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GOOD NEWS FOR HAKE FISHERY

265 words
22 June 2004
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English
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Wellington, June 22 - Record numbers of young **hake** have been picked up by scientists in an annual survey on the Chatham Rise, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (Niwa) said today.

The multi-species survey, commissioned by the Ministry of Fisheries, had picked up more two-year-old **hake** than ever before, Niwa project leader Mary Livingston said in a statement. "It is an exciting development. We haven't seen such young **hake** at all since 1994, and the number suggest there may be more juvenile **hake** on the Chatham Rise now than in any year since the surveys began in 1992."

Hake had been in decline on the Chatham Rise, southeast of the Chatham Islands.

To be sure of the recovery however, Niwa would need to see strong numbers of three-year-olds next year and four-year-olds the year after. "A single good year may not lead to dramatic increases in the amount of hake available to the commercial fishery," Dr Livingston said.

If hake levels did not improve, authorities needed to know about it so catch levels could be set.

Two Korean fishing masters who misreported hake catches were fined \$112,500 each in Wellington District Court last year.

Song Gyun Lee and Sun Ju An, masters of Sur Este 700 and Sur Este 707, pleaded guilty to "trucking" fish, where hake fished in one place was falsely reported as having been taken from elsewhere.

The ships, worth \$2.9 million, and 433 tonnes of fish were also forfeited.

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KOREANS' APPEALS AGAINST FINES FAIL.

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English
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TWO Korean fishing boat skippers who misreported **hake** catches have had their appeals against some of the highest fines ever imposed dismissed.

Justice Ronald Young, in the High Court at Wellington, said the fines of \$112,500 for each master were not out of kilter with others imposed.

Song Gyun Lee and Sun Ju An, the masters of Sur Este 700 and Sur Este 707, had pleaded guilty to falsely reporting that hake fished in one place had been taken from elsewhere. The ships, worth \$2.9 million, and 433 tonnes of fish were forfeited. The two masters have since left New Zealand.

Justice Young said one of the grounds of appeal was that the two masters had not been given enough credit for pleading guilty, averting a lengthy hearing. However, it was a very late guilty plea, he said, and the credit given was enough.

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KOREANS APPEAL AGAINST FINES.

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9

English
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TWO Korean fishing masters who received one of the highest fines in New Zealand for misreporting where they caught fish have appealed against the level of the fines.

Sun Ju An and Song Gyun Lee pleaded guilty to three charges each and were fined \$112,500 each. Their ships, the Sur Este 700 and Sur Este 707 worth \$2.9 million, and 433 tonnes of **hake**, were forfeited to the Crown. They were guilty of "trucking" - where **hake** caught in one place was falsely reported as having been taken from somewhere else.

Both have since left New Zealand.

In the High Court at Wellington yesterday defence lawyer Mike Sullivan said there was an inadequate discount on the level of fines given to the two men for their guilty pleas. The pleas had prevented a three month hearing that would have taken a great deal of resources.

Crown lawyer Grant Burston said the Korean masters had used an extra document that got into the Fisheries Ministry system. Its use was more serious than previous cases.

Justice Ron Young reserved his decision.

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Fisheries gets tough with hard-core poachers in Kiwi waters.

By Dominic Andre
1,183 words
8 February 2002
National Business Review
English
(c) 2002 The National Business Review

Two Korean trawlers have been forfeited to the government and another three are before the courts following a major crackdown by the Ministry of Fisheries' serious offences unit (SOU) on the misreporting of **hake** catches.

Dong Won 519 and Don Fico 701, with a combined value of \$3.75 million, were seized and prosecuted following the first phase of Operation Mack. However, since conviction, both vessels have been redeemed by their owners, Dong Won Fisheries and its subsidiary Jemico Marine, for \$300,000 each.

Together with the sale of the catches and fines handed down, the exercise cost the owners more than \$1.9 million.

The second phase of the operation involves the skippers of the Korean vessels Sur Este 700, Sur Este 707 and Sur Este 709, who are facing charges in Wellington District Court. The vessels are owned by Dong Nam Fisheries, which has been in a joint-venture agreement with the New Zealand permit holders, South-East Resources from Timaru. The skippers have been charged with eight counts of misreporting catches of hake.

The Operation Mack targets were seven foreign-flagged vessels operated by New Zealand permit holders, with one, Sanford South Island, having a long-standing charter arrangement with Dong Won Fisheries and Jemico Marine.

The skipper of Dong Won 519 was charged with 10 misreporting offences while the Don Fico 701 skipper faced 18 offences. Both companies were also charged with 28 offences.

