



THE UPDATE

Captain's Blog



The dolphin decision - a cost/benefit analysis

It's landed, and the fallout is just beginning.

The Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation delivered the death knell to set-netting and large tracts of inshore fishing on Wednesday when they announced their decisions on the Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP).

Promises were made of compensation, which is a welcomed component of the decisions. But little detail was supplied, there was talk of 'ex gratia payments' and 'business advice'. This will be cold comfort to small, generational fishermen who must now pass this bad news down to their crew, their processors and their families.

When pressured by media to put a figure on the cost to industry of the decision, the Ministers gave a wide ballpark of \$30-\$70 million. That's a high price when the last verified Maui dolphin death attributed to fishing was 18 years ago. And in the South Island, affected fishers are even more aggrieved, with the 15 thousand strong Hector dolphin population increasing every year.

The industry will consider its options when it gets to see the decision letter and the Final Advice Papers. We must also await the detail of the compensation package, the headliner on which is already ringing very loud alarm bells because of who it doesn't mention.

The communication from the Ministers' offices states that compensation is only for commercial fishermen and Licensed Fish Retailers (LFRs).

What of quota owners? Those people who have bought the right to catch species of fish that will no longer be able to be caught?

And what of Maori, who received that quota in the Maori Fisheries Settlement?

Dion Tuuta, CEO of Te Ohu Kaimoana says the impact on Iwi traditional fisheries rights – commercial and non-commercial – will be significant.

“In some areas, it’s a double-whammy. In Taranaki for instance, the Iwi will take a hit to their commercial quota and lose their traditional pataka system. Unlike other quota owners, Iwi cannot sell their Treaty-settlement commercial interests, yet the new measures will deny them the ability to utilise their traditional commercial fisheries in certain species.”

Tuuta says he is not entirely sure whether this was fully understood or appreciated.

“In this instance I believe compensation is required for the loss of access to these valuable traditional rights. Every Iwi affected cannot simply move their customary rights to another part of the country to be fished. The displacement effects could also be significant and it’s yet to be seen how it will play out.”

And let’s consider for a moment others affected by this decision.

Like the Timaru fisher who tells us he can’t even face going down to his boat, let alone out in it since the news broke. Like another, who has fished for 50 years in a conservative, sustainable manner who says his future has been taken away. Or the young man who sells all his butterfish to locals in Wellington, like the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club and direct to the public. He fished the South Coast and West Coast of Wellington – both now dead to him. On Wednesday night he was agonising about how to tell his four crew. Kieran Boyle catches butterfish as well around the Wellington coast – well, not for much longer. He points out that, come 1 October, 10 vessels that were catching their fish on both the West and South Coast of Wellington will now be chasing butterfish in one small area from Pencarrow to Baring Head.

So, let’s look at our cost/benefit analysis. In the costs column we have lost jobs, revenue and livelihoods, cost to the Crown of compensation, and the tricky matter of the Treaty.

As the Government’s own TMP states that toxoplasmosis is killing 11-15 times more Maui dolphins than fishing, the Hector’s population is increasing and commercial fishing hasn’t caught a Maui since 2002, we are struggling to put ‘saving dolphins’ in the ‘benefits’ column.

Sanford manager's 20,000 feet jump for charity

Free-falling for 85 seconds wasn’t exactly on Ted Culley’s bucket list, but the tandem effort followed through, resulting in a \$30,000 fundraising boost for the Graeme Dingle Foundation’s ‘Kiwi Can’ programme.

Culley, Sanford’s general manager of aquaculture, made the 20,000 feet jump on June 13, with the help of Motueka-based Skydive Abel Tasman.

"The hands haven't stopped shaking," Culley said.

"I only started thinking about it on the drive over and then it started to build until you get on the airplane and it becomes exhilaration.

"The shuffle from the seat to the door is probably the hardest two metres of my life - the heart was pumping - but once you're out, it's great."

It's not the first time Culley has taken to the air in support of the Graeme Dingle Foundation, having abseiled off a Blenheim car park building in 2013 as part of a 'drop your boss' initiative, followed by his first sky dive in 2015.

His most recent effort also posed a personal challenge – to lose 12 kilograms during lockdown to meet the jump requirements.

