



Friday update



Captain's Blog

September 22, 2017

Aquaculture still fighting for social licence – Environment Minister

The aquaculture industry still has a social licence battle to win, Environment Minister Nick Smith told the sector's annual conference in Nelson yesterday. He said there was still a view in some quarters that aquaculture was a threat to biosecurity and those opponents "would close you down".

Smith, who has championed the aquaculture industry as Nelson MP, said those negative views were contained in some of the 100 submissions received on development of a new national environmental standard for aquaculture. He told 350 conference delegates at the Rutherford Hotel the industry needed to be constantly winning the argument with communities in the Marlborough Sounds, Thames and Northland that it was a well-regulated industry.

He was frustrated by people such as bach owners who may face a minimal impact from marine farming activities such as a safety light at night, resorting to a landscape values objection under coastal policy provisions as if that exceeded the rights of people to have jobs and boost the economy.

He said it was critical to develop a new environmental standard for aquaculture. Marine farmers were worried about the expensive bureaucratic process and the uncertainty of renewing consents one by one over the next few years.

There was no other industry that offered greater opportunities for growth,

In the Media

Adjustments to fishing limits

The Ministry for Primary Industries announced on Monday changes to catch limits and sustainability measures for 18 fish stocks as part of the regular twice-yearly fisheries sustainability review.

To read the changes, [click here](#)

Bad weather has halted the search for missing fisherman Kieran Lynch, with police divers unlikely to resume their search until next week. Lynch was one of three on-board the *Wendy J* when it sank on September 14 south of Greymouth. The vessel's engine stalled in rough seas, after it is suspected, a craypot rope became entangled around the propeller. Skipper Mark Thomas survived after making it to shore. The body of Jay Cairney, 43, was found on Tuesday. In a statement, Police said they remain hopeful they can find Lynch and return him to his family.

The Ministry for Primary Industries expected kickback from the proposal to move six New Zealand King Salmon farms from low to high-flow sites. Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy wrote, in a cabinet paper, he was concerned with the "public perception of the Government acting for one company". The Government estimated the proposal would cost \$750,000, with another \$250,000 allocated if it was given the green light and ended up in court. A spokesperson for Guy told *Stuff* there was no timeframe for when a decision

exports, science and innovation, Smith said.

Current industry annual production of \$500 million is forecast to double by 2025.

Smith pointed to significant changes made to the Resource Management Act in May that streamlined planning changes. He urged the industry to use the new processes.

Scheme changes had previously been painfully slow, taking an average five-and-a-half years.

"You can throw as much aquaculture product at me as you like," he said to laughter, a reference to recent unwelcome targeting by activists opposing poisoning of pests in a new Nelson reserve.

He added the application for relocation of King Salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds needed to be urgently acted on, certainly by Christmas.

Wakatu Incorporation chair Paul Morgan questioned Smith over proposed removal of oysters from the company's farms in Port Underwood by the Ministry for Primary Industries in attempting to control the parasite *bonamia ostreae*.

He disputed whether this was necessary, that it was not supported by the science and claimed the flat oyster fishery would be destroyed, ending years of research and cultivation.

Smith avoided a direct answer, saying the science was uncertain and it was important to invest in research.

He said MPI was criticised for being risk averse but the minute anything went wrong it was in the gun.

An example was kiwifruit growers who urged the import of pollen over MPI reservations, but since disease was introduced they were now suing MPI and the Government for allowing the pollen into the country.

MPI director-general Martyn Dunne told the conference later in the day, the big personal and financial cost of the *bonamia* eradication was recognised.

He said all oysters on cages and lines at Big Glory Bay on Stewart Island had been removed and attention was now being turned to the Marlborough Sounds fishery.

He also cited the importance of social licence.

It was about collaboration and selling the story so that people were convinced what you were doing was in support of them, rather than working against their interests.

would be announced on the relocation.

Sea Shepherd New Zealand are claiming there is a sea lion serial killer in the Caitlins and is offering \$5000 as a reward for information leading to their prosecution. A sea lion was found shot dead on Tautuku Beach on September 10 and another was found dead in Jacks Bay in April.



TOKM: Minister's decision erodes Māori Fisheries Settlement

Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy's decision to decrease the Total Allowable Commercial Catch in pāua will eventually erode hard-won Māori Fishing Settlement rights says Te Ohu Kaimoana Chief Executive Dion Tuuta.

The Ministry for Primary Industries announced on Monday changes to catch limits and sustainability measures for 18 fish stocks, including pāua, as part of the regular twice-yearly fisheries sustainability review.

"Te Ohu Kaimoana supports reducing catch to ensure the sustainability of fishing stocks," Tuuta said. "However, the mechanism the Minister has decided to use to achieve these reductions sets in place a process which will breach the terms of the 1992 Fisheries Deed of Settlement.

"Due to the existence of 28N rights in some of these fish stocks," Tuuta said. "When the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is increased in the future, Māori settlement quota shares will be taken by the Crown and given to the holders of these rights without compensation for iwi."

Te Ohu Kaimoana calls on MPI to find a solution to this matter in a way which does not compromise iwi rights under the Deed of Settlement.

[Read more](#)



Captain Andrew Leachman (right) with his wife Vivian. Picture: NZDF

Remembering Andrew Leachman

Andrew Leachman, an ice pilot for the Royal New Zealand Navy and former captain of NIWA research ships, died on Saturday, 16 September.

Andrew immigrated from England in 1973 to work on the research vessel *James Cook*.

In 1991, he became skipper of NIWA's ice-fortified vessel *Tangaroa* – spending 20 years captaining it through the South Pacific and Southern Ocean.

Andrew was known for being a talented saxophonist – a skill he shared with the Antarctic penguins by playing for them. In 2011, he became an ice pilot to the Royal New Zealand Navy, teaching young captains how to navigate the treacherous Southern Ocean and Antarctic environment.

After spending 55 years on the water, he was given a rare accolade by being named an honorary captain in the Royal New Zealand Navy, during a special ceremony in Nelson early this year.

At the event former commanding officer of HMNZS Otago, Captain David McEwan said he had made the navy personnel better mariners.

“He guided us as we grew in our awareness and respect for the area – he has an extraordinary ability to teach and pass on knowledge.”

Watch: Fishermen worries about new regulations

One News (15 September) New regulations for commercial fishers are worrying small-scale operations, who say their best spots will be given away by video surveillance.

[Watch here](#)

News from MPI

Black market rock lobster and pāua operation valued at about \$30,000

A Canterbury diesel mechanic and well-known local recreational fisherman will undergo electronic monitoring for 4 months after pleading guilty to running a lengthy black market pāua and rock lobster operation.

[Read more](#)

More surveillance for oyster parasite

Further surveillance of the wild flat oyster fishery in Foveaux Strait for *bonamia ostreae* will begin later this month.

Sampling will start in the last week of September as part of an enhanced national surveillance plan for the invasive parasite, said Ministry for Primary Industries response manager David Yard.

[Read more](#)

Recreational fishers survey begins next month

MPI is surveying recreational fishers across the country to help build a picture of recreational catch. The survey, undertaken by independent research organisation, the National Research Bureau (NRB), will help MPI better understand and manage fish stocks of importance to recreational fishers.

[Read more](#)