



# Friday update



## Captain's Blog

November 17, 2017

### International study looks for lessons from the New Zealand QMS

New Zealand fisheries' Quota Management System is being presented as an international example by a prominent US-based conservation group. The long established The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's largest conservation organisations and a leader in coastal and marine management, last night released an extensive report on the QMS aimed at enhancing the development of fishery management programmes internationally.

The 132-page report, titled Learning from New Zealand's 30 Years of Experience Managing Fisheries under a Quota Management System, "offers lessons relevant to many other countries that are contemplating fishery reform efforts". Multiple international studies have ranked New Zealand's fisheries management system at the higher end, the report said. New Zealand scored amongst the highest of 53 countries in an evaluation of compliance with the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Code of Conduct for responsible Fisheries and was again amongst the highest in a 2009 study of international fisheries sustainability and the overall effectiveness of management. A 2017 study of 28 major fishing nations had similar findings, ranking New Zealand fifth overall.

However, the New Zealand public's perception of the status and management of fisheries does not necessarily accord with the positive government and

## In the Media

### Digital monitoring slowed down

The implementation of digital monitoring is to be slowed down.

New Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash has instructed officials to look for options for postponing the implementation of Integrated Electronic Monitoring and Reporting System (IEMRS).

There was a "range of issues" that still needed to be worked through, Nash said. "Digital monitoring will give confidence to New Zealanders, and consumers from around the world, that fish from our waters are being managed and caught sustainably," he said.

"However, we need to be satisfied that the systems are robust in the interests of all stakeholders.

"This is an important initiative to get right, and we will not be following the hasty timetable set by the previous Government.

"I am working with MPI officials on options for timing and these will be communicated once a decision has been made."

In a statement, [Deepwater Group](#) said it supported the move to push pause on IEMRS.

"There is concern that the previous Government's hasty timetable did not allow sufficient time to ensure the systems were robust enough."

The National Party has criticised the move.

Conservation spokesperson Maggie Barry said the [Greens complicity in the digital monitoring deferral](#) was weak advocacy for marine species.

"The new Conservation Minister and this Government has caved into fishing

international assessment, the report notes.

“Among the factors that different stakeholders identify are a lack of understanding about the QMS, its origins and achieved outcomes.”

It said work to change that perception included a Seafood New Zealand-sponsored initiative that included the adoption of an industry-wide code of conduct and videos of the stories of people who make their living from fishing.

The report said that although the use of a rights-based fisheries management system is not unique to New Zealand, no other country has developed and used a QMS that is as comprehensive or as widely implemented for as long a period.

“Despite the multiple perspectives that exist on the performance of New Zealand’s fisheries management system, New Zealand’s experience in fisheries management offers lessons relevant to many other countries that are contemplating fishery reform efforts.”

The report was compiled by Environmental Defence Society policy director Raewyn Peart, independent fisheries consultant Michael Arbuckle and TNC fisheries experts Lynne Hale, Jeremy Rude, Carmen Revenga, Kate Kauer and Michael Looker, supported by the US-based Walton Family Foundation.

On engagement between the sectors, it said there was no system in place for the routine reporting of recreational catch.

“Inclusive, transparent processes related to stock rebuilding plans and how additional allowable catch resulting from rebuilt stocks will be allocated are not apparent, nor are there mechanisms that enable constructive inter-sectoral dialogue.”

The report added several commentators had noted there have been no effective means of bringing the various parties together in a constructive manner and this had frustrated attempts to continue the evolution of the QMS.

New Zealand also stands out in an area the industry would prefer was not the case – that is the funding of fisheries management.

“Most countries fund fisheries management as a public good from general taxation funds,” the report states.

“New Zealand is unique in that it has adopted a comprehensive regime of direct taxation (called cost recovery) to fund commercial fisheries management costs, including enforcement costs.”

The cost to industry this year is nearly \$30million.

The basic tenets of what it takes to achieve sustainable fisheries are wellknown, the report said.

“Only take as many fish as can be replaced and maintain the environment

industry lobbying and the influence of New Zealand First. On its first significant conservation decision the Green Party is complicit and missing in action instead of advocating strongly for our threatened dolphins,” she said.