"It was a satisfying result, particularly with the scale of fines handed down. They are not to be taken lightly," said Mike Green, who manages the SOU. "The SOU hopes this will act as a deterrent to others.

"The integrity of New Zealand's quota management system is heavily dependent on the completion of returns and the accuracy of information supplied in them. In relation to Dong Won 519 and Don Fico 701, the trawl, catch effort and processing returns that were abused.

"New Zealand's hake fishery is the second most valuable hake fishery in the world. While the misreporting of catches is a relatively easy thing to do, it is difficult to catch. It becomes a complicated exercise, undertaken in the open sea with the need to see vessels' documentation and the catch still on board."

The SOU was set up in late 1997 with the specific aim of targeting major fisheries offenders. There was a necessity to provide a detection, investigative and prosecution facility, which targeted serious and complex offending, in particular fraud-related violations.

In Operation Mack, Don Fico 701 skipper Kum Ryol Choe and Dong Won 519 skipper Yon Man Jong had, apparently without the knowledge of the owners or the operators, misreported hake caught in one area against allocation of quota for another area. For the 2000-2001 fishing year, Sanford South Island had allocated to the two firms 900 tonnes of hake from the east coast of the South Island (HAK 4) and 800 tonnes from the West Coast of the South Island (HAK 7).

Mr Green said that fishing companies tend to avoid using their HAK 7 quota early in the season. Although it is abundant, the plan is to conserve the quota until the hoki season starts and then hake is taken as a by-catch. Skipper Choe had been allocated 229 tonnes of HAK 4 quota and 204 tonnes of HAK 7. He began working in the HAK 4 fishery.

Meanwhile, Skipper Jong, who had been working in HAK 7, told Skipper Choe of an improvement in the HAK 7 catch. Don Fico 701 then steamed to HAK 7 and began fishing on June 9 this year.

"In the vessel's catch returns, Don Fico reported catching 229 tonnes in eight days from HAK 4. It had made 25 tows. This was the whole of its HAK 4 quota and the reports were a total fiction," said Mr Green.

The vessel then reported catching only 64.7 tonnes of hake in HAK 7 after 27 fishing days.

"Skipper Choe had falsified his catch reports by allocating as much hake as he could from both areas by reporting it in the HAK 4 catch reports and filling up his entire HAK 4 quota.

"This type of misreporting is known as 'trucking,' or the transportation of fish between quota management areas for the purpose of area misreporting.

"This means that the fish taken in one area is reported and counted against the quota held by the permit holder in another area. The advantage, if it is not detected, is that much of the HAK 7 quota would have thus been available for the hoki season and the HAK 4 quota would have been filled with minimum effort."

Don Fico 701 unloaded her catch at Nelson. Skipper Choe told fisheries staff that his returns were correct. However, some members of the crew said otherwise and the skipper was interviewed again.

"He admitted that of the 229 tonnes reported as taken from HAK 4, in fact 208 tonnes had been taken from HAK 7. This means that Don Fico 701 had taken about 272 tonnes of hake from HAK 7.

"It had thus exceeded its available HAK 7 quota by about 68 tonnes while reporting on the basis that about 139 tonnes of HAK 7 quota was still available for the rest of the season," said Mr Green.

The breaches involved over-reporting of eight days in the HAK 4 fishery and under-reporting of 10 days in the HAK 7 fishery.

"The deception not only required false catch reports but also the mis-labelling of cartons so as to escape detection."

The market value of the illegally reported 208 tonnes of hake was \$480,000.

The case against Dong Won 519 was similar but the vessel began fishing in HAK 7 and would have had to move to HAK 4 afterwards in order for its fishing pattern to appear consistent with its falsified catch reports.

Sanford South Island had allocated 182 tonnes of HAK 7 to the vessel for the 2000/01 fishing year.

The vessel was intercepted by fisheries officers as it steamed through Cook Strait.

"They also found post-dated cartons packed with fish," said Mr Green.

"Dong Won 519 was ordered to port and unloaded under close supervision.

"They found that 205.5 tonnes of hake had been packed in post-dated cartons. It was perfectly clear that the master was getting ready to report the catch under the HAK 4 quota.

"To produce correct documentation, Dong Won 519 would have had to proceed to HAK 4 and supplement its HAK 4 catch reports with that 205.5 tonnes that it had already caught in HAK 7," said Mr Green.

The value of the illegally reported hake was \$496,646. Both Dong Won 519 and Don Fico 701 catches were sold for \$976,651. In addition to losing both vessels, both skippers and companies were fined a total of \$224,000.

