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**fishing Quotas set.**

101 words

20 September 1991

National Business Review

39

English

(c) 1991 The National Business Review

Fisheries Minister Doug Kidd last week increased total allowable commercial catch levels for seven species of fish. Catch limits for snapper remained unchanged.

At the same time Kidd gave commercial fishing companies a greater say in fisheries management by asking the industry to develop management proposals for the **hoki** and orange roughy fisheries.

On another front, Kidd appointed a six-person fisheries task force to rewrite the Fisheries Act. Commercial fishing interests are represented on the task force. Recreational fishing interests are not - a factor provoking the Recreational Fishing Council to appoint a task force of its own.

Document natbr00020011124dn9k00fgv

## **GOVERNMENT RAISES quotas FOR SEVEN SPECIES OF FISH.**

320 words

14 September 1991

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, has announced more private sector involvement in fishery management, saying the industry would be developing proposals for both **hoki** and orange roughy.

He said he has also asked fishing firms to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries "to develop contingency plans for several species where the total allowable commercial catches are being increased."

Mr Kidd issued increases in quotas for seven species yesterday, saying extra work was still to be done on stocks before a figure could be determined for snapper.

The new quotas would apply from October 1.

The limit for orange roughy in the Chatham Rise even off the South Island would remain at 23,787 tonnes, but quota holders would be required to catch at least 5,000 tonnes of it south of 46 degrees of latitude.

"I have accepted an offer by the industry to reduce fishing pressure on the main (orange roughy) spawning area of the Chatham Rise," Mr Kidd said.

Meanwhile industry and interest groups were coordinating to formulate a management plan for the West Coast hoki and hake fishery by February 28 next year. It would include a study of seal deaths as a result of fishing.

Meanwhile, the Royal Forest and Bird Society says Mr Kidd's decision to reject ministry advice to reduce the quota for Chatham Rise orange roughy could be the economic death knell for the fish stock.

"The minister's decision makes a mockery of fisheries research," said Mr Barry Weeber, fisheries researcher for the society.

The fisheries section of the ministry estimated sustainable yield at less than 8,000 tonnes, but the minister was proposing a quota of three times that amount at 23,787 tonnes.

Mr Weeber said orange roughy were extremely slow-growing fish. Some being caught now were alive when the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840.

Document nzhd00020011124dn9e00ik5

## **Hoki fishery critics called simplistic.**

856 words  
9 May 1991  
New Zealand Herald  
9  
English  
(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The fishing industry believes its greatest individual resource - its **hoki** fishery - is being placed at risk needlessly by uninformed and inaccurate comment by conservationists.

Under prompting from conservation interests, the new Conservation Authority has asked the Government to impose a six-week closure on the main **hoki** ground to prevent the accidental deaths of fur seals.

No decision has been made, but conservationists have been very vocal in pushing their cause.

The chief executive of Nelson-based Sealord Products Ltd, Dr Brian Rhoades, has appealed for a more rational approach to the subject.

"Unfortunately, some conservationists are taking a simplistic approach to their concerns for seals and are overlooking the contribution our industry is making to minimising seal captures," he said.

"They also appear to be ignoring the huge economic benefits of the hoki resource including the significant employment opportunities it provides for New Zealanders based on the sustainable use of a renewable hoki resource."

Hoki contributes about \$200 million a year in export earnings.

More blunt is the attitude of the executive director of the Fishing Industry Board, Dr John Town.

"They (the conservationists) distort facts, figures - they are breathtakingly naive about commercial factors," he said.

The cause of the furore is the number of fur seals killed during the 10 to 12-week hoki season in the Hokitika Canyon 30 to 50 kilometres off the West Coast of the South Island.

Two years ago, some 900 fur seals were killed during the season. Last year, the deaths were reduced to 600.

The conservationists want the first six weeks of the season closed to fishing in the area because most of the deaths occur in the period June 1 to mid-July.

The fishing industry does not think the Government will act on the recommendation and impose a closed season.

But fishing spokesmen believe the huge resource is being placed at risk by what they say is a fervent and often uninformed campaign.

Hoki is New Zealand's largest single fishing resource. Last year, 210,000 tonnes of hoki were caught, of which 165,000 came from the Hokitika Canyon.

"A six-week break at the start of the season would undermine the entire operation of the charter fleet which fishes the grounds."

