



THE UPDATE

Captain's Blog



Bad behaviour brings us all down

It's been a long ten days of scandal in political circles and it has drawn well-deserved public condemnation

However, it is easy to condemn an entire system for the actions of a few.

National Fisheries spokesman, Ian McKelvie raised this with Seafood New Zealand when we visited him at Parliament yesterday, pointing out that calls to overhaul an entire system when some within it act badly, are not the answer.

You can see where this analogy is heading.

The reputation of the seafood industry, and almost every other sector, can rapidly be tarnished when an individual chooses to go rogue and, while reputations are very hard to build, they are very easy to lose.

That's why it is very important that the industry is just as vocal in condemning bad behaviour as our opponents.

Take Kevan Clarke, or Clapper as he is known on the Chatham Islands.

Last week, Clapper was found guilty of catching and landing 22.2 tonnes of shellfish and only reporting half of it. That's an \$800,000 theft.

It would be fair to say that the Chatham Island population is pretty angry at Clapper.

So is the rest of the industry and Seafood New Zealand, along with the rock lobster and paua industry organisations were quick to publicly condemn him.

MPI said the scale of his offending displayed an enormous level of greed and disregard of the rules.

We reckon it's worse than that.

MPI works hard to get these convictions and the courts do what they can to find appropriate redress but often the penalties are not commensurate with the crime.

As Gary Cameron of PauaMAC4 on the Chathams says; who pays the debt to Tangaroa? Should the \$150,000 forfeited from Clapper's property and quota shares be used for good?

Should the punishment include the reseeded of pāua beds with the kaimoana he stole? Should the cash from the sale of his vessels go into an education programme so the next generation actually understand that they are guardians, kaitiakitanga, of the resource?

On the Chathams, fishing is sixty percent of their economy. It is also integral to their way of life.

As a community, they have worked very hard to improve their fisheries and are determined to protect them from those who intend to threaten their sustainability.

Gary Cameron says they feel betrayed by someone who let greed blind them and now have to deal with the economic loss to the community and the damage to their shared fishery resource.

The seafood industry is constantly bettering itself, be it through innovative mitigation, better fishing practises, workplace safety or lessening its environmental footprint.

Clapper let us down.

***Kaharoa* crew set sail on biggest journey yet**

NIWA's research vessel, the *Kaharoa*, left Wellington on Wednesday, with its six crew on a mission to deploy remote ocean-monitoring Argo buoys in the Indian Ocean.

The four-month expedition is hoped to keep international ocean research afloat amidst the global Covid-19 pandemic.

The 100-odd free-drifting scientific instruments are part of a major international science project that maintains over 3800 buoys across the world's oceans. Collectively, the project aims to measure the role oceans hold in climate and weather systems and build an understanding of how these conditions impact fish stocks and biodiversity.

Border closures in Western Australia and the Mauritius Islands will mean the crew won't touch land until they return to Wellington in early October.

The expedition will be the longest trip ever undertaken by *Kaharoa* crew.

NIWA oceanographer Dr Phil Sutton said Covid-19 has already disrupted other voyages involved in the research programme, which could lead to data gaps.

“The problem with these data series is that they need to be continuous. You are never quite sure what has happened when there is a gap - you can never fill it in,” Sutton said.

“Maintaining coverage is set to become a challenge without regular missions.”

Kaharoa will need to refuel in Freemantle, but quarantine procedures will require crew to remain on the vessel, with a further quarantine period in Wellington at the end of their 70-day voyage.

The crew will face some significant seas and winds ahead, particularly on their journey through the Southern Ocean, Sutton said they are resolute on getting their scientific instruments into the water.

“While the voyage will be a long one for the small crew, they are absolutely determined to deploy the floats,” he said.

The floats will measure temperature and salinity in the top 2000m of the ocean and send data back via satellite every 10 days.

The floats have a lifespan of approximately five years, with all the data they collect becoming freely available.



RV Kaharoa, Wellington Harbour. Image; Dave Allen, NIWA.

Diving for dinner? Not any more - a recreational diver's opinion

A 2013 proposal to open some areas of the Otago coastline to allow commercial diving for pāua was roundly rejected by recreational fishers.

Rallying behind the “Pāua to the People” banner, divers and fishers made it very clear to the Government just how important these kaimoana areas are for local divers.

Accordingly, the proposals were dropped.

Now, DOC’s South East Otago Marine Protected Area (SEMPA) proposal, seeks to close these areas for good.

If approved, local fishers can say goodbye to some of the best seafood gathering areas in the country.

