

## **Challenge to Forest & Bird - throw stones or engage positively**

The environmental charity Forest & Bird has been issued a challenge by Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash.

That is to engage positively rather than continue as an arch-critic of the commercial fishing industry.

“Using 10-year-old pictures to represent the 2018 fisheries industry is not only dishonest, but incredibly damaging,” he told F&B’s annual conference in Wellington last weekend.

That was in reference to a widely circulated picture of common dolphins caught in a trawl that is being used in a campaign calling for cameras on boats.

“It does no good to forming constructive dialogue,” Nash said.

“Forest & Bird has an important role to play – if you want to – in helping to successfully drive change, but my plea to you is work constructively with myself, the industry and officials.

“Celebrate success when you see it and hold those to account when they deserve to be, but don’t characterise an industry by the actions of a few or the practices of the past.

“A key point to make is that we all want the same thing.

“If you think any fisherman enjoys pulling up a net or reeling in a line and finding a dolphin, penguin, seal or seabird, then you are sorely mistaken.

“In fact, I would argue that a healthy majority of fishermen and women are actually conservationists under most definitions.

“Some aren’t and this is the challenge.

“So if we are to achieve our collective vision, we actually all have to work together.

‘If you think that all fishermen and women are evil people who disobey the law and seek money over sustainability then I am sad to say you will never make any progress.’

He said he had delivered a similar message to the seafood industry, that if all fishers believed that all environmentalists wanted to end fishing, they would never be as successful as they could be.

He believed the greater the value we can add to our fisheries, the bigger the incentive to “get it right”.

“The more powerful Brand New Zealand is in international markets and the higher the premium that a global consumer will pay for fish caught from New Zealand, then the greater the incentive to innovate both on shore and at sea.

“If, on the other hand, we destroy our brand, then we run the very real risk of returning to being exporters of bulk commodities with not a cent of value added because brand New Zealand will mean nothing or carries no premium.”

As a new Minister, Nash said he had taken over a division of the Ministry for Primary Industries that was distrusted by the commercial sector, mainly due to the feeling that a proper consultation process had not been followed around electric monitoring and cameras.

But it was also loathed by the recreational and NGO sectors because they thought the officials were in the pocket of the industry.

He launched Fisheries New Zealand to help distance fisheries from MPI, which he perceived to be “a rather toxic brand”.

Building relationships and working with key stakeholders had been a focus.

The cameras on boats rollout had been delayed but he was developing a Cabinet paper on revised implementation.

And given Nash’s frequent assurances on proper consultation and transparency, the industry expects to be given due opportunity for meaningful input.

Change is coming, he assured.

“And I absolutely believe that you will add more value if you are in the tent contributing, rather than outside throwing stones,” he told conference delegates.

The challenge is there.

The question is whether it will be taken up.

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## **NZ Seafood Industry Conference**

[Registrations](#) are now open for 2018 New Zealand Seafood Industry Conference and Technical Day to be held on the 1st and 2nd August at Te Papa.

The programme for the technical day on 1 August and the conference on 2 August has been finalised and includes an excellent line up of local and international speakers.

The NIWA technical day will feature topics from ocean acidification and plastics pollution to protecting the safety of our delicious seafood and digital monitoring. There will also be a Posters display during a happy hour at the end of the day.

Our Sustainable Seafood session at the conference will feature Volker Kuntzsch, CE - Sanford, Grant Rosewarne, CE - New Zealand King Salmon, and Doug Paulin, General Manager Group Operations - Sealord who will outline their companies' contribution to an innovative and sustainable industry.

[Click here to view the full programme and register.](#)



## NEW ZEALAND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE AND TECHNICAL DAY

August 1 & 2, 2018, Te Papa, Wellington

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### Tribute to Hon Koro Wetere, 1935 - 2018

Te Ohu Kaimoana (Māori Fisheries Trust) paid their respects to Hon Koro Wetere who passed on Saturday at the age of 83.