"We would not see the Japanese, for example, come here if the season was closed for six weeks.

"And then there are the consequential flow-on effects for fleet economics," said Dr Town. "That basically could cripple the fleets and thus the factories dependent on the catches."

Around 30 to 40 per cent of the 165,000-tonne catch is taken in the first six weeks of the season.

In addition, the closed period would effectively kill the important hake catch taken in conjunction with the hoki.

That amounted to 8,000 tonnes last year, worth \$15 million. Almost all of the hake catch is taken in the

first six weeks of fishing, according to Dr Town.

The resource is very important to Sealord, which has rearranged its businesses around hoki with the decline in the orange roughy quota.

Sealord, as the biggest player in the hoki stakes, holds a 70,000-tonne quota, or 35 per cent of the total. Hoki provides the Carter Holt Harvey subsidiary with a \$100-million-plus business, or about one-third of its sales.

Dr Town believes that if the hoki fishery is cut through the imposition of a six-week closure, potentially it could cripple the Nelson economy, where most of the fish is processed.

Dr Rhoades said: "In Nelson alone some 1,600 jobs are dependent on it, and at a conservative estimate there is a capital investment in hoki in this area of some \$400 million in quota, plant, machinery and the trawlers which fish for it.

"The industry is taking seriously the concerns of conservationists in seeking to cut the fur seal deaths.

"However, we seem to get no credit for the major initiatives we have taken already."

The Fishing Industry Association has distributed to all quota holders a code of practice on operating procedures designed to minimise seal deaths.

The industry has also funded \$40,000 of research on fur seals over the past two years - "more than the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries combined," said Dr Town.

Dr Rhoades said most operators were confident they would be able to minimise further accidental seal deaths in the coming season.

A new initiative is about to take place with the arrival in New Zealand of a Swedish electronic consultant from a company which has perfected a "seal scarer."

Dr Rhoades said the device could be attached to trawl nets and emits a piercing noise on a frequency disliked by seals, driving them away from trawling operations.

The seal scarer will be tested this season and if suitable could be widely adopted by the industry.

Referring to conservation of the fur seal population, Dr Town said that "even if we kept on catching 600 a year accidentally, in 10 years' time there would still be 7,000 more fur seals than now."

Document nzhd00020011124dn59008c3

**Sealord raises hoki sales to US.**

173 words

19 March 1991

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

Nelson-based fishing company Sealord Products has won a significant increase in sales of **hoki** to the United States market.

The Carter Holt Harvey subsidiary will send about 8.5 million pounds-worth \$US16 million - to American customers in the year from April. About five million pounds have been sent in the present year.

The Sealord Seafoods general manager, Mr David Hogg, said yesterday that the increased order was negotiated at the time of last week's Boston Seafood Show.

It reflected Sealord's greater supply capacity, following the \$139 million acquisition of Fletcher Fishing's deep-water operation last year, he said.

Mr Hogg said that he had had no reports of interest at the Boston show from Middle East buyers, whose fishing resources had been blighted by Gulf War oil spills.

But buyers from the likes of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would be interested in lower-value species, and Sealord's species - mainly hoki and orange roughy - were not in that category.

Document nzhd00020011124dn3j00590

**new zealand fishing companies touting for business at boston exhibition.**

112 words

6 March 1991

National Business Review

2

English

(c) 1991 The National Business Review

Sealord Products believes damage to Persian Gulf fishing grounds will spur Arab interest at the world's largest commercial fishing exhibition in Boston next week.

Sealord is joining six other New Zealand companies and the Fishing Industry Board at the Boston Seafood Show which is expected to attract 20,000 buyers from around the world. The Carter Holt Harvey subsidiary is planning a higher profile at international seafood exhibitions, particularly since taking over Fletcher Fishing's deepwater quota last year has doubled its annual exports to \$300 million. Sealord will focus largely on orange roughy and **hoki** in its Boston promotion effort.

Document natbr00020011124dn36003qv

### **Seal death theory at issue.**

375 words

6 September 1990

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Claims by West Coast fishermen that a mystery disease is killing hundreds of fur seals on the West Coast have been challenged by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The society said the claims ignored evidence linking the dead seals with **hoki** fishing off the West Coast.

