



THE UPDATE

Captain's Blog



**He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.
It is people, it is people, it is people.**

Taranaki woman Jacqueline Bublitz has made a heartfelt personal submission on the potential impact of the proposed Maui and Hector's dolphin threat management plan (TMP).

She said the plan, which has been drawn up by bureaucrats with little understanding of the implication lines drawn on maps have for hundreds of fishers, processors and retailers and their families, was part of an agenda by environmental NGOs to end commercial fishing.

Submissions on the controversial extension of set net and trawling bans in an additional 24,000 square kilometres of ocean closed on Monday.

The timetable around a government response is unclear.

Bublitz, known as Rocky, is the sister-in-law of Keith Mawson, owner of Egmont Seafoods, New Plymouth's prime seafood processor and retailer providing employment for 40 fishers and factory staff and their families.

If the further restrictions on fishing activity, already heavily regulated and monitored, are enforced, Mawson says he will be out of business.

So, too, will be hundreds of small fishers in coastal communities around the country.

Any further restrictions must be based on sound science, Seafood NZ said in its dolphin submission.

Not one Maui dolphin has been confirmed caught by a commercial fisherman since 2002 and the TMP itself recognises toxoplasmosis, a cat-borne disease that enters waterways, is the main threat to Maui. It suggests that set netting may capture an estimated one dolphin every 10 years and in the trawl fishery one in 50 years.

The far more numerous Hector's dolphin is estimated to have a population of 15,700 and the science shows the numbers are increasing.

The consultation paper dispassionately states that hundreds of fishers stand to be affected and hundreds of millions of dollars lost from regional economics.

Yet it contains no socio-economic analysis, no discussion of the human impacts, compensation or transitional assistance.

"It's an easy sell to demonise the fishing industry, made even easier by the seeming disinterest of our elected officials to get to know the people, like my brother (Shane Bublitz, Egmont vessel manager), who stands to lose everything if further restrictions are placed on inshore fishing," Bublitz said in her submission.

She said it was a personal response "focused on truth, my family and our people".

"He, (Bublitz) along with the fishers he works closely with, have their existence on the line as much as our dolphins do.

"From mental health to mortgages, these (mostly) men are at risk, yet (Fisheries Minister) Stuart Nash immediately diverted the conversation to Brand NZ when asked about them on the 6 o'clock news.

"I find that completely unacceptable. I would have more respect for the likes of Greenpeace if they came out and said they don't care about us, that they want to push their agenda at any cost.

"That they're prepared to sacrifice people's lives and livelihoods, along with New Zealanders' access to fresh, locally caught fish, because the people don't matter. What the rest of the world thinks is more important.

"Further targeting the already heavily regulated inshore fishery in non-core habitats does not save dolphins in the end.

"It's just a giant green tick on our social license card to help sell things in other countries, while we bankrupt our own people, ignore treaty settlement and customary rights and sell our backbone to the highest (or loudest) bidder.

"This is not who we are."

He aha te mea nui o te ao? What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. It is people, it is people, it is people.

Or is it the brand, the brand, the brand?

A changing landscape of fish populations

Ocean temperatures are projected to increase by four degrees by the end of the century – harbouring direct impacts on marine ecosystems, fish populations, fishers and consumers.

Rutgers and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have said the effects are already surfacing, with some global fish populations faring better than others.

[Their study](#) used temperature-specific models and hindcasting across fish stocks to determine the degree to which warming has, and will, affect fish species.

Black sea bass was found to have expanded its range and catch potential in the US, as waters previously too cool for it warmed. Juvenile herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea also profited from ocean warming, which increased food availability.

However, losses were found to outweigh the benefits for most fisheries, evident in a four percent decline (net) in sustainable catch potential over the last 80 years – a cumulative loss of 1.4 million tonnes.

The North Sea was especially hard hit, experiencing a 35 percent loss in sustainable catch potential since 1930, and East Asia losing eight to 35 percent across its three seas.

Fisheries management was also a factor – with well-managed fisheries found to be more resilient to ocean warming, whereas those with a history of overfishing were most vulnerable.

Study co-author Christopher Free said fish have evolved narrow temperature tolerances – a strategy that saves them energy when temperatures are “just right”, but “becomes a problem” when fish find themselves in warming water.

“As the oceans warm, fish move to track their preferred temperatures. Most fish are moving poleward or into deeper waters,” Free said.