MISREPORTING: Skippers have been charged with eight counts of misreporting catches.

Document natbr00020020207dy2800006

OWNERS FORFEIT FISHING BOATS AND \$1 MILLION WORTH OF FISH.

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12 October 2001
The Dominion

13
English
(c) 2001 The Dominion, INL .

THE masters, employers and owners of two Korean fishing boats have been convicted and fined, and their catch and boats have been forfeited to the Crown.

In the High Court at Wellington last week, the parties connected to the Don Wong 519 and Don Fico 701, pleaded guilty to 56 charges of making false or misleading entries in their **hake** fishing returns.

Convictions were entered on all 56 charges and the forfeiture of the boats and their catches was ordered.

The value of the fish is estimated to be more than NZ\$1 million and the market value of the boats more than NZ\$4.6 million.

The owners have 30 days to apply to the Fisheries Ministry if they want to redeem the boats.

In a separate, reserved decision issued on Wednesday, they were also fined \$224,000. The boats' masters were fined \$5000, plus costs for each of 28 charges faced, and their employers and the boats' owners were fined \$3000, plus costs for each of the charges.

The Don Wong was operated by Don Wong Fisheries and the Don Fico by Jemico Marine. Both were operating in a joint venture with permit holders Sanford (South Island).

The ministry investigation began in June, when, in a joint operation, a navy ship with fisheries officers on board, boarded the Don Wong on its way to the southeast Chatham Rise.

Ministry serious offences unit manager Mike Green said he hoped the decision would send a strong message that this type of offending, known as "trucking", would not be tolerated.

The hake investigation is continuing.

Last week, the ministry laid charges against the fishing masters of the three Sur Este boats seized earlier in the operation, also in relation to making false statements in their returns.

Korean company Dong Nam, which was fishing in a joint venture with permit holders South East Resources, operates all three boats.

Document domn000020011015dxac000gt

TWO MORE KOREAN BOATS SEIZED AS PROBE WIDENS.

228 words

4 August 2001

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 2001 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Two more Korean fishing vessels have been seized by the Ministry of Fisheries at Nelson as investigations widen into discrepancies between reported **hake** takes and actual amounts caught.

The vessels, Sureste 707 and Sureste 700, are the latest trawlers to be impounded following last month's seizure of the Dong Won 519 at Timaru and the Donfico 701 at Nelson.

Ministry of Fisheries serious offences unit manager Mike Green, of Wellington, said that after the earlier seizure of vessels, ministry officials were now checking catch returns against actual catches on all boats fishing the Challenger Plateau and Chatham Rise grounds.

The investigation began as the fish take in the south-eastern Chatham Rise was close to the limit, warranting close monitoring.

Both impounded vessels are owned by Korean firm Dong Nam Co Ltd, fishing in a joint venture with Timaru company South East Resources.

The catches of both have been transferred to land-based cool stores. Mr Green said the vessel's masters had been interviewed and further inquiries would be made.

Another Dong Nam vessel, the Sureste 709, which was still at sea, would also come under examination.

Meanwhile, the masters of the Donfico 701 and the Dong Won 519 are due to appear in the Wellington District Court on August 8 to face charges relating to their catches.

Document thepre0020010808dx840004w

TRAWLERS SEIZED.

45 words

2 August 2001

The Dominion

3

English

(c) 2001 The Dominion, INL .

The Fisheries Ministry said yesterday that it had seized two more ships as part of its crackdown on fishing in **hake** grounds. The ships are the Sur Este 707, seized in Nelson on Monday, and the Sur Este 700, seized in Nelson yesterday.

Document domn000020010802dx82001ea

MFISH SEIZES TWO MORE VESSELS IN HAKE INVESTIGATION.

244 words
1 August 2001
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2001 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 1 - The Ministry of Fisheries today announced it had seized two more vessels as part of its crackdown on fishing in **hake** grounds.

The two vessels are the Sur Este 707, seized in Nelson on Monday, and the Sur Este 700, seized in Nelson yesterday.

The ministry said in a statement it had earlier seized more than 500 tonnes of fish caught by the two vessels while fishing in the hake grounds.

Both vessels are flagged in Belize and owned by the Korean company Dong Nam Co Ltd, which was fishing in a joint venture operation with the permit holders South East Resources of Timaru.

The ministry's action is part of wider investigations into fishing in the hake 4 (Challenger Plateau) and the hake 7 (Southeast Chatham Rise) quota management areas earlier in the month.

