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HOOKED ON THE HIGH SEAS

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5

English

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Fishing takes him away from home for months at a time. But he wouldn't swap it.

CHRIS Carey has always made a buck or two from the sea. As a schoolboy at Newlands School he used to catch **kahawai** and kingfish that hung around the blood chute from the meat works that flowed into the harbour at the bottom of Ngauranga Gorge.

"We'd sell them to the freezing workers at the railway station when they were going home for 20 cents a fish, which was good money back then. And it paid for the tackle we lost."

Interested in what goes on in the sea and inspired by the Jacques Cousteau documentaries on TV, he tried to get a job with the Ministry of Fisheries when he left Onslow College. However, the ministry wanted people with practical skills rather than researchers, and advised him to go to polytech, which he did, studying fulltime for a year towards the NZ Certificate in Science.

By the next year he was a fulltime lab technician with the ministry, and he studied part-time for his NZCS. After three years he finished his studies and was promoted to technical officer.

In the mid to late '70s he worked for a scientist studying skipjack tuna. There was a developing tuna fishery off the northeast coast of New Zealand with up to a dozen large American purse seiners visiting every summer.

As a scientific observer he spent the summer aboard these boats and was eventually offered a job on one.

He says it was too much of a temptation, so he took "leave of absence" from his job, returning a year later, "playing footy through the winter for Onslow".

The following summer he spent aboard another tuna boat as an observer and was again offered a job. So he took another year's leave of absence to fish around the Pacific and the west coast of South America.

"After a few years of this the head of fisheries finally said: 'Make your mind up who you're working for'.

"So I did, and I went away fishing fulltime with the Yanks. People said how lucky I was seeing the world, when all I really saw was a lot of seawater, a few ports and a fair number of less desirable bars."

He returned to New Zealand working for Nelson Fisheries on the 36-metre Western Ranger, fishing around the North Island and South Island for skipjack, mackerel and kahawai. This involved a season fishing in Fiji during the New Zealand winter.

When that job fell through, he got a job as a deckhand on a Japanese joint venture vessel for Watties of Gisborne.

"It was my introduction to deep sea trawling. But having just got married, spending 11 months at sea and three weeks at home simply wasn't on for either of us." (As an aside, his wife's first name is Carey, so she signs her name C2.)

After numerous letters and phone calls he eventually got a job with the Nelson-based company Amaltal on the 34m fresh fish trawler Amaltal Voyager. He worked his way up from deckhand to skipper, and in 1986 when Amaltal commissioned a 65m deep sea factory trawler, Explorer, he took the job as first mate.

"I did 10 years on the Explorer, running it for the last five."

When the fillet factory trawler Amaltal Atlantis joined the fleet he was given the skipper's job.

"I worked for Amaltal for 20 years; the last two as skipper of the Amaltal Enterprise. I left about two years ago and have been working for Independent Fisheries here in Christchurch as skipper of the Independent 1."

He is back home in Christchurch after a three-month stint in Oman.

"Niwa has a contract to carry out extensive marine research work for the Oman government and they're using the Independent 1 to do the work. There will be 12 New Zealand and four Omani scientists on board."

What he likes about the fishing industry, apart from the variety and the challenges, is that it provides a good platform for people to get a start in the marine scene.

"If you can succeed as a fisherman there isn't any maritime job you can't go on to achieve in. It seldom, if ever, works the other way around," he says.

"Many have started as fishermen, gaining qualifications and skills along with the tickets and are now working on super yachts, merchant vessels, tug and tow, the oil industry service and supply vessels and in the aquaculture sector, growing fish instead of just catching it."

He says in general the public has a negative view of the fishing industry, due to very successful, but often one-sided publicity from some lobby groups.

He says the industry has a lot to be proud of and has done a lot of good work.

"We are our own worst enemy. We simply don't do enough to tell people about our successes," he says.

"The fishing industry has grown up tremendously over the years. There were a lot of ratbags around in the early days, but that's certainly not the case now. It's actually very professionally run, despite what you read."

The industry faces issues of sustainability of the various fish stocks under the quota management system, and the effects fishing can have on other sea life, such as seabirds and marine mammals.

"We have taken responsibility for our future. The fishing industry is very concerned about how fisheries are being managed, working very closely with MFish, Niwa, DOC and WWF among others to help with the issues of sustainability.

"Despite what you think, fishermen are conservationists. We have to be because our future is at stake, and we don't like hurting things we don't need to or can avoid."

In trawl fisheries some seabirds are killed or injured from flying into or being hit by the 'warps', the wires used to tow the nets behind the trawlers. Seabirds are oblivious to these narrow wires during their feeding frenzies. Recognising there was a problem, Mr Carey came up with the CCC, or Carefree's Cunning Contraption ('Carefree' being a nickname of his), which last year was runner-up in the worldwide WWF Smart Gear Competition for inventions that reduce the incidental deaths of sea birds.

Resembling a large bottlebrush, the CCC is clipped directly onto the warps.

"By highlighting the danger area - the air space adjacent to the warps - birds now avoid the wires even when feeding."

He says the CCC is just one of a suite of mitigation methods available to trawlers under current codes of practice that have resulted in a 95 per cent reduction in incidental seabird mortality over the past three years.

Mr Carey is a bit of a roving ambassador for the industry. When not at sea he writes for Seafood NZ magazine, riding his Honda VTR around the country, talking to industry players getting a feel for things, taking photos and sourcing material.

He is a keen family man, and says the time off from fishing allows him plenty of time with his family.

Swimming plays a big part in the family with wife Carey being the coordinator for Canterbury/West Coast swimming "putting in a lot of hours working from home or travelling to swim meets nationwide".

As an official, Mr Carey spends a fair bit of time pool-side as well. His daughter Annabelle is a New Zealand swim champion and a former Olympian who is working towards the Beijing Olympics. Mr Carey's eldest child, Matthew is currently in Lebanon as part of a NZ Army mine clearance team, and the youngest, Harriet, is still at secondary school and "mad keen on horses".

He says one of the downsides of fishing is the time spent away from home. But he reckons his family has it sussed.

"Over the years I've seen a lot of relationships fall by the wayside because either spouse can't handle the separation. It requires a lot of trust from both parties and the acceptance that who ever is at home - be it mum or dad - that they can cope perfectly well without you."

On the plus side working three months on, three off, he has more quality time with his family than somebody working a nine to five job.

"My wife Carey is very independent. She still runs the place even when I'm home. I just arrive in the door to: 'old what's-his-name's back home, mum!' and start working my way through the list of jobs on the fridge door."

FACT BOX

Name Chris Carey

Job Fisherman

Employer Independent Fisheries

Attributes Good work ethic; willingness to learn; ability to work in a team; self reliant.

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NEWS

Kahawai team backs embattled Anderton

DONOGHUE TIM

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NATIONAL

3

English

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EMBATTLED Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton has received support for his stalled legislative sustainable fishery endeavours from recreational fishermen.

Recreational fishing advocate Scott McIndoe said those involved in the **kahawai** legal challenge appeal supported Anderton's Fisheries Amendment Bill, which attempts to prioritise sustainable fishing.

Big commercial players in the fishing industry, Sanford and Sealord among them, are appealing Justice Rhys Harrison's judicial review decision confirming sustainability of individual fisheries must come first in the management of fisheries.

"The kahawai legal challenge team supports the minister's intention to take a precautionary approach. This will help ensure sustainability of the fisheries for the benefit of all of our communities," McIndoe said.

"Despite industry and political agitation for the proposed (Fisheries Act) amendment to be dropped, the kahawai legal challenge team argues that commercial assets will be enhanced in the long term if 'best practice' management is embraced to ensure availability and abundance for recreational, customary and commercial fishing."

He said it was short-term thinking to say constraint undermined the value of settlements. "Fish left in the sea are fish in the bank for the future. Such improvements to management will ultimately benefit everyone and help maintain the cherished activity of 'fishing for a feed' and the pleasure of fishing enjoyed regularly by more than one million New Zealanders," McIndoe said.

At a meeting in Wellington last week Anderton was given a different message by Labour's Maori MPs, who told the Fisheries Minister they wanted his legislation thrown out.

Labour's Maori caucus views Anderton's amending legislation as an attempt to reduce the value of the early 1990s Sealord Maori fisheries settlement. The Maori Party agrees.

The legislation will not impact on fishing quota for the fishing year beginning on October 1 as Primary Production select committee chairman David Carter has told Anderton his committee is in no hurry to report the legislation back to Parliament.

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RECREATIONAL FISHERS KEEP THEIR HAND IN PIVOTAL LEGAL CASE

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Wellington, May 22 NZPA - Lawyers for recreational fishers want to ask the Appeal Court to confirm that legal principles decided in March for **kahawai**, should also apply other species in "shared fisheries".

Success would mean the Government having to consider the social wellbeing of amateur anglers, and sustainability, when setting total catch limits for popular fish such as snapper, rock lobster, paua, blue cod, and kingfish.

The Big Game Fishing Council and the Recreational Fishing Council earlier this year won a judicial review over the way the decisions are made on kahawai. Now they have lodged a cross-appeal on a narrow point in that High Court case which will keep them involved in the Appeal Court.

The appeal will cost the groups \$80,000, but Richard Baker of the Big Game Fishing Council said they needed to continue participating because commercial fishers had appealed the case. "It was considered important to support Justice Harrison's High Court decision that sustainability comes first and providing for people's wellbeing is a mandatory requirement when the minister sets commercial catch limits," the lobbyists said.

The drive by the anglers for better protection of recreational fishing grounds from commercial fishers led to their initial High Court request for a judicial review.

In March, Justice Rhys Harrison ordered the Government to review the kahawai allowance made to recreational anglers in 2004 and 2005. Effectively, he said the Fisheries Minister must make decisions which take into account the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of recreational and Maori anglers as a starting point, before there is any allocation to the fishing industry.

Since then Sanford Ltd, Sealord Group Ltd and Pelagic and Tuna NZ Ltd have appealed the High Court decision, which rejected all but one of the initial challenges they made alleging flaws in ministerial decisions.

Today, Mr Anderton told commercial fishers in Wellington that some of them "who thought they were being clever" by trying to torpedo his own push for a "shared fisheries" approach got a "rude shock" when Justice Harrison handed down his findings. "The judgment has profound implications for the commercial sector," he told an industry conference at Te Papa. "If the Court of Appeal upholds the findings of Justice Harrison then I, and future ministers, will be providing for the social, cultural and economic well-being of recreational fishers without much guidance or certainty," he said.

