



THE UPDATE

Captain's Blog



Roadshow highlights industry collaboration and support

Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash joined a Seafood NZ roadshow around the country's ports in Napier yesterday.

In an at times robust exchange with local fishermen he defended a proposed 20 percent cut in the area's tarakihi quota, saying he had listened to industry representations and had resisted calls for larger cuts from his officials.

Star Fish director Andy Claudatos said he would not have invested in a new boat, *Christmas Creek* bought from Sanford and renamed *Nereus* after a Greek sea god, if he had known a quota cut was coming.

He said the science needed to catch up with the stock, that fisheries had rebuilt and there was plenty of fish in the Bay.

He had to leave hundreds of tonnes uncaught because of an imbalance between species.

In a mixed fishery it was not possible to simply target one species.

Star Fish has forwarded a rebuild strategy to the Minister's office to ward off even larger cuts that includes excluded areas, net trials and more scientific trawl surveys.

The last trawl survey was about 15-20 years ago, targeted snapper and was at the wrong time of the year, Claudatos said.

The meeting at the East Pier Hotel was convened by Seafood NZ to update on industry issues, including the Promise campaign to lift reputation and build public trust in the sector.

Nash agreed with the aim to ensure all New Zealanders value and support the seafood industry.

"There's some negative publicity out there that is not good for the fishing industry," he said.

"The Promise wants to counter that and say, hey, you know what?, this isn't an industry full of rogues and pirates who are out there plundering and pillaging. They're actually good, hard working men and women who are doing the right thing."

He said New Zealand seafood was the best in the world for a number of reasons.

"First we have the Quota Management System which means that all our seafood is sustainably caught.

"Look at our waters, unpolluted. This is as good as it gets around the world.

"Thirdly, the men and women who are part of our industry care about this absolutely."

Seafood processing provides 238 jobs and contributes \$84 million to the Hawke's Bay economy, according to BERL research commissioned by Fisheries Inshore NZ.

The wider area 2 fishery on the North Island east coast from Gisborne south adds 615 jobs in the catching sector and an additional \$235 million.

The sector supports more than 13,000 jobs throughout the country, predominantly in the regions, and provides healthy, delicious food.

The science shows the fishery is in strong shape – 97 percent of the commercial catch comes from sustainably managed fish stocks according to Ministry for Primary Industries scientists.

However, it is not enough to perform well economically.

We must be publicly perceived as meeting high social and environmental standards.

We invite the industry's detractors to recognise the genuine efforts being made and work with us.

That is a lot harder than throwing stones but will ultimately be more effective.

After all, we all want the same thing – a sustainable fishery.

Today the roadshow is in Gisborne where Mayor Meng Foon will speak on the importance of the fishing industry to the local economy in a midday meeting at the Emerald Hotel.

Picking a bone with King Salmon

Removing 30 pin bones from every King Salmon fillet is no easy task.

King Salmon, also known as chinook, have finer bone structures that pin-boning technology is not adapted to. Ordinarily, the bones are plucked out manually, one by one.

“It’s a tedious and costly task and we have to rotate our staff on the pin bone line to avoid repetitive strain injuries,” said Mount Cook Alpine Salmon processing operations manager Brent Keelty.

Seeing this as an area of opportunity, Mt Cook Alpine Salmon partnered up with Scott Technology and Seafood Innovations Ltd to develop an automated pin-boning system.

“We needed their skillset to tackle a project like this, but we also wanted a pragmatic approach that would provide a staged solution along the way to a potentially fully automated solution,” said Keelty.

Scott Technology was the ideal partner, with expertise in imaging technology and robotics in the food sector to their name.

Assistive hand-held devices were the first stage of development and are soon to be followed by more advanced concepts such as machine vision technologies that will develop 3D views of each fillet.

The technology will use algorithms to determine the precise locations of the bones, the plan being to adapt the robotic automation to remove pin bones.

The project is expected to take 18 months.

Chief executive of Scott Technology Chris Hopkins welcomed the challenge.

“It’s ingrained in our culture, finding interesting ways to apply technology solutions to business challenges, particularly to help fast-growing New Zealand companies whose products are delivering valuable export revenues for the country,” he said.

Seafood Innovations Ltd is also onboard, providing over half a million dollars to support the project.

“We’re really excited about the potential this project has to deliver significant value to Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, helping the company meet growing market demand for its premium product,” said Seafood Innovations Ltd general manager Anna Yallop.

Currently processing 500,000 fish each year, the company expects the innovation will help meet the increasing demand for boned out fillets and portions, especially in overseas markets.

“Smartening up our pin boning efficiencies is just one step towards matching the cuts and offerings expected by our global customers.”



Another tick for orange roughy

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified New Zealand orange roughy fisheries (ORH3B East and South Chatham Rise, ORH3B Northwest Chatham Rise, and ORH7A including Westpac Bank) have passed their 2nd annual surveillance audit, proving that they continue to meet this high international sustainability standard.

Two of the four conditions of certification were closed during the audit.

The first closed condition required the East and South Chatham Rise stock to be within the management target range – or to be between one third and one half of the unfished stock size. A new stock assessment completed in 2018 estimates the stock to have been increasing for the last eight years and to be within the management target range for the last three years.

The second closed condition required an external review of the management of these fisheries. In 2018, MPI completed [an independent external review](#) of the Deepwater Fisheries Management conducted by Independent Quality Assurance New Zealand.

