

## Warm response at the launch of *Tokatu*

Sunny Nelson lived up to its name for the formal welcome of the Sealord trawler *Tokatu* this week.

The 83-metre vessel in its smart blue and white livery towered over a wharfside marquee where 150 guests were welcomed.

It was a day to be proud of, a big day for Nelson and for us, Sealord chair Whaimutu Dewes said.

The \$70 million vessel was jointly funded by Sealord's equal shareholders – iwi-owned Moana New Zealand and Japan's Nippon Suisan Kaisha.

Sir Tipene O'Regan, an architect of the Maori fisheries settlement that led to the establishment of the current Sealord company, which he chaired for its first 10 years, took the opportunity to put a shot across Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash's bows.

This was not a time to adopt a threatening pose, he told Nash, who was a guest at the ceremony along with Regional Development Minister Shane Jones, "but reviewing the QMS (Quota Management System) is something you do at your peril".

"We fought a great battle to move to an adoption of that system and the merging of Treaty rights within it."

He noted approvingly that Nash was signalling from his seat that the QMS was not an issue.

The QMS was a blunt instrument that needed refining but it remained the most effective fisheries management regime developed anywhere in the world, Sir Tipene said.

The biggest threat to the fishery was a huge recreational sector that was uncontrolled and incapable of being policed.

Sir Tipene said the setting up of Sealord in 1993 under the Treaty settlement required overcoming generations of grievance and “piscatorial illiteracy”.

Vessels were initially named after immigrant ships to New Zealand - Whitby, Fifeshire, Will Watch – but there was a push for Maori names to reflect the altered shareholding.

Thomas Harrison was acceptable because both Sir Tipene’s and then Fisheries Minister Doug Kidd’s great grandfathers were aboard it.

The two were brothers.

*Tokatu* is the rock that withstands the power of the sea.

The vessel is the first new New Zealand-owned trawler in a generation and represents the largest ever single investment.

Minister Nash cited the importance of the fishing industry and said the QMS provided the certainty needed to invest.

He said the *Tokatu* which was fitted with a gym, cinema, wifi and hotel-style two-man cabins with ensuites, had been described as a “floating palace” by a fisheries observer in his report.

Nissui chair Norio Hosomi said there had been maximum co-operation in the partnership over 17 years, through good and bad times.

Sealord was prepared to sacrifice profits in favour of healthy resource control, he said.

Steve Yung, Sealord chief executive, said the decision was made three years ago to bolster the fleet with a new freezer trawler.

The arrival of *Tokatu* was a sign of the company's optimism.

He noted Rex Chapman’s role as skipper and the support of his board and management team.

He also paid tribute to crew member Patahi Kawana, who was lost overboard from the Sealord hoki trawler *Otakou* last month.

Nelson mayor Rachel Reese cut a ribbon before guests were given tours of the ship.

*Tokatu* arrived in Nelson from Norway in June and has been fishing for hoki on the west coast.

It was due to sail last night to fish for mackerel off Taranaki.



*Tokatu skippers Rex Chapman (left) and Stephan Fridell.*

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## **Sanford takes out Excellence in Governance award**

The Deloitte Top 200 Index Awards recognised business excellence and leadership across 10 categories on Wednesday night.

This year's theme was the 'Power of Purpose' – a celebration of companies that embrace change and have a strong sense of purpose.

Trademe and Ports of Auckland were among the nominees for the MinterEllisonRuddWatts Excellence in Governance award, but ultimately, it was New Zealand's oldest fishing company Sanford who took the title.

Deloitte judges described the company's 'integrative reporting' framework in particular, as 'impressive'.

Sanford started using the internationally recognised framework in 2014 and has since provided the market with a balanced view of the company's social, environmental and economic performance.

The company's commitment to its people also made them a standout.

A literacy and numeracy initiative 'Keeping it Fresh' was introduced by Sanford several years ago as a means of providing learning and development opportunities for staff.