Mr Anderton is seeking a law-change in the Fishing Bill which would require a precautionary approach biased toward sustainability where there was insufficient information in setting allowable catch limits.

NZPA WGT kca ob

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ANDERTON GIVES INDUSTRY A BLUNT ULTIMATUM ON SHARED FISHERIES

309 words
22 May 2007
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2007 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, May 22 NZPA - Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton today gave commercial fishers a blunt ultimatum: get on board with his "shared fisheries" approach or be left behind.

A range of options have been proposed for sharing fisheries -- such as snapper, rock lobster, paua, blue cod, kingfish and **kahawai**

-- between recreational, commercial and the Maori sectors.

One proposal was to give recreational fishermen a guaranteed minimum catch, which would potentially reduce the quota for commercial fishing companies.

Mr Anderton repeated previous concerns about "hysterical" behaviour by the industry over shared fisheries, and said that instead of constructive cooperation what he had actually found was defensiveness. "The commercial sector -- and others -- need to wake up," Mr Anderton said.

In 2000, then-Fisheries Minister Pete Hodgson called for a better way to define and protect the rights of amateur fishermen because the number of people fishing was growing, while environmental pressures were taking a toll on fish stocks.

But commercial fishers have bitterly opposed the proposals, and today Mr Anderton told them that "agitators" who whipped up anxiety about shared fisheries had torpedoed the one framework that would have seen compensation for any re-allocated quota.

Mr Anderton was particularly acid about lawyers, who he said had tangled fishers up in inconsistencies and confusion -- "this is what lawyers do". "Everyone who told you they were acting in your interests was doing exactly the opposite," Mr Anderton said. "In an effort to get themselves a Rolls Royce, they got everyone else, including themselves, a moped".

The minister said that he was willing to give shared fisheries another try and recommend to Cabinet a negotiated process between the major parties, "but I can't guarantee Cabinet will want to continue with the matter because of the anxieties already stirred up".

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NEWS

HIGH COURT Fishing industry appeals kahawai decision

DONOGHUE TIM

360 words

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NATIONAL

7

English

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NEW ZEALAND'S two biggest fishing companies, Sealord and publicly listed Sanford, are part of a joint appeal against Justice Rhys Harrison's recent High Court judicial review decision ordering a review of the allocation of **kahawai** to recreational and customary fishers.

The **kahawai** judicial review case was taken to the Auckland High Court last year by the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council (with financial assistance from the recreational fishing group Option4). The case was the first major legal challenge to the commercial side of the industry by recreational fishing groups since the introduction of the quota management system (QMS).

Reacting to the fishing industry appeal, the Big Game Fishing Council's Richard Baker said the legal contest was a "David and Goliath" battle.

Baker said for too long the commercial fishing industry had had things all their own way.

"So it is understandable they will fight to maintain the status quo," Baker said.

He described the industry's appeal as a direct and ongoing attack on the birthright of ordinary New Zealanders to fish and provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing as specified by the High Court decision.

"The appeal is a tactical move by large wealthy players in the commercial fishing industry who have benefited, often at the public's expense, from the QMS," Baker said.

As part of his judgment Justice Harrison found former Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope had not properly allowed for recreational fishery interests in the 2004 and 2005 fishing years.

Commenting on the appeal, NZ First Fisheries spokesman Peter Paraone said a recognition of all New Zealanders' right to fish must take precedence over excessive money grabbing by the commercial fishing industry.

"We need to foster shared management arrangements with recreational, customary and commercial fishers to ensure sustainability, as well as recreational and customary fishing rights are protected and enhanced," Paraone said.

The fishing industry lawyer co-ordinating the appeal proceedings, Bruce Scott, from Chapman Tripp in Wellington, did not return calls.

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Ruling a blow for commercial fishing. FAIRFAX/JOHN SELKIRK

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NZ FIRST ADDS CRITICISM TO FISHING COMPANIES' APPEAL

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English
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Wellington, May 11 NZPA - NZ First MP Pita Paraone says the long-held rights of all New Zealanders to fish must take precedence over what he called excessive money grabbing by commercial operators.

It was reported yesterday that three fishing companies were appealing a High Court judicial review on allocations of **kahawai** between commercial and recreational fishers.

Mr Paraone said a long-term approach to maintaining a sustainable level of fish and the recognition of recreational fishers rights was needed. "More than a million New Zealanders fish for fun and food every year -- a right that needs to be clearly established for all New Zealanders, and responsibilities that need to be similarly clear."

Mr Paraone said shared management arrangements with recreational, commercial and customary fishers would ensure sustainability and access.

Sanford Ltd, Sealord Group Ltd and Pelagic and Tuna NZ Ltd have appealed the review, which rejected all but one of the challenges they made alleging flaws in ministerial decisions.

A judicial review was initially sought by the Big Game Fishing Council and the Recreational Fishing Council -- which want better protection of recreational fishing grounds from commercial fishers.

In March, Justice Rhys Harrison ordered the Government to review the kahawai allowance made to recreational anglers in 2004 and 2005.

Justice Harrison found that Government decisions on entry of the kahawai species to the quota management system in 2004 and 2005 were not done properly.

Richard Baker of the Big Game Fishing Council, a recreational fishing group, said the appeal "is a tactical move by large wealthy players in the commercial fishing industry who have benefited, often at the public's expense, from the quota system".

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RECREATIONAL ANGLERS CRITICISE KAHAWAI APPEAL BY BIG COMPANIES

183 words
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English
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Wellington, May 10 NZPA - Three fishing companies are appealing a High Court judicial review on allocations of **kahawai** between commercial and recreational fishers.

Sanford Ltd, Sealord Group Ltd and Pelagic and Tuna NZ Ltd have appealed the review, which rejected all but one of the challenges they made alleging flaws in ministerial decisions.

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Richard Baker of the Big Game Fishing Council, a recreational fishing group, said the appeal was `` is a tactical move by large wealthy players in the commercial fishing industry who have benefited, often at the public's expense, from the quota system".

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AMATEURS APPLAUD KAHAWAI RULING

Nick CHURCHOUSE

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2

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A COURT judgment calling government-set commercial fishing limits for **kahawai** "unlawful" has provided amateur fishermen with timely ammunition in the shared fisheries debate, a recreational fishing spokesman says.

Recreational Fishing Council president Keith Ingram said last week's High Court decision was hugely timely for the ensuing argument over shared fisheries and would have shaken the commercial fishing industry.

Justice Rhys Harrison said former Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope had ignored "the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the people" in setting commercial catch limits for kahawai in 2004 and 2005, and prompted the current minister, Jim Anderton, to review them.

The decision comes nearly a month after submissions closed on the Government's shared fisheries proposal, which looks to reallocate fish quota from commercial fishermen to recreational fishermen.

Mr Ingram said it strengthened the argument for the recreational side. "It's huge. As we move into the shared fisheries discussions the minister will need to take that (the decision) into account."

The court's confirmation that Mr Benson-Pope's decisions had been illegal meant there was legal precedent that required Mr Anderton to take into account the values of recreational fishermen before setting catch limits for any species, Mr Ingram said.

"All too often the public share (of fisheries), because it is unknown, has been fitted into the leftovers of a commercially managed fishery."

The decision would be instrumental for Mr Anderton's thinking on shared fisheries and may make him want to play it safe, Mr Ingram said. "We would expect that he will err on the side of caution and provide more (fish for the public) just in case he has got it wrong."

Fisheries Ministry policy manager Mark Edwards said an analysis of the 610 shared fisheries submissions would be complete in two weeks, and the minister was expected to make a decision about the middle of the year.

The chief executive of the Maori fisheries organisation Te Ohu Kaimoana, Peter Douglas, said the judgment showed the need for a different approach to balancing the needs of the separate sectors. "Information on how much all sectors catch is the key so that all sectors have certainty along with responsibility for sustainable fisheries."

Commercial fishery co-defendant Sanford Fisheries was yet to decide whether to appeal against the decision, but doubted it would have any bearing on the shared fisheries debate, chief executive Eric Barratt said.

The Seafood Industry Council was analysing the judgment to determine its implications for the industry and the shared fisheries

debate, chief executive Owen Symmans said. Mr Anderton would consider reviewing the kahawai limits once he had received advice from the Fisheries Ministry and Crown Law this week.

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RECREATIONAL FISHERS WIN REVIEW OF QUOTAS FOR 'PEOPLE'S FISH'

412 words
22 March 2007
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2007 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, March 22 NZPA - A significant victory by recreational fishers means catch limits and allocations in the **kahawai** fishery may have to be reconsidered.

In what has been called by some observers a "landmark case", recreational fishing bodies argued recreational fishing grounds needed better protection from commercial fishers.

The New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council told the High Court in Auckland last November that kahawai had gone from being an abundant "people's fish" to being harvested on an industrial scale and exported for fish bait, fish meal and other low-value products.

In a reserved judgment yesterday, Justice Rhys Harrison said the Government "erred" when making decisions in 2004 and 2005 on allocation of kahawai.

The total allowable commercial catch level for kahawai had been fixed "without having proper regard to the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of the people", the judge said.

He said Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton also failed to adequately consider advice from his ministry to review bag catch limits for recreational fishers, and failed to take account of parts of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act when fixing the allowable catch for the kahawai fishery in that area.

The judge directed Mr Anderton to reconsider his 2005 decisions. "Because parts of them are the subject of unlawful or irrational acts, they are 'ultra vires' (beyond the minister's powers) and thus potentially a nullity," he said.

But the legal precedent was for the decisions to remain operative and valid until set aside, and it would be pointless to quash either decision.

Justice Harrison said it was appropriate to treat the decisions as operative "despite their unlawful aspects" until the minister made a fresh and legally effective decision.

The groups conducted a parallel public campaign using falling catches of kahawai as an example of how commercial fishing was negatively affecting recreational fishing grounds, including tarakihi, crayfish, paua, blue cod, kingfish, shellfish, gurnard, snapper and hapuku.

Mr Anderton said in a statement he had asked Fisheries Ministry and Crown Law officials to advise him on the implications of the judge's ruling and the options for the Government. "The judge's ruling is that the catch limits and allocations made for kahawai will have to be reconsidered," he said.

He expected to get that advice in the next few days, and would then consult his Cabinet colleagues.

NZPA WGT kca dj mgr

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FISHING GROUPS HARPOON PROPOSAL

Paul EASTON
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6

English

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THE Government's shared fisheries proposal is under a three-pronged attack, criticised by Maori, recreational fishing groups and commercial fishermen alike.

The project is reviewing how species like snapper, **kahawai** and crayfish -- sought by commercial, customary and amateur fishermen -- are allocated.