Society conservation director, Mr Kevin Smith, called on the Ministers of Conservation, and of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, to confirm these facts:

The death of seals on West Coast beaches - about 200 animals - coincided with hoki fishing off the West Coast beginning in June.

The greatest concentration of dead seals is on the central Westland coast immediately adjacent to the hoki fishery and not in the Buller and south Westland/Fiordland area where most of the seal colonies.

Dead seals have been recovered in significant numbers (15 seals) in South Westland only in the past two weeks coinciding with a strong northerly swell from the hoki fishing ground to south Westland. The prevailing swell during the rest of the season has been westerly.

Causes of death in beached seals have included gunshot wounds, internal injuries from tuna hooks, severe lacerations caused by nets and flattened skulls caused by crushing. Many seals show no obvious cause of death but may have been drowned at sea or partially drowned in nets followed by death on the shore.

Surveys over the past 20 years on West Coast beaches showed few seal deaths until large-scale hoki fishing began. Seal surveys and monthly beach patrols by Westland National Park staff in 1970-73 and 1980-83 recorded virtually no seal deaths over hundreds of kilometres of coastline.

Mr Smith said the Department of Conservation had misrepresented the impact of the deaths on the West Coast seal population by claiming that only young males were being killed and that the deaths would have little impact on the seal population.

"In fact, at least half the dead seals found on West Coast beaches are females."

"If 12 per cent of the West Coast seals have been killed this season and their natural replacement rate is estimated at only 2 per cent annually, the seal population has been drastically reduced in the last two years," Mr Smith said.

Document nzhd00020011128dm9600c1s

**Foreign trawler under scrutiny.**

176 words

2 August 1990

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

A Norwegian trawler is under investigation after being escorted to Nelson yesterday by a Navy boat.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries assistant manager, in charge of fisheries compliance, Mr Dave Wood, said the boat, Tampen, which was fishing for **hoki** off the West Coast, was boarded by a combined ministry and Navy party on Tuesday morning.

Mr Wood said the trawler, under charter to a New Zealand company, was not detained. It was under investigation for "possible infringements."

He declined to say which company was chartering the boat and what the possible infringements were.

"We are studying documents on the vessel and interviewing the captain and officers."

He said the patrol boat HMNZS Kiwi, a Navy volunteer reserve vessel, escorted the boat into Nelson at about 2 pm yesterday.

The boarding party had remained on the Tampen for the trip.

"The Kiwi has been patrolling in the hoki fishery and conducting routine boardings of fishing vessels as part of the combined ministry of fisheries and Ministry of Defence operation codenamed Mist."

Document nzhd00020011128dm8200755

**Fur seal toll could be 650 says GOVERNMENT.**

332 words  
26 July 1990  
New Zealand Herald  
24  
English  
(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Up to 650 fur seals may have been killed off by fishing vessels in the **hoki** fishery off the West Coast of the South Island, the Government estimates.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The figures came out of a meeting last night between the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston, and fishing industry representatives over the number of seals being killed.

The ministers said 16 of the 54 fishing vessels on the grounds have Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries staff, fishing company representatives and Greenpeace observers. Since the beginning of the 10-week season in June 141 seals have been reported caught.

Eleven seals are confirmed as being returned alive.

The total number of seals reported caught from unobserved vessels was 33 and from observed vessels 108. Included in the 141 are 19 animals caught as a result of gear failure when the net was at the surface.

The ministers said that assuming the catch rates of seals across the fishing fleet was equal, the total catch would probably be between 550 and 650.

The West Coast seal population is estimated at 8,000.

This year's kill is about the same level as last year, although reporting this year has been more thorough.

Mr Shirley said the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Conservation Department and the fishing industry would be working on joint research to look at the seal population and find out more details about how they interacted with fishing vessels.

Mr Woollaston said some fishing companies were already implementing different fishing methods and these had had a marked effect on seal catches.

The Government would look at having more observers on vessels, Mr Woollaston said.

Greenpeace yesterday attacked the Government over what it considered was inaction over the problem.

It called for an independently audited environmental impact report on the West Coast hoki fishery, based on 100 per cent observer coverage which the fishing industry should pay for.

