

Friday update



Captain's Blog

May 12, 2017

Impact of charter boat catches revealed in official figures

It's official – charter boats are making huge catches of popular New Zealand species.

The number of declared snapper caught from charter boats in the year to October 2016 was 159,000, according to Ministry for Primary Industries figures.

The vast majority of those – 149,000 – were caught in Fisheries Management Area 1 centred on the Hauraki Gulf that extends on the east coast from North Cape to Cape Runaway.

The total snapper take was estimated at 110 tonnes.

The catch from the literally thousands of recreational boats on the water off Auckland is in addition to that and goes unrecorded.

That is not a situation that can continue without major disruption, according to Dr Randall Bess, a research fellow at the New Zealand Initiative, a public policy think tank.

The basics of fisheries management are simple: set a total allowable catch (TAC) that maintains fish stock sustainability, allocate the TAC across fishing sectors and set enforceable rules that keep each sector to its allocation, he said.

But recreational fishing rules fail to constrain catches to allocations and no reporting rules exist, Dr Bess' report titled The Overseas Catch said.

'Unless recreational fisheries



Seafood Stars Awards 2017

Excellence and innovation in the seafood industry are again being rewarded with the Seafood Innovations Ltd – Seafood Stars Awards that will be presented at the New Zealand Seafood Industry Conference this year, Chief Executive Tim Pankhurst says.

“The awards are a great way to reward innovation and excellence within our industry and tell stories about our seafood, our people and our ongoing commitment to sustainability.

“We are seeking nominations now and urge you to select your star achievers and tell us why you think they are the best choice.”

Seafood Stars Awards will run across all facets of the industry and will be presented to those who have made a significant contribution to the seafood industry.

[Click here](#) to download the form and nominate someone.

management changes, fishers will face a steady decline in daily bag limits, increases in minimum legal sizes and shorter fishing seasons," he wrote.

"The recreational fishing experience will worsen, as will conflicts between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

"Our research shows that success in integrating recreational fisheries into wider fisheries management processes is also dependent on improving data collected on recreational fishing.

"In general, recreational fishing interests hold the view that their fishing for food and fun should come at no cost, or no more than a nominal cost (in terms of licence or other fees). But fisheries management and fish stock enhancement is not costless. And any increased recreational share of the total catch may require compensating commercial quota holders. A well integrated system needs to find the right balance."

Dr Bess studied four overseas fisheries – Gulf of Mexico red snapper, northern California red abalone, British Columbia halibut and the overall Western Australia fishery – and found a concerted focus on integrating recreational fisheries into policies and processes that is absent in this country.

His argument is that New Zealand fisheries are in pretty good shape compared with overseas countries but there are some areas of emerging concern, particularly around blue cod and crayfish.

He says there is a system in place for managing commercial fisheries with secure rights but the increasing demand for recreational fishing is bumping up against that.

That will lead to greater conflict between the sectors unless properly managed.

Charter vessel regulations were introduced in 2010 for some species. Operators are required to register their boats and must file an Activity Catch Return detailing location, target species and catch numbers, fishing method and numbers fishing for every trip with paying clients.

This sector has become an increasingly significant player, with 260 vessels registered.

Blue cod was the second most popular charter catch with 124,000 fish recorded caught to October 2016.

The national rock lobster charter catch in the same period was 77,000, the majority being taken by 26 boats along the Kaikoura/Canterbury/Otago coast. The bulk of kingfish were caught by the recreational sector, with 22,400 taken from charter boats.

Sea perch came in at 84,000 and oysters

In the Media

Environmentalist stopped in tracks bemoaning lack of democracy in salmon farm plan

Stuff (4 May) An environmentalist who said the King Salmon farm move was not democratic and that the case should go before the environment court has had her claims rejected.

Bev Doole, objecting to the move on behalf of the Marlborough Environment Centre, said the move was not following democratic processes.

However Peter Skelton, a former Environment Court judge and one of the three panel members overseeing the hearings, stopped Doole right in her tracks.

"Is the Environment Court a democratic process?" Skelton said.

"It never was. The Environment Court was not a democratic process.

"You don't find 'democratic process' referred to in the Resource Management Act at all, do you?"

Hearings on the potential relocation of the six farms continue next week.

[Read more](#)

Talley's factory given conditional greenlight

Stuff (10 May) Talley's seafood and dairy factory in Motueka has been given a provisional thumbs up to continue operations.

Tasman District Council recommended the company be granted consent but with a range of proposed conditions including the consent being 15 years and not 35. Independent commissioners will decide on the application after a five day hearing beginning on May 29 where oral submissions will be heard.

Talley's are seeking continued permission to discharge into the air and water and to store hazardous goods on-site.

The company has proposed a variety of upgrades, including a new discharge evaporator.

The majority of submissions have been in favor of the consent.

[Read more](#)

at 110,000.

Commercial fisheries are undergoing what Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy has called the biggest reforms in the sector's history.

These include vessel monitoring and electronic reporting 'giving us arguably the most transparent and open commercial fishery anywhere in the world', according to Mr Guy.