Submissions on the plan closed on Wednesday.

The discussion process was jointly described as "woefully inadequate" by the Maori Fisheries Trust, Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd, the Big Game Fishing Council and the Recreational Fishing Council.

"What is agreed by all sectors of New Zealand's fishery -- customary, commercial and recreational fishers -- is that there is insufficient information on the status of the recreational catch for the Government to go ahead with the Shared Fisheries proposals, and the Government should withdraw it," they said.

The Seafood Industry Council opposed the shared fisheries plan in its submission, complaining of a lack of information about the effects of recreational fishing.

The council's chief executive, Owen Symmans, said it wanted commercial, recreational and customary fishermen to work together on a fisheries management plan, rather than having it dictated to them by government.

It has suggested a system whereby recreational fishermen report their catch by text message, to get some information on what is being caught.

Other options for catch reporting include punch cards, or a diary system.

But Recreational Fishing Council president Keith Ingram said the move was "a red herring".

"There is no way anyone will be able to implement a reporting system that will be capable of capturing every fish that is taken by the public, whether it's from a kid on a wharf to a grandfather on a boat."

Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton said he welcomed the feedback from the seafood industry.

"As expected, groups have offered strong views and different perspectives. The Government will listen to and consider all these views before making decisions on the best way to manage shared fisheries."

Mr Anderton said final decisions on changes and implementation would be before the Cabinet by the middle of the year.

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The scales of justice

1,746 words
11 November 2006
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 2006 The New Zealand Herald

This week's fisheries court case goes to the heart of a cherished part of New Zealand life. Anne Beston reports

ONCE UPON a time there were "acres of **kahawai**" in the Hauraki Gulf, says fisherman Wayne Banks, schools so thick you simply threw a lure over the side and hauled them in.

"It ain't like that no more; the stock was utterly, completely hammered and decimated," the 38-year-old Auckland charter boat operator says.

Banks has been fishing for more than 20 years in the gulf, first taken out by his father, then becoming a commercial longline fisherman and finally going into the charter business.

"I've been on both sides of the fence but for moral reasons I always longlined," he says.

Longliners use hooks, as opposed to purse seiners which drop a net off the back, drive in a circle then scoop the fish on board.

Banks blames purse seiners for the depletion in kahawai stocks.

"Nothing else explains it. If it was some other thing the variation would be seasonal, not year on year over the whole stock."

Banks says kahawai are rebuilding in the gulf but only because the commercial fishermen stopped getting a return for their efforts.

"Still, it's good to see the fish coming back."

He is aware of the legal challenge over kahawai, where recreational, or amateur, fishers are taking legal action over what they say is the Ministry of Fisheries' refusal to allocate them a fair share of inshore fisheries against what commercial fishers get under the Quota Management System (QMS).

Chatting outside court during the hearing last week, both sides in the case sling mud at each other as easily as they drop a fishing line or a trawl net.

Recreational fishers paint "the commercial guys" as rapists and pillagers, stealing away the right of future generations to catch a fish.

Commercial fishermen have their own cherished stereotype: amateurs who float about in "gin palaces" hooking enough snapper over the side to feed an entire Remuera street for a week.

Although kahawai, the "people's fish", is at the centre of this case, commercial fishermen fear a win for

That's why industry launched a counterclaim as soon as it was clear legal action was ahead.

Recreational fishers is the legal term used in the High Court at Auckland but defining amateur fishers is about as easy as catching a 9lb snapper from the end of Princes Wharf. Weekend fishers, hobby fishers, call them what you will, range from the couple with deckchair and vacuum flask surfcasting off a Coromandel beach to the boat-load of businessmen heading out into the Hauraki Gulf for a long and beery weekend.

Recreational fishing groups funding this action estimate the cost at more than \$300,000 but say it's worth it.

"Many inshore fisheries were in danger of collapsing before the QMS was introduced," says fishing-kite businessman Paul Barnes.

He says New Zealand commercial fishers have fished stocks down to a point where recreational fishermen can't catch a fish.

“We’ve been allocated allowances in fisheries that in some cases had been fished down to 10 per cent of their original, virgin stock size,” he says.

Lawyer Stuart Ryan, the legal brain behind the recreational fishermen’s case, says: “Case law has been dominated by the commercial industry suing the Ministry of Fisheries and we want to straighten up the scrum,” he says.

Kahawai are not the most-prized catch for either commercial or amateur fishermen but their introduction into the QMS in 2004 touched a raw nerve. The recreational fishermen finally became organised and banded together, something that up to now had proved about as easy as herding cats.

In court, representatives of the Recreational Fishing Council, the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council and lobby group Option4 (a group that split from the Recreational Fishing Council during the controversial “Soundings” consultation which became so bogged down in argument over fishing licences it was abandoned) are not only sitting cosily side by side, they are flanked by supporters from Ngapuhi.

It’s the first time iwi and recreational fishers have banded together after years of mutual distrust over customary take.

“We are recreational fishers 98 per cent of the time,” says Ngapuhi kaumatua Hone Sadler.

“The only time we are customary fishers is when we have, say, a hui. This case is about being able to put fish on the table for our children.”

What Ryan is arguing is that amateur fishers have had their rights consistently undermined by the demands of a litigious commercial sector hell-bent on protecting private property quota rights.

The kahawai QMS decision made by then-Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope and the allocations that went with it is at the heart of the case.

Recreational fishermen say under the Fisheries Act, the minister must provide for the “social, cultural and economic value” of shared fisheries but the social and cultural values, there to protect the right of all New Zealanders to go fishing, are consistently overlooked. Barnes is scathing of the commercial industry. After the QMS was set up in 1986, commercial fishermen used the Quota Appeals Authority to argue for higher quotas and in many cases were given them, he says.

They then upped this through a process called “deeming”, whereby they could catch fish over and above quotas as long as they paid a levy on the extra.

Barnes estimates quotas were increased overall by up to 30 per cent.

“So not only have they jacked their quotas up, they’re taking on average 10 per cent over that amount,” he says.

“If quotas had been based on the science available at the time, which was absolutely right, then we’d be able to walk on the backs of snapper from Auckland to Devonport.”

Recreational fishers lobbied hard for the lion’s share of the kahawai fishery, arguing commercial quota should be set at zero so the stock would be left above maximum sustainable yield (MSY). That would leave more, and bigger, fish in the sea for amateur anglers.

MSY is central to any discussion on fisheries but fisheries science is not only complex, it’s hotly contested.

Simply, MSY is the amount of fish scientists estimate is available year-on-year without over-fishing.

Recreational fishers say under the act, there is no reason why every stock must be fished to MSY, but in reality that is what happens. It leaves amateurs throwing a line in a fishery that has been “fished down”.

What really grates for recreational fishers is that kahawai is low value to industry and usually exported as crayfish bait or fish meal, but for them it’s an important catch.

In the end, recreational fishers got the lion’s share of the fishery, 3415 tonnes compared with industry’s 3035 tonnes, but Benson-Pope, concerned at historic and wildly differing stock assessments, also cut the overall allocation by 15 per cent for everyone.

Commercial fishers said after they took their cut, no effort was made to cut recreational bag limits, something they are arguing in this case was an error in law.

As the lawyers were heading to court, Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton released a discussion paper to deal with these exact issues. The paper calls the conflict between commercial and recreational fishers the "most contentious issue in the (fisheries) system".

Ideas in the paper to try to reduce that antagonism include prioritising amateur fishing in some areas, asking one side not to fish their allocated allowance so stocks can rebuild, forcing charter boat operators to report catch, and finding a way to keep better count of what recreational fishers are taking.

Also on the table is the creation of an "Amateur Fishing Trust" to speak for recreational fishers that would get some Government funding, changes to the controversial deeming system, allowing a stock to rise above MSY in some fisheries and, optimistically perhaps, asking amateurs and professionals to negotiate over individual fisheries.

Big Game Fishing Council vice-president Richard Baker is dismissive, saying the Government is trying to look as if it's doing something while fishers are slugging it out in court.

"Commercial fishers actually smashed some stocks by 1986 which can take a hundred years to rebuild," he says.

"Meanwhile, we risk whole generations of future New Zealanders never knowing a decent fishing experience."

Vaughan Wilkinson says he doesn't always have a decent fishing experience but he likes to fish. He's a recreational fisherman - he's also fishing company Sanford's business development manager.

His affidavit to the court on behalf of the company slammed the Government for failing to tackle the problem of estimating recreational catch. Commercial fishers say recreational fishers should be licensed or registered, a request they know will not be welcome.

"Look, it's no big deal," Wilkinson says.

"If somebody gave me some form of basic obligation to report my recreational catch at a boat ramp, I'm not going to think that's any bigger deal than the fact I now have to put money in the parking meter at Westhaven when it used to be free."

He is also sceptical of all this fuss about kahawai, a view widely shared within the industry.

"From my office downtown people fish for kahawai all day long, there are schools from Wynyard Wharf to the container terminal.

"But most people in boats steam right past them; if it was such an issue they would have interacted with the schools right there. If you want to catch a kahawai, you don't have to go any further than central Auckland."

Sanford chief executive Eric Barratt says "only about 20 per cent" of New Zealanders go fishing recreationally but almost everyone buys seafood. "It hardly seems reasonable that the wider community's access to buying popular fish like kahawai is being progressively curtailed just to provide fishing pleasure of a select group who are fortunate enough to go fishing for themselves," he says.

"The non-commercial sector remains unconstrained and unmanaged."

It's possible neither side will be happy when Justice Harrison delivers his verdict. And a clear win by either side in this case looks set to only deepen the age-old conflict between the amateurs and the professionals.

FISH11

Document NZHLD00020061110e2bb00025

NEWS

FISHING Ministry tackled on fisheries 'over-catch'

DONOGHUE TIM

510 words

1 November 2006

The Independent Financial Review

NATIONAL

4

English

(c) 2006 The Independent Business Weekly

A GROUP made up of Ministry of Fisheries officials and the fishing industry has found the ministry's management system has allowed "chronic over-catch" in some fish stocks. The admission is likely to be seized on by the country's major recreational fishing groups when they take on the ministry in the Auckland High Court next week alleging it mismanaged the nation's **kahawai** fishery.

The groups also say the ministry may be acting illegally in the annual process of setting the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for commercial fishermen.

Spokesmen for the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council, the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council and Option 4 last month presented a joint submission to the ministry on the findings of a "deemed values" joint working group.

They were supported by Ngapuhi chairman Sonny Tau and Ngati Whatua chairwoman Naida Glavish.