Employees were allocated four hours out of their normal roles each week to participate in the 10-week long course. Participants worked in groups of eight on projects that often facilitated their self-development and helped the business as a result.

The greatest change has been employee's increased confidence in managing their finances – a shift facilitated by numeracy skills training, said Sanford.

One project included relaying technical knowledge to new employees through mentoring and narratives and another involved finding ways to respectfully communicate the company's values to employees of all cultures.

The initiative is run across four of the company's sites and has graduated 88 employees so far.

Sanford chairman Paul Norling said the company is delighted with the results, both as a business and for the people taking part in the programme.

"It has become clear that they are deriving real benefits in both their working lives and their personal lives, which is excellent."

Sanford's sustainability policy was another illustration of the company being a "good corporate citizen" according to the judges.

Sanford was commended for placing sustainability at the core of their business and for leading the way in climate change discussions and initiatives.

"We believe that the right to fish our previous marine resources under New Zealand's Quota Management System and the right to utilise New Zealand's beautiful marine space for farming has to be fundamentally and continuously acknowledged through the commitment by Sanford to doing the right thing," said Norling.

"This goes well beyond fishing and farming in a sustainable and environmentally responsible fashion and includes activities ranging from community involvement to reducing plastic waste. Our business sets high standards for itself in this regard and many of those are laid out in our annual report."

Sanford's commitment across all areas of the business will generate outcomes that bring Sanford closer to its vision of becoming the best seafood company in the world, the judges said.

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## **Electric fields tackle biofouling**

A new company ElectrocLEAR has developed an innovative way of tackling underwater biofouling – an ongoing problem for aquaculture farmers, marinas and boaties.

Using electric fields, the technology disrupts the ability of small organisms to dwell on certain underwater surfaces.

Rather than treating organisms on the boat's hull with heat or chemicals, ElectroCLEAR offers a non-toxic solution.

University of Auckland doctoral student Christopher Walker first became aware of the immensity of the problem after hearing about invasive fanworms in Auckland harbour.

Walker partnered with fellow student Patrin Illenberger to form the company and used their bioengineering training to find a solution.

“We had some terrible ideas at first, but then about a year ago we began trialling electric fields underwater,” said Illenberger.

The duo initially experimented with the electric fields at Port Opuia, Outboard Boating Club in Orakei and then in Westhaven Marinas.

The challenge was finding a way to create an electric field on different materials – boat hulls, rope and pontoons – and then connecting these to small, land-based power boxes.

By placing two separate electrodes underwater, Walker and Illenberger created a fully encapsulated electric field that could target and disrupt an organism’s growth.

The technology was tested by hanging fibreglass panels off the side of a pontoon.

“The panels that had an electric field had no organisms attached after 50 days,” said Illenberger, “while the others with no field had bryozoans, algae and barnacles on their surface.”

With the success of their marina trials, Walker hopes the technology will become a leader in anti-fouling and biosecurity.

“The way forward is to dive into applications; we want this technology being trialled in aquaculture and marine infrastructure around the country,” he said.

The next step will be developing a database of electric field parameters for different organisms in various environments.

“A customer may be able to come to us with a problem with a particular algae or larvae in a particular area of the country and we will know the exact electrical field needed to control it,” said Walker.

Electroclear recently received funding from the University’s Entrepreneurship programme Velocity and already has interest from research institutions and commercial partners that are keen to develop the technology for aqua farms.



Chris Walker (left) and Patrin Illenberger.

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## Historical fishing documents mark World Fisheries Day

Australia celebrated World Fisheries Day on Wednesday with the release of fifty years of fisheries history preserved in digital format.

The preservation of the ['Fisheries News-Letter'](#) publication and its subsequent mastheads ['Australian Fisheries Newsletter'](#) and ['Australian Fisheries'](#) were funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), in partnership with the National Library of Australia. The funding enabled 593 newsletter issues to be digitised, dating from October 1941 to June 1995. The newsletters are now publicly available through the library's online Trove portal.

