www.kingsalmon.co.nz

Ministry boss faces grilling by industry

By JOSH REICH
The Nelson Mail
07/05/2010

Commercial fishermen welcomed the opportunity to grill the boss of the Ministry of Fisheries at their annual conference yesterday.

Fishermen from around New Zealand were at the Rutherford Hotel for the first day of the Federation of New Zealand Commercial Fishermen's annual conference.

MFish chief executive Wayne McNee told those in attendance that despite the lingering effects of the recession, there were still opportunities to grow the industry, although it was not as simple as just catching more fish.

"There is only a small amount of room to increase those catches, and to increase those catches will require investment."

Instead, the industry would need to work to increase efficiency and add value to its products, something that could be achieved by continuing to commit to sustainability.

"Things like discards, and protected species interaction are two of the areas that affect how we are perceived in the market. And we need to continue and work on improving those areas."

So often a bugbear of the fishing industry, Mr McNee said the ministry was working to reduce and streamline the number of regulations fishermen had to follow.

"The regulatory process we use at the moment is very cumbersome, it's very expensive, and it is very hard to get change through, even when there is benefit to the industry."

The ministry would always take a cautious approach when it came to increasing catch limits, but last year it had allowed more hoki, ling and rock lobster, among other species, to be taken.

Mr McNee acknowledged the ministry would be taking a larger role in aquaculture following proposed changes announced by Cabinet.

However, the growth of aquaculture did not have to come at the expense of the wild catch.

Mr McNee also took questions from members of the audience keen to take advantage of having the ear of the chief executive.

Doug Saunders-Loder, the Motueka-based president of the federation, pointed out the frustration fishermen

felt when the total allowable commercial catch was less than they felt was sustainable, and then were charged for catching more than their entitlement.

Mr McNee said the challenge faced by the ministry was that it often did not have enough information about inshore stocks, which meant some catch levels had not been adjusted for some time.

Ivan Thompson from the Golden Bay/Motueka Fishermen's Association asked why the ministry was more interested in the fish that were caught, as opposed to landed.

Mr McNee said the quota management system was not flawless, but was the best in the world.

The ministry was running a system that was looking at what was being caught and discarded to get an accurate impression of the catch.

Others to talk at the conference, which continued today, were Maritime New Zealand director Cath Taylor and Dan Govier from Challenger Scallop Enhancement Co.



Boatie fought to survive

By [JARED MORGAN](#)

The Southland Times

07/05/2010

INVESTIGATION: Bluff police officers Pete Jenkins (left) and Jordon Edwards check out the 4.7m Magnum 1600 pleasure boat that capsized near Dog Island on Wednesday.

The sole survivor of a boat capsize in Foveaux Strait on Wednesday said the last time he saw his father-in-law was when he paddled away from the overturned hull, trying to swim for Dog Island.

Invercargill man Neville Pasco, 55, never made it.

Yesterday, his son-in-law Damian Booth, 28, spoke of Mr Pasco's last moments and his own battle to survive after their 4.7m boat was flipped bow-to-stern by a huge freak wave.

What followed was a three-hour battle to survive until rescue came in the form of the crew of fishing boat Lathan Bay, something he said was pure luck. He and Mr Pasco's boat was not carrying any gear that could have summoned help.

The pair were returning from a fishing trip near Dog Island 5km southeast of Bluff when the boat crossed two "roller" waves that "just sort of rose up" about 2.30pm.

The third wave was massive, Mr Booth said.

"It was the at least the size of a house. It shot straight up in front of us. There was nothing the skipper (Mr Pasco) could do. It flipped us straight on our back."

He and Mr Pasco, who were not wearing lifejackets, swam out from under the overturned hull and clambered on top to "discuss our options", he said.

Both struggled to keep themselves from slipping back into the 11 degree Celsius water. Diving under the hull to look for the container carrying the lifejackets proved futile, he said.

"The container was gone."

The pair discussed swimming to Dog Island more than 1km away, he said.

"... It was a long way. I said to him (Mr Pasco) 'nah, there's no way I can swim'."

However, after continually slipping off the hull Mr Pasco made the decision to try, Mr Booth said.

"Neville slipped off and said 'well that's me' and started backstroking off to shore."

He watched Mr Pasco swim away for 30 minutes before he slipped from sight, he said.

