



# Friday update



## Captain's Blog

December 8, 2017

### New recreational management system needed – report

Management of recreational fisheries needs to change, a research group has found.

The current level of access to fisheries that so many New Zealanders value cannot be taken for granted, according to [The Future Catch](#) report, the latest in a series written by Dr Randall Bess.

It proposes a Western Australia-style management system where recreational, commercial and customary sectors collaborate, licence fees fund a healthier resource and catch data is recorded.

The report was funded by The New Zealand Initiative, an independent think tank supported by major businesses and the late Sir Douglas Myers in particular. Bess, a former fisherman in Alaska, US-based Environmental Defence Fund consultant and Ministry for Primary Industries official, is a research fellow on fisheries management policy at the Initiative.

The report was launched on Monday night at a panel discussion that included Bess, Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash, Te Ohu Kaimoana deputy chair Sir Mark Solomon and New Zealand Sport Fishing Council vice-president Bob Gutsell.

But in arguing for a peak body to represent the recreational sector, Bess clearly did not favour the recreational lobby group LegaSea, accusing it in the report of deliberate misrepresentation, outrageous assertions, simplistic and biased responses, a typically negative

## In the Media

### Fisheries announcements expected before Christmas

The Ministry for Primary Industries will not be split into standalone ministries but details are still scarce on how the organisation will operate with three Ministers across different sectors. Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash told a packed room at the launch of [The Future Catch](#) he was still working through the details with Forestry Minister Shane Jones and Biosecurity Minister Damien O'Connor.

"Be assured that our focus will be on how to deliver a value proposition to the industry that hopefully exceeds expectations," he said.

"We will certainly hope to announce our plans in this space before Christmas." The new look Ministry could come with a review of the Quota Management System, with Nash having told Newshub in October an announcement on whether there would be an investigation was also due by the holidays.

campaign and a lack of commitment to constructive engagement. However, Gutsell blew the opportunity to step into that space by announcing he did not support any of the recommendations in the report. Not much chance of compromise there either.

Asked whether he supported measuring the recreational catch, Nash said he did. Gutsell claimed that already occurred, when quite clearly it does not.

“We need to think about how we can get accurate information about the recreational take through mechanisms like the national panel survey,” Nash said.

“In Snapper<sup>1</sup> recreational fishers take as much as 46 percent of the catch. If we do not have accurate information about such a large proportion of the catch then we cannot make properly informed decisions.

“I fully believe we can have a thriving commercial fishing industry alongside customary and recreational sectors that can fish in abundant shared fisheries.”

We all want sustainable fisheries for current and future generations to enjoy and we all have a role to play in making that happen, he said.

If changes are not made to the management of recreational fisheries, New Zealanders can expect increasingly stringent constraints on their access to fisheries resources, the report warned.

“And, even then, we risk the type of catastrophic depletion that has too often characterised the recreational fisheries in other coastal nations.

“Indeed, this level of depletion has already occurred in the blue cod fisheries in the Marlborough Sounds, the finfish fishery in Hawke’s Bay and the rock lobster fishery along the northeast coast of the North Island.”

The report argues the sharp discrepancy between the management of recreational and commercial fisheries has been driven by funding differences.

“The management of commercial fisheries is largely funded on a cost recovery basis by quota holders, while recreational fishers have generally been unwilling to contribute towards managing recreational fisheries.”

One means of greater investment in the recreational sector was suggested allocation of the petrol excise duty paid on boat fuel, a move unlikely to be embraced by Treasury.

Switching allocations between the sectors, with compensation for quota holders affected, was also proposed.

While there will be continuing debate about how the resource should be allocated, Sir Mark summed it up: “The first right belongs to the ocean.”

Questioned in Parliament on Tuesday by opposition fisheries spokesman Gerry



### Climate change could have major effect on fisheries – NIWA

A new report from NIWA says rapid warming of the ocean near Tasmania may provide a good indication of how the water around New Zealand will change – with major implications for fisheries.

In a recent paper, published in the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, scientists used two different models and four climate change scenarios to project how New Zealand waters will be affected by 2100.

Lead author and NIWA marine biogeochemist Professor Cliff Law said warm surface temperatures were acting as a physical barrier to nutrients movement moving up from deeper waters.

“With further warming, there’s a stronger density step and less nutrient supply for the surface waters so phytoplankton doesn’t grow so well and productivity drops down,” he said.

The paper reports that one of the most affected areas for nutrient decline will be the Chatham Rise to the east of New Zealand, with the sub-Antarctic waters also vulnerable.

Acidity in the ocean will increase by 130 percent by the end of the century which will cause changes to shellfish.

“For example, we can speculate that shells of paua and mussels may be affected – it doesn’t mean that we lose them from our ecosystems, just that they might become smaller in response to their diversion of energy to maintain their shells.”

[Read more](#)

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Sanford is being praised for voluntarily withdrawing a trawler from near Banks Peninsula after legally catching 400 salmon last week. Fish & Game scientist Mark Webb told the *Otago Daily Times* the catch was “highly unusual” and Sanford had made the move to improve

Brownlee, Minister Nash said he had referred The Future Catch report to his officials to work through. Nothing would be implemented before Christmas but he said he did not support licensing of recreational marine fishers or recording and reporting of catches.



Dr Randall Bess, Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash, Sir Mark Solomon and Bob Gutsell.

the recreational salmon fishery.

There are growing calls for more effective management of the Pacific's longline tuna fishery. At the 14th annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), industry leaders expressed their frustration with current rules. Fiji's fisheries minister Semi Koroilavesau and Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association executive officer John Maefiti said WCPFC has failed to address overfishing.

National MP Nick Smith is again pushing for an ocean sanctuary around the Kermadec Islands. It will be the third bill attempting to create the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary. Smith said with National's 56 votes and the Green's eight votes the bill would pass. However, a Green Party spokesperson said they had not considered the new bill.



### Sealord to implement PSH fleetwide

Sealord is to install its precision seafood harvesting (PSH) gear on its entire fleet, which the company's head of operations hopes will give an increase in prices. The company has been trying the PSH gear -- which brings fish up live or in much better condition than a conventional trawl -- on its largest vessel, said Sealord's Doug Paulin. "We have been able to use it on our bigger boats now. Prior to that it had been on freshers and small inshore boats. We used it on the Rehua, our biggest vessel, and it worked. We will use the PSH cod ends next year on all our vessels."

[Read more](#)

### New vessel biofouling rules incoming

International vessel operators need to be aware of strict new rules for managing biofouling that will come into force next early year, says the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The Craft Risk Management Standard for Biofouling will take effect from May 2018. The new standard aims to reduce the threat of pests to New Zealand's marine environment.

Under the new rules, vessels that don't meet the requirements of the standard may face delays, cleaning expenses, or have itinerary or entry restrictions. The standard can be met by cleaning or treating the hull prior to arrival, or carrying out regular hull maintenance, including applying an antifouling coating.

Vessels staying in New Zealand waters for less than three weeks can meet the new rules by following best practice guidelines released by the International Maritime Organisation in 2011.

The guidelines include use of appropriate antifouling agents on the hull and niche areas, the operation of marine growth prevention systems on sea-chests and regular hull inspections.

[Read more](#)