



Friday update



Captain's Blog

December 15, 2017

Industry's strong growth continues

The seafood sector ends the year in a strong position. Export revenue is forecast to grow 4.4 percent in the year to June 2018 to \$1.82 billion.

Growth in the following year is expected to increase by 7.1 percent, taking export earnings to just on \$2 billion.

That is according to the latest [Ministry for Primary Industries situation and outlook](#). Despite increasing demand and higher prices, catch volumes will remain largely unchanged under a Quota Management System that ensures the fishery is sustainable.

The star performers included hoki, squid, salmon, tuna, toothfish and paua.

The price increases were eroded by a nearly 7 percent appreciation of the New Zealand dollar against the US.

Key export markets continue to be China, with 31 percent of the total export value, Australia (14 percent), Europe (14 percent), the US (13 percent) and Japan (7 percent).

"Prices are expected to remain strong given the positive economic outlook for New Zealand's main export markets and the prospect of limited global supply, particularly for wild capture fisheries," the report said.

Aquaculture, which currently returns 23 percent of total export values, is expected to be the main driver of growth based on salmon farm expansion in the Marlborough Sounds and increased mussel production supported by hatchery-bred mussel spat.

In the Media

Moana New Zealand makes record dividend pay out to Iwi

Iwi-owned fishing company Moana New Zealand made its biggest dividend payout to shareholders yet this week. The 58 Iwi shareholders will receive their share of the \$9.7 million dividend.

The company made an overall profit for the year ending September 30, 2017, of \$19.27 million.

Moana New Zealand chief executive Carl Carrington said he is pleased with the result, especially considering ongoing external challenges.

"Our strong profit was driven from growth of more than \$3 million than expected in the Ready-to-Eat side of the business," he said.

Moana New Zealand's aquaculture operations were another standout, producing strong results with production up, along with an upturn in sales of premium grades.

"That was balanced out by a downturn in profits from lobster and finfish, which have been affected by a softening in pricing for these products in the Chinese market, and reductions in harvest."

Mussels dominate aquaculture production followed by salmon and oysters. Total production volumes are not officially reported but are estimated at 100 to 110,000 tonnes in recent years.

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said at the outlook launch at the Wellington Club on Monday night, the primary sector had moved from having just one Minister to now having four advocates – including Stuart Nash in fisheries, Shane Jones in forestry and Meka Whaitiri as Associate Minister for Agriculture.

He said there would be change in MPI but it was a case of evolution rather than revolution.

This would include the establishment of a primary sector council, made up of new people from within the sector but not necessarily those coming through to leadership positions.

He said there was a generational change under way and people with a vision and a passion were needed to provide a fresh look and challenge the established thinking.

“We have got to provide the best for the best and get more value in everything we do.”

Fisheries, forestry, biosecurity and food safety will continue to sit within MPI but as standalone entities.

[The newly created Fisheries New Zealand](#) will have one senior manager, who is yet to be confirmed.

“The creation of a dedicated fisheries branch within MPI will allow a stronger focus on innovation and high value outcomes for the fisheries sector,” Nash said.

“It will ensure more transparency over decision-making and management.

“This is a critical sector culturally, economically, socially and environmentally. It faces significant opportunities and challenges.”

The overall primary sector outlook is good news for New Zealand Inc, with exports poised to grow by an impressive 8.5 percent in 2018 to \$41.4 billion. This is based on robust demand for dairy and forestry products, an improving outlook for red meat and other primary sector products including seafood, and continuing investment in horticulture expansion.

“By directing our efforts on shifting production systems from that of volume towards value, and keeping the environment as a key focus, clear and lasting benefits will be seen,” O'Connor added.



Sea lion study season starting

A series of New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka specialists will travel to subantarctic islands this week for the start of the sea lion study season.