As time passed, and he too repeatedly slipped off the hull he found it hard to remain positive.

"I thought about writing a message on the hull somehow."

However, right from the wave striking he had thought of his partner and children. It was enough to give him strength, Mr Booth said.

"I slipped off the last time and I thought 'right, I'm going under'."

He made a last-ditch dive under the hull where he found a lifejacket that had somehow slipped out of the container, which "must have broken open", he said.

The mind games continued once back on the hull as light faded and he struggled to keep warm.

Just as the sun dipped behind Bluff Hill he spotted what he initially thought was a buoy in the water – until he realised it was moving.

"I didn't know if they (the boat's crew) had seen me and I couldn't wave too hard because I would slip off the hull. Just as the sun disappeared I saw it pointed its nose straight towards me," Mr Booth said. "I was yahooping and was so happy I was going to get to see my family."

He readily admits he was found by chance. "Luck. I was lucky ... if that boat ..."

He thanked his rescuers and said the following search to find Mr Pasco was faultless, but his relief gave way to grief when his father-in-law's body was found in the water near the island three hours later at 8.39pm.

Yesterday that grief was raw.

"I feel awful," Mr Booth said "I feel almost guilty that I made it and he didn't."

He said he had found a new respect for the sea and hoped his story could serve as a lesson.

"I want other people to know, get the safety gear – EPIRBs (marine emergency locator beacons), flares ... we just didn't have that stuff, we were ill-prepared."

INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED

Maritime New Zealand has launched a preliminary investigation into the capsize of a boat in Foveaux Strait on Wednesday that resulted in the death of a 55-year-old Invercargill man.

Spokeswoman Sophie Hazelhurst said yesterday an investigation had been launched into what caused the capsize of the 4.7m boat 1.5km east of the island at about 2.30pm.

An investigator would visit Bluff within the next few days, she said.

Bluff police yesterday placed the boat in storage at the town's police station and were completing their investigation into the man's death on behalf of the Coroner.

Officer-in-charge Constable Pete Jenkins said yesterday he had interviewed the survivor from the

fishing expedition and had been working with the family of the man who died.

The Southland Times understands the man to be Neville George Pasco. The chance find of his son-in-law, Damian Booth, 28, on the upturned hull by fishing boat Lathan Bay sparked a large-scale search and rescue operation on Wednesday.

Police, two Southern Lakes Helicopters, the Bluff and Riverton coastguards, the South Port launch, Takitimu and seven other commercial fishing boats were involved in combing the strait for the missing man.

Bluff fishermen's radio operator Meri Leask, who took the radio call from the Lathan Bay's skipper before raising the alarm, said the crews of the Shangri La, Kelly G, Diomedia, Desiree, Lady Sarah, Owenga 3 and San Hauraki all took to the water to join the search.

"It was amazing and these guys are unsung, but my phone was going flat out with people wanting to help."

Noel Anderson, of Riverton Coastguard, said he launched its boat, the Russell John Chisholm, after overhearing the drama unfolding on marine radio.

The boat was launched at 6.06pm and sped to the scene at 100kmh arriving at Dog Island at 6.39pm where the Bluff Coastguard's launch and five other fishing boats worked in a grid-type search of the water while the helicopters flew overhead.

The number of searchers on the water swelled as other boats arrived within the search area, Mr Anderson said.

Debris that had spilled from the hull, including a cap, fishing tub, rope, a cigarette lighter and a fishing rod and reel, found floating in the water gave the water-borne search an indication of tide patterns and helped narrow the search field, Mr Anderson said.

At 8.39pm, his crew was notified by Southern Lakes Helicopter pilot Richard Hayes about an object floating near Dog Island.

When the coastguard's boat arrived at the point five minutes later it was confirmed it was a body, Mr Anderson said.

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Coastal freighter towed free

The Nelson Mail

06/05/2010

RUN AGROUND: The Anatoki in shallow water, just east of Rangihaeata Head, Golden Bay, about 1km offshore.

LATEST: A coastal freighter which ran aground off Golden Bay this morning has been towed free.

The Anatoki ship got stuck about 1km offshore east of Rangihaeata Head in shallow water early this morning.

Tasman District Council harbourmaster Steve Hainstock believes the cause of the accident was crew error.

The 560 tonne ship was towed to deep water by the Hemnstrel, a 28-metre, ex fishing boat which is berthed at Tarakohe wharf.

