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BLISTERING BARNACLES

101 words
11 June 2007
Dominion Post
4

English
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RHIAM Beauchamp-Hughes, 3, shakes hands with an octopus while Victor Anderlini from the Island Bay Marine Education Centre looks on. The doors to the long-awaited centre on the shoreline were thrown open to the public for the first time yesterday. Creatures in the centre range from leatherjackets to cuttlefish, **flounder**, moki and eels. The open day, which included competitions, was timed to coincide with World Ocean Day. The development on Wellington's south coast was controversial. Thousands of people made submissions to Wellington City Council before resource consent was granted last year. Organisers plan more open days.

Document DOMPOS0020070612e36b00047

CATCH OF THE DAY

Maggie WICKS

986 words

3 September 2006

Sunday Star-Times

3

English

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Two top Wellington chefs ditch the kitchen for the countryside in a wild new cooking show, writes Maggie Wicks. THE ENTREES start at \$24 and a steak will set you back more than \$40 at one of Wellington's foremost fine dining restaurants Logan Brown, but head to the beach with a chicken bone and some nylon, and the crabs come crawling for free. Trawl through most New Zealand estuaries and you'll come up with an armful of **flounder**, and there's kahawai in

most harbours you care to cast a line in.

This is the message behind Al Brown and Steve Logan's show, Hunger for the Wild. The founders and owners of Logan Brown grew up hunting and gathering food, and still do, whether it's gathering pipis at the beach with their children or shooting wild rabbit.

The point of Hunger for the Wild is to get us doing the same. Says Logan, "We want to show New Zealanders how lucky they are to have access to this beautiful countryside and raw ingredients like seafood and game they can utilise. The show is about how special the country is from that point of view."

Brown agrees. "There is nothing better than sitting on a beach having a glass of New Zealand wine with a pot of pipis on the boil. It's as fresh as can be and you're eating it at the source."

The seven-part series, which started last Sunday with lessons on catching and cooking crayfish, will offer up boar, rabbit, paua and pheasant in coming weeks. But aren't pig hunting and crayfish gathering a bit ambitious for the average city-slicker? Nonsense, they chime. Here's a trick Brown tried with his daughters, aged four and six, on a camping holiday. Head to the beach and tie a chicken bone to a rock at low tide. "We just went in with a butterfly net and crabs were all over the bone," he says. "We scooped them up and went home to cook 'em. Brilliant!"

Fancy something more substantial? Get yourself a net from any sports shop and pick an estuary. Tie an oar to each end of the net and simply go dragging at low tide, and you've got flounder for dinner. Easy as that.

Each episode will feature food of the week and a hunting expedition with a knowledgeable local. There'll be a couple of tips - the flounder episode, for example, offers three techniques for catching them. After the produce has been hunted, caught and killed, there's no going back to a flash inner-city kitchen - everything is cooked on-site - by the river, on the beach, in the bush.

Logan and Brown (they call each other "Logie" and "Brownie") have been mates for years. They met in the early 80s working at the old Western Park Tavern in Wellington and hit it off immediately. "We both liked rugby, we both liked a good time and working hard. We had similar values straight up, eh Brownie," says Logan. They live just a block apart, with their wives and two daughters.

Logan says despite their fine-dining background, they had plenty in common with pig hunters and crayfish catcher. "We share our love of food and getting the best possible quality product from the wild. What's different is you're having a whitebait saute and serving it on a white table cloth, or you're eating a saute of whitebait where it's still wriggling in the pan. The people dining in (Logan Brown) have the same passion as the people who are eating their whitebait on the side of a river."

There is a bit of greenery in between - wild thyme from Otago to go with the local rabbit, and fresh watercress is gathered to match the West Coast crayfish - but there isn't much for vegetarians in Hunger for the Wild. "We visit vege gardens and market gardens," says Brown, "but this isn't a vegetarian show. But maybe we'll do a follow-up show on hunting carrots." There's much guffawing all round.

The two have trouble picking their favourite foods - too much to choose from. "I love everything, hence my size," says Brown. "I don't have a favourite but I love New Zealand's seasonality. So when the Bluff oysters come in I've been hanging out for nine months, and the whitebait season has just kicked off so I'm thinking about that. And then there's Nelson scallops and then asparagus pops out of the ground. I'm convinced that everyone goes on their OEs, and a light goes on in their heads. They realise, 'wait a minute. We have the greatest oils, four seasons, a temperate climate, clean seas and these wonderful species. Like, duh, it's all here!'"

They reckon anything from the sea is the closest thing we have to a national dish. "New Zealanders just adore fish," says Logan, "whether it's a spotty off the wharf or a scallop from the harbour. We snorkel for paua on the south coast or crayfish, and there's snapper and kahawai off the harbour in Wellington. So there's plenty of opportunity."

In the restaurant or by the river, their philosophy is the same. "The food on the table should look like what you've ordered," says Logan. "Cook it simply and let the natural flavours speak for themselves. That's what we do here and in the wild. But instead of whitebait arriving here, caught two days ago and coming in a plastic pottle, we're catching them with a net as they come in on the turn of the tide."

"Yeah," says Brown. "So we say a prayer, then we cook them up." Cue the guffaws.

* Hunger for the Wild, TV One, Saturday, 7pm.

Document SUNSTT0020060904e2930001n

THREE FAMILY MEMBERS CAUGHT POACHING FLOUNDER SENTENCED

310 words
18 August 2006
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2006 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 18 NZPA - Three members of a family of five convicted for poaching and selling **flounder** in South Auckland were sentenced today in Manukau District Court.

Martin Horne, 61, unemployed ex-commercial fisherman, was ordered to complete 350 hours of community service.

The judge said his offence was a severe, long-term, calculated plunder of a valuable community resource.

His nephew Jacob Horne, 42, unemployed of Mangere was fined \$900 plus court costs of \$130 on each of the five charges he faced.

Jacob Horne's ex-partner, Fenny Harry, a 40-year-old beneficiary, also from Mangere received 200 hours community service.

The other two offenders, Ernest J Chapman, a 51-year-old invalid beneficiary from Kaitia (Martin Horne's cousin) and Jeffery Anthony Horne, a 58-year-old unemployed truck driver (Martin Horne's brother) were sentenced on May 24.

Chapman received 250 hours of community service and had his 4.6m vessel, his \$12,000 ute and a set net forfeited to the crown. He was banned from fishing as this was his second serious fisheries offence in the past seven years. Horne received fines totalling \$1800 and \$250 court costs.

The five defendants were jointly charged with 15 offences.

The five were charged after fishery officers caught Martin Horne taking large amounts of flounder from the Manukau Harbour in April and May of last year.