A well-respected Māori Fisheries Commissioner, Wetere served on the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission from 2002 until 2011. During his tenure, he oversaw the development of an allocation formula for the Māori Fisheries Settlement, that culminated in the distribution of around \$700 million in fisheries assets to iwi after a decade of legal and political dispute.

His appointment as the Minister of Māori Affairs in the 1980s saw Wetere present the Treaty of Waitangi Amendment Bill to Parliament. The treaty was subsequently passed and became a memorable moment in Māori history - allowing Māori to place legal claims as far back as 1840, as opposed to 1975 under the former act.

Wetere's most recent contributions were as part of a media conference panel opposing the establishment of the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary. The line-up of Māori Dames and Knights stood to voice the concerns of Māori fishers - in that enacting the sanctuary would abolish Māori fishing rights that were acquired through the Fisheries Settlement.

Te Ohu Kaimoana Dion Tuuta commended Wetere's work as a Parliamentarian, a Minister and a Fisheries Commissioner. "For some iwi still, those who have yet to complete their Treaty claim with the Crown, the money they receive from the Māori Fisheries Settlement makes up a significant, and sometimes only, part of their tribe's income. Mr Wetere's contribution to Māori as well as iwi economic development was all-encompassing." he said.



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## **New marine protection pending for Motiti Island**

The Environmental Court and High Court have ruled in favour of an appeal made by Motiti Rohe Moana Trust to ban fishing on Astrolabe Reef. The decision grants local councils the authority to regulate fishing around Motiti Island using the Resource Management Act to better protect marine life.

After the Rena container ship sunk near the Astrolabe reef in 2011, an exclusion zone was placed around the wreck to allow for salvage and for marine life to recover from the 350 tonne oil spillage. Marine life thrived and local hapū have battled ever since to maintain protection of the area.

Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash attended Forest and Bird's annual conference in Wellington on Saturday, defending the Government's reservations over the court ruling. Nash stated the decision marked a "fundamental change" in the management of fisheries and therefore, requires further clarification.

"There are significant implications. I think this is an issue that we need to understand the implications of and I would have no problems seeing this go all the way to the Supreme Court."

"It comes to the primacy of the RMA over Fisheries legislation, in terms of managing our marine areas. I'm not saying one is more important than the other, but what I do think is we need to get this right." Nash said.

Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage, Environment Minister David Parker and Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash will all provide advice to Solicitor-General Una Jagose leading into the final appeal decision.

The appeal will primarily address who has the legislative responsibility to manage the 12 nautical mile inshore zone around the coast.

"In the end, I do believe we all want the same thing; healthy ecosystems and abundant fisheries, and the current court decision raises an important constitutional issue around which authority has the primary responsibility for achieving and maintaining this". Nash said.



The wreckage of container ship *Rena* on Astrolabe reef, Bay of Plenty

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## **FishServe delivers benefits**

Fifteen years ago, a desire for the New Zealand seafood industry to have a greater role in the services it pays for culminated in the founding of the industry-owned service provider, FishServe.

After assessing the risks and benefits, the Government and industry made a mutual agreement to phase out services from the Ministry of Fisheries and transfer them to the new industry-led provider.

Today, FishServe (a subsidiary of the industry body Seafood New Zealand) has become an effective software and data services provider that's a core part of fisheries management support.

It is responsible for the operation of five public registries: quota shares; catch entitlement, fishing permits, vessel licences and high-sea vessel licences. Under New Zealand fisheries law, this information becomes 'one source of truth'.

Operating costs have been cut in half since the service began – decreasing them from \$8 million to approximately \$4 million by using the internet for business transactions and increasing the number of services delivered online.

FINNZ General Manager Mark Jones outlined the services provided by FishServe and their handling of data at a workshop during the Seafood Directions conference in September.

"One of the things we got right when the services were separated from [the] Government was our desire to treat our fishers as 'customers' of the business," he said. "When FishServe started, staff put in a lot of effort to work directly with fishers to identify what they needed and to help sort out

any issues. If someone had a problem we would go and see them, and show them how the forms worked, and how to do things online.”

