



Friday update



Captain's Blog

August 05, 2016

High handed undermining of Treaty and property rights opposed

When John Key led his party to a third term victory in 2014 he warned his exultant MPs against hubris and advised them to remain grounded.

He would do well to revisit his own advice in the case of proposed legislation that denies hard won fisheries rights to Maori and undermines property rights for all New Zealanders.

In hard hitting full page advertisements in The New Zealand Herald and the Waikato Times yesterday, the Maori fisheries trust Te Ohu Kaimoana asked: When is a deal not a deal?

It answered: When it's a Treaty settlement with Maori.

"In 1992, Jim Bolger's National Government signed the Sealord deal – a full and final Treaty Settlement returning and guaranteeing fisheries rights to Maori," TOKM said.

"Today, a different National Government is reneging on that deal by confiscating the rights of Maori (and all New Zealanders) to undertake sustainable fishing in the Kermadec region, forever.

"Maori exercise conservation in the Kermadec region. We have taken measures to protect the biodiversity. Yet, we are being punished.

"Environment Minister Nick Smith does not consider the Government needs to honour the agreements made only a generation earlier. Our country can and should have both – protection of

In the Media



Twice as many Hector's dolphins as previously thought

Radio New Zealand (August 4) reported on a three-year study by the Cawthron Institute, which revealed there could be twice as many Hector's dolphins in New Zealand waters as previously thought. The marine aerial survey conducted by the Cawthron is the largest in the country, and showed there could be between 12,000 and 18,500 Hector's dolphins. The last published estimate, in 2003, put the population at just over 7000. The Cawthron Institute's marine mammal ecologist, Deanna Clement, said the findings were unexpected.

"We've gone further and there's been more intensive field work this time around, so we found that there could be as many as 18,500, which is quite exciting." [Read more](#)

Also read:

[Survey shows higher numbers of Hector's – New Zealand Government](#)

biodiversity and full, final and durable Treaty settlements.

"Don't let the Government renege on its promises. Treaty settlements must be upheld for the honour of all New Zealanders – Maori and Pakeha."

Both Maori, through TOKM, and industry, via the Fishing Industry Association, have lodged High Court challenges against the unilateral move to establish the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary covering 620,000 sq km, which was announced by Mr Key at the United Nations. The policy was prepared in secret, restricted to a handful of officials and ministers, and was not consulted on.

Meanwhile the enabling legislation has been through the select committee process and reported back to Parliament without regard to the property and settlement rights that are being abrogated.

The committee did make a token change. It added a Maori name to the sanctuary title – Rangitahua (Raoul Island).

Labour and the Greens, to their credit, objected to the process followed but still supported the legislation.

The Government, focused on winning an unprecedented fourth term, sees the Kermadecs sanctuary as a vote winner.

Those most affected support ocean conservation too and moved at their own initiative a decade ago to ban trawling in the vast area and much else of the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone – 30 percent in total.

And while New Zealand fishing interests will be excluded from surface longlining for valuable species like tuna, a huge Chinese fleet continues to Hoover up migratory species on the fringes of the EEZ.

Some illegally fish within our waters. Two Chinese flagged vessels have been sprung committing serious fishing violations by our air force and navy and thinking that is an isolated incident is probably as naïve as rugby managers expecting their players will behave like Rotarians in the presence of a nude woman.

The treatment of Maori and industry over the Kermadecs and the high handed undermining of Treaty and property rights is a slow burning fuse that may well bite this Government.

It just needs to look to the previous Clark Government and its flawed approach to the foreshore and seabed debate, which ruptured the near century-long political bonds between Labour and Maori and spawned the Maori Party, as an example.