Fishery officers mounted a surveillance operation on the Manukau Harbour, at the Waikowhai Park boat ramp and at a house in Mangere. An undercover fishery officer also visited the house in Mangere and was offered the flounder for sale.

Ministry of Fisheries will be seeking the forfeiture of three vehicles belonging to members of the family, Martin Horne's boat, trailer and set net and a chest freezer.

NZPA WGT reg kk jpg

Document NZPA000020060818e28i0009d

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FEMININE SIDE

Beck ELEVEN

306 words

8 December 2005

The Press (Christchurch)

4

English

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Scientists are investigating whether contaminants in Lake Ellesmere could be responsible for gender-bending among eels.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) has contracted Landcare Research to study the reproductive organs of eels and **flounder**.

The aim is to discover whether intensive dairying or other factors could be responsible for the disproportionately high number of female eels in the lake.

While the sex of other fish is determined by genetics, the sex of an eel is determined by its environment.

A high density of eels will naturally cause 99 per cent of them to be male.

Landcare Research ecotoxicology programme leader Louis Tremblay and scientist Dr Cara Lowe yesterday started taking blood samples from eels in the lake.

Tremblay said the issue of contaminants in the environment had sparked overseas studies where it was shown that industrial and farming effluent could manipulate the sex of eels and fish.

He said little information was available in New Zealand and hoped this study would throw some light on the effects of these "endocrine disrupters" -- contaminants which inadvertently influence gender.

Tremblay said it was possible that large numbers of cattle grazing at the water's edge could leech estrogen into the lake and feminise the eels.

"We, as humans, have our waste treated but animals' is not treated and might be a potential source.

"The lactating status of the cows might mean a fair amount of hormones."

He said eels were a complicated species to work with. They did not sexually differentiate until they were 20 years old and could live up to 40 years.

ECan surface water quality scientist Shirley Hayward said the initiative came from questions raised by the community about effluents and the high concentration of chemicals in the lake.

Results from the \$5000 study are expected early next year.

Document THEPRE0020051208e1c80002w

ELLESMERE HELPED

136 words

1 November 2005

The Press (Christchurch)

10

English

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Lake Ellesmere is not dead or in the throes of dying, as Tom Reece states (Oct 25). The continuing good health and numbers of birds, eel and **flounder** belie this. The lake could and should be better. Some strategies for this are already under way.

For the determined action that Tom wants to see, the Waihora Ellesmere Trust is working to bring together the information (there are gaps in knowledge of the lake) needed to make a durable solution, at a symposium planned for late next year. This will involve all those with responsibilities or an interest in the lake and its catchment. If Tom contacts the trust (353-9712, P. O. Box 116, Lincoln), we will ensure he is sent information to enable him to participate.

ROB McPHERSON Chairman Waihora Ellesmere Trust Lincoln

Document THEPRE0020051101e1b10003g

Spearing flounder tackled by everyone

By Bruce Duncan

437 words

10 July 2005

New Zealand Herald

57

English

(c) 2005 The New Zealand Herald

FLOUNDER WOULD have to rate in the top five of my favourite fish. But not only are they superb eating - it's the one fish that anyone can target as you don't need a boat and they are easily speared on the shore. Right around our coast there is a sandy, muddy bottom, a river entrance or an estuary, where you will find one or more of the various **flounder** species.

Looking at a fish that is flat with two eyes on top of its body you can be forgiven for thinking it would be a slow, dumb fish, therefore easy prey to target with a spear. But these crafty little critters have the ability to settle in the sand and flick it all over themselves - combined with their camouflage skin colouring, they can be virtually invisible. They also have large protruding eyes which give them incredible vision - not only to see through the water but also above it. Add to that speed from a standing start that would make any boy racer look like a wimp and they make a worthy adversary for those who target them with a spear.

Spearing flounder by day is not a practical or successful way of putting a feed on the table as they are just too hard to see and easily spooked, so it's best to target them at night. Spearing flounder is best done on an incoming tide as they slowly swim up the beach or mudflats feeding on tiny crabs and the like. If spooked on the incoming tide, they move in shore again, whereas on the outgoing tide they're more likely to be well fed and will stay in deeper water.

A simple six-inch nail tied to a broom handle will do as a spear, along with a powerful torch or tilly lantern, but for less than \$100 you can buy a complete flounder kit of underwater light, battery pack/recharger and spear.

By slowly wading in water around knee height, the flounder will be mesmerised by the light. Now the skill of the hunter is to move into spearing range without spooking it.

Aim for the head as you don't want to damage any flesh. Once speared, hold the spear hard down on the bottom while you put your hand underneath the flounder so it will not fall off the spear as you lift it out of the water. Spearing flounder is great family fun and your skills will be rewarded with one of the finest eating fish in our waters.

MAINFISH10

Document NZHLD00020050709e17a0001x

CHINESE, MAORI MAY FARM FISH IN BAY OF PLENTY

361 words
2 May 2005
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2005 New Zealand Press Association

Tauranga, May 2 - A new multi-million-dollar onshore fish farming industry, including processing plants, could be established in the Bay of Plenty using the latest Chinese technology and undeveloped Maori land.

A wide variety of fish -- from oysters and scallops to crayfish and **flounder** -- would be farmed in specially controlled conditions under cover at several sites in the district.

The fish would be sold locally and exported to Southeast Asia and other markets.

An official delegation, led by Yantai Municipal Oceanic and Fishery Affairs Bureau director Jiang Zing Chun, will visit Tauranga next month to further talks that began during the mayoral sister city delegation to China in April.

Export Bay of Plenty president Rob Jeffrey, a member of the mayoral delegation to China, said the aquaculture project was shaping up as one of the greatest opportunities to come to the region for a number of years.

The Chinese expressed strong interest in making an investment in the Bay of Plenty after receiving a presentation from Ngati Ranginui chairman Huikakahu Kawe and deputy chairman Alf McClausland. "We look forward to forming a strong relationship with you," Mr Jiang told the delegation. "We have a tradition in fish farming that goes back to 1934 and we can share technology and make the enterprise profitable and sustainable."

Last week the Ngati Ranginui Iwi Society board was briefed on the results of the visit and backed the aquaculture project. "It exceeded our wildest expectations and the board had the same enthusiasm about it," said Mr Kawe. "We can generate income and employment -- not just now but for our next generations. Because of the depletion of stock, land based fish farming is going to be the way of the future. And we have the opportunity of setting up a leading edge venture."

Mr Kawe said fish farming sites could be established on any iwi land in the Western Bay of Plenty -- not just Ngati Ranginui's.