Port Tarakohe harbourmaster Allan Kilgour, said the ship's owner, Pat Bloomfield of Motueka, and his crew towed the ship out before anchoring it in deep water.

"It's had a dive team go around it and found no damage and we are just going to bring it into Tarakohe port very shortly," he said at 3.30pm.

Mr Kilgour said Maritime New Zealand would investigate what had happened before the ship could go back into service.

"We are very happy it was successful. There's no damage and no pollution."

The vessel left Nelson at about midnight on Wednesday intending to

arrive at Tarakohe at 6am and ran aground between 4am and 6am. The ship was not carrying any cargo.

Maritime New Zealand spokeswoman Sophie Hazelhurst said it would be investigating why it had run aground. She said it did not seem the ship was in any danger at this stage.

Director John Riding, of Wellington-based marine consultancy firm Marico Marine, said the ship had been modified to increase its cargo capacity. It remained over the maximum length allowed to be in Safe Ship Management. The modifications also meant it could carry reduced crew, Mr Riding said.

The New Zealand Company of Master Mariners explained on its website the owners of the vessel were having problems with Maritime New Zealand about the length of the Anatoki. The problem was resolved by building a new bow inside the original bow, and the new bow was used for the tonnage length calculations, so it falls below 50 metres.

"To make sure that the old bow was not contributing any buoyancy they have had to drill holes in the old bow," the website said.

A Transport Accident Investigation Commission report criticised the "unique" modification of the Anatoki. It said that while it complied with MNZ's rules, many in the maritime

community believed it broke the spirit of the law.

In April 2008, the Anatoki, owned by Coastal Bulk Shipping, collided with the 175-metre-long bulk carrier, Lodestar Forest, as the Anatoki approached Tauranga Harbour. No-one was hurt but both ships were damaged.

The Companies Office lists Merv Solly of Sollys Contractors Golden Bay as a director of Coastal Bulk Shipping which owns the vessel. Mr Solly was unavailable for comment this morning.

Wendy Walker, a director of Coastal Bulk Shipping, said this morning she had no concerns about the manning of the ship but she was still finding out what was going on. "No, no, nothing wrong with the manning at all. "We are just working through the process and getting things sorted out, but there is no problem," she said.

Rangihaeata resident Geoff Rennison said that at 10.30am the ship was sitting upright about half a kilometre off the Rangihaeata headland on the Pohara side.

"There couldn't be more than a metre and a half of water," Mr Rennison said. "She'll be just sitting on firm sand."

He could see one boat alongside the Anatoki, he said.

White Island helicopter rescue

[Michele McPherson](#) | 4th May 2010

A rugby player had to be airlifted off White Is yesterday morning after falling ill on a recreational fishing and diving trip. The 29-year-old Gisborne man had suffered a leg injury during a

rugby game a week earlier. While he was on the four-day trip, the injury had become infected and he began to feel unwell on Sunday. He was taken to White Is where he was picked up

by the Tauranga-based TrustPower Tect Rescue helicopter and flown to Whakatane Hospital in a moderate condition.

Tristan : Tristan da Cunha rock lobster fishery enters full MSC assessment

Tristan Times

By Dr Johan Groeneveld

27/4/2010

The sign-board that awaits you when finally reaching Tristan da Cunha Island after a week-long South Atlantic sea voyage from Cape Town says "Welcome to the World's Remotest Island". This small volcanic archipelago of Tristan da Cunha,

Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands lies half-way between Africa and South America, and together with Gough Island 400 km away, is home to the rock lobster *Jasus tristani*. A commercial lobster fishery, active since 1949, provides the only

significant income to a community of 275 islanders in the aptly named settlement, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas.

Realizing their dependence on the lobster fishery, the islanders are

fiercely protective of the lobster resource, and pride themselves on a good record of operating a well-run and sustainable fishery. A Cape Town fishing company, Ovenstone Agencies, has the only concession to fish around the outer islands (Gough, Inaccessible and Nigtingale) using a long-line trapping vessel and small boats with traps, and to process lobsters caught by islanders around Tristan island. The partnership between the fishing company and the islanders has been active since 1997 – during this period a precautionary management strategy has seen increases in catches and catch rates at Tristan and the outer islands, a good sign that the fishery is being well-managed. The fishery produces approximately 450 tons of lobster per year, all of which is shipped back to Cape Town and then exported to Japan and the United States.