The two remaining conditions require fisheries managers to demonstrate with more certainty that the two Chatham Rise fisheries do not pose any adverse effects to protected

coral populations. Coral populations are widespread over large areas at depths where orange roughy are fished and in much deeper waters. Only a very small portion of their range overlaps with orange roughy fishing. Occasionally, bottom trawls targeting orange roughy do encounter coral. In 2017-18, observers reported 21kg of coral caught in these fisheries. Work on assessing whether these impacts are affecting the coral populations is both ongoing and the conditions on MSC certification require this to be addressed by December 2021.

You can find the audit report completed by MRAG-Americas available online [here](#).



Māori Fisheries Conference 2019

Te Ohu Kaimoana is proud to announce its annual Māori Fisheries Conference, taking place on Wednesday 27 March 2019, at the Novotel Hotel Auckland International Airport.

The conference is launching into its eighth consecutive year and has become the pre-eminent hui in fisheries for Iwi and Māori fishing interests. The theme for the 2019 conference is 'Te hā o Tangaroa kia ora ai tāua' - the breath of Tangaroa sustains us.

Speakers include Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash, Kono chief executive Rachel Taulelei, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa lecturer Tina Ngata, Te Ohu Kaimoana chief executive Dion Tuuta and more.

A workshop will be held prior to the conference on Tuesday 26 March from 1pm – 4.30pm.

Key issues for marine and freshwater biodiversity will be examined in the context of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy review and the management of īnanga (whitebait) and its' significance to Māori will also be discussed. To register for the workshop, email

ika@teohu.maori.nz

Visit [Te Ohu's conference site](#) for more information on accommodation, the programme and to register.



A sneak-peak at the February issue of SNZ magazine

Here at Seafood NZ we are just finalising the February edition of the Seafood New Zealand magazine and it is a bumper edition. Taking pride of place on the cover is the opening of the Auckland Fish Market, the new must-visit seafood destination for Auckland. The multi-million dollar transformation has seen the creation of Sanford & Sons fish monger, which is now at the centre of a bright, bustling hub of Auckland's best seafood restaurants. The restaurants and a bar are set around a leafy, covered courtyard and the complex, on the same Wynyard quarter site is bustling with activity. Read about the philosophy and the vision behind this major investment when the magazine lands. Also in the edition is a good read about a doctor, a Chevy and a 12-metre catamaran. Tom Mulholland spent a decade as a ship's doctor and now spends his year sailing to ports around New Zealand looking after the health of fishing communities. Tom is on a 16 port tour, with the final port of call being Whangarei before heading home to Auckland. The February edition will be mailed on February 16th.



News

Environmental groups criticised New Zealand for missing an opportunity to clamp down on fishing that trawls the bottom of the ocean, destroying vulnerable corals and other rare species. The annual South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) meeting in the Hague this week, adopted a measure (regulation) for managing deep-sea fisheries on the high seas of the South Pacific. The regulation will allow New Zealand vessels to continue deep-sea bottom trawling on biodiversity hotspots on seamounts and deep mountain ridge systems on the high seas. Deep Sea Conservation Coalition said the High Seas regulators who attended the meeting had the opportunity to toughen the rules. Lobbying by New Zealand and Australia stopped that, said the group. Legal advisor Duncan Currie attended the meeting and said the lobbying was a way of facilitating the deepsea bottom trawling activities in the Pacific Ocean and was likely due to industry pushback. Seafood New Zealand responded, stating the comments made are misleading and factually incorrect in some instances.

Greenpeace is calling on New Zealand Government to stop supporting dubious fishing activities after it tried to remove a Talley's fishing boat from a global blacklist of illegal fishing vessels. The vessel, *Amaltal Apollo*, was caught doing 14 bottom trawls for orange roughy in a protected area of the Tasman Sea. Amaltal Fishing company released a statement on Thursday, stating that the vessel stopped fishing as soon as they were aware the captain had inadvertently fished in an unauthorised area. *Amaltal Apollo* entered the area in May 2018 after seeking confirmation from an onboard MPI observer that the area remained open and the vessel could fish there. The observer confirmed he was permitted to fish in the area. Amaltal spokesman Tony Hazlett said the error was a technical one that was made based on outdated information given to the MPI observer by the Ministry's observer unit. "We categorically reject any suggestion that there was deliberate and intentional fishing in any closed area," he said. "Our captain fished with the full knowledge and complete approval of the MPI observer." The company has used the incident to enact process improvements. Talley's faces 14 charges and will be heard in Nelson District Court on 20 February.

Fisheries New Zealand is inviting people to have their say on a number of proposed changes to the blue cod fishing regulations. These changes were identified as a priority through the development of the National Blue Cod Strategy. The strategy was built on concerns that were raised around the depletion of local blue cod fisheries, said Manager of inshore fisheries Steve Halley. "The changes have been developed in partnership with iwi, and a technical advisory group to ensure that the blue cod fishery is sustainable for future generations." For recreational fishers, recommended changes include lowering the daily bag limits in the South Island, introducing a two-day accumulation limit, requiring blue cod to be landed in a measurable state, and standardising the Minimum Legal Size of landed blue cod to 33cm nationwide. "We are also seeking feedback on introducing a minimum cod pot mesh size of 54mm for both recreational and commercial fishers," said Halley. A traffic light system assigning different recreational daily bag limits to areas in the South Island, based on the health of blue cod populations, is also amongst the proposals. Consultation closes at 5pm on 26 March 2019. A final decision on any regulatory changes will be publicised through a number of media channels later this year.

Check out the latest Seafood Magazines