



### **Positive start to Code of Conduct roadshow**

The seafood roadshow, or more correctly portshow, is in Greymouth today. That follows a successful launch in Nelson last week of a programme aimed at improving environmental care and transparency at sea.

A six-point Code of Conduct has been developed and endorsed by the major fishing companies. Individual skippers are now being asked to sign up to it. That code underpins the Promise media campaign launched last year. That was a promise to all New Zealanders to fish sustainably and to care for the marine environment for generations to come.

Associated videos on the Seafood NZ website highlight the ongoing investment in research and innovations such as Precision Seafood Harvesting that returns undersized and non-quota species alive to the sea and the Acoustic Optical System that identifies fish on the ocean floor and provides more accurate stock assessments and reduces bycatch.

They also feature the stories of the real men and women of the seafood industry, the passion they have for a challenging lifestyle and the efforts being made to protect endangered species.

Fisherman Sunni Parkin, a leading hand on Mako, was among those to attend the Nelson meeting.

He said he had seen a more conscientious approach in terms of seabird management plans and in health and safety in recent times but the negative impact from any fishing transgressions was frustrating.

“Everyone keeps getting tarred with the same brush.”

He said there was a commitment to doing the right thing, although it would

ultimately fall to the operators to ensure all aspects of the code were being met. "It's all pretty basic if you follow the law and the rules laid out."

While there is concern about the odd operator who may bring the wider industry into disrepute, the vast majority are acting responsibly and are keen to make improvements where possible.

It is recognised internationally that New Zealand has one of the worlds best-managed fisheries built on decades of peer-reviewed scientific assessment and compliance activity.

Stocks are healthy, the fishery is sustainable.

However, that is not the widespread public perception.

The anti-commercial fishing lobby is well funded and relentless in its condemnation of the seafood industry, despite it providing employment for thousands of New Zealanders, boosting our standard of living through nearly \$2billion in exports and producing healthy, delicious protein that is in high demand.

The seafood industry has much to be proud of but it is also squaring up to its shortcomings, has conceded it has not always got it right and is determined to do better.

It recognises it does have an impact on the marine environment, just as farming and forestry do on land, and is committed to minimising that.

Seafood NZ executive chair Craig Ellison gave an honest appraisal at the 2017 annual conference in terms of public perceptions and where improvements were needed, following the Promise campaign launch.

While he praised efforts to increase transparency and actively minimise any negative impact, he accepted more work was required to improve the response to illegal behaviour, as well as the industry's ability to look after its people and treat them fairly.

The report card will be reviewed at this year's conference at Te Papa in August. Today's meeting is at Greymouth's Kingsgate Hotel and all West Coast fishermen, processors and related industries are welcome.

## OUR PROMISE IN PRACTICE

### Our Code of Conduct

We do not condone illegal behaviour.

We will work with Government and other interested parties to develop and implement principled and practical policies to ensure the use of fisheries resources is sustainable.

We will continue to actively minimise our impacts on the marine environment and encourage others to act similarly.

We will continue to invest in science and innovation to enhance fisheries resources and add value.

We look after our people and treat them fairly.

We will be accountable for delivering on Our Promise and will support increased transparency.



A strong turnout at the Rutherford Hotel in Nelson for the first leg of the Code of Conduct roadshow.



Geoff Clark and Darren Guard signed up to the Code of Conduct.

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## **Press Release - Seafood industry welcomes considered approach to cameras on vessels**

The New Zealand seafood industry has welcomed confirmation by Stuart Nash, the Fisheries Minister, that the Government is reconsidering a proposal to install cameras on all commercial fishing vessels.

Chief Executive of Seafood New Zealand, Tim Pankhurst, said the Minister's statement that the Government will take a reasoned and pragmatic approach to ensure commercial fishers are obeying the law is welcomed.

Commercial fishers are obliged to report their catches, including all interactions with seabirds and marine mammals and we need to reassure the public that this is being done.

Chief Executive of Deepwater Group Ltd, George Clement supports this more open approach by Minister Nash and supports the call by Eugenie Sage, the Conservation Minister, for a greater commitment from industry to reduce bycatch.

"There are many effective and innovative practices already in place and further developments are underway," Clement said.

"Recent allegations of misreporting are of concern and need to be remedied where they are, in fact, occurring. In response, the previous Government proposed the installation of cameras on all vessels, to deter illegal activities. Cameras have their place as one of a number of monitoring tools to verify catch reporting, but they are expensive and will not work in all applications.

"We welcome further transparency in the interests of better informing good fisheries management. However, there are many practical decisions around the use of cameras in private workspaces that remain unresolved. Monitoring tools must be fit for purpose. The original proposal was foisted on the industry without proper consultation and was simplistic, inadequate and unreasonably costly.

"With one camera on each vessel the annual costs to industry for compliance and at sea monitoring would increase to \$18,000 for each inshore vessel and \$168,000 for each deep water vessel. Government has a duty of care to ensure monitoring is both effective and affordable. Cameras cannot replace at-sea observers, who measure the catch and collect biological samples to inform management decisions.

"It is reassuring to have a Government that is committed to getting this major step-change right to ensure that it delivers better fisheries management, improved transparency and enhances New Zealand's reputation," Clement said.

Minister Nash said today there were many options to address increased transparency, which could include more at-sea observers on vessels.

"What pleases the seafood industry is an unrushed and honest approach to find a solution that works for the vessel operators, the environment, and good fisheries management," Pankhurst said.

"We look forward to further discussions with Minister Nash and his officials."



## **News - King Salmon farm move still in limbo**

Only three of the six New Zealand King Salmon farms should be relocated in the Marlborough Sounds, a report released by the Government this week said.

The report, written by an independent Advisory Panel following public hearings in April-May 2017 and provided to the previous government in July 2017, recommends moving three farms, whilst declining three others.

The Panel considered relocation of the three farms would enable the NZ King

Salmon to improve environmental outcomes without sacrificing jobs and economic returns.

However, NZ King Salmon managing director Grant Rosewarne said innovation in the sector had made the report defunct and the Government should reconsider its position.

"The report is now six-and-a-half months old: it's already out of date," Rosewarne told BusinessDesk. "One of the objections is visual impact, that was mentioned in the three farms that were declined ... there is new infrastructure that has a 90 percent reduction in visual impact.

"This is a stunning reduction in six months, and the board didn't consider that. It also mentioned navigation problems - there are stunning navigational aids now which are virtually invisible to the naked eye but light up like a Christmas tree when something approaches."

Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash said he was still months away from making a final decision.

"I intend to discuss the report with a number of people, agencies and iwi who are following this issue closely."

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## News

Talley's Group has appealed the Tasman District Court's decision to not grant consents for 35-year terms to discharge water and air, and operate a hazardous substance facility, *Nelson Mail* reports. The consents were only granted for a three-year period, with the three-person panel, who delivered the decision in December, saying they wanted to send a strong message for the plant to reduce its environmental impact. The appeal, lodged with the Environment Court, said the decision "failed to have proper regard to" 12 matters, including the level of investment needed to improve environmental outcomes and whether they could utilise said investment in the future without the certainty of longterm consents.

A skipper whose vessel ran aground off Lake Ellesmere in December 2016 has been charged with failing to keep a proper look-out and breaching work safety regulations, *The Press* reports. Christopher Lee Jarman, 35, of Heathcote Valley, was skippering *Lady Sarah* chasing elephant fish close to shore before the 22-metre vessel was beached. The three crew members were unharmed. Jarman was remanded to appear later this month, without plea.

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