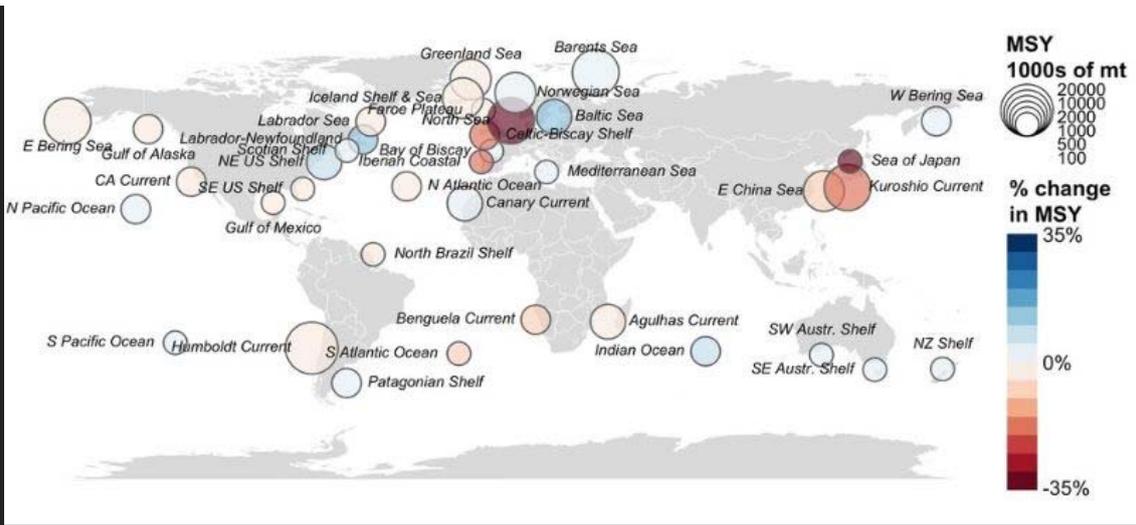
“For some species, warming expands their ranges. In other cases, it contracts their ranges by reducing the amount of ocean they can thermally tolerate.”

These shifts change where fish go, their abundance and catch potential.

Although some fish are benefiting now, there’s only so much species can tolerate as temperatures rise, Free cautioned.

The study provided three core take-outs:

1. Preventing overfishing and rebuilding fish populations will enhance resilience against ocean warming while securing long term food and income
2. Swift climate-adaptive management reforms will help ensure management remains strong as fish migrate from one nation’s waters to another
3. Greenhouse gas emissions will need to be aggressively curbed



The red-brown circles represent fish populations whose maximum sustainable yields have dropped as the ocean has warmed. The darkest tones represent extremes of 35 percent. Blue-type colors represent fish yields that increased in warmer waters. Image, Chris Free.



2019 Port Chalmers Seafood Festival

The Port Chalmers Seafood Festival is back again, showcasing the best of seafood, Kiwi music and local beverages.

Held every two years, the event attracts more than 4000 people from across the country and is run completely by local volunteers.

Attendees can expect fresh seafood stalls, cooking demonstrations including Masterchef winner Brent McGregor, live music and more.

Saturday 28th September, 11am-5pm.

Visit the [Port Chalmers Seafood Festival website](#) for more information, or [Eventfinda](#) to purchase tickets.

2019 Seabird Smart Awards

The 2019 Seabird Smart Awards are open for nominations.

The biennial awards are an opportunity to recognise those who go the extra mile for seabirds.

Individuals, companies, vessel crews, or anyone involved in fishing that's committed to making a real difference for seabirds, can be nominated.

Visit the [Seabirds Smart Awards site](#) for more information. [Nominations](#) close on 31 August.

News

Forest and Bird have called for urgent action to better protect yellow-eyed penguins from fishing threats, *Radio NZ* reported. The environmental group said there were three reported hoiho incidents in the 2017/2018 data period, but an observer rate of just 10.4 percent. They therefore estimate 30 hoiho died in that period due to set nets. The Ministry for Primary Industries said Forest and Bird's analysis was incorrect, as are their assumptions of hoiho bycatch and the amount of observer coverage. MPI Director Fisheries Management Stuart Anderson said a total of nine hoiho captures were reported by commercial fishers and/or observed by Fisheries New Zealand observers over the past five years. Fisheries Inshore New Zealand called Forest and Bird's estimates scaremongering. Three yellow-eyed penguins were caught in 2017/18, not 30, said chief executive Dr Jeremy Helson. "Fishing has a small impact on this population but is mitigating its effects and voluntarily supplying fish to rescue centres to feed the penguins," Helson said. "If Forest and Bird really wanted to save these birds they would put all their

resources into the real and identified issues causing their depletion." Helson said these issues include starvation due to increased water temperatures, disease, particularly avian malaria, predation from barracouta, great white sharks, sea lions and leopard seals; and human threats such as dog attacks and tourism. A full scientific reassessment of fishing-related hoiho captures will be completed next year and provide more reliable estimates of fishing's impact.

Submissions for the proposed Hector's and Māui dolphin Threat Management Plan closed on Monday, with more than 13,000 web, email and post submissions received. A petition of 76,000 signatures was also handed into Parliament. Seafood New Zealand's TMP submission outlined the human cost the proposals would have for fishers, their families, processing facilities and the wider community. "Seafood New Zealand strongly supports efforts to save the Maui and to further protect their more numerous close relative, the Hector's dolphin," said Seafood New Zealand chief executive Tim Pankhurst. "We support the appropriate extension of scientifically based exclusion zones, the use of dolphin deterring technology, the enhanced use of observers and the current camera trial. What we cannot countenance is the obliteration of small fishing operators and what amounts to theft of property and Treaty rights." Read Seafood New Zealand's submission on the Hector's and Māui dolphin TMP [here](#).

Check out the latest Seafood Magazines