Deemed values is the term used in the fishing industry for the fine imposed on fishermen by the ministry for a failure to balance their landed catch of quota management system stocks with catch entitlement rights.

Each species has a set rate per kilogram to cover the deemed value over-catch fine payable to the ministry.

In 2004 the ministry set up a joint working group with the industry to look at the question of over-catch and deemed values after it was forced to pay out \$23 million to the fishing industry.

It had conceded to Parliament's primary production and regulations review select committees it had acted illegally in the collection of deemed values since 1996 (The Independent, 19 February 2003).

Tau, Glavish, and the sporting groups said they should have been invited to participate in the joint working group discussions.

Instead they were given just two months to make a submission on the outcome of a one-sided process.

They based their latest assertions in particular on section 21 of the 1996 Fisheries Act.

This says the Fisheries Minister, now Jim Anderton, is required to take into consideration recreational and Maori fishing interests before setting the annual TACC.

In their submission to the joint working group the lobby groups noted how in some fisheries there were well documented "mortalities" that had never been allowed for when successive fisheries ministers set the annual TACC.

"We are very concerned there has been far too much focus on the rights of quota holders and far too little discussion on [the ministry's] responsibility to manage our fisheries for sustainable use," they said.

They said tangata whenua and recreational fishing interests had their allocations correspondingly cut when fisheries, such as the "snapper 8" fishery on the west coast of the North Island, had clearly been over-fished commercially.

The ministry is analysing submissions received and preparing final advice for Anderton on the group's recommendations. New deemed value policy could be in place for the 1 October 2007 fishing year.

IND061101004a3003062-AP

Allegations of "over-catch" are likely to surface in Auckland High Court next week. FAIRFAX/NICK MOIR

Document INDBUW0020061101e2b10000c

Government looks at fishing quota for amateur anglers

by Mike Houlahan
415 words
26 October 2006
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 2006 The New Zealand Herald

Commercial fishers may receive compensation under a plan to entrench the rights of recreational fishers and Maori.

Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton yesterday released a discussion document on proposals for managing shared fisheries - sea life caught by recreational, commercial and customary fishers, such as snapper, blue cod, **kahawai**, paua and rock lobster.

One proposal would see the Government maintain and protect a minimum tonnage of some species for amateur fishers, which would have priority over the commercial take. Tonnages would be reduced only if the species was no longer commercially fished and it was becoming unsustainable.

If such a change significantly affected commercial fishers' economic interests the Government would look at compensation, Mr Anderton said.

"If we have to change the quantity of fish that can be caught between the sectors involved, then there are property rights issues there and we are going to give serious consideration to compensating for losses," he said.

"It's not an invitation for a blank cheque - for example, from a sustainability point of view there's no requirement for compensation and none will be paid. But where there is a reallocation for the purposes of improving one or other of the participants in the shared fishery, then compensation will be considered."

Mr Anderton asked for goodwill from all sides of the debate so everyone could get the best deal possible and everyone had certainty for the future.

Other key points in the discussion document were:

Ministry of Fisheries to develop ways to get better information about how many fish are caught by amateurs.

Greater flexibility in setting total allowable catch limits.

Clarity on the provision for Maori customary take.

Systems for setting and adjusting allowable amateur and commercial catches.

Creation of a Government-funded trust to represent amateur fishers' interests.

Keith Ingram, president of the Recreational Fishing Council, said the Government had gone some significant way to recognise the concerns of recreational fishers. He also endorsed the proposed Amateur Fishing Trust.

The Seafood Industry Council said it had "grave concerns" about the discussion paper.

"The document's intent is not what we expected," said chief executive Owen Symmans. "We already have an internationally recognised quota management system ... we're concerned that this document is about reallocation away from the commercial sector."

Mr Symmans said the recreational, customary and commercial sectors already shared resources.

"We have to take any sign of reallocation away from commercial interests very, very seriously."

FISHING26

Document NZHLD00020061025e2aq0000r

Sanford & Sealord sue MFish

Tim Donoghue
269 words
1 February 2006
The Independent Business Weekly
English
(c) 2006 The Independent Business Weekly

New Zealand's two largest fishing companies, Sealord and the publicly listed Sanford, are suing the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) about **kahawai** quota.

Former Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope and MFish are already subject to a legal challenge from big-game and recreational fishermen who felt unjustly allocated too small a share of the **kahawai** quota introduced into the quota management system in October 2004.

Now the big fishing companies have climbed in on the New Zealand Big Game Fishing and Recreational Fishing Councils' judicial review application, but are taking an opposing stance.

In a counter-claim, the commercial players argue Benson-Pope placed too much emphasis on recreational harvest survey estimates in determining the total allowable catch for kahawai.

The companies seek a court order declaring the 2005 total allowable catch, the total allowable commercial catch and the recreational allowances are unlawful and invalid.

Sanford says the kahawai fishery is a robust resource, capable of sustaining adequate recreational, commercial and customary fishing levels.

Sealord and Sanford are working in conjunction with Pelagic and Tuna New Zealand Ltd.

Recreational fishermen point the finger at the commercial sector, saying two decades of commercial kahawai fishing have decimated the fishery.

The recreational fishermen have the support of the Ngapuhi tribe in the legal action.

In his October 2004 announcement, Benson-Pope unveiled a total allowable kahawai catch of 7,612 tonnes, including 1,007 tonnes for Maori, 3415 tonnes for recreational fishermen and 3,035 tonnes for the commercial sector.

The case will be heard in the High Court at Auckland on 6 June.

Document INDBUW0020060131e22100008

PHOTO: PETER McINTOSH;Big fish . . . New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council chairman Jeff Romeril, who says commercial fishing has ruined things for recreational fishermen.;Kahawai test case taken;Fishers hope to land court win;By Steve Hepburn

470 words

28 September 2005

Otago Daily Times

English

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The president of the New Zealand Big Game Fishing council says a test case taken against the Government over **kahawai** allocation is one he is confident of winning.

Jeff Romeril, from Whangaparaoa, was in Dunedin at the recent annual meeting of the council, held at the Tautuku Fishing Club at Smailis Beach.

Mr Romeril, who has been president of the council for six years, said the case would cost about \$600,000, money which he would rather spend elsewhere, if possible.

"We need to challenge this case. It's a precedent setting case and the core result is about fishermen's rights. It could apply to any species, not just kahawai," he said.

The council was joining the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council and fisheries lobby group Option Four in taking the Government to court over allocation of the kahawai.

About 120 delegates were at the council's annual meeting.

Mr Romeril said there used to be 50,000 tonnes of kahawai available through catch limits but the quota had been cut by the Ministry of Fisheries to 6000 tonnes.

The 6000-tonne quota is split evenly between commercial and recreational fishermen but Mr Romeril said this was not fair.

"We can't get out and catch the fish any more because commercial fisheries have over-fished it," he said.

"We have been denied access because of what they've done."

The kahawai was the second most important species to the council and its 32,000 members, after snapper.

"This used to be the most accessible fish in New Zealand. It used to be at our beaches, our river mouths, our harbours. Now, you can't find it."

Auckland law firm Hesketh Henry had been employed by the groups, assisted by Lyn Stevens QC, and the case was presented to the High Court in Auckland last month.

Four days have been set down next May for the case to be heard.

"With all the work we've done, I'm very confident we have a strong case and will receive a favourable outcome."

He said Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope had declined to have discussions once the court case was signalled.

Fund-raising was occurring daily to pay for the court action and he was confident of having enough money.

If the case was lost, the council would take a close look at its approach to fisheries management and may be forced to become more political.

"The kahawai stocks do need time to recover but if the commercial fishers stay out of it, it would only take five to six years to recover."

Document OTGO000020050928e19s0008d

Trawl for votes will have impact

931 words
19 August 2005
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 2005 The New Zealand Herald

WITH THE **kahawai** issue now before the High Court, the attention of recreational fishing groups will turn to the management of snapper off the west coast of the North Island and the issue of marine reserves.

Labour, under pressure from low polls, has finally been making noises about some concessions to the amateur fishing sector and a pre-election sop can be expected sooner rather than later.

On the cards are cuts to the commercial take in area SNA8, where the fishing industry has exceeded its "total allowable catch" for 14 of the past 17 years, as well as the exclusion of key recreational fishing areas from some marine reserve proposals.

In SNA8, the industry is allowed 1500 tonnes of snapper a year; in 2003/04 it took 1666 tonnes.

The "deemed value" penalty is just over \$3 a kilogram, but the snapper can fetch \$5 a kilogram.

In addition, it is on the west coast, where amateurs can get out only in favourable weather, that there are most reports of high-grading - the evidence being hundreds of dead, floating fish.

It's a valued fishery for trawlers. The trouble is, the continual hammering of snapper in the spawning season has left a fishery some say is depleted to less than half the 20 per cent of virgin biomass the Minister of Fisheries is required to maintain under the Fisheries Act.

A ministry advice paper presents several options, most of which also include a proportional cut to the west coast recreational take of 15 a day.

At a recent meeting in Onehunga, many fishers were surprised to hear Raglan Sport Fishing club secretary Sheryl Hart - one of the Government's newly appointed recreational fishery advisers - advocating a cut to 10.

The thing is, off Raglan the fish caught are generally big, in the 3-10kg range. But further north, where there is far more fishing pressure, less opportunity to get offshore and most fishing is done in harbours, the average fish size is 1-2kg. Hart got that message and one that a cut would be opposed.

Boat-ramp surveys have suggested most fishers take fewer than 10 anyway.

Minister David Benson-Pope's response to the advice paper is expected within the next few weeks, in time to have some impact before the election.

Only one option in the advice paper leaves recreational fishers out of the future cuts and that requires a cut of the commercial take to around 1000 tonnes. That's the one the NZ Recreational Fishing Council and option4 have supported.

There have been back-door negotiations regarding the Volkner Rocks marine reserve proposal since it was first aired.

Now it appears the Minister of Conservation may be about to back down over an area favoured by those who target kingfish.

The reserve includes reefs that are favourites for the local game-fish club members and bring in money to ports at Tauranga and Whakatane through the charter industry.

In the past, opposition to inclusion of those reefs in the marine-protected area has fallen on deaf ears but in recent weeks it seems DoC representatives have been seeking precise GPS details of where these reefs are and the area that would be required around them to keep them fishable.

Rumour has it there will also be concessions made in other reserve proposals that have attracted strong local opposition. But Benson-Pope last week told an audience organised by the Dunedin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society that a Labour-led Government would continue to press for marine reserves, a strong DoC budget and additions to the high country estate.

Benson-Pope said the Government was poised to announce a protected marine areas strategy to "make debate on the issue more rational than what we have had to date," and that the party advocated a network of protected marine areas.