Document nzhd00020011128dm7q00ank

## **Tribes from north to fish hoki in south.**

436 words

24 July 1990

New Zealand Herald

14

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

North Auckland tribes have gained official permission to fish for deepsea **hoki** off the South Island, a tribal spokesman, the Hon Matiu Rata, said yesterday.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The Maori Fisheries Commission, established by Parliament in December, has allocated a quota of 3,100 tonnes of **hoki** for this year to the Muriwhenua people of North Auckland, Mr Rata said.

Muriwhenua paid a total of about \$115,000 for deepsea quotas, which included a further 350 tonnes for other specified species.

Tribal representatives from throughout the North Island met at the weekend and formed a board of directors for a pan-Maori company - Nga Waka Fishing - to use the quotas, he said.

The acting executive officer of the Maori Fisheries Commission, Mr Brain Collinge, said yesterday that while various quotas had been approved he could not give details.

The commission had the power to lease out 10 per cent of New Zealand's fishing quotas to companies and tribal groups, and the first 2.5 per cent had been allocated.

"It has just been completed this morning," Mr Collinge said. "We cannot release the details until later in the week."

Mr Rata said he was upset that the chairman of the Ngai Tahu Trust Board in the South Island, Mr Tipene O'Regan, might be "confusing" his two jobs as head of the Maori Fisheries Commission and the trust board in the row over access to deepsea fishing rights.

He was "astonished and amazed" to hear Mr O'Regan lash out plans by Nga Waka to fish for hoki off the South Island. Ngai Tahu had been invited to the weekend hui but had not come.

Mr O'Regan, as head of the commission, knew and approved the leasing of 3,100 tonnes of hoki quota by Muriwhenua, and he knew that all the hoki was off the South Island, Mr Rata said.

"He was quite happy to take nearly \$100,000 off us for the lease (of hoki). Where else did he think we were going to get the fish from?"

Mr Rata said Muriwhenua had not lobbied for the 3,100 tonnes of hoki.

"First the commission gave us 24 hours to say whether we wanted the 3,100 tonnes of hoki. I presumed others couldn't fish it or couldn't pay for it," Mr Rata said.

Mr O'Regan was unavailable to comment on Mr Rata's claims but he and other South Island spokesmen earlier said that Ngai Tahu would "strenuously resist" any attempts by northern tribes to fish off the South Island coast.

Document nzhd00020011128dm7o00aac

**Seals chase boats for catch.**

132 words

14 July 1990

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Amid predictions of a rise in the number of seals killed in fishing industry says it is exasperated by the deaths of seals which appear to follow vessels to get at their catches.

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society yesterday called on the Government to prevent the deaths, saying 400 to 600 seals would die in the West Coast **hoki** fishery this year.

But the Fishing Industry Board said there had been no major change in fishing fleet operations or in the gear used which could have caused the reported increase.

"The major change is in an apparently increased population of seals and increased incidence of predation upon commercial fishing catches."

In three weeks 144 seals have been reported killed, compared with 204 deaths last season.

Document nzhlid00020011128dm7e009be

## **Greenpeace invited to count fur seal deaths.**

891 words  
25 June 1990  
New Zealand Herald  
20  
English  
(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Dedicated environmentalists will be among the crews on the fleet of **hoki** trawlers about to converge on the West Coast.

They will carefully monitor the number of fur seals caught and killed as more than 40 oceangoing trawlers race to catch up with 200,000 tonnes of fish in the six-week-long **hoki** schooling season.

**\*\*FULL TEXT** Last year 204 fur seals were reported to have drowned in the trawl nets, a dramatic rise on the 21 seal deaths notified in 1988.

Some conservationists believe the seal kill is considerably more, possibly as many as 600.

In a move which should help to defuse the tension developing between deepsea fishermen and environmental lobbyists the Fishing Industry Association has asked Greenpeace to take a first hand look at the massive fishing operation.

The president of the association, Mr Peter Talley of Motueka, says the invitation to Greenpeace came because the problem needed careful analysis, rather than an emotive approach.

"From what we learned last year we should be able to reduce the accidental catch," Mr Talley said.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Department of Conservation observers will also be on board more than a dozen of the fleet.

After the sharp rise in reported seal deaths last year the ministry organised a special group to look into the problem.

This technical working party has members from the ministry, the Department of Conservation and the fishing industry.

They found that the majority of the seals being killed were young males and most were taken at night.

Observers reported seals feeding at the ships' offal shutes and pulling fish through the mesh when the net was at the surface at the end of a tow.