– Tim Pankhurst



Photo: Liz Clarkson

Hooked on adventure

NZ Listener (August 6) published a seafood-focused column by Lauraine Jacobs on the wide variety of delicious New Zealand fish that is available to cooks. Jacobs says many cooks have a limited fish repertoire, and rarely stray from cooking fillets of reliable snapper or gurnard. "But we should be more adventurous, trying recipes that use lesser-known species and ensuring the fish we eat has been sustainably caught and is not threatened by overfishing," she says. New Zealand's fishing industry was internationally respected for its sustainable science-based fisheries and aquaculture management, Jacobs added.



TOKM ads step up fight on sanctuary

NZ Herald (August 3) reported on Te Ohu Kaimoana (TOKM), the Maori Fisheries Commission, kicking off a public campaign in its fight against the Government's marine sanctuary around the Kermadec Islands. TOKM took out full-page advertisements in the New Zealand Herald and the Waikato Times, which attack the Government for "confiscating the rights of Maori" to fish in the region. It is already challenging the Government in the High Court. The ads are timed to send a message to



Seafood Industry Conference
Click below to browse through the programme and speakers, and submit your registrations!
31 August 2016,
Te Papa, Wellington

Programme

Register

Click to browse our latest issue



Know someone who's keen to receive Friday Update?
Click the 'Subscribe' button, enter your friend or colleague's email

Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith before he attends the Iwi Leaders Forum today, where the issue will be raised. TOKM Chief Executive Dion Tuuta said his organisation would wait for Smith's response before deciding whether to escalate the campaign. "We don't do these sorts of things lightly," he said. "But we feel like we've been forced into it because of the Government's refusal to discuss meaningful solutions to date." [Read more](#)



New Deputy Chief Executive for NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

Mark Edwards has been appointed Deputy Chief Executive of NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council Ltd. Edwards will join Chief Executive Daryl Sykes and Business Manager Helen Regan when he takes up his role in October 2016. He is currently Director of Policy and Licensing for Fisheries Victoria in Australia, and has previously worked with the Ministry of Fisheries in New Zealand for over 20 years. He has been involved in fisheries management throughout his career with experience in policy and regulation, legislation, governance, settlements and international negotiation.



address, hit send, and we will take care of the rest.

Subscribe



New Zealand Oyster Opening Championship

The Winter Wine, Shellfish and Seafood Festival will include the inaugural New Zealand Oyster Opening Championship this year. Get your competition entries in quick for the top prize – the champion oyster shucker receives a travel package, including flights and accommodation to attend the Japan oyster opening competition on September 18, and the World Oyster Opening competition (automatic entry) in Ireland on September 24.

The Winter Wine, Shellfish and Seafood Festival (free entry) will also offer a range of shellfish, seafood and wine from 11am to 11pm, including a special Raw Bar offering Kiwa oysters and Cloudy Bay Clams.

Saturday, August 20, Auckland Fish Market

Click the link below to download the oyster opening championship registration form and email it to **Nicky Remkes** nicky@tomdickandharry.org.nz by August 10, 2016. Contact Nicky on 021477763 if you have any queries.

Registration Form

Sounds like trouble

Maori Television – Native Affairs (August 2) featured the Elkington family living on D'Urville Island, who say they will be forced out of their homes if the Marlborough Sounds are turned into a recreational fishing park.

[Watch the news story](#)

Sharks and giant squid in New Zealand fur seals' diet

Scoop (July 25) reported on a Lincoln University study of the DNA in fur seals' faeces. Analysis of the samples collected around New Zealand has given a more accurate picture of what the seals eat. Lincoln University Associate Professor Adrian Paterson, who is one of the study's authors, said up to 46 different fish species, and 18 squid and octopi species were taken at any one sample site. The major finding was that seals seem to eat pretty much anything that they come across.

“Sharks and other cartilaginous fish seemed to be more important than previously thought to fur seals and there is evidence that they can predate even very large sharks, where they take just the choice parts (livers and stomachs),” Paterson said. Their diet also includes commercial fish species, which make up 10 per cent of the species identified. Fur seal numbers are also growing quickly, the study said. [Read more](#)