Fishing and diving will be banned from:

- Stony Creek to Pleasant River;
- Flax Point south to and including White Island;
- All of Green Island; and
- All of the Akatore area (the 9km of coastline north of Watsons Creek).

A short swim or kayak from Smail’s Beach brings you to brilliant pāua, rock lobster and finfish. Where will the Dunedin divers go now?

Heading south, with Green Island and the Akatore coast gone, it’s an hour and a half drive to Kaka Point mātaītai for the next good dive spot.

Heading north, you could try the north side of the Peninsula – although half of that is sandy beach, inaccessible or only small reef areas.

Warrington and Karitane reefs were closed last year too...the closest replacement is to drive an hour to Shag Point or the Moeraki mātaītai.

The mātaītai can still be fished – for now.

Then there’s the issue of displaced catch. When popular fishing spots are closed, the catch level inevitably goes up, with the remaining open coast needing to support increased fishing effort caused by the closures – a simple arithmetic.

There are only a couple of weeks left to make your views heard.

Read more on the [consultation](#) and [submit your view here](#).

**Republished with permission from the Tautuku Fishing Club Facebook page.*



Smalls beach, southeast of Dunedin.

2020 Sustainability Awards

The Sustainable Business Awards are New Zealand's longest-running and pre-eminent sustainability awards. Now in their 18th year, they recognise businesses, local government, social enterprises and individuals succeeding in sustainability.

The Awards provide the chance to compete in 12 categories relating to sustainable business, including new categories for covid-19 resilience, climate action and technology:

- Sustainability Superstar
- Communicating for Impact
- Climate Action Leader
- Climate Action Innovator
- Social Impactor
- Outstanding Collaboration
- Going Circular
- Tech for Good
- Good Food
- Restoring Nature
- Change Maker
- Resilience in Crisis

The Supreme Award will be awarded to a business for outstanding performance in all aspects of sustainability.

All New Zealand organisations and individuals may participate.

For more information or to make an entry, visit: www.sustainable.org.nz/awards.

Entries close 28 July 2020.



News

New Zealand exports are fast returning to pre-Covid levels as China's economy re-opens and consumer confidence returns, *NZ Herald* reported. The Ministry for Primary Industries will be sending a further two of its staff members to Beijing to strengthen New Zealand's engagement with its largest export market. MPI Counsellor for market access Ivan Veljkovic, along with his family, and Second Secretary Eileen Nowland-Walker will leave for Beijing in the next week or so. They will be strengthening relations with Chinese regulators for New Zealand's primary product exports and working with Chinese officials from a range of different agencies. New Zealand's trading relationship with China "is our most valuable" said Veljkovic. "Our meat, logs, apples, kiwifruit, seafood and dairy products are in high demand. We don't feel it as a weight on our shoulders, but we know how important it is to get it right," he said.

Forest & Bird is challenging Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash's 2019 decision on East Coast tarakihi stock levels, arguing the decision is not environmentally sustainable or legal. The hearing was set for 22 and 23 July in the Wellington High Court. The Minister of Fisheries, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand and Te Ohu Kai Moana are opposing Forest & Bird's challenge. "The East Coast tarakihi stock has been fished down to a shocking 15 percent of their natural population," said Forest & Bird chief executive Kevin Hague. "There is clear Government policy that any fish that is depleted to this extent must be allowed to rebuild, and in the case of tarakihi within 10 years. Minister Nash's 2019 decision to reduce the commercial catch by only 10 percent means it will take at least 25 years for the stock to rebuild, if it ever does." The environmental group has also expressed concern that the Minister relied on a voluntary plan provided by the fishing industry, containing actions such as further research and rules as to where commercial fishing boats would temporarily move to if too many undersized fish were caught.

New Zealand King Salmon Chief Operating Officer Alan Cook has resigned, *Seafood*

Source reported. Cook, who previously worked in senior leadership positions at Marel and Icycle Seafoods, joined the Nelson, New Zealand-based farmer of king salmon in January 2019. NZKS said Cook will be returning to his native country of Canada with his family, with his last day of work being 10 September 2020. “On behalf of the board and the whole New Zealand King Salmon team, I thank Alan for the outstanding contribution he has made to our company,” New Zealand King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne said. “His experience has been valuable in introducing improved farm practices with single year class and upwelling to counter warming sea temperatures in the Sounds. We are disappointed to see him leave and wish him all the best for the future.”

Check out the latest Seafood Magazines



CONTACT

Email info@seafood.org.nz

Phone [+64 4 385 4005](tel:+6443854005)

Physical address

Level 6

Eagle Technology House

135 Victoria Street

Wellington 6011

New Zealand