



Friday update



Captain's Blog

May 6, 2016



Record high for New Zealand seafood exports

Seafood exports have hit a new high. The strong export showing of the seafood sector in 2015 has accelerated in the first quarter of this year.

Export returns for the 12 months to end March were a record \$1.713 billion, according to Statistics New Zealand.

This is an 11.4 percent increase on the previous year and an \$80 million increase on the previous high of \$1.63 billion in calendar year 2015.

Month on month growth of 18 percent in January over the previous year was even higher at 23 percent in March.

The strongest value growth is coming from exports of frozen fin fish.

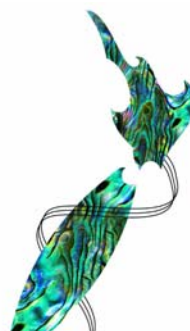
Rock lobster, orange roughy, fish meal and mussels are also returning increased

In the Media

Seafood companies launch High Court Kermadecs challenge

Stuff (April 29) reported on leading seafood companies, who represent 80 per cent of New Zealand's fishing quota, banding together to mount a legal challenge against the Government's plan to establish an ocean sanctuary around the Kermadec Islands. A statement released by the Fishing Industry Association said Sealord, Talley's, Sanford, Solander, Aotearoa Fisheries, Independent Fisheries, Ngai Tahu Seafood Resources, Vela Fishing and KPF Investments (United) had jointly filed a statement of claim in the High Court.

[Read more](#)



AOTEAROA
fisheries limited

prices.

China remains by far the most important market, accounting for nearly one third of total seafood export value. The average per kilo value for highly prized lobsters is up 6 percent this year. The China demand, particularly around its new year, has cemented rock lobster as New Zealand's most lucrative export species, returning \$305 million in 2015.

Mussels came next at \$224 million, followed by hoki at \$209 million and then, in order of value, jack mackerel, orange roughy, ling, salmon, squid and paua.

The second most valuable market is Australia and then follows the US, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Spain, France, Germany and Thailand.

Exports of half-shell greenshell mussels have continued to increase this year and per kilo returns are up nine percent.

The first major exports of squid for the 2015-16 season were shipped in March and are well ahead of the previous year's total. Catch reports for the season point to this being one of the best in several years. At the same time the seasonally competing squid season in the south-east Atlantic is showing poor catch returns.

The orange roughy market in China has grown from virtually nothing several years ago to \$26 million in 2015, overtaking the US.

Fish of a particular size and colour are highly sought after for presentation at banquets.

The fact a wide variety of species across a range of markets are in demand and consequently attracting increased returns bodes well for the medium and long term outlook for the seafood sector.

This is underpinned by a well managed wild fishery and an expanding aquaculture sector.

The Quota Management System, now in its 30th year, has ensured stocks are sustainably managed.

The latest Status of New Zealand Fisheries report published by the Ministry for Primary Industries found 83 percent of individual fish stocks of known status and almost 97 percent of landings are above or well above levels where their sustainability would be a cause for concern.

And where a stock is thought to be under stress, it is often industry that takes the lead in adjusting the catch accordingly, just as a farmer alters stocking rates according to available feed.

Our fisheries are in good heart and the well established, world's best practice management system in place should ensure that remains the case for generations to come.

Discerning consumers around the world are increasingly looking for high quality, sustainably harvested seafood and are prepared to pay a premium for that.

It is a happy situation that the New

Fleet renewal chance to train Maori

Waatea News (May 4) reported on Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd (AFL) using its fleet renewal to train young Maori for jobs in the marine engineering industry. AFL has set up a Maori youth development programme working alongside Nelson firm Aimex, which is building new trawlers for the company's fishing partners. Maori students will have the chance to learn skills such as heavy diesel mechanical, fabrication, hydraulics, machining, and shipwright services. The programme will be run by Maori-owned skills development company Arewa, which is now looking for suitable candidates. [Read more](#)



Source: www.govt.nz

Foreign charter vessels reflagged to New Zealand

Stuff (May 1) reported on all foreign fishing boats now being required to be reflagged with the New Zealand flag. The substantial law-change came into effect on May 1, after a four-year transition period, and means all vessels operating in New Zealand waters must follow New Zealand law. Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy said the change would ensure fair standards for all fishing crews in New Zealand. [Read more](#)



Zealand seafood industry sits squarely in that niche.

– Tim Pankhurst

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NZFCF Conference 2016

This year's New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen Conference will be hosted by the Lyttelton Association and held at the Rydges Latimer, Christchurch. Click buttons below to register for the conference and book your stay at the Rydges at special, discounted rates for conference delegates.

Tuesday, June 2, 2016
30, Latimer Square, Christchurch 8011



Register now

Book stay

Watch video of the course's offering

Online ocean conservation course

The International Ocean Institute's free Ocean Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "One Planet – One Ocean: From Science to Solutions" showcases the science of the ocean through a series of lectures until July 3, 2016. The course will be subtitled in Chinese, Portuguese and German.

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