Culley exceeded his target, shedding 20kgs.

"I like food, so keeping away from the refrigerator and the discipline to lose 20kg was a bit of a challenge, but it was a reasonably determined effort throughout the process," he said.

The nationwide charity promotes positive child and youth development, currently supporting over 27,000 five to 18-year-olds throughout New Zealand. Its local Kiwi Can programme teaches primary-aged children skills such as resilience, integrity and positive relationships during weekly in-class sessions.

"These are messages that are getting out to around 60 per cent of Marlborough schoolchildren - in 14 schools - strategies to do the right thing, even when no-ones watching," said Marlborough regional manager Kelvin Watt.

Numbers have grown to 2,500 children in the programme each week in schools between Havelock and Ward.

Watt said the organisation was "99 percent" funded from within the Marlborough region, with about a third of that by corporate sponsorship, including Sanford.

Another 25 percent came from fundraising initiatives such as 'drop for youth' that Culley participated in.

"It's people like Ted that make a massive difference with what we're able to do - he's an amazing guy," Watt said.

"Ever since then, he keeps asking me 'what are you going to get me to do next?' But I'll keep him in suspense a bit longer before I hit him up again."



Jumping from 20,000 feet above Tasman Bay, Ted Culley's weekend skydive helped raise \$30,000 for the Graham Dingle Foundation's Kiwi Can programme.

Seafood Stars Awards - Final call for nominations

Nominations for the 2020 Seafood Stars Awards are closing soon.

Although the 2020 conference has been cancelled, the awards will continue, with winners announced through the Seafood magazine.

The awards are a great opportunity to celebrate our industry people and recognise their achievements.

This year's award categories include:

- Future Development and Innovation Award
- Young Achiever Award
- Longstanding Service Award
- COVID-19 Response Award

Download and submit [the form](#) to nominate someone today, or visit the [Seafood New Zealand website](#) for more information.

Submissions close the coming Tuesday, 30 June 2020.

News

Fisheries New Zealand has successfully tendered a company to develop an electronic automated reporting system (EARS) solution. EARS monitors and verifies compliance with

mitigation tools, ensuring fishers are following the law and minimising the risk of harming seabirds. The system uses robust sensor technology and applies it to the high seas in a new configuration, focusing mainly on night setting, streamer lines and line-weighting. Compared to pre-existing solutions that use up to a gigabyte of data, EARS uses much less and relays much more information, William Gibson from Fisheries New Zealand said. "This is megabytes and tells us more." Department of Conservation Seabird Researcher Dr Igor Debski said EARS could also play a critical role in demonstrating mitigation compliance and showing that the industry is addressing the bigger problem of seabird mortality. "Using technology such as blockchain and GPS tracking, this development would not have been possible without applying new ways of solving problems pioneered by Creative HQ's GovTech Accelerator programme." Gibson described the simplicity of the solution as key in determining its success. "The beauty of [EARS] is that it is simple, but the info that it creates is invaluable". EARS is expected to go live by mid-2021.

Log and rock lobster exports suffered a multimillion-dollar hit during lockdown but the forecast for New Zealand's primary sector is slowly starting to look more positive, *Stuff* reported. Primary sector exports are on track to grow by \$1.7 billion this year, according to the Ministry for Primary Industries' [Economic Update for the Primary Industries](#), published in lieu of its usual quarterly SOPI report. The update showed year-to-date primary industries export revenue was tracking 4.5 percent higher than last year. Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said the forecasted growth would help underpin the country's recovery from COVID-19. "Overseas consumers are now more than ever looking for healthy, New Zealand-made food. We've seen that with the sustained demand for fresh fruit, particularly in Europe and North America and the strong demand for red meat in China," O'Connor said. "Our farmers and growers are in a strong position to help us reboot our economy." Stats NZ's provisional trade data showed exports of live rock lobster slumped by 82 percent (nearly \$38 million) from February to April compared to the same time last year. Other hard-hit species included hoki and farmed salmon. However, Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash said the lucrative Chinese market was showing signs of recovery as seafood markets reopened. "New Zealand kaimoana enjoys an excellent reputation around the world, built on the hard work of generations of fishing operators. The almost \$2b in export revenue it brings into the country will be particularly important as we recover from the effects of COVID-19."

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