THERE is growing cohesion between Maori and recreational fishing interests in terms of taking decisions on stock management away from the minister and his advisers, who are widely seen as supportive of the status quo, using export earnings as the argument.

Two hui in Northland hosted by Ngapuhi and other iwi explored the idea of extending the use of taiapure (reserves) and kaitiaki (guardianship) as allowed by the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Act, in recognition of the fact that most Maori fishing is recreational rather than exercising customary rights.

Maori concern about leaving sufficient fish stocks for their future generations has to be matched by control of the commercial take, in which they have a majority interest. So the debate promises to be long and involved.

But the NZRFC, the Big Game Fishing Council and option4 are leaning more towards the idea that Maori control might provide a better opportunity to rebuild fish and shellfish stocks. That, of course, involves some level of trust that Maori will not be favoured over the general population.

FOR Maori, Pakeha and others seeking a feed, the fishing remains patchy, the water temperature is down to 14C and the bite-time short. Patience is required.

When nothing is happening, keep trying different baits and rigs. Put four rods out with a dropper, a strayline, a running rig, a flasher.

Try different coloured flashers - last Friday on the Manukau, the gurnard wanted only yellow. Try bonito and squid. Put out a big floater with a piper or two and multiple hooks for a big snapper.

Use cut pilchards or snap the head off as they seem to be working better than whole.

FISH19

Document NZHLD00020050818e18j00011

MINISTER TO FACE COURT GRILLING

Dan HUTCHINSON

316 words

17 August 2005

The Press (Christchurch)

11

English

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Recreational fishing groups are taking Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope to court over the way he is managing **kahawai**.

Dubbed the people's fish, **kahawai** has been at the centre of a debate between commercial and recreational interests and the Government since it was brought under the Quota Management System last year.

The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council and the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council claim kahawai is of more value to recreational interests than commercial, and have filed judicial review proceedings in the Auckland High Court.

The two groups are seeking to clarify the minister's decision-making powers in what is the first court action of its kind by recreational fishing groups in New Zealand.

The president of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council, Keith Ingram, said amateur fishermen had simply accepted the leftovers from the commercial industry in the past.

Case law left unanswered questions about how the Fisheries Minister was required to make decisions that affected amateur fishermen, especially where not enough was known about sustainable stock levels, Ingram said.

The chairman of the Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association, Tony Orman, believed the kahawai fishery had collapsed owing to overfishing, and he wanted to see it shut off from commercial operators.

Benson-Pope would not comment on the kahawai case while it was before the courts. He has made several statements over the past year in an attempt to appease recreational and commercial interests.

In a speech to the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council's annual meeting last month, he said he had taken a cautious approach when setting the total allowable catch because of uncertainty over kahawai stocks and a desire to improve the population.

The ministry has been consulting on two options for future management of kahawai -- either the status quo or a rebuilding strategy that will require managing the fishery more conservatively.

Document THEPRE0020050818e18h0003q

KAHAWAI CHALLENGE

58 words

16 August 2005

Dominion Post

5

English

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Recreational fishermen are to test in court the management of the most heavily fished species. The Recreational Fishing Council, the Big Game Fishing Council and fisheries lobby group Option4 have asked the High Court at Auckland to overturn a decision by the fisheries minister last August to cut bag limits of **kahawai** by 15 per cent.

Document DOMPOS0020050815e18g0000v

Fish quota challenged

by Anne Beston
307 words
15 August 2005
New Zealand Herald
A02
English
(c) 2005 The New Zealand Herald

Kahawai fishery in jeopardy, recreational anglers claim

The first legal challenge over the share of a major fishery allocated to amateur fishers has been lodged in the High Court.

The Recreational Fishing Council (RFC) and the Big Game Fishing Council have begun legal proceedings calling for a judicial review of decisions by Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope over the allocation of kahawai.

“It is a fundamentally flawed situation which has led to this test case,” said RFC president Keith Ingram.

“It’s not about our own interests. This is a case for and on behalf of the fishing public of New Zealand.”

Recreational fishing groups were angered by the kahawai share given to commercial companies when the species was introduced into the Quota Management System last year.

Hobby fishers received the larger share - 3415 tonnes compared with 3035 tonnes for commercial take - but Mr Ingram said commercial fishers should have been given an allocation for bycatch only, a maximum of 600 tonnes.

“We have no argument with the legitimate unavoidable bycatch of commercial fishers, but we do have a problem with purse seine.”

Mr Ingram’s council has argued that the fishery cannot survive purse seine vessels of large New Zealand companies targeting near-shore kahawai schools.

Purse seine vessels use large nets to catch kahawai and the council believes the boats also use spotter helicopters to find the fish.

Hobby fishers argued that the kahawai fishery was already “depressed” before being introduced into the quota system, something the minister had not taken into account.

“There has been a huge decline in the availability of kahawai,” Mr Ingram said.

Kahawai are sometimes dubbed “the people’s fish” because they can be caught with a modest rod from boat, beach or wharf and are often the first catch of young fishers.

KAHAWAI15

Document NZHLD00020050814e18f0001t

AMATEUR FISHERS GO TO COURT OVER KAHAWAI QUOTA MANAGEMENT

424 words
14 August 2005
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2005 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 14 NZPA - Amateur fishing groups have mounted a high court challenge against the Government over its management of the **kahawai** quota system, which they say has led to over-fishing.

The Government's inclusion of **kahawai** in the quota management system last year provoked a huge outcry from recreational fishers, who said the species would be plundered by commercial boats.

The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council Inc and the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council Inc, which represent hundreds of thousands of recreational fishers around the country, announced today they have lodged judicial review proceedings in the Auckland High Court challenging the Fisheries Minister's decision-making over the management and allocation of kahawai.

It is the first time legal proceedings have been brought by amateur and recreational fishing interests under New Zealand's fisheries legislation.

The president of the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council, Jeff Romeril, said the two councils aimed to protect the fishing rights of the non-commercial fishing sector, stop over-fishing, and clarify the Minister of Fisheries' decision-making powers for "recreational fish species".

Since New Zealand adopted "a property-rights based approach" to commercial fisheries in 1986, over-fishing has led to fisheries management decisions that are unfavourable and prejudicial to the interests of non-commercial fishers, the groups say.

The fishing councils attribute the current low numbers of kahawai schools to past over-fishing by commercial purse seine fishers before the entry of kahawai to the quota management system.

Mr Romeril said fishing was "a nationally treasured pastime" in New Zealand. "It is part of what sets the quality of life in New Zealand apart from other countries. "Yet, for over two decades, our members have been reporting a serious decline in many key fish stocks."

The president of the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council, Keith Ingram, said there was "a strong public interest factor" in the kahawai case.

Most amateur fishing in New Zealand was "as much about putting fresh seafood on the family table as it is about recreation", he said.

Last month, Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope said the Government was considering further controls on the commercial catch of kahawai to ensure recreational fishers could still catch them.

But Mr Ingram said the new policy was not yet "firmly established".

Furthermore, there were still "unanswered questions" about how the minister was required to make decisions affecting amateur fisheries that only a test case could resolve, he said.

NZPA WGT rh mgr kk

Document NZPA000020050814e18e0003u

KAHAWAI CONTROLS

45 words
9 July 2005
Dominion Post
7
English

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The Government is considering further controls on the commercial catch of **kahawai** to ensure recreational fishers can still catch them. Some recreational fishers complained last year when **kahawai** was included in the quota management system, fearing it would be plundered by commercial boats.

Document DOMPOS0020050708e179000f

CHANGES TO KAHAWAI MANAGEMENT CONSIDERED

239 words
8 July 2005
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2005 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, July 8 NZPA - The Government is considering further controls on the commercial catch of **kahawai** to ensure recreational fishers can still catch them.

Some recreational fishers kicked up a fuss last year when the Government brought **kahawai** into the quota management system, fearing it would be plundered by commercial boats.

Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope argued at the time that it would protect the catch of recreational fishers and today he told the Recreational Fishing Council's conference that he was looking at further protection of the fish species.

An initial position paper had two options for the 2005/2006 fishing year -- the status quo or a "rebuild strategy".

This would mean managing kahawai stocks above the "maximum sustainable yield". "This new approach would effectively give greater recognition of recreational utilisation," Mr Benson-Pope said.

The approach could recognise that recreational fishers might prefer to catch more or bigger fish than extract the maximum sustainable yield.

Mr Benson-Pope said in his speech there was no evidence that the recreational sector was catching more kahawai than it was assigned and no further controls on recreational fishers were contemplated.

He said the new approach could also be taken with other species important to recreational fishers.

New Zealand First leader Winston Peters told the same conference that he did not believe kahawai should be in the quota system at all.

NZPA PAR il ob jm

Document NZPA000020050708e1780003d

KAHAWAI, MACKEREL CAN GENERATE TOXINS THAT SURVIVE COOKING - FSA

386 words
2 February 2005
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2005 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Feb 2 - Food safety and health officials say fishermen and consumers need to be more aware of the potential for dark-skinned fish -- such as **kahawai**, mackerel, tuna, bonito, and kingfish -- to trigger scombroid poisoning in humans.

The Food Safety Authority today called for recreational anglers and commercial fishers to chill such fish to less than 7degC within four hours of death, and to continue to lower the temperature after that.

When the fish are killed, bacteria in the flesh begins to convert the amino acid histidine into histamine toxins, which are not destroyed by cooking or freezing.

Symptoms of histamine or scombroid poisoning usually occur within four hours of eating the fish and include tingling or burning sensations in the mouth, a rash on the face and upper body, throbbing headache, hives or itchy skin, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms can last for several days but usually disappear within 12 hours.

The FSA said in its magazine, Food Focus, published today, that sometimes lower-value fish such as kahawai were more likely to be left until last to be put on ice or chilled, because people paid more for other species. ``Sort scombroid species first, to allow faster cooling, before turning your attention to the rest of the catch," the FSA said.

But the creation of toxins could occur at any stage between getting the fish from the ocean to the table -- wholesalers and retailers needed to make sure scombroid fish were kept at temperatures below 4degC, and consumers needed to minimise the time the fish was at room temperature.

Other health officials have said affected fish could have a ``peppery" or bitter taste, but usually it was impossible to tell from the look or smell of a fish if it was contaminated.

In May 2003 the FSA warned people not to eat smoked kahawai bought from several North Island supermarkets and two fish retailers after they were linked to suspected cases of scombroid histamine food poisoning in the top half of the North Island.

And the Auckland District Health Board said in its latest public health newsletter, published this week, that a further four fish markets were implicated in cases of scombroid poisoning between June 2003 and July 2004.