Project teams have been established in Tauranga and Yantai.

Mr Jiang pledged to put down cash to match the Maori offer of making land available.

NZPA BOP ajb hl

Document NZPA000020050502e1520000c

Net skills will never flounder

BRUCE DUNCAN

263 words

27 February 2005

New Zealand Herald

53

English

(c) 2005 The New Zealand Herald

A LL ROUND our coast we have a huge amount of bays, estuaries and river mouths where **flounder** live. Being too lazy to wander around mudflats with a light and a spear, I prefer to use a net - perfect for catching those crafty critters.

Using the net is one thing the family can participate in but first read the fisheries rules on how and where you can use it, as well as size and bag limits of **flounder** species.

Safety is key with water-related activities. Don't wear a watch or clothing with buttons that'll get caught. A fish bin is the best thing to use a net from and, when laid out properly, is easy to set from.

Laying the net in the bin prior to use is best done by three people: one on the float line, one on the lead line, with the third in the middle pulling the belly of the net into the bin.

Dragging a net from the beach or an estuary is best done on a rising tide. With one person in ankle-deep water, the other walks out to waist depth with the fish bin quickly letting out the net, then dragging a long arc back towards the beach - drag low and slow.

Once you've reached the end of the beach or estuary, go back and start again in clear water. Don't let the flounder bounce around as they'll die slowly. A poke with a knife behind the eyes will dispatch them humanely.

Document NZHLD00020050226e12r0000c

INCREDIBLE FALL IN CRIME

206 words
15 February 2005
Dominion Post

4

English

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Saturday was a magnificent day, and to cool off, I strolled down to Paraparaumu Beach with my **flounder** net, as I do about twice a year.

After one drag of about 100 metres, we came out of the water to see we had caught one **flounder**, one angelfish, several sand sharks and the mandatory 50 crabs.

I also caught the attention of one fisheries officer and two police officers. My net was confiscated because of what was supposed to be under-sized mesh and the flounder was also under-size.

I admit it was my responsibility to be aware of the law on the legal size of flounder and will take the warning issued as a reprimand.

But I know you'll join me in celebrating the incredible drop in serious crime in the region as two police officers could be allocated to assist our fisheries inspector confiscate a fishing net -- which, it turns out, was not under-sized and was returned to me the next morning with what I think was an apology. I wonder if the same police would have turned up to my house if, on my return, I'd discovered it had been burgled.

JEREMY NEEVE

Paraparaumu Beach

Document DOMPOS0020050215e12f0003a

Fisherman faces huge fine

178 words

6 November 2004

New Zealand Herald

A18

English

(c) 2004 The New Zealand Herald

A RECREATIONAL fisherman caught selling **flounder** to two South Auckland fish shops has had his car, boat, trailer and nets seized and could face fines of up to \$250,000.

The Fisheries Ministry says officers watched the man for several weeks and saw him setting his net on the Manukau Harbour several days a week.

Officers also followed the man several times and saw him entering the two fish shops carrying one or more bags, the ministry said yesterday.

On Thursday, officers followed the man into one of the shops and found several flounder in a bag he carried.

Although he denied he was selling the fish, owners of both fish shops admitted they had been buying fish from him for \$7 a kilogram for about a year, the ministry said.

A decision would be made shortly on the charges he was to face.

Ministry district compliance manager Ian Bright said recreational fishers who sold their fish undermined the successful quota management system.

“We have absolutely zero tolerance for this sort of behaviour.”

NZPA

Document NZHLD00020041105e0b600023

RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN CAUGHT SELLING FLOUNDER TO FISH SHOPS

336 words
5 November 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Nov 5 - A recreational fisherman caught selling **flounder** to two South Auckland fish shops had his car, boat, trailer and nets seized and could face fines of up to \$250,000, the Ministry of Fisheries says.

The man had been under surveillance by fishery officers for several weeks and had been seen setting his net on the Manukau Harbour several days a week during that time.

Officers had also followed the man on several occasions and seen him entering the two fish shops carrying one or more bags, the ministry said in a statement today.

Yesterday, officers had followed the man into one of the shops and found a number of flounder in a bag he had been carrying.

Although the man had denied he was selling the fish, owners of both fish shops admitted they had been buying fish off the man for \$7 a kilogram for about a year, the statement said.

Fishery officers had then seized the man's car, boat, trailer and net. A decision would be made shortly on the charges he was to face.

If found guilty, he could expect to face the permanent forfeiture of the items seized as well as fines of up to \$250,000.

Ministry district compliance manager Ian Bright said recreational fishers who sold their fish undermined the successful quota management system and the basis under which the resource was managed for all New Zealanders. ``We have absolutely zero tolerance for this sort of behaviour and those caught will not only be vigorously prosecuted, but if convicted they can also expect to lose anything they have used in the commission of that offence. In this case that means the offender's car, boat, trailer and nets."''

Mr Bright warned businesses dealing in fish that buying from a recreational fisher or any person who walked in off the street was a serious offence, carrying large fines for those caught and found guilty.

NZPA WGT mjd cs kk

Document NZPA000020041105e0b50005k

FISHERMAN IDENTIFIED

66 words
27 October 2004
Dominion Post
5

English
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A western Southland man who died after being swept out to sea near Tuatapere, 87 kilometres northwest of Invercargill, on Monday has been named by police as Peter Devery, 44. Mr Devery was fishing for **flounder** with a friend at Blue Cliffs, 10km from Tuatapere, when they were both swept out to sea just before 6pm, Invercargill police said. His body was washed ashore.

Document DOMPOS0020041026e0ar0000r

FORMER COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN CONVICTED ON FISHING CHARGES

286 words
17 June 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Levin, June 17 - A former commercial fisherman has been fined after he pleaded guilty in Levin District Court to charges of illegally possessing fish and unlawfully selling fish.

Mervyn Smith, 53, a Foxton sickness beneficiary, held a fishing quota to take **flounder** from the Manawatu River but sold his entire **flounder** quota in January 2001, Fisheries Ministry prosecutor Pravesh Sharma said yesterday.

On June 23 last year, after a tipoff, fisheries officers went to the river where they found eight set nets each 60 metres long.

Next day officers saw Smith and co-accused Myra Betty towing an aluminium dinghy and outboard motor to the Manawatu River where they collected 65 flounders while resetting the nets in the river.

The following day they collected another 65 flounders, Mr Sharma said.

The officers inspected their home later that day and found 21 prepacked bags of flounder, some of them partially frozen.

While the inspectors were still at the property a couple with \$114 cash arrived to buy 19 bags.

Smith admitted to the officers that he was selling fish but only every second week.