The editorial statement in the first issue notes the aim of the newsletter was to bring together scientists and the fishing industry:

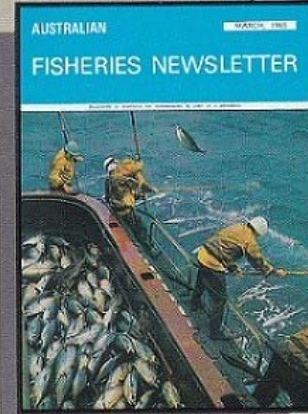
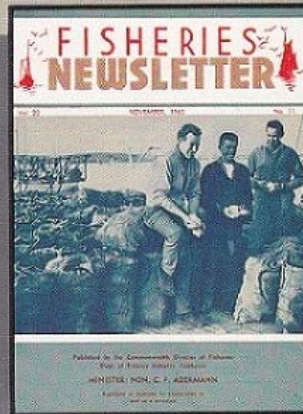
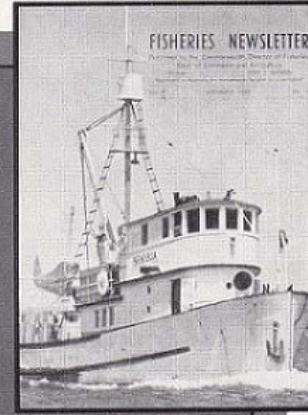
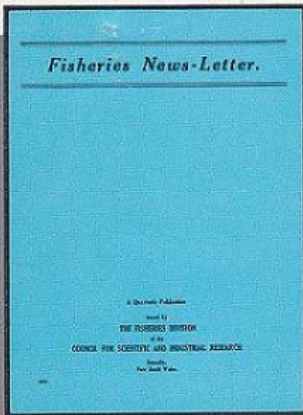
*"This review of the work of the Fisheries Division is published chiefly with the idea of bringing the scientific worker on fisheries problems in closer touch with those people who depend on fish or its by-products for their living. It is difficult to explain the necessary slowness of scientific work. [...] it is hoped that the circulation of this 'Newsletter' will lead to much interchange of information and ideas between all engaged in every sphere of fisheries work."*

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, director-general of the National Library of Australia, said she is delighted with the collaboration which has given this historic publication 'a second life'.



# Australian Fisheries

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## News

Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage and Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash announced the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Committee this week. The Committee will have a key role in implementing the Sea Change Plan, including proposals for improving the health of the Hauraki Gulf, said Sage. The Sea Change Plan is an aspirational document which includes 181 proposals developed over four years by a Stakeholder Working Group with representatives from mana whenua, recreational and commercial fishing, farming, aquaculture, infrastructure, and environmentalists. The plan aims to improve the health of the Gulf for future generations, with proposals covering a range of issues. "This government is serious about moving forward. Our priority now is to engage with participants about how best to make progress. The establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Committee will include representatives from multiple groups and is a key first step in that engagement process," said Nash. The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fisheries New Zealand will now begin talking to tangata whenua affected by the proposals, councils and other Hauraki Gulf stakeholders about establishing the Ministerial Advisory Committee. Appointment of committee members will commence once consultation is completed.

Following formal identification Police can confirm the name of the person who was recovered by a fishing vessel off Cape Palliser on 26 October. The body was that of 25-year-old Patahi Rewi Kawana of Nelson. The death has been referred to the Coroner. Police offer their sympathies to the friends and whanau of Kawana.

The Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries have established a partnership with Chile's Under secretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Ministry of Environment, *NZ Herald* reports. The agreement was signed by New Zealand and Chile ministers on Monday with the aim of working together to protect vulnerable seabirds from dying in international fishing operations. The collaboration will place particular emphasis on the Antipodean albatross which breeds in New Zealand's Sub Antarctic Islands. Shifts in foraging ranges have seen the Antipodean albatross travel further offshore to feed, where they also tend to interact with fisheries on the high seas. The arrangement is expected to facilitate a greater exchange of information between New Zealand and Chile, improve innovation to reduce seabird bycatch and increase cooperation through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations who govern fishing on the high seas.

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