NZPA WGT kca kk gs

Document NZPA000020050202e1220000t

PROTECT KAHAWAI

130 words

28 December 2004

The Press (Christchurch)

8

English

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The new Minister of Fisheries, David Benson-Pope, is going to use taxpayers' money to fight recreational fisheries in the High Court to continue the commercial targeting and depletion of **kahawai**.

He relies on information from MAF, who don't seem to realise how depleted **kahawai** stocks have become. Only recently MAF discovered hoki stocks were much lower than they had thought.

He should use common sense and use the money to buy kahawai quota from commercial interests and give this to the recreational fishers of NZ.

Recreationally, kahawai is a high value fishery: commercially, when sent overseas for fish bait, it is low value.

If a stand isn't made we will lose this fishery. For information go to www.kahawai.co.nz

Dr GRAEME BISHOP Bishopdale

Document THEPRE0020041228e0cs0003k

NO CHANGE IN KAHAWAI BAG LIMIT, MINISTER SAYS

143 words
13 December 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Dec 13 - There will be no change to the daily bag limit for **kahawai**, Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope said today.

He announced in August there would be a 15 percent cut in the commercial and recreational fishing levels for **kahawai** to safeguard the species.

At the time it was suggested a reduction in the daily bag limit might be necessary, he said today. "I am sufficiently convinced that no immediate reduction to bag limits is necessary," he said in a statement. "We have channelled significant new research funding into kahawai in the coming year that will allow us to make robust decisions on issues like this. I believe that in the interests of fairness this is the right decision."

The kahawai bag limit is 20 per person per day.

NZPA PAR pw ob

Document NZPA000020041213e0cd0004h

GROUPS SET TO SUE OVER `PEOPLE'S FISH' QUOTAS

Tom FITZSIMONS

432 words

4 December 2004

Dominion Post

17

English

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RECREATIONAL fishing groups are set to take the fisheries minister to court over new **kahawai** quotas which they say favour commercial interests.

The groups, under the banner "Option4" and including the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council, called on fishermen and members of the public to give money for the expensive legal campaign.

Option4 spokesman and campaign manager for the legal challenge Don Glass said lawyers had been hired and were preparing a case "which they think is a good one".

They hoped to be in the High Court early next year, he said.

The court case would cost at least \$250,000 and more if either side appealed against the decision, he said.

Donations from ordinary people would be critical and an 0900 number had been set up to take \$20 donations.

Option4 would argue that the minister, David Benson-Pope, had failed to sufficiently consider "non-commercial interests" as defined in the Fisheries Act.

Kahawai, dubbed "the people's fish", were put under the quota management system in October against protests from recreational fishermen.

They argued that the quota distributions would increase commercial fishing, deplete kahawai stocks and rob ordinary people of a chance to catch the fish.

Kahawai would suffer the same fate as orange roughy and hoki if kept under the quotas, Mr Glass said.

"What's happened to the orange roughy? They're almost completely gone. Same with hoki.

"People hold the quota management system up as a good example, but it's not working that well."

Under the system, commercial fishing boats were able to take a bigger catch than they had before, Mr Glass said.

Mr Benson-Pope had also indicated that the daily bag limit for recreational fishermen was likely to be reduced.

The appeal for financial support was going out to all New Zealanders because surveys suggested as many as a million people went fishing every year, Mr Glass said.

A spokesman for Mr Benson-Pope said the minister would be disappointed if legal action was taken.

He was committed to reviewing the status of kahawai in a year and was keen to keep channels of communication open with recreational fishing groups.

An amendment bill proposed by United Future MP Larry Baldock in August that would have kept kahawai out of the quota system failed because of a lack of support.

The quotas introduced in October gave the commercial fishing industry 3035 tonnes of kahawai.

Recreational fishermen received a total allowance of 3415 tonnes, and 1007 tonnes were set aside for customary use.

Document DOMPOS0020041205e0c40003g

Court challenge to yet another fishing decision

TIM DONOGHUE

636 words

1 December 2004

The Independent Business Weekly

English

(c) 2004 The Independent Business Weekly

Recreational fishermen have joined forces with Maori to mount a High Court challenge to Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope's decision to introduce **kahawai** into the quota management system (QMS) on 1 October.

Taking the judicial review case against Benson-Pope, expected to be filed in the High Court in early 2005, will be the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council (NZBGFC), the New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council (NZRFC) and option4.

Spokesmen for all three groups say Benson-Pope's QMS allocation decisions for kahawai were so unjust they had to be challenged in court.

In his 1 October 2004 announcement, Benson-Pope unveiled a total allowable kahawai catch of 7,612 tonnes, comprising 1,007 tonnes for Maori, 3,415 tonnes for recreational fishermen and 3,035 tonnes for the commercial sector.

He also allowed 155 tonnes for "incidental mortality."

Twenty years ago, kahawai, a fighting fish, was a popular species with most Kiwi kids. But numbers have sharply dropped and recreational fishermen seem set to turn kahawai into an election issue

They blame commercial fishermen, saying the overall kahawai catch during the past two decades has decimated the fishery.

They also note the 6,000-tonne average commercial catch realises a meagre return of about \$3.2 million to the economy.

The main buyers of kahawai in recent years have been companies in Australia, the Middle East and Russia.

Scott McIndoe of option4 says his group will seek court declarations to set aside Benson-Pope's kahawai QMS decisions.

McIndoe says evidence to be produced in court would seek to show Benson-Pope had failed to:

allow for non-commercial interests by recognising such interests had to be allowed for before determining the commercial catch for the fishing year;

allow for non-commercial fishing interests by allocating the commercial catch on the basis of catch history depleted by purse seine fishing;

consider the cause and effect of fishing upon this important non-commercial species - in particular, the effects of the purse seining method of catching whole schools of kahawai; and

recognise likely imbalances in quota management for non-purse seine commercial fishers caused by allocating a large percentage of the commercial catch to the purse seine fleet.

Under the purse seine fishing method, schools of fish are surrounded and caught by nets with two boats working in tandem.

McIndoe says the combination of spotter planes, working with commercial and purse seiner fleets, had obliterated about 4000 schools of kahawai in the past 20 years.

Among the fishing companies who pushed the business case for kahawai to become part of the QMS was Sanford Fisheries, the leading company in the New Zealand pelagic fishing industry.

Sanford operates five purse seiners from its Tauranga base and provides work for about 104 staff.

The purse seine fleet operates year-round for such species as skipjack tuna, jack mackerel, blue mackerel and kahawai.

The fleet earns Sanford from \$18 million to \$25 million in sales each year. Sanford considers the kahawai fishery is a robust resource, capable of sustaining current recreational, commercial and customary fishing levels.

McIndoe said in taking the case, recreational fishermen had consulted with, and been supported by, Maori customary rights fishers.

McIndoe said Maori would be the losers "physically, spiritually and psychologically."

Tribal mana had been lost as the annihilation of kahawai meant the species was unavailable for hospitality purposes to visitors, he said.

"The well-documented traditional catches of kahawai by Maori at river mouths such as the Motu River will recover only if more fish are left in the sea.

"We also ask, what good is exercising non-commercial customary fishing rights (or recreational fishing rights) if entire schools of kahawai are 'missing in action', having been fed to Australian crayfish," McIndoe said.

Document INDBUW0020041130e0c10000a

SWEEPING CHANGES TO FISHERIES LAW COME INTO FORCE TODAY

328 words
1 October 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Oct 1 - The start of the fishing year today marks sweeping changes to the fishing industry, including 21 species being brought under the Quota Management System (QMS).

The inclusion of species such as scampi, **kahawai** and tuna means the Fisheries Ministry has reached its target of 50 species in the last five years, despite legal and political battles.

It means most commercial fisheries are now in the QMS.

Today also sees legislation closing a loophole that allowed some poachers to walk free.

All poachers and people engaged in black market activities will now face up to five years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000 under the Fisheries Amendment Act 2004.

The same law also implements a settlement between the industry and the ministry over the underpayment and over-recovery of fisheries levies.

It is estimated this will lead to a \$24.6 million reduction in levies paid.

In addition other new provisions also come into play from today, concerning how fisheries outside the QMS are managed and how they enter into the quota system.

From now the 1900 to 1992 fishing years catch history will no longer be the basis of how quota is allocated.

Controversy over how the scampi quota was allocated due to fishing in those years led to numerous legal battles and two independent inquiries.

The passage of the Fisheries Amendment Act (No 2) this year was meant to have brought the saga to a close, but legal action continues, including defamation actions and appeals against the quota allocated to Simunovich Fisheries.

Other species brought under the quota system today include:

Bigeye tuna, blue shark, green-lipped mussel, kahawai, long-finned freshwater eel (North Island), lookdown dory, mako shark, moonfish, Pacific bluefin tuna, parore, pipi in Whangarei Harbour, porae, porbeagle shark, ray's bream, short-finned freshwater eel, southern bluefin tuna, spiny dogfish, swordfish and yellowfin tuna.

NZPA PAR il ob gs

Document NZPA000020041001e0a10000b

ATTACK ON INDUSTRY'S 'PLUNDER' OF FISHERY

Kylie PINKER
396 words
15 September 2004
The Christchurch Press
4
English
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Threats of a legal challenge have been aired at a public meeting in Blenheim as fears grow over the depletion of **kahawai** stocks.

Recreational saltwater anglers in Marlborough have expressed concerns over falling numbers of the species.

Trish Rea, the guest speaker at the meeting, organised by the Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association, is the co-ordinator of a national recreational advocacy group, Option4.

Rea, of Auckland, described kahawai as "the big national recreational fish".

"It's caught at rivermouths and off wharves, rocks, beach and boat. It is a major public recreational species," she said.

Rea said company purse seiners had "vacuum-cleaned" kahawai to sell for fish meal to Australia.

"The kahawai fishery has never recovered from the hammering it got," she said.

Public concern was "deep". Option4 had canvassed the public and received nearly 4000 submissions, all expressing concern at the devastated kahawai stocks.

The group had hoped the new Minister of Fisheries, David Benson-Pope, would take notice of public anger, but he had not.

"So we have no option but to prepare a legal challenge," she said.

Rea said section 21 of the Fisheries Act bound the minister to allow for public non-commercial interests, such as recreational and customary rights.

"The real issue is the allocating of quota based on catch histories that included plundering of kahawai by purse-seining," she said.

"The purse-seiner catch had been carried out with no regard for the public's recreational and customary interests, as required by legislation."

Option4 had been formed on the principle of the public's right to fish.