He knew it was illegal and had put other people's names on the nets to make it look legal.

On April 21 Betty was convicted and fined \$200 for her minor role in the offence, Mr Sharma said.

Defence lawyer Chris Stevenson said Smith had been under a huge amount of financial strain and, after feeling the humiliation of having to go to Work and Income for food vouchers, had decided to make ends meet by putting down nets.

Smith was convicted and fined \$500 on each of the two charges.

NZPA LVN mgr nb

Document NZPA000020040617e06h0000p

UNDERCOVER OFFICERS CATCH FISHERMAN.

164 words
11 September 2003
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2003 New Zealand Press Association

Whangarei, Sep 11 - A Northland fisherman is facing up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 after he was caught by undercover fisheries officers.

Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) officers seized a 4m aluminium boat, an 8-horsepower outboard motor, two set nets and 21 **flounder** from the man following undercover surveillance by five staff in the Whangaroa Harbour, last week.

MFish officer Harvey Fergusson said the man had allegedly been operating more than one set net from his vessel.

The law allows only one set net to be operated per vessel.

"We were watching the harbour following information we had received," Mr Fergusson said.

Fisheries officers established the man was allegedly selling his catch around the Whangaroa community.

"This type of black-market offending is reportedly happening on a large scale in the North. It is considered to have a serious impact on the fish stocks around our coastline," Mr Fergusson said.

NZPA WRA ob gs.

Document NZPA000020030910dz9b000br

THE WEEK THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD.

233 words
28 June 2003
Dominion Post
15

English
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It was like a tinny house. People were coming in, while the fisheries officers were at the house, wanting to buy fish.

Fisheries Ministry manager Ross Thurston describes a raid on a house selling black-market **flounder**.

They were murdered in cold blood. There was no way they could escape.

Iraqi policeman Salam Mohammad tells how six British military police were killed by townspeople in Majjar.

I think if you had been holding his sweaty hand on the final moment, it would have belied what he just said.

Labour MP Georgina Beyer-who held fellow MP Tim Barnett's hand during the tense final vote for his Prostitution Reform Bill-laughs off his suggestion that he was sanguine about his 60-59 victory.

There are no good label shops here except Hallensteins.

Upper Hutt resident Andrew Slight reacts to criticism that the area is full of fat bogans.

I said to William, 'We love you', then kissed him on each cheek.

Actor Aaron Barschak, after gatecrashing Prince William's 21st birthday party dressed as Osama bin Laden.

The New Zealand female charm is less obvious ... with New Zealand women when it comes to the real thing you get more than you expect. In Italy, sometimes the illusion is greater than the reality.

Departing Italian ambassador Roberto Palmieri delivers a back-handed compliment to Kiwi women.

Document dompos0020030702dz6s00051

MINISTRY MEN GO FISHING AT 'TINNY HOUSE'.

214 words

27 June 2003

Dominion Post

1

English

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A TRULY fishy "tinny house" has been busted in Foxton.

It is alleged that for about three years a man has been selling black-market **flounder** from his house in an operation the Fisheries Ministry likened to a tinny house.

The man, a former commercial fisherman, was likely to be charged under the Fisheries Act and could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Ministry district compliance manager Ross Thurston said staff, acting on a tip-off, went to the house on Wednesday.

"It was like a tinny house. People were coming in, while the fisheries officers were at the house, wanting to buy fish."

By law, there was no minimum size for flounder, but as a recreational fisherman the man was not permitted to sell the fish he caught, and was allowed to use only one net at a time.

The ministry alleged the man had been fishing every second day for about three years, using up to eight nets at a time, at the Manawatu River mouth. Mr Thurston said the operation was well known in the community. "It was only a matter of time before he got caught."

Officers seized 65 fish and confiscated more than \$10,000 property.

Document dompos0020030627dz6r000gs

FISHING FACTS ABOUT FLOUNDER.

196 words
24 February 2003
Dominion Post

4

English

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WE CAN confirm that commercial fishing for **flounder** takes place in Wellington Harbour (Feb 4) and has done so for some time. However, it is important to note that several fisheries regulations restrict commercial **flounder** fishing by method and to certain parts of the harbour.

Commercial fishing for **flounder** is generally undertaken by trawling or set-netting. All forms of trawling are prohibited throughout Wellington Harbour.

There are also specific restrictions on commercial set-netting: it is not permitted inside waters between Hutt River to Matiu-Somes Island to the Johnsonville rail tunnel; it is prohibited in Oriental Bay between November-April; the use of set nets elsewhere is constrained to nets less than 1000m in length; and no set net must be placed within 60m of any other set net.

Flounder varies in abundance. This species is fast-growing and short-lived and the fishery is based on a few year classes. As such it is not uncommon for the fishery to be abundant one year and not in another.

Further, habitat modification from land-based development has a substantial bearing on where flounder are found.

KIM DRUMMOND

Ministry of Fisheries.

Document dompos0020030227dz2o000hj

FISHING FOR FLOUNDER.

201 words
4 February 2003
Dominion Post
4

English
(c) 2003 Independent Newspapers Ltd. All rights reserved.

I would like to bring to the attention of Wellington City Council and Wellingtonians that commercial fishing for **flounder** takes place in our great harbour.

Most summers for the past 40 years, I have spear-fished for **flounder** in the harbour and there were plenty to be found, including many inch-long young.

This summer, my son and I have been taking our hand spears to our favourite spot. Instead of hundreds, only one adult and one inch-long flounder have been spotted in six days.

From talking to friends, I found out that commercial floundering had been going on since last summer. I rang the Ministry of Fisheries and was told that this was correct.

When I said the harbour was - or had been - the breeding ground for flounder species, the spokesperson agreed but said there was nothing that could be done. From what we saw, commercial fishermen have done well. The breeding population of flounder seems to have been decimated. I wonder what other species get caught in their nets.

The harbour is a great recreational facility for young and old. All commercial fishing should be banned so it remains this way.

T J COLTMAN

Oakura.

Document dompos0020030204dz24000t4

WETLANDS REVIVAL PLANNED.

By Kylie PINKER.
396 words
29 January 2002
The Christchurch Press
4
English
(c) 2002 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Stories are still told of how people once netted whitebait, caught **flounder**, harvested eels, and swam in Blenheim's Grovetown Lagoon.

Saturday will mark the start of a community project that aims to ensure it happens again.

The lagoon was the last of the freshwater wetlands that once covered the lower Wairau Plain. It covered 22ha, and had a catchment area of 12.5km.