But they generally believed that most of the seals were caught at the beginning of each tow because most of the bodies examined were cold when retrieved.

A number of skippers interviewed by the group said the seals were attracted by the screaming of the winch wires as the trawls were lowered away.

Mr Talley acknowledges that the seal problem has increased in the past two or three years but believes it probably parallels an increase in the seal population.

"All wild animals will maximise a feeding opportunity. Word is getting around the seal colonies that there is an easy feed out there."

There is little hard evidence about the size of the South Island fur seal population.

The species was virtually wiped out by seal hunters in the early 1800s. And seal culling to relieve a perceived pressure on inshore commercial fish stocks was practised early this century.

1981 it was estimated there were about 6500 fur seals in Westland and 8750 in Fiordland.

A long-term project to estimate the number of them living off the West Coast is the top research priority suggested by the working group.

The size of the hoki fishery itself is also suspect. Although the Government has sold quota rights to harvest 250,000 tonnes of the fish a year, the best the industry has managed to haul out in a season is

230,000 tonnes and last season nearly 60 boats caught only 201,000 tonnes.

Scientists at the ministry's fisheries stock assessment plenary last month said the first signs of stress from over-fishing had already been noticed and should be treated seriously.

They estimated the long-term sustainable catch level from the hoki fishery at between 125,000 and 180,000 tonnes annually.

One thing certain about the hoki is that they have rapidly become a major contributor to the economic wellbeing of the fishing industry.

Before 1986 less than 20,000 tonnes of the species was taken each year.

For this reason the industry is prepared to do whatever it takes to keep the seal kill to an acceptable level.

A Greenpeace ocean ecology campaigner, Mr Mike Hagler, of Auckland, is aware of this and is determined to protect the species.

"We are satisfied that they (the fishermen) have an interest in solving the problem.

"They recognise the urgency because of the pressure from concerned environmentalists."

Mr Hagler said there were parallels between the fur seal kill and the problems with dolphins being slaughtered by American purse-seine fishermen in the eastern Pacific.

Because of this he had warned the industry about the possibility of hoki exports to the United States being banned.

The American Government has the legislative power to halt the imports of fish which are caught by techniques which also threaten marine mammal populations.

Greenpeace believed there was under-reporting of the seal kill, Mr Hagler said.

The organisation accepted that there would inevitably be some toll on marine mammals from hoki fishing but was determined it should be minimised.

On the industry's behalf Mr Talley said the most likely solution to the seal kill was a change in the fishing methods used. Considerable work had already been done experimenting with the way trawl gear was set and retrieved.

"The industry is prepared to change," he said.

When the season gets into top gear, probably next week, seals congregating around some of the trawlers will be bombarded with specially developed small explosive charges.

The devices come from northern California where they have proved useful in keeping seals away from abalone being gathered by divers.

Document nzhd00020011128dm6p0055a

**Alarm may help save seals from fishing trawlers.**

241 words  
7 April 1990  
New Zealand Herald  
16  
English  
(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Alarms that go screech in the night have been suggested among a series of measures to prevent seals being killed by fishing trawlers.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** But conservationists say the steps being taken by the Government and the fishing industry may do little to prevent a repetition of last winter when hundreds of fur seals were caught in the nets of West Coast **hoki** trawlers.

In a joint statement yesterday, the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston, and the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, announced a seal protection plan which resulted from a Government-industry working group.

Measures included the possible use of high-pitched alarms to scare the seals away from the boats, and a recommendation that fishermen avoid having their nets within 150m of the surface, which is the maximum depth the animals can dive.

The ministers said interviews with skippers and scientific observers on the boats indicated that most of the seals killed last year died when nets were being lowered or retrieved at night.

The working group report had recommended further study of the problem.

The announcement did little to satisfy the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, which brought the West Coast seal kill to public notice.

A society spokesman, Mr Gerard Hutching, said the measures did not go far enough.

Reducing the seal kill would be better achieved by reducing the number of trawlers in the hoki fishing ground.

Document nzhld00020011127dm47004bo

**Valuable fish in first quota for new Maori Commission.**

167 words

10 March 1990

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

The first fish quota for the new Maori Fisheries Commission will include the valuable orange roughy and **hoki** species, the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, said yesterday.

The quota is to be granted by the end of this month, and Mr Shirley said a report prepared for the commission, which stated that the quota was "almost devoid" of valuable species, had been prepared last month before the package had been put together.