The services are instrumental in helping fishers understand reporting, licencing and other legal requirements and assists in the transition of amenities being paper-based to electronic.

Jones said attention to setting up the service the right way has benefited day-to-day operations and avoided conflicts of interest. A customer-centric approach has improved data quality and the speed of service delivery - earning FishServe its reputable name as a trusted provider.

“We operate within a service and data governance framework that clearly articulates our roles and responsibilities. We don’t own the data; it is owned by individual fishers and government,” Jones said. Staff must adhere to comprehensive performance standards for data handling and are, therefore, a fundamental part of ensuring the credibility of the organization.

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## **Tomi Maru 87 completes her annual survey**

New Zealand deepwater factory trawler F.V Tomi Maru 87 completed her annual multimillion dollar survey at the historic Calliope Dry Dock in Auckland this week. The “Tomi” of Timaru catches a large proportion of NZ fishing company Solander’s ACE and specialises in targeting silver and white warehou – a fish particularly appreciated by Japanese markets.

Survey works will be completed on the voyage back to Timaru Port, where the vessel will resume her continuous fishing operations in July.



*Tomi Maru 87* headed home after completing her annual survey in Auckland.

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## Ocean Bounty - Independent factory trawler

Join host Graeme Sinclair as camera man Mal Williams is winched aboard the Russian-built factory trawler, *Independent*, off Taranaki and offloads in Lyttelton. This eighth episode will look at the contribution that commercial fishing makes to the Lyttelton community and Canterbury. Tune in this Sunday at 5pm, TV3.

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## News

Hawke's Bay skippers of commercial fishing vessels met in Napier last Friday, where they endorsed an industry-wide code of conduct, *NZ Herald reports*. The meeting laid out a six-point plan and industry expectations that all skippers will abide by. Seafood New Zealand Chief Executive Tim Pankhurst said the industry made a promise to the people of New Zealand and through the code, it is serious about keeping that promise. Napier skipper Mike Terry, who was among the attendees, said he has noticed a significant difference in Hawke's Bay fisheries and that skippers would continue to follow the code as they have for the last few years.

Fisheries New Zealand, Te Korowai, and the Kaikōura Marine Guardians hosted an event for researchers to present their findings into the effects of the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake on the marine environment, under a broad programme commissioned by Fisheries New Zealand. Manager of Fisheries Science Richard Ford said "The research has given us a good baseline to measure how the recovery is progressing and where we need to focus our attention in the future, "Continued monitoring of the recovery progress will inform future marine management options for when and how the current closure of shellfish and seaweed fisheries may be lifted."

Two commercial fishermen were convicted and fined \$1000 after a commercial set net was found to be blocking off more than a quarter of the entrance to Symonds Bay. The offending was reported by the public to the Ministry for Primary Industries in July last year. As well as being financially penalised, the fishermen's vessel was also forfeited to the crown.

Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash informed representatives at Forest and Bird's annual conference on Saturday that plans to install cameras on commercial fishing vessels will be pushed ahead, *Stuff reports*. Nash said he hopes to put the proposal to Ministers in July, but agreement from NZ First and the Greens to work collaboratively on the policy would be fundamental. "I really do want to emphasise that there is a process that I have to go through. I'm not going to come and just say cameras are going on boats. It's not my decision, it is actually a Cabinet decision." he said.

Alastair Macfarlane, well known in the seafood industry, has been appointed as the Senior International Fisheries Advisor in the Ministry for Primary Industries. Alastair first joined the

industry's peak body in 1990, and took on the role of General Manager of Trade and Information for the Seafood Industry Council until Seafood New Zealand was established. He continued working with Seafood New Zealand until taking up various industry related consultancy roles both here and overseas. He will bring a wealth of industry knowledge and experience to MPI and we wish him well in his new role.



Green algae showing the uplift at Ward beach, Kaikoura.

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