

part of the new MFA going to achieve abundance?

It answered: There are small, commercial family operations that supply the local market and do little damage to the fishery. Overall these guys tend to do a good job. It is the mobile bulk harvesting methods such as trawling and Danish seining that are damaging and reduce productivity. These methods are already banned from the inner Gulf so why throw a few small-scale operators under the bus for so little benefit?

Why indeed?

Aside from all the submissions and meetings and “consultations” and policy documents, the waffle and the blather, the reality is a Government supposedly committed to private enterprise is set on a course to drive long established, hardworking fishing families out of business.

Craig Aston, a fourth generation fisherman based at D’Urville Island, is one of those likely to be cast aside.

He nets butterfish and pots for cod on the sheltered eastern side of the island and will be barred from doing so under the proposed Act.

He has a small amount of quota but depends on leased Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) to cover his fish catch. Craig and all others relying on ACE will receive no compensation.

“We cannot understand how a recreational fishing park can be included under marine protected areas,” Craig wrote in his submission to Ministers Nathan Guy (Primary Industries), Nick Smith (Environment) and Maggie Barry (Conservation).

“I had heard at a meeting, Minister Smith saying that recreational parks are defined as being a marine protected area under the International Union for Conservation of Nature. When I looked at their website and their wording, I found Minister Smith was not correct. Recreational parks are not marine protected areas and therefore should not be part of the consultation document.

“The proposed area for the recreational fishing park will, in effect, finish us as a fishing family.”

Is that the legacy this Government wants?

– Tim Pankhurst



emerging threats and exciting new opportunities. It will draw on insights from international and local experience, case studies and workshops. It will look creatively at the development of powerful new synergies between conservation and tourism and will explore novel management and funding initiatives. August 10–11 2016.

Viaduct Events Centre, Auckland.
Click this [conference website link](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, March 19

The Havelock Mussel & Seafood Festival will begin 10am tomorrow at the Havelock Domain. There are special Abel Tasman Coachlines buses available from Nelson to get to Havelock. Bus tickets must be pre-booked online. Click button below. Festival ticket holders get free entry into the New Zealand King Salmon cooking marquee!

Tomorrow, March 19, 10am at the Havelock Domain.

Festival & Bus Tickets

March 24

Curious about environmental changes in Picton and Queen Charlotte Sound?

Dr Emma Newcombe of the Cawthron Institute will talk about her research on the environmental state of the Picton bays and Queen Charlotte Sound. Dr Sean Handley of NIWA will also discuss his recent exploration of how seabed ecosystems have changed since human



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settlement in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound. Tea and coffee provided. For more information or to RSVP please contact Dr Steve Ulrich, Coastal Scientist, Marlborough District Council at steve.ulrich@marlborough.govt.nz or 03 520 7560. At the Picton Yacht Club Hotel on Thursday, March 24 at 7pm.