The ministry laid a number of charges against the master of the Korean-owned fishing vessel 701 Don Fico which, with its catch, was seized in Nelson on July 16.

It has also charged the master of another Korean-owned fishing vessel, Dong Won 519, which, with its catch, was seized at the port of Timaru on June 30.

The masters of both vessels are to appear in Wellington District Court on August 8.

The manager of MFish's Serious Offences Unit, Mike Green, said investigations into fishing in the hake 4 and hake 7 grounds were continuing.

Document nzpa000020010802dx810000h

KOREAN FISHING VESSEL'S MASTER TO FACE COURT.

204 words

24 July 2001

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 2001 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

NELSON - The master of the Korean fishing vessel Don Fico 701 will appear in the Wellington District Court next month after the vessel's seizure in Nelson.

The Ministry of Fisheries yesterday confirmed that 20 charges relating to falsely reported **hake** catches had been laid against the master.

Mike Green, MFish's Wellington-based serious offences unit manager, said wider investigations into other vessels fishing the Hake 4 and Hake 7 quota management areas were continuing.

The Don Fico is flagged in Panama, Korean-owned, and had been under charter to Sanford South Island.

The vessel remains at Nelson under 24-hour guard and its catch has been taken and placed into a cold storage.

To obtain its release the vessel's master will need to apply to the court.

The vessel, which had been fishing off the West Coast, is the second to be impounded by MFish.

The Dong Won 519 was seized at Timaru last month and its master has since been charged with similar offences.

Hake is widely distributed through the middle depths in New Zealand Economic Zone waters and is taken by large trawlers, often as a bycatch to other targeted species.

Document thepre0020010725dx7o0005v

FISHING BOAT SEIZED.

71 words

24 July 2001

The Dominion

2

English

(c) 2001 The Dominion, INL .

The Fisheries Ministry has laid more than 20 charges of falsely reporting **hake** catches against the master of a Korean fishing boat seized at Port Nelson. The Donfico 701 and its catch were seized a week ago after fishing off the West Coast. Another ship owned by the same company, the Dong Won 519, was seized in Timaru three weeks ago and charges were laid against the master.

Document domn000020010724dx7o000ru

Mr Lough said the long-term contract with Waitrose had the potential ...

208 words
6 September 2000
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2000 New Zealand Press Association

Mr Lough said the long-term contract with Waitrose had the potential to expand business at its UK factory from \$15 million a year to \$40 million.

Sealord's joint ventures in Chile and Argentina have given the company access to significant amounts of hoki, squid, **hake** and orange roughy, the company's core deep sea species, he said.

Hoki accounts for 30 percent of Sealord sales.

"We have now expanded our fishing quota base to all the major orange roughy and hoki fisheries in the southern hemisphere and are fishing in the waters of South America, the African continent, the Indian and Pacific oceans, the Antarctic and Australia as well as New Zealand," he said.

The fall in the New Zealand dollar had affected the company's foreign exchange hedging positions.

Sealord's operating profit rose 40 percent on last year, while total group sales grew from \$300 million five years ago.

The improvement in sales came from growth across the board, including at a Dunedin factory which quick-freezes fillets, adding \$4.5 million a year to revenues over the past two years, and has the potential to add \$8 million, Mr Lough said.

Document nzpa000020010816dw960002m

FISH QUOTA CASE BEFORE COURT.

209 words
21 October 1997
The Dominion

7

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

ONE of the largest Fisheries Ministry cases to go to court, involving 233 alleged breaches of the quota management system, began in Wellington District Court yesterday.

Takapuna-based Abel Fisheries director William Dunwoodie and operations manager Peter Wylie are charged with falsifying returns on the amounts of hoki turned into fishmeal, dumping hoki and **hake**, taking hoki without quota, and making false returns on ling.

Fisheries officers seized five Russian fishing trawlers chartered by Abel Fisheries after an investigation of the company's operations between July 1995 and August 1996.

Yesterday Grant Burston outlined the Crown's case before Judge David Ongley in a case that is expected to run for up to seven weeks.

The prosecution intends calling 64 witnesses and has 55,000 documents scanned into courtroom computers.

Garry Barkle appears for the defence, and Stephen Kos for Interkarel, the joint Scandinavian-Russian venture, Scandsea and Karelrybflot, whose trawlers might be liable for forfeiture if prosecution succeeds.

Mr Burston told the court that evidence would be presented to show that up to 10 per cent of the trawlers' hoki catch of five million tonnes was not matched against the company's quota allocation because of mis-reporting.

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Document domn000020011001dtal005cs