Project spokesman Jeffrey Hynes said for years iwi had been worried about the state of the lagoon. The Wairau River, the lagoon, and two culverts were seen as one and had a special meaning to tangata whenua of the area; Te Runanga A Rangitane O Wairau, Ngati Rarua, and Ngati Toa.

"We look at the lagoon as the heart and the culverts are like the veins delivering water to the river," Mr Hynes said.

The area also held special cultural significance as the main tribal urupa (burial ground) for the three iwi.

Mr Hynes said the lagoon had deteriorated into a degraded state over the years. It had suffered excessive weed growth which had restricted fish passage. Smell from discharge into the area was a significant problem, along with water quality.

"The first thing people notice when they come here is the smell. We have been complaining to local authorities for about 10 years, but those complaints just fell on deaf ears."

More recently there had been a shift in attitude, he said.

That resulted in iwi, Nelson-Marlborough Fish and Game, the Marlborough District Council, the Department of Conservation, commercial business operators, and residents joining in a long-term project that aimed to restore the lagoon to its former state.

It would ensure the lagoon was safe and clean, water quality improved, that it was visually pleasant, provided a source of food, and a place for family recreation.

"We are ecstatic at the positive relationships that have developed and allowed this to happen," said Mr Hynes.

The project will be marked with a symbolic planting of native trees at the southern arm of the lagoon this Saturday in conjunction with Fish and Game's World Wetland Day.

Blenheim field officer David Oberdries said World Wetland Day marked the anniversary of the signing of the international Ramsar agreement on wetlands, to which New Zealand was a signatory.

He said the lagoon was an important habitat remnant.

Document thepre0020020129dy1t002xm

ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN TURTLE TURNS UP.

242 words
18 October 2000
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2000 New Zealand Press Association

Whangarei, Oct 18 - A commercial Northland fisherman is becoming something of an expert in catching wayward Australian turtles.

Jack Price caught two turtles in January and February last year and yesterday hauled his third turtle out of his **flounder** net off Portland, near Whangarei. The only other person he had heard of catching turtles was his father, Roy, who caught one in the 1970s while commercial fishing in Whangarei Harbour.

Mr Price suspected the green turtle got caught in currents and came up the harbour chasing jellyfish. It was released after being inspected by Department of Conservation officer Glen Coulston, who said the 46cm long turtle - which could grow up to 1.4m long - appeared to be in good health.

If people saw or caught a turtle they should contact the Department of Conservation, which kept a record of sightings or captures, Mr Coulston said.

DOC received between 10 and 20 reports each year, with regular sightings coming from the Whangarei Harbour and the Ngunguru River, 22km northeast of Whangarei.

Mr Coulston said the turtles were protected in New Zealand waters and came from the north-east coast of Australia, near Queensland. They traditionally kept to the coastline.

However, it was likely they had been caught in strong ocean currents and swept to New Zealand. They fed on seaweed, crustaceans and jellyfish. It was unlikely turtles would establish in New Zealand due to cold winter water temperatures.

Document nzpa000020010816dwai00hcy

CAR FLOUNDERS IN MUD.

76 words

1 August 2000

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 2000 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Mud, glorious mud. Not so glorious for this station-wagon owner or his helpers. The owner, who did not want to be named, took his car out on the Estuary near the New Brighton spit on Sunday to go **flounder**-fishing. He caught 30 flounders, but the vehicle got stuck and had to be left overnight before it was freed. The towing fee was \$300 or, put another way, \$10 a **flounder!**

Document thepre0020010818dw8100fh

New Zealand's aquaculture exports earned about \$200 million in the past year....

460 words
22 June 2000
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2000 New Zealand Press Association

New Zealand's aquaculture exports earned about \$200 million in the past year, and he said the concerns were with the food fed to cage-reared salmon, snapper and **flounder**.

"They'd better be pretty damn sure they are using fish-meal - by-products from a fish factory that cannot be fashioned into food products for human consumption - and clean fish-meal at that," he said.

But Dr MacDiarmid said today the two main theories about the origin of BSE in Britain - that it arose from rendered material from scrapie-infected sheep being fed to cattle, or that it arose from a chance mutation in cattle and was spread in stockfood - were not relevant to fish.

There was also laboratory evidence that it became increasingly difficult to infect an animal with a TSE disease, across species barriers, the more distant was the species in which it originated.

One theory was prion proteins produced naturally in most animals could be triggered to "fold" the wrong way and cause a TSE illness, simply through insertion of abnormally folded prion proteins. But the susceptibility of different species to this effect differed greatly - rabbits were almost completely resistant to TSE infection.

"Just because BSE can get easily into cats and easily into humans, doesn't mean it's going to get easily into anything else," he said.

It seemed improbable, for instance, that chickens could be infected, and the evolutionary distance between salmon and humans appeared to be a safety barrier.

Dr MacDiarmid said it was ironic that when it appeared the feeding protein from herbivorous species back to the same species appeared a key factor in the BSE outbreak in cattle, someone was advocating fish should be fed on by-products from other fish, than from farm livestock.

But he acknowledged that some fish farmers might still have to deal, as an industry issue, with non-scientific consumer concerns in Europe about sheep and cattle protein being fed to fish.

"But maybe the fact that New Zealand is one of the four countries which got into Europe's category 1 risk classification will help," he said.

Nelson-based New Zealand King Salmon has said it will continue to feed its farmed salmon on animal by-products. King Salmon chief executive Paul Steere said the company had no qualms about its feed. It got its salmon feed from a variety of sources, all of which met international standards and regulations.

A small amount of meat and bone-based additives were included in the salmon food and were used for added protein.

King Salmon imported a lot of its salmon food and food ingredients from other countries, including South America and Australia.

Document nzpa000020010816dw6m0111p

HARD WATER.

By Seth ROBSON.
1,642 words
25 March 2000
The Christchurch Press
3
English
(c) 2000 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

The battle for control of Canterbury's massive fresh water resource is likely to reach boiling point as climate change places increasing pressure on rivers and streams. SETH ROBSON reports. The ghosts of ancient South Island Maori haunt this dried-out creek bed.

Once they would light fires here to cook whitebait, eels, **flounder**, and bird eggs gathered from the mouth of the Rangitata River. But the draining of nearby swamps and increased irrigation abstraction have made traditional food gathering more and more difficult for their descendants.

"The creek has not flowed in years," says John Wilkie, kicking aside dried leaves to reveal the old fire-blackened stones that once lined his ancestors' cooking pits. Mr Wilkie's home is a hut near the river mouth, and he lives on the fish he catches and vegetables from his garden. He says irrigation is ruining many Canterbury rivers and is even having an impact on the offshore fisheries granted to Maori under Ngai Tahu's Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Crown.