[Scientists and volunteers are heading to the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island](#) to undertake annual pup counts, tagging and important research on disease to help promote the recovery of the population. On Campbell Island, where pup mortality, due to falling into natural holes, is high, fisheries organisation Deepwater Group are funding a study to find solutions. DWG chief executive George Clement said the more we learn about sea lions, the more we recognise they are at most risk of dying as pups.

It was important to find ways to help them survive, he said.

“Forty to sixty percent of pups at Campbell Island have been reported to die in their first few weeks of life. Many of these deaths appear to be due to drowning or being stuck in holes – a problem we think can be fixed and would help the population to thrive,” Clement said.

DOC science advisor marine mammals Laura Boren said because 98 percent of breeding occurs on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island, this fieldwork forms an important part of the overall recovery and data collection.

“Sea lion numbers are currently estimated at about 12,000 and they’re classed as Nationally Critical – the highest threat classification.

“In July, we launched the New Zealand Sea Lion Threat Management Plan which sets out a robust set of practical actions to promote the recovery of the population.”



Visit OpenSeas

OpenSeas is a transparency initiative driven by the New Zealand seafood industry.

Its purpose is to provide businesses with a single, comprehensive source for information about the environmental, social and production credentials of the New Zealand seafood industry. Information contained in the site covers New Zealand's approach to sustainable use of its vast marine environment, the systems and processes used to ensure supply chain integrity and the legal protections for the welfare of workers and indigenous communities involved in seafood production.

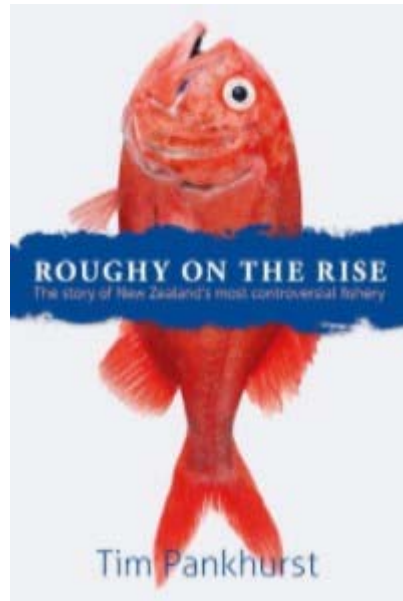
The site also features individual species profiles, which include the most up-to-date harvest details and independent environmental certification or risk assessment scores.

[Click here to visit OpenSeas](#)

Exclusive: Stuart Nash speaks to Seafood New Zealand

The fishing industry "is full of incredibly hard-working men and women who are trying to make a living, and often in dangerous and uncomfortable situations. We need to ensure that they can continue to do that, but we also need to ensure that the industry moves with the 21st century." – Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash

[Read the exclusive interview here](#)



Xmas present – Roughy on the Rise

Purchase a copy of *Roughy on the Rise*, the story of New Zealand's most controversial fishery.

The story of 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](#)

A Sealord vessel was towed to the Otago Harbour last weekend after losing power to its propeller in the Southern Ocean. The *FV Rehua* was trawling when it pulled up another company's fishing net which then got caught in the propeller. The *Otago Daily Times* reported Sanford vessel *San Enterprise* was fishing in the area and towed the *FV Rehua* 400km back to the mouth of the harbour.

Talley's seafood processing plant in Motueka has had its resource application for a 35-year consent term to discharge water and air rejected and only a three-year period approved. Three other consents for truck wash water, occupying a coastal marine area and storage of hazardous materials, were granted for between 15 and 35 years.

Sanford chief executive Volker Kuntzsch was questioned by dolphin advocate Liz Slooten on the company's plans to protect



Maui dolphins at their AGM this week. The *National Business Review* reported Kuntzsch said they had stopped selling fish caught by set netters and did not provide annual catch entitlement to fishers who use the equipment in coastal Maui habitat. They did still buy fish from those who used set nets in harbours in other parts of the country, but the fishers were required to utilise an app that tracked exactly where they've fished, which was overlaid with potential dolphin habitat, he said.



Watch: Oceanz Seafood Henderson wish you a Merry Christmas