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## Sanford net profit up 8 percent

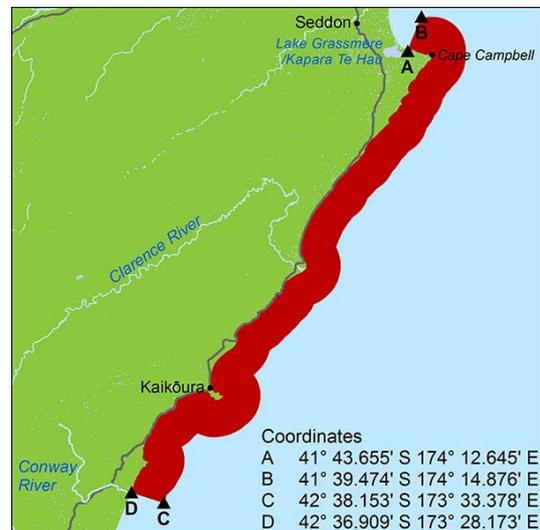
Sanford Limited reported its net profit after tax increased by 8 percent to \$37.5m in 2017.

The NZX listed company has reported a revenue increase of 3 percent to \$477.9m, despite actual greenweight sales being flat, which is in line with Sanford’s strategy of increasing the value extracted from its products.

2017 gave Sanford several opportunities to demonstrate that new systems and processes were helping it to build greater resilience in the face of a number of challenges from nature, including the bonamia ostreae outbreak at Stewart Island and the Kaikoura earthquake. Net cash flows from operations improved by 46 percent to \$50.3m on higher revenues and improved collection timeframes.

[Read more](#)

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## Kaikoura fisheries given more recovery time

The current emergency closure of shellfish and seaweed fisheries along the Kaikoura coastline is being extended.

The extension is open-ended, with a re-opening to be considered once currently underway research demonstrates stocks have sufficiently recovered.

that is essential for producing fish.” TNC is looking to research other marine and freshwater issues “to learn from New Zealand’s long experience and many achievements in conservation and resource management in order to aid conservation in other places facing similar issues”.

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[Read the latest Seafood New Zealand magazine here](#)



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## Strong result for Ngāi Tahu marks 20 year milestone

Twenty years on from the settlement of its claim with the Crown, South Island iwi Ngāi Tahu continues to grow its wealth and has achieved a net profit of \$126.8m for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Group subsidiaries – Ngāi Tahu Tourism, Ngāi Tahu Farming, Ngāi Tahu Seafood and Ngāi Tahu Property – achieved beyond expectations for the 2016/17 financial year.

Ngāi Tahu Seafood net operating surplus sat at \$22.4m, up 28 percent on the previous year.

“I’m pleased by our year-end result and continued growth, in a year that we have celebrated the 20-year milestone of the signing of the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement,” said Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Kaiwhakahaere Lisa Tumahai.

[Read more](#)

MPI acting director fisheries management Steve Halley said the 2016 earthquakes had a devastating effect on the coastline between Marfell’s Beach and the Conway River, raising the seabed by several metres in some areas.

“For the immediate future, we need to give the coastal environment time and space to heal,” Halley said.

“MPI, in partnership with Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (Kaikōura Coastal Marine Guardians) and other local community interests, is actively working to help our fisheries and marine habitats recover so that, once again, these resources can contribute to the regions social, economic and cultural well-being.

“The extended closure comes into effect on November 20. It applies to the existing closed area from Marfell’s Beach to the Conway River and applies to both recreational and commercial fishers.”

[Read more](#)

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## Robot and aquaculture technology projects given greenlight

Two new technology projects aimed at selling New Zealand innovation locally and overseas have been given the go-ahead.

The projects are part of the Science for Technological Innovation (SfTI) National Science Challenge Board.

SfTI Director Sally Davenport said the *Precision Farming Technology for Aquaculture* and *Adaptive Learning Robots to complement the Human Workforce* research projects will each receive \$2m over two years.

“These are innovative, exciting, potentially high-value SfTI ‘Spearhead’ research projects,” Davenport said.

“Here the focus is on making New Zealand a leader in hi-tech, aquaculture automation and remote farm intelligence.”

Davenport said the projects had the same aim: to develop technology able to be used and sold both domestically and internationally.

[Read more](#)

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