"We were obliged to advise the commission of what we had on stock but it was always the intention to spend this month on the full package," he said.

"We are about to secure the hoki that has now become available and the Crown holds substantial stocks of orange roughy, particularly in Chatham Rise, so we can meet the requirements on that."

There was also agreement to deliver quota on rock lobster and 5 per cent would be granted by the end of October this year.

Document nzhlid00020011127dm3a005c3

**Plan of action to save fur seals.**

271 words

26 August 1989

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

The Government and fishing companies are working together to find ways to stop fur seals being caught in trawler nets.

The Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston, and the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Moyle, said in a joint statement that Government officials and representatives of the fishing companies involved in the West Coast **hoki** fishery met in Wellington on Thursday and agreed on a plan of action.

\*\*FULL\_TEXT "Clearly the fishing companies are as concerned as anybody else that seals are being caught, and are prepared to do everything possible to prevent it happening," the ministers said.

Their statement was issued before demonstrators gathered outside Parliament yesterday to protest that the seals were being "slaughtered."

Mr Woollaston and Mr Moyle said Government officials and industry representatives would start work immediately to develop proposals for changes in fishing practices to reduce fur seal deaths.

"There are still many questions to be answered on why increased numbers of seals are being caught this year and how this can be avoided," they said.

"There seems to be no clear correlation between the amount of hoki or the time of season and the numbers of seals being caught."

They said the seals were definitely being attracted by the sound of winches used to lower and haul the nets, which they associated with food.

"A prime cause of the seals being caught would be the practice of skippers of hauling their nets near the surface before turning their vessels to continue a tow. There is some evidence that the seals are vulnerable to being trapped during this turning manoeuvre."

Document nzhd00020011129dl8q00hxn

## **Fletcher forms US unit to market fish.**

183 words

1 March 1989

National Business Review

15

English

(c) 1989 The National Business Review

Fletcher Fishing Ltd has set up a wholly-owned US subsidiary, Fletcher Seafoods Ltd USA, to hook the American market.

The Seattle-based company, which will have an East Coast sales manager in New York, will market orange roughy and **hoki**.

The subsidiary's president, Ron Marion, has experience in the US food industry. Marion was an executive with one of the top 540 food service distributors in the US, Gordon Food Service Inc of Grand Rapids Michigan.

Encouraged by a rise in US fish consumption prompted by health concerns, Fletcher Fishing's chief executive Jeff Jackson sees considerable export potential, for both fresh and frozen fish.

The US market is Fletcher's largest after Japan.

Jackson says service to US customers will improve significantly, and the range of Fletcher fishing products will expand.

Fletcher Fishing also plans to set its marketing outlet in Europe.

Charles Barkla, formerly with the NZ Kiwifruit Authority in Europe, is based in France to head this development.

Barkla is experienced in export marketing in Europe, Australia and the Pacific Basin.

Document natbr00020011129dl31003ef

**Sealord Products develops a fish gutting machine.**

240 words

15 July 1988

New Zealand Herald

1

English

(c) 1988 The New Zealand Herald

Kiwi ingenuity has turned up yet another potential export product which may also add efficiency to the local fishing industry.

Carter Holt Harvey subsidiary Sealord Products in Nelson has developed a fish gutting machine designed to handle long, slim fish such as **hoki** and barracouda.

The water-lubricated gutting machine overcomes the difficulty of quickly and cleanly gutting thousands of tonnes of the more slender deep sea species that Sealord's five trawlers catch.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** Previously, the job was done by hand. The new machine is more efficient than a worker using a knife and takes only half the time.

Sealord will soon export its first export model to Chile, where Carter Holt associate Pesquera Inquique will use it on one of its vessels.

The company believes other overseas companies are likely to become interested in the machine as they realise the efficiency it brings to gutting.

A further development of the traditional squid tube cleaner, it comprises a large drill bit, driven by a motor and gearbox which bores into the fish at up to 300 rpm.

Sealord's engineering supervisor, Mr Tony Sedman, says the difficulty with removing the gut of hoki, in particular, is that in the catching season there is a considerable amount of roe in the back of the belly cavity, creating problems with gutting it cleanly.

Automation has proven the answer to the problem, he says.

Document nzhd00020011203dk7f006z8