It is the recreational sector that is lagging in the better management of our shared fisheries.

Seafood industry comes out in support of TPP ratification

The seafood industry has welcomed Trade Minister Todd McClay's announcement that Cabinet has decided to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Seafood New Zealand chief executive, Tim Pankhurst said the industry relies on trade, as does wider New Zealand. "We exported \$1.8 billion of seafood last year and free and open access to markets is critical for the industry.

"The ratification of TPP by the New Zealand government sends a strong signal that we continue to support the agreement despite the withdrawal of the United States.

"There are still very valuable markets for New Zealand among the remaining TPP countries and ratification is a show of faith in a future agreement that will be of benefit to the seafood industry.

"We commend the Minister and Cabinet for continuing to support exporters with access to global markets," said Pankhurst.

Deepwater Group: Seafood industry welcomes funding for endangered sea lions

The announcement today that the Government will contribute \$2.8 million over four years to fund further research into the mortality of sea lions has been welcomed by the seafood industry.

Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy and Conservation Minister, Maggie Barry made the announcement a short time ago, and acknowledged the fishing industry was playing its part in mitigating mortalities but work is needed on other threats to the species.

"We support the Government taking a proactive approach to ensure this

Greenpeace exploiting emotive issue of seismic surveying, says professor

Stuff (10 May) A leading professor has said Greenpeace are misleading the public regarding the harm seismic surveying causes.

Victoria University geophysics and tectonics professor Rupert Sutherland said the emotive nature of Greenpeace's campaign implied that seismic reflection was more harmful than it was.

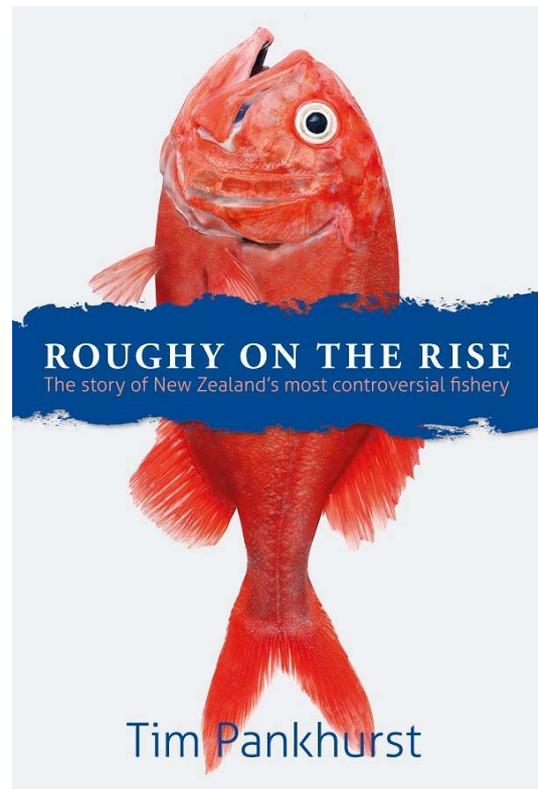
There was no conclusive evidence to back up their claims, he said.

Greenpeace climate campaigner Kate Simcock said their campaigns were based on scientific evidence.

"Seismic surveys have been shown to disrupt essential activities for whales, including foraging and reproduction.

"There could also be an increased risk of calves being separated from mothers... Exposure to repeated loud blasts from a seismic survey can mask the sounds they rely on and lead to stress, disorientation, changes in foraging and nursing behaviours, and, in extreme cases, direct physical damage."

[Read more](#)



Roughly on the Rise on sale now You can now purchase a copy of *Roughly on the Rise*, the story of New Zealand's most controversial fishery. The story of

unique animal thrives,” said Deepwater Group chief executive George Clement. “The industry is pleased to see Government’s recognition of the number of threats to these endangered sea lions and we will continue to support ongoing research and management necessary for sea lion conservation. “We have major concerns about the deaths of sea lion pups on sub Antarctic Islands. The incidences of disease and drowning in holes causing hundreds of pup deaths every year needs to be urgently addressed. It is distressing to see so many pups die every year in what are mostly preventable circumstances,” said Clement.

[Read more from Deepwater Group](#)
[Read the Government announcement](#)

orange roughy is one of cowboys, characters and conservation. *Roughy on the Rise* charts the discovery of this mysterious deepwater fish, its exploitation, its depiction by environmental NGOs as the epitome of unsustainable fishing, the slow unlocking of its secrets, its key role in bankrolling the development of the New Zealand seafood industry – and latterly its recovery.

[Click here to purchase a copy](#)

WWF appoints new CEO

Livia Esterhazy, an experienced and connected business leader, has been appointed as the conservation organisation's new chief executive. Esterhazy was most recently the managing director at advertising agency Clemenger-BBDO. She was thrilled to be leading the team and brand, Esterhazy said. “New Zealand’s natural environment is taonga and the potential for a country to truly live out the WWF mission of living in harmony with nature is greatest here,” she said. “I’m looking forward to being on this journey and making a very real difference.” She begins on May 15, taking over from Chris Howe who has joined the International Union for Conservation Network.

[Read more](#)