The [Tristan da Cunha rock lobster fishery](#) has now entered the full assessment phase for the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certificate for sustainable and well-managed fisheries. If successful, lobsters from this fishery will be eligible to bear the blue MSC ecolabel, marking them as sourced from an internationally recognized sustainable and well-managed fishery, and also giving them access to the ever-expanding niche markets for ecolabelled products. There are presently 69 certified fisheries in the MSC programme, with another 124 fisheries presently undergoing assessments (www.msc.org). Most of the certified fisheries are located in the NE and NW Atlantic and in the N

Pacific (i.e. around Europe, the United States and Canada), with three in Australia and New Zealand, and one (South African hake trawl fishery) in Africa.

ORI staff has been active in MSC assessments over the past two years. Johan Groeneveld and Sean Fennessy underwent training in MSC assessment methodology in Cape Town in February 2009, and were subsequently involved in pre-assessments of artisanal octopus and lobster fisheries in Tanzania and Kenya, and in prawn trawl fisheries in Mozambique. Johan Groeneveld is presently on the MSC assessment team for the *Jasus tristani* fishery at Tristan da Cunha, as a consultant to the UK-based certifier, MacAlister Elliot and Partners. The assessment team convened stakeholder meetings and undertook the assessment of the Tristan fishery in Cape Town on 6-9 April 2010, and the final reporting and international review process is expected to take some months.

An MSC assessment is a voluntary third-party assessment that measures a fishery against a set of "Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing" as a standard. Principle 1 requires that a fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing or depletion (including demonstrable recovery in depleted populations). Principle 2 requires that fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem on which the fishery depends, and Principle 3 requires an

effective management system that respects local, national and internal laws and standards, and incorporates institutional and operational frameworks that require responsible and sustainable fishing. Each of these three principles is tested against a plethora of criteria, which include extensive stakeholder participation, the use of numerical stock assessments, biological / stock status reference points, expert opinion and risk-based frameworks.

In the present era of unparalleled pressure on marine resources from fisheries and environmental change, it is clear that well managed and sustainable fishing is essential to maintain healthy oceans, livelihoods and economies worldwide. The MSC solution, to: a) recognize and reward fisheries that fish sustainably; b) work with individual fisheries and commercial partners to build a market for sustainable seafood; and c) give buyers and consumers an easy way to find seafood from a sustainable fishery (i.e. the blue MSC ecolabel) may not be the final answer in bringing about a sea-change in fishing behaviour, but it certainly is a large step in the right direction

Volcanic cloud has silver lining for Kiwi salmon producer

TUESDAY, 27 APRIL 2010 11:05

New Zealand salmon producer NZ King Salmon there's been a silver lining to the grey volcanic cloud that descended on Europe in April. When flights to and from the continent were cancelled because of fallout from the eruption of Iceland's Mt Eyjafjallajokull, the New Zealand company stepped in to meet urgent fish orders in the Middle East and Asia.

Company sales staff had arrived at work on a Monday morning to find fax machines and emails brimming with salmon orders. Air shipments of Atlantic salmon from European suppliers had been grounded.

NZ King Salmon CEO Grant Rosewarne says customers in Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, Osaka and

Tokyo all upped their orders substantially because of the groundings.

"Dubai's order was 100 times the norm while the other orders doubled," Mr Rosewarne says.

Fortunately NZ King Salmon was able to fulfil the urgent orders by doubling its daily harvest early in the week - an extra 10,000 fish - and by putting on an extra shift.

Mr Rosewarne says the orders were great news in terms of sales and the company was pleased to be able to help out its valued customers in times of need.

"But it has also been important in that we have been able to provide the opportunity for many more diners in those markets to experience our

premium King salmon as opposed to the more common Atlantic salmon.

"We also believe those customers sampling NZ King salmon from New Zealand have noticed its significant differences to Atlantic salmon - our superior taste, vibrant colour, firm texture and naturally-high Omega-3 content.

"We certainly expect that for many of them it will not prove to be a one-off experience."

NZ King Salmon is New Zealand's biggest integrated aquaculture producer and the world's biggest farmer and supplier of the King salmon variety. King salmon has the highest natural oil content of all salmon - a rich source of healthy Omega-3.

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