



# Friday update



## Captain's Blog

April 1, 2016

### Kermadecs headline varied Maori Conference

Maori strongly opposed the extinction of iwi and fishing industry rights in the Kermadecs at this week's Te Ohu Kaimoana conference.

The proposed no-take sanctuary encompassing 620,000 square kilometres is in direct contravention of the Crown's obligations to protect the Maori Fisheries Settlement under its Treaty responsibilities, chairman Jamie Tuuta said in a powerful opening address.

"We need to protect the Kermadecs," he said.

"We have measures in place to do that. We are open to discussion about some change but don't accept outright and permanent prohibition.

"The Kermadec proposal is not as simple as the Government makes out. Maori have rights; the industry has rights. Making policy on the hoof without the inclusion of rights holders is short-term thinking.

"This doesn't have to be one or the other – a sanctuary or Maori fishing rights. It can be both."

TOKM has lodged legal action against the Kermadecs proposal and is backed by

## In the Media



TOKM director Jamie Tuuta.

### Kermadec sanctuary extinguishes Maori fishing rights: TOKM

TVNZ (March 29) reported on Te Ohu Kaimoana director Jamie Tuuta updating the Maori Fisheries Conference on the legal action being taken by TOKM against the Crown. Tuuta told the conference while they support the protection of the Kermadecs, the Government must ensure

Seafood NZ in this.

The proposal was driven by the US environmental group, the Pew Foundation, Mr Tuuta said.

He said Pew was so closely involved it had almost written the Cabinet paper. "We do not accept that any foreign NGO should dictate to our Government for the repudiation of inter-generational Maori rights to fisheries."

Industry initiatives that are already in place to protect the Kermadecs include a ban on bottom trawling and there are marine reserves out to 12 nautical miles around the four main islands in the group.

The sanctuary would prohibit all forms of commercial fishing throughout its vast area, including longlining for high value, migratory tuna species.

Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy was unapologetic when he addressed the conference.

He said the Kermadecs Bill had passed its first reading unanimously.

"I know you are going through your court challenge. It's your right to do that."

The proposed Marine Protected Areas Bill, which incorporates recreational fishing parks in the Hauraki Gulf and Marlborough Sounds that would exclude commercial fishing, were also endorsed by Mr Guy.

He said 5700 submissions had been received, 400 of which were substantial.

There would be compensation for affected quota owners and customary rights were not impacted.

"It is all about improving the recreational fishing experience."

But LegaSea spokesman Barry Torkington said in a panel discussion the proposed legislation was incoherent and there was no basis for it.

He said most of the tools for recreational parks already existed in the Fisheries Act.

The proposal looked like a sweetener that included tossing a few commercial fishermen "under the bus".

"It doesn't achieve anything for recreational fishers."

The conference was also the launch pad for new branding – Moana New Zealand – for Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd's various seafood businesses.

AFL chief executive said there were a confusing number of brands and names. They included Kia Ora Seafoods, Pacific Marine Farms, OPC, Prepared Foods, OceaNZBlue, Oceans Ranch.

Moana would bring to market a range of highly sought after species.

A highlight of the conference is the annual debate, where brave participants need a rhino hide, complete lack of inhibition and unfamiliarity with political correctness.

Tiaki Hunia was smart enough to get a disclaimer in early.

"I don't necessarily believe the things I'm about to say."

Peter Douglas, who is raining the public

they are also protecting Māori fishing rights whether they are fishing in the area now or not. [Read more](#)

Also read:

[Waatea News: Warriors for Maori fishing rights remembered](#)

[Waatea News: No justification for sanctuary fishing ban](#)

[NZ Herald: Government 'ignored' iwi fishing rights](#)



### NZ fisheries giving strong sustainability performance

SeafoodSource (March 28) reported on the latest Status of New Zealand Fisheries report, published by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), which touts the progress of its fisheries. Around 83 percent of New Zealand's individual fish stocks of known status and 97 percent of landings rank as "above" or "well above" the acceptable benchmark for sustainability. "These figures are the result of a robust process and show that we are as good as or beyond the standard of the best in the world,"

Seafood New Zealand Chief Executive Tim Pankhurst said. [Read more](#)

Also read:

[FMCG Business: NZ fisheries among "best in the world"](#)



### Fishers angry over proposed Hauraki Gulf ban

NZ Herald (March 27) reported on commercial fishers who have worked in the Hauraki Gulf for generations bracing for a fight with the Government.

Fishers say proposals to preserve the inner gulf for recreational fishers will put them out of business overnight, causing job losses and possibly a spike in the price of fresh fish. The report said sport fishing groups were not completely sold

Peter Douglas, who is rejoining the public service after 12 years as TOKM chief executive, was said to have been in five debates and had lost four.

His score now stands at 5-1.

The conference also featured a motivational speaker, hardcase Australian Tom O'Toole, a baker from Beechworth in country Victoria, who has turned a rundown business with turnover of \$100,000 to \$16 million "cash across the counter".

"Ya gotta be bold and brave," he said. "Who wants to follow a dickhead into battle?"

"Winners must have goals and burning desires."

He also noted that when his first wife left him "he fell madly in love with her" and he always held his current wife's hand "otherwise she'd go shopping".

A homegrown success story was also presented, that of My Food Bag.

Founder Cecilia Robinson has 30,000 customers and the business has delivered nearly 15 million meals across 16 cities.

It consumes six tonnes of fish fillets from Aotearoa Fisheries every week and has rapidly become New Zealand's third largest food retailer.

– Tim Pankhurst



Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd's new branding – Moana New Zealand – was unveiled at the conference.

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## Canon Media Awards – Environment Photography finalists announced

(March 31) Finalists for the 2016 Canon Media Awards, including for Best Environmental Photography, were announced on Thursday. Seafood New Zealand sponsors the environmental photography award and provides a cash prize of \$1000, which goes to the individual winner. This year's finalists are Alan Gibson – The New Zealand Herald, Iain McGregor – The Press, Brett Phibbs – The New Zealand Herald, Richard Robinson – NZ Geographic and Lawrence Smith – Fairfax Media. [Read more](#)

isting groups were not completely sold on the proposals either, saying that the effect on fish abundance would be minimal. [Read more](#)

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## New management strategy for southern rock lobster industry

Stuff (March 31) reported on a new strategy developed by the CRA8 management committee, which could result in an increase in catch limits for the southern rock lobster industry. The new strategy was signed off by Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy on March 17. [Read more](#)

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2015 Best Environmental Photography winning photo by Kirk Hargreaves, The Christchurch Press.

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