"We're saying to the Government that the recreational fishing of the people is, and must be, paramount," she said.

She criticised the quota system and the "obsession" of the Ministry of Fisheries with privatisation through the tradeable quota system.

"Everything that moves has a value and has gone or is going into the quota system," said Rea.

Marlborough commercial fisherman Ted Collins echoed Rea's concerns.

"We didn't want the kahawai to come under quota. It was the big corporate companies who wanted it," he said.

Marlborough recreational fisher Jill Bunting questioned the "short-sightedness" of the ministry's policies.

"Why has common sense gone out the window? We're talking about a heritage -- a legacy for future generations," she said.

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UNITED FUTURE ATTACKED BY OTHER MINOR PARTIES OVER FISH AD

314 words
13 September 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Sept 13 - United Future's attempts to blame ACT, the Greens and New Zealand First for its failure to keep **kahawai** out of the Quota Management System (QMS) have brought a furious response.

United Future Fisheries spokesman Larry Baldock tried to amend the Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) in Parliament two weeks ago to stop **kahawai**, known as "the people's fish" going into the QMS on October 1 this year.

He failed and, at the weekend, he and United Future leader Peter Dunne took a quarter-page newspaper advertisement blaming ACT, the Greens and NZ First for the failure. "...because of hypocrisy, ideological rigidity and unreliability, ordinary New Zealanders will be denied yet another opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors," the advertisement said.

ACT MP Ken Shirley today slammed the advertisement as "laughable". "The legislation bringing kahawai on to the QMS is promoted by the Labour Government, which United Future is supporting on issues of supply and confidence," he said. "If United Future cannot negotiate in favour of its policy on the kahawai issue, it's a bit rich for them to blame the other minor parties who collectively come nowhere near comprising a majority in Parliament."

NZ First, the Greens and ACT attract 5, 4 and 3 percent respectively in the latest One News-Colmar Brunton poll, while United Future has only 2 percent.

Greens co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons said Mr Baldock's amendment would have done nothing to make more kahawai available to recreational fishermen. "All it would have done is remove all catch limits in the hope that the minister (of fisheries) would set them differently next year," she said. "It's sad when political parties get so low in the polls that in desperation they spend taxpayer dollars on a misleading nationwide newspaper advertisement."

NZPA PAR sl gs

Document NZPA000020040913e09d0004z

Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons said she had carefully considered...

128 words
31 August 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Green Party co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons said she had carefully considered whether to support Mr Baldock's amendment, but decided it would not achieve anything. "It would have created a year of chaos in the fishery, with no catch limits at all and no promise that they would have been set any differently the next year," she said.

Ms Fitzsimons said the Greens had a written commitment from Mr Benson-Pope that **kahawai** catch limits would be reviewed over the next year and that data would be collected on the size of the recreational catch. "We have a strong policy commitment that **kahawai** should be managed primarily as a recreational fishery," she said.

NZPA PAR pw ob

Document NZPA000020040831e08v0005I

UNITED FUTURE FAILS, KAHAWAI WILL GO INTO QUOTA SYSTEM

324 words
31 August 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 31 - The United Future Party tonight failed in its bid to reverse the Government's decision to put **kahawai** into the quota management system (QMS).

It has been arguing against the decision for several weeks, saying that **kahawai**, known as "the people's fish", will be plundered by commercial companies to the detriment of recreational fishers.

United Future MP Larry Baldock put up an amendment to the Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) in Parliament which would have stopped kahawai going into the QMS on October 1 this year.

He lost when ACT and the Green Party voted with the Government to defeat his amendment.

Earlier, Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope said he was putting kahawai into the QMS so it could be sustainably managed after the current permit system ended on October 1.

He said United Future's perception that the species would be plundered was wrong, and the total allowable catch was being set at a much lower level than the permit regime allowed. "If kahawai is not put into the QMS it will not be managed to ensure sustainability. Any commercial fisher could target it by any method, there would be no commercial limit," he said. "The setting of the combined recreational and customary catch is one-and-a-half times the total commercial catch."

United Future thought it had the support of the Greens and ACT for its amendment, and last week announced victory in its mission to keep kahawai out of the QMS.

United Future recently affiliated with the Outdoor Recreation Party, which put out a press statement applauding the success.

Tonight Mr Baldock said he had been betrayed by ACT and the Greens, as well as by New Zealand First which abstained on the vote. "New Zealanders who treasure their outdoor heritage will remember all of this at the next election," he warned.

NZPA PAR pw kk ob

Document NZPA000020040831e08v0004y

Govt agrees to cut kahawai quota if stocks don't rise

256 words

27 August 2004

New Zealand Herald

A06

English

(c) 2004 The New Zealand Herald

The Government has agreed to cut the size of the **kahawai** fishing quota in a year if stock levels have not recovered.

The last-minute deal, designed to get the controversial Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) passed, was negotiated between Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope and the Greens yesterday, just before the bill entered its committee stages in the House.

United Future and New Zealand First were also involved in late discussions with the Government over the bill, which a select committee recently ruled should be thrown out.

It was decided several years ago that kahawai should become part of the Quota Management System and that is due to take effect in October.

But recreational fishers have vociferously opposed the plan, arguing that the stock is already badly depleted.

Both United Future and the Greens oppose any significant commercial use of kahawai and until yesterday were refusing to guarantee their support for the legislation, creating the potential for the bill to be defeated.

But Greens co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons revealed that following a "personal undertaking" from Mr Benson-Pope, her party would support it.

The undertaking involved directing research funding into reassessing the extent of the stock's size within a year, rather than the standard three to five years.

"If there has been no recovery, the commercial quota will [then] be reassessed in order to protect the recreational catch."

Mr Benson-Pope said any decision would be based on reliable scientific evidence. -Ruth Berry

Document NZHLD00020040826e08r00021

GOVT SAYS NO DEAL TO U-TURN KAHAWAI QUOTA DECISION

392 words
25 August 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 25 - The Government says it has done no deals to reverse the introduction of **kahawai** into the quota management system.

Yesterday, the Government introduced a raft of changes to the Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) after a select committee had recommended throwing it out.

United Future MP Larry Baldock said his party would support the bill, conditional on the deferring of the introduction of kahawai into quota.

Mr Baldock said the changes came on the back of his "substantial discussions" with Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope.

United Future would also table amendments revoking the introduction of kahawai into the quota system, he said.

Some assumed around Parliament that since United Future's support for the bill was dependent on a U-turn over kahawai that a deal had been done.

However, Mr Benson-Pope's spokesman said the Government would not be backing United Future's move. "We wouldn't support amendments to change kahawai.... there has been no U-turn," the spokesman said.

Kahawai was a separate issue from the fisheries bill before Parliament, he said.

For United Future to succeed without Labour and Progressive it would need the vote of every other party in Parliament, an unlikely but possible event.

United Future has recently affiliated with the Outdoor Recreation Party, who put out a press release saying it was great to see the changes about kahawai.

Mr Baldock said other aspects of the bill which concerned the committee had also been addressed by the Government.

Parliament's primary production committee said in its report on the bill that most of its members were concerned it changed the allocation system and removed catch history without due consideration.

A major concern was that it tried to include the catch of migratory species in the Quota Management System, whether inside or outside New Zealand waters. "This would have the effect of capping New Zealand fishers' catch history," the committee said. "In the event of an international or regional agreement being signed, this would leave New Zealand fishers with a lower catch entitlement than they would otherwise have had."

The five National, New Zealand First, Green Party and ACT members on the committee recommended against the bill proceeding, while the four Labour members wanted it to continue.

NZPA PAR il gs mt

Document NZPA000020040825e08p00005

LATE CHANGES TO FISHERIES BILL KEEP KAHAWAI OUT OF QUOTA SYSTEM

341 words
24 August 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 24 - The Government has introduced a raft of late changes to a fisheries bill -- including a U-turn over **kahawai** coming under the quota system -- in order to get it through Parliament.

A select committee had recommended that the Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) be thrown out by MPs.

With the Government facing the possibility of defeat this evening it introduced 17 pages of changes to a bill that is just 40 pages long.

United Future MP Larry Baldock then announced that the changes came on the back of his "substantial discussions" with Fisheries Minister Larry Baldock.

United Future would back the bill on the condition that the introduction of kahawai into the Quota Management System was deferred.

It was "unacceptable to the recreational fishing sector and an affront to customary fishing," Mr Baldock said.

United Future has recently affiliated with the Outdoor Recreation party who welcomed the changes.

Mr Baldock said other aspects of the bill which concerned the committee had also been addressed.

The Greens also indicated that they had reversed their opposition to the bill at the select committee stage and could support the bill due to the changes.

Parliament's primary production committee said in its report on the Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 3) that most of its members were concerned the bill changed the allocation system and removed catch history without due consideration.

A major concern was that it tried to include the catch of migratory species in the QMS, whether inside or outside New Zealand waters. "This would have the effect of capping New Zealand fishers' catch history," the committee said. "In the event of an international or regional agreement being signed, this would leave New Zealand fishers with a lower catch entitlement than they would otherwise have had."

The five National, New Zealand First, Green Party and ACT members on the committee recommended against the bill proceeding, while the four Labour members wanted it to continue.

NZPA PAR il mb cs

Document NZPA000020040824e08o0005t

Minister misses great opportunity

592 words
20 August 2004
New Zealand Herald
D23
English
(c) 2004 The New Zealand Herald

THE spin doctors have been at work on the outcome of the allocation of **kahawai** stocks, as the species most common in New Zealand waters is brought under the Quota Management System.

Press releases from Parliament trumpeted a 15 per cent reduction in the total tonnage of fish that could be caught.

More fish would be put in recreational and customary fishers' hands, according to the missive from Fisheries Minister David Benson- Pope's office.

The new industry allowance is 3035 tonnes. But industry caught only 2746 tonnes in the 2001/2002 fishing year, 3422 tonnes in 2000/2001.

The new allowance has been set on the basis of catch history, and amateur fishing representatives are not impressed that those catch rates were inflated by the targeting of kahawai through the use of spotter planes working for purse-seine trawlers.

The companies hit their peak catch in 1988/89 at nearly 9000 tonnes, as they laboured to set records they knew would later be used in the division and allocation of quota.

The catch was cut by agreement three times.

But the industry has started to struggle to get the fish it is allowed under existing catch agreements, and the average size of those fish is getting smaller. Hence the trawlers have to catch more in numbers, leaving fewer available to breed.

The kahawai QMS decision is basically flawed, in that insufficient research has been done in determining stocks; Benson-Pope has allocated pieces of a pie that may turn out to be far smaller than he imagines. He almost admits as much in the press release: he'd been deliberately cautious in setting limits because of uncertainty on the data.

The cautious approach would have been to reduce the commercial allowance below the existing catch.

And you have to wonder which Maori will get to the Kermadec Island waters to land the one tonne of fish they are allowed, or who among the rest of us will get to dent the five-tonne amateur allowance.

The NZ Recreational Fishing Council and the Big Game Fishing Council, which between them represent 330,000 anglers, was dismayed at the minister's decision. The lobby group option4 is to meet today to consider a response that may go as far as a legal challenge.

Industry takes around \$3.5 million from kahawai, before costs. Around 27 on-shore jobs are at stake, as is an opportunity for purse-seiners that target mackerel and other species for most of the year.

This week, another press release came from the minister's office, this time relating to transtasman talks on issues of concern in the oceans around New Zealand and Australia. ``There are opportunities in our region to take pro-active steps to address a range of issues and to demonstrate real leadership," it quoted the minister as saying.

He just missed the bus on a big opportunity.

What the recreational sector must fear now is the day MFish advises a reduction in catch and suggests that a cut in the daily bag limit for amateurs is the way to achieve it.

Research has shown that Maui's dolphins travel much further off-shore during winter than was thought. MFish is not releasing the details of how far until fisheries scientists' reports are digested. But the result appears to negate the usefulness of the one nautical mile ban on set-nets recently imposed off Auckland's west coast.

I haven't been fishing in this wind, and neither has anyone I know.

Document NZHLD00020040819e08k0001w

KAHAWAI CATCH TO BE REDUCED

157 words
10 August 2004
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2004 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Aug 10 - The overall **kahawai** catch is being reduced by 15 percent from October 1, Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope said today.

He said he was being deliberately cautious in setting the total allowable catch for the species because of uncertainty about stocks, but recreational fishers would get the lion's share. "In total, recreational and customary users' share of the catch is to be set at a level 45 percent greater than the catch of commercial users," he said. "I acknowledge that there will be an economic impact on commercial fishers and there will be a need for constraint in the recreational catch, but these decisions reflect the importance of **kahawai** to recreational and customary fishers."

The kahawai has been managed under a permit system, but from October 1 it will be brought into the quota management system.

The total allowable catch varies between six regions.

NZPA PAR pw gs

Document NZPA000020040810e08a0004a

Battle looms over kahawai fishery

TIM DONOGHUE

1,030 words

16 June 2004

The Independent Business Weekly

English

(c) 2004 The Independent Business Weekly

Newly appointed Fisheries Minister David Benson-Pope has the chance to win over one million New Zealanders before the next election in a scrap about **kahawai**, the so-called "people's fish."

As always in the world of fishing politics, the choices are not easy.

Lined up in the one corner are big fishing interests. In the other are tens of thousands of recreational fishermen.

By 1 October this year Benson-Pope must decide whether to introduce kahawai into the quota management system (QMS) or leave kahawai with Maori and other recreational fishing enthusiasts.

Kahawai, a fighting fish, has been the species any New Zealander with a casting lure, rod and reel could go out and catch.

No longer. Once abundant in New Zealand waters, kahawai numbers have dwindled during the past 20 years.

Pushing the business case for kahawai to become part of the QMS this year is Sanford, the leading company in the New Zealand pelagic fishing industry.

Sanford was one of the first New Zealand fishing companies to purse seine for pelagic species as part of its multi-species fishery operating out of Tauranga.

Under this system, schools of fish are surrounded and caught by nets with two boats working in tandem.

Sanford operates five purse seiners from its Tauranga base and provides work for approximately 104 staff, comprising share fishermen (27), netmakers and engineers (seven), unloading and processing workers (48), freezing workers (six), shared support staff (13 who are associated with the purse seine operation 70% of the time) and head office staff (three, who are 30% of time associated with the purse seine operation).

The purse seine fleet operates year-round for such species as skipjack tuna, jack mackerel, blue mackerel and kahawai.

The fleet earns Sanford from \$18 million to \$25 million in sales each year.

The overall commercial catch of kahawai in New Zealand contributes about \$3.2 million per year to the economy, with the main buyers in Australia, the Middle East and Russia.

As part of the 1 October 2004 QMS introduction process, the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is proposing to:

calculate an allowance for recreational fishers;

calculate an allowance for customary fishers;

calculate recent commercial catch levels;

determine the total allowable catch (TAC).

Recreational fishing advocates, such as the professional option⁴ spokesmen, are adamant kahawai catch rates have reduced substantially in all fishing areas throughout New Zealand.

Much of their evidence - blaming the substantial decline in recreational fishing kahawai catch rates on an average 6000-tonne commercial catch during the past two decades - is anecdotal.

Because of this, MFish appears to be saying the argument is weak.

MFish apparently is not listening to people like Evan Daysh, a commercial fisherman operating out of Whangarei from the mid-1970s to 1982.

Before 1983 Daysh says he can remember vast schools of kahawai in every harbour and bay along the Northland coast. He moved to Dunedin from 1983 to 1989.

When Daysh returned to Northland he said by 1991 the kahawai had been decimated.

Sanford says MFish is proposing 4,171 tonnes of kahawai for recreational and customary fishing allowances.

Sanford considers the kahawai fishery is a robust resource, capable of sustaining the current recreational, commercial and customary fishing levels.

However Paul Barnes and his team at option4 reject this.

They are bombarding Benson-Pope and MFish with messages of a fishery being raped by commercial interests.

Spokesmen for option4 say the combination of spotter planes, working in conjunction with commercial and purse seiner fleets, have annihilated about 4000 schools of kahawai in the past 20 years.

They say the MFish proposal, as it stands, to introduce kahawai into the QMS will result in New Zealand's recreational kahawai fishery being lost forever.

Representatives from the NZ Big Game Fishing Council, the NZ Recreational Fishing Council and option4 met recently with MFish representatives in Wellington to discuss kahawai and its proposed QMS introduction.

Following the meeting a spokesman for recreational fishermen said: "As far as [MFish] are concerned, there is no scarcity of kahawai and there are no problems caused by purse seine fishing."

It appeared MFish had written off recreational fishing concerns because they were largely anecdotal, he said.

"The reason our claims are anecdotal is because MFish is too tight-fisted or too worried about the outcome if they go and investigate ... MFish are openly declaring they do not believe us," the spokesman said.

Recreational fishermen reckon MFish wants kahawai in the QMS, leaving the stakeholders to fight it out further down the track, so the Crown can:

avoid allocation scandals such as the scampi fiasco;

escape legal compensation issues if it has over-allocated to the commercial sector; and

avoid making management decisions.

option4 wants commercial fishers to be able to land kahawai caught as a by-catch and have quota available to cover those landings.

"It is the industrial fishing method using spotter planes and purse seine vessels to target whole schools that has done the damage. It is this method that should not be issued quota," an option4 spokesman told The Independent.

Recreational fishermen see the impending introduction of scampi into the QMS as tantamount to theft.

"It is the dishonest taking of a public resource with no intention of returning it," the option4 spokesman said.

Recreational kahawai fishermen are exasperated because they say MFish:

is not talking about rebuilding the fishery;

is not talking about leaving it where it currently is;

is continuing to allow kahawai stock to be fished down;

is continuing to aggravate the conflict between non commercial and commercial fishers;

is ignoring a highly-valued recreational fishery by supporting a low-value purse seine fishery; and

is not meeting its obligations by admitting to not having an agreed harvest strategy explaining its bureaucratic objectives for the kahawai fishery.

As recreational fishermen see it, Benson-Pope and the Labour government have a clear choice.

It comes down to a simple numbers game.

It can hand over the low-return kahawai fishery to a small number of purse seine professional fishing companies or it can recognise the legitimate recreational fishing rights of more than one million New Zealanders.

Document INDBUW0020040615e06g0000p

MINISTRY IN QUESTION.

136 words
26 April 2004
Dominion Post
4

English
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Your articles referring to over-fishing by company purse seiners and proposed further over-fishing by the tradable quota system of **kahawai** (BusinessDay, April 15) throw into question the role of the Fisheries Ministry.

Two successive fisheries ministers, John Luxton and Pete Hodgson, have failed to safeguard the public's sustenance and sport-fishing rights. Worse still, the ministry seems under the whip of the corporate fishing sector (in contrast to the individual Kiwi commercial fisher) and ignores the recreational rights of more than one million New Zealanders who sea fish for recreation and food.

The galling twist is that those one million Kiwis are taxpayers, funding the ministry's existence and activities, which run counter to a well-managed fishery and the public interest.

KEN SIMS

Chairman

Council of Outdoor Recreational Associations.

Document DOMPOS0020040426e04q0007g

MINISTRY SET ON KAHAWAI QUOTA.

By HO-SANG Mathew LOH.

406 words

21 April 2004

Dominion Post

4

English

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THE FISHERIES MINISTRY is adamant the **kahawai** fishery needs quota management to increase efficiency and resolve conflict between commercial, customary and recreational fishing groups.

Submissions closed on Friday on including the fish in the quota management system from October 1.

Recreational anglers want the lion's share of kahawai quota and are fighting to get up to three times more tonnage than their commercial cousins.

In a report, Mfish said kahawai required quota management to allow the "more efficient utilisation" of what is known as the "people's fish".

It says kahawai meets the sustainability and utilisation criteria for quota management introduction.

"The only viable alternative to the QMS is to continue with the current permit moratorium and purse seine catch limits," its report said.

Shaped like a purse with one end closed, purse seine nets are used to catch a variety of species.

Commercial operators will be free to target kahawai with set sustainability limits. They would also need allocated catch entitlement for inevitable by-catch.

Allocating individual transferable quota would also provide fishing operators with secure harvesting rights. The fishing industry believes these rights will improve planning.

Mfish also said efficiency improvements would produce substantial benefits.

Kahawai is found mainly around the North Island and is targeted by two fleets based in Nelson and Tauranga.

Although two species exist - kahawai and northern kahawai - Mfish has decided to treat them as a single species to be managed within six quota management areas.

While recognising anecdotal information that kahawai stocks are declining, Mfish claims stock assessments show the population is above the size that will support more fishing.

The fishing year proposed for kahawai is from October 1 to September 30.

The fishery is not strictly seasonal, though most commercial catches are in winter or spring when the purse seine fleet is not targeting other species.

Although mainly a targeted catch, up to 30 per cent of landed kahawai is bycatch.

Meanwhile, New Zealand's only listed fishing firm, Sanford, supports introducing kahawai into the quota management system.

It said the system would fix the following deficiencies:

The New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council said it supported