Maoris are threatening court action over several irrigation schemes, claiming they breach Treaty of Waitangi property rights.

Mr Wilkie, who holds a variety of senior positions with Maori fisheries organisations, says overseas studies show that the flow of water from rivers and streams into the sea is important for the health of offshore fisheries.

"Scientific evidence shows irrigation is detrimental to the offshore fishery because there is less fresh water out there. The water generates upwelling and affects the food chain. If the water is not getting there the sea water temperatures rise and you don't get the cycling in the food chain. This is of concern to Maori all over the country," he says.

If the climatologists are right the pressure on the rivers - and conflict over their use - will intensify.

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research climate scientist Jim Salinger predicts a climate shift leading to more hot weather in the South Island over the next decade.

"The drier areas of Canterbury and North Otago may well become more prone to droughts," he says.

Global warming is also a factor.

Neil Cherry, a meteorologist at Lincoln University and a Canterbury regional councillor, says Lincoln scientists have proven a link between global warming and the region's climate.

"We have done the research to prove that, as the world warms, Canterbury will get warmer and drier. The anti-cyclone pattern will stay further south for longer and we will have longer and more persistent droughts," he says.

Canterbury is already a thirsty region:

* A Ministry for the Environment report on water abstraction in New Zealand shows Cantabrians take about 209.8 cubic metres of water (almost enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool) each second from the region's rivers and aquifers.

* The more heavily populated Auckland region, by comparison, uses only 2.2 cubic metres of water (enough to fill a large bath-tub) each second.

* In Canterbury 400,091ha of land is irrigated. Most of it is pastoral land (61 per cent) with about 25 per cent arable land and 3 per cent devoted to horticulture.

* In Otago, the next most heavily irrigated region, 84,593ha are irrigated, using 75.8 cubic metres of water per second.

The Canterbury thirst for water seems insatiable, and demand is likely to grow. There is a plethora of

irrigation schemes operating or planned for the region. Waimakariri Irrigation, for example, finished work on a massive scheme last October to take 8.5 cumecs from the Waimakariri River. The company has already applied for a consent variation that would allow it to take another 1.5 cumecs.

On a drive up the north bank of the Waimakariri River along Tram Road a variety of sprinklers, centre pivot irrigators, and even larger devices that would straddle a rugby field stalk the land like giant steel robots in search of prey.

Rangiora farmer Neville Thomson converted his crop and sheep farm to a dairy operation last year, investing about \$150,000 in three large irrigators that winch themselves down his long narrow paddocks. Each waters 6ha a day.

At the end of 10 days his entire 180ha property has been irrigated. Land that was as dry as a bone a year ago is now covered in clover with leaves the size of 50 cent pieces.

Mr Thomson says the water has brought more employment and economic activity to the district. On his property, for example, three new jobs have been created. He says the water is needed to make farming viable in an increasingly competitive export market. "The export sector is driven by farming and is not paying its way. If you shut up all the rivers it is going to be of long-term detriment to the country," he says.

Not everyone is as enthusiastic about irrigation as the farmers: ask the dozen or so salmon anglers down near the mouth of the Waimakariri River on a typical weekday. Most agree that the health of the rivers should be valued ahead of irrigation demands.

Fish and Game officer Wayne McCallum estimates he made submissions on about 200 resource consent applications last year with about one-third involving irrigation consents. He says there would be fewer objections to irrigation schemes if the people behind them did more homework on environmental effects. The Waimakariri irrigation scheme, for example, started operations before its infrastructure was sorted out.

"As a consequence back-wash has gone into spring-fed waterways such as the Cust River. It has caused ecological damage to the Cust and has impacted the ability of anglers to fish," Mr McCallum says.

Fish and Game is opposing Waimakariri Irrigation's application for an additional 1.5 cumecs. It is also opposing an application to increase the irrigation take from the Hurunui River and a scheme to irrigate the central plains between the Rakaia and Waimakariri catchments, under investigation by Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council.

"It is in the early planning stage but it is hard to see how they could go ahead with that scheme without overturning the minimum flow levels on the Waimakariri or the Rakaia rivers.

"If Christchurch ratepayers' money is going to contribute to this scheme while at the same time depriving them of recreational assets it is like paying for your own execution," Mr McCallum says.

Lowland streams in the region are already at crisis point because of poor water quality. "In a lot of the Ellesmere tributaries like Harts Creek the fish just disappeared about 18 months ago. There have also been concerns about Lake Ellesmere and the Cam River," he says.

Canterbury's present problems with irrigation are caused by the failure of authorities to enforce the Resource Management Act, he says.

A snapshot of what might happen to the Waimakariri is provided by the Rangitata River, where irrigators are taking a massive 32 cumecs to irrigate 67,000ha. Three proposed schemes would increase the take to 48 cumecs - half the total average flow in the river.

Last December Fish and Game, supported by Ngai Tahu and, subsequently, by the Canterbury-Aoraki Conservation Board, applied to the Ministry for the Environment for a Water Conservation Order on the Rangitata River, in an effort to stop new irrigation schemes from going ahead.

Back at the mouth of the Rangitata River John Wilkie is riding a four-wheeled motorbike down to the long, thin lagoon which stretches along the beach next to the river. In half a century shingle build-up has caused the lagoon to shrink to one-quarter its former width.

"It's a lack of water that causes it. The breeding area is smaller so you get less inanga and kokopu (whitebait) and patiki (flounder) in the lagoon. Years ago you would get heaps of birds but because the room for all the smelt that come in is less there is not the room to accommodate them," Mr Wilkie says.

The return of salmon to the Rangitata is decreasing and that there are fewer elephant fish spawning in the area.

Irrigators have continued to win resource consents despite the fact that there are hardly any scientific studies on the effects of abstraction on the rivers and fewer concerning the impact on off-shore fisheries. Mr Wilkie says Maoris have not been well served by the resource consent process, or the Environment Court.

"We don't have the money that the Ashburton District Council and the farmers have in the Environment Court.

"They have scientists. Our knowledge is verbally handed down through the generations. The scientists can say what they want. On the Opihi the scientists said taking more water would be detrimental to the fish life but they went ahead and issued the consents. The Canterbury Regional Council did not do their job with regard to the Resource Management Act.

"The Act says fish are the priority in stream value, followed by stock water and human needs. Irrigation is supposed to be last on the list. It would appear that the council is putting irrigation first," he says.

Neil Cherry, who chairs the Council's regional planning committee, believes more work needs to be done to understand the relationship between rivers and the sea. He shares farmers' and fishermen's concerns about the hearing of irrigation consents.

The absence of an overarching plan for the region's water and a lack of ecological data on rivers has led to delays in the process and failure to protect in-stream values, Dr Cherry says. The council hopes to have a regional water plan prepared within three years.

The plan may provide a framework for handling disputes - but with the region's thirst for water likely to increase, it seems the battle is just beginning.

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Document thepre0020010818dw3p006f9

ILLEGAL NETS FOUND.

41 words

13 December 1999

The Dominion

1

English

(c) 1999 The Dominion, INL .

A Fisheries Ministry honorary officer found nine illegally staked **flounder** nets in the Ruamahunga River in south Wairarapa yesterday. They contained 116 **flounder** and other fish. Police were talking to two Martinborough men.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1999.

Document domn000020010904dvcd006xp

CONSTANT LITIGATION LEAVES FISH BODY TO FLOUNDER IN LEGAL NET.

1,135 words
13 April 1999
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 1999 The New Zealand Herald

The Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission has faced court action at least 10 times over its model for allocating fishing rights to diverse Maori groups.

But not once since it was set up in 1992 has it initiated a case; they have come from others unhappy with its proposals.

The commission, responsible for sharing out Maori fishing assets, has now been stopped again, in the High Court at Auckland, from delivering its long-awaited report to the minister responsible for fisheries, John Luxton, on how the assets of \$250 million should be allocated.

Nearly 30 Maori organisations and tribes have successfully sought an injunction against delivery of the report because, they say, some Maori could miss out on the allocation.

For the commission, the decision is another frustration, another delay in completing what seems to be a "mission impossible."

Chief executive Robin Hapi said even though the commission had given an undertaking not to begin allocation until the litigation had been dealt with, this did not satisfy those who sought the latest injunction. In his view it was Maori who suffered because of the delays and court cases.

"The delays will impose real economic costs to Maori. The allocation model developed by the commission had the support of the majority of Maori."

The commission gained more than 70 per cent approval from iwi representing 60 per cent of Maori affiliates identified in the census, he said.

The court did not think that was enough and has now said there are serious questions about whether the commission's \$250 million fisheries allocation model has adequate support from Maori.

Justice Anderson, giving the reasons for his restraining the commission from going to Mr Luxton with its plan, described the matter as crucial and profound.

"To Maori the issue of fishing rights and substitutionary entitlements is so crucial and profound that one must take great care not to rush to a mere show of justice," he said.

He added that "whatever support there appears to be for the proposed scheme, there seem to be among Maori a significant and diverse opposition to, or reservation about it."

If this combination related to but 10 per cent of Maori, still tens of thousands were not convinced of the validity of the scheme, he said.

"Having regard to the proportion of Maori who do not reside in their takiwa [iwi area], whether or not they cleave to urban Maori organisations, the numbers may well be much greater than tens of thousands."

The commission is now prevented from presenting its model to the minister until the court has heard the allegations that the commission is biased and acted unfairly. That is likely to be next February.

Justice Anderson said Wellington lawyer Donna Hall's plaintiffs - urban Maori and 28 iwi and hapu organisations - had serious grievances which they wished to be heard by the courts.

The commissioners, whatever they are being paid for their on-going work, appear to have a thankless task. They have to satisfy all Maori - as well as the Crown - on how the allocation of assets should be done.

To some it seems an impossible task. The commission always knew that whatever model it recommended there would be opposition and inevitably it would end up in court.

The 10 commissioners have also come under attack from everyone involved with the issue - politicians, tribal organisations and urban Maori authorities - and have been threatened with the sack by the

Minister of Maori Affairs, Tau Henare.

They have been verbally abused and at one point considered private security because of physical threats, signifying the intense pressure put on the commission by various factions to increase their slice of the assets.

Charges of corruption - since withdrawn - have been laid against the commission and suggestions of bias have been made, but not proven.

An eminent lawyer on Treaty of Waitangi issues, Joe Williams, said the commissioners were selected because of their expertise on Maori and fishing issues.

The commission has successfully increased the assets from the initial \$190 million to \$600 million. It has spent \$1 million a year for the past four years on its scholarship programme to help Maori into the business and activity of fishing and a further \$1 million has been budgeted for this year.

Calls for the sacking of the commission have been many and vehement.

Alliance co-deputy leader Sandra Lee accused it of refusing to hear the voices of large numbers of Maori.

"The commission has managed to offend Maori across the board, from iwi and hapu to those of our people living in the city."

Donna Hall criticised its iwi mandate policy as ridiculous and said the commission failed to ensure that those who gave agreement to the allocation had the mandate.

Mr Hapi points to its efforts to ensure mandate and argues the systems established to ensure all Maori benefited from the assets were the best available.

"The question of who actually has the mandate to represent hapu, iwi and Maori has caused problems not only for fish assets but in general claims processes with the Crown.

"The commission has pioneered an iwi mandate process unequalled in the nation's history. No other organisation has had to set such a rigorous standard for bodies claiming the mandate to represent their iwi."

The issue of mandate is surrounded by confusion. One body of people may say they represent their iwi, while another say they have the mandate.

A hui called by one iwi could select representatives, who in turn could be ignored by another group which says it does not recognise the first group and so formed its own organisation.

Only mandated iwi organisations have the right to speak on behalf of their people and to deal with the commission on fisheries matters.

There have been Waitangi Tribunal cases to decide who actually has iwi mandate, an issue that not only confuses non-Maori but some Maori as well.

It is against this background that the commission has to decide how allocation should be made.

To further cloud the issue, urban Maori authorities have demanded they be taken into account when it is time to allocate assets.

They asked Justice Paterson in the High Court at Auckland last year to basically decide what was an iwi.

His decision was that urban authorities had no claim on the assets. The decision was appealed and the hearing is set down for August.

The bulk of the cost of all the court cases has been paid by the commission - which sees it as a waste of Maori money - and legal aid.

The assets administered by the commission include major shareholdings in a number of companies involved in fishing and the seafood industry.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1999.

Document nzhld00020010908dv4d005hy

FLOUNDER AND MASH FOR ONE - AGAIN.

289 words
15 April 1998
The Christchurch Press
1
English
(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

After 52 years of **flounder** and mash for lunch every day, Masterton pensioner Eric Blake still keeps asking for more.

At a rough estimate, that is almost 19,000 flounders that the Waldorf tearooms in Masterton has served Mr Blake, 76, daily since 1946.

It was during the height of the Western Desert battle in North Africa during World War 2 that Mr Blake promised his fellow soldiers that if he got back home he would eat a flounder every day - and he has kept his word.

The flounder came to him as a mouth-watering idea in the dry heat of the desert.

"There was no shade and it was incredibly hot and when the German planes raided us they used to take out our water supplies first with a few bullets.

"I visualised the flounder and it kept my spirits up while we were in the front line for nearly three years," Mr Blake said.

During the last 52 years he has sat almost always in the same corner of the tearooms and has seen the furniture change from old wooden chairs and cloth-covered tables to formica, chrome, and padded seats.

He has also seen cooks come and go and wishes he kept count of the number of times the Waldorf changed ownership.

Mr Blake, a bachelor, has not eaten a steak or any other kind of fish during that time, and has no intention of changing his flounder-and-mash diet now.

The flounder has to be cooked to the stage of making the bones chewable. No salt must be added to the potatoes, which have to be mashed in unsalted vegetable water.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du4f00kj5

FLOUNDER FOR LUNCH ... FOR 52 YEARS.

By Gil NORMAN.

471 words

14 April 1998

The Dominion

1

English

(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

DURING the height of the Western Desert battle in North Africa in World War II, Masterton soldier Eric Blake, now 76, promised his mates that if he ever got back home he would eat a **flounder** every day.

And he has kept his word. For 52 years Mr Blake has had **flounder**, mash, vegetables and salad for lunch six days a week at the Waldorf tearooms in Masterton.

On Sundays he goes to church in the morning and cooks his flounders and mash at home afterward.

He said the flounder was a mouth-watering idea in the dry heat of the desert.

"There was no shade and it was incredibly hot and when the German planes raided us they used to take out our water supplies first with a few bullets. I visualised the flounder and it kept my spirits up while we were in the front line for nearly three years.

"So when I got back home in 1946 I started ordering a flounder and mash lunch at the Waldorf and that order has been the same for 52 years," he said.

During that time he has sat almost in the same corner of the tearooms and seen the furniture change from old wooden chairs and cloth-covered tables to formica, chrome and padded seats.

He has also seen cooks come and go and wishes he had kept count of the number of times the tearooms changed ownership.

"I wish I'd kept count of the number of changes but I now suffer a bit from loss of memory," he said.

Mr Blake never married. When he joined the army in 1942 he was a carpenter and joiner, but when he got home he found the dust involved in the work caused a resurgence of a sinus problem he contracted from his days in the desert.

Mr Blake said he had not eaten a steak or any other kind of fish in 52 years and had only once left Wairarapa in that time to visit his sister in Kawhia, but that was so many years ago that he had forgotten when.

He said he liked his flounder and mash diet and would never change it.

The flounder had to be cooked to the stage of making the bones chewable. No salt was to be added to the potatoes, which had to be mashed in unsalted vegetable water.

Waldorf co-owner Trevor Cachemaille said Mr Blake was the only customer for flounder, mash, vegetables and salad. He lived by regularity and seemed to lead a happy life.

He arrived at the tearooms between 11.45am and 12.15pm, went to a corner table and read The Dominion while waiting for his meal to be cooked, he said.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1998.

Document domn000020010923du4e00m0o

SEA LION UNUSUAL VISITOR TO OTAGO HARBOUR.

94 words

29 July 1997

New Zealand Press Association

English

(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Dunedin, July 29 - Andersons Bay inlet, in the upper reaches of Otago Harbour, provided a smorgasbord for a visiting and hungry Hookers sea lion this afternoon.

Flounder and assorted other fish were on the menu for the visitor, which attracted onlookers entertained by the agility and speed of the bulky mammal.

Department of Conservation officer Dean Nelson said it was unusual for a Hookers sea lion to travel so far up the harbour but it was obviously attracted by the fish.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dt7t00lei

Busy summer for fishery "frontliners".

465 words
29 January 1992
New Zealand Herald
9
English
(c) 1992 The New Zealand Herald

Honorary fisheries officers have in three days seized three boats being used for large-scale illegal **flounder** fishing in the same South Auckland stream.

The haul from the Whitford Creek over the weekend takes their tally of boats confiscated from the inner Hauraki Gulf around Kawakawa Bay and the Manukau Harbour to 11 since Christmas.

It includes seven full sets of diving gear, many nets and several trailers.

But the fisheries officers are not sure if the large haul is a measure of improved training and surveillance techniques or a symptom of increased poaching brought about by tough financial times.

Over the past three years the honorary fishery officer system has been revamped in the Auckland management area, which stretches from the Bay of Plenty around North Cape to Kawhia on the west coast.

Full-time fishery surveillance officers now concentrate on commercial fishing, only stepping in when amateurs are suspected of causing major problems.

In three years, honorary fisheries officers have prosecuted 130 people and not lost a case in court.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries compliance manager in Auckland, Mr Ron Chadwick, says the 80 Auckland officers stop and check 20,000 fishing parties a year.

In addition 67 honorary fisheries officers work through the ministry's Tauranga office and a further 46 through Whangarei.

"The whole thing runs fairly smoothly these days. They are our frontline people," said Mr Chadwick.

"They are a very dedicated bunch. Most of them are motivated by a concern for the environment and some have been doing this voluntarily for about 20 years."

"Education is their main role. we only charge those who seriously breach the regulations."

"Most people get a written warning from us and some get away with a verbal warning, but all sorts of subterfuge goes on out there."

Occasionally the going gets rough, with offenders either obstructing or assaulting the honorary officers.

In these cases, Mr Chadwick said, the officers were trained to avoid conflict.

"There is always another day with those types. There is a lot we can do with a car registration number or a good description."

Mr Chadwick said boats and other expensive equipment were normally seized only when the breached were serious or the people involved were suspected of giving false particulars.

Unless special reasons could be proved, all equipment seized was automatically forfeited to the crown on conviction.

The man responsible for training the honorary officers is Mr Don Main, a former wildlife officer in the Taupo region who once, with the aid of his brother, recaptured the prison escaper George Wilder.

In his 17 years with the Ministry as a fisheries officer, said Mr Main, he had never known so much equipment to be seized as had been taken since Christmas.

Document nzhld00020011122do1t004bu

Commercial net ban in Bay harbours.

126 words

17 March 1990

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Set-netting, long-lining and commercial drag-netting may be banned in Bay of Plenty harbours.

Only amateur **flounder** and mullet fishing will be allowed with nets in Tauranga, Maketu, Little Waihi, Whakatane, Opotiki and Ohiwa harbours if the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's recommendations are passed.

All set-netting and trawling within 8km of Bay islands and reefs should also be forbidden, says the council in its recommendation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Auckland fisheries management plans.

The council's submission said recreational fishing should be restricted to a daily individual catch of 20.

The popularity of the area was putting pressure on fish resources, and local feedback suggested catches were small compared with earlier times.

Document nzhd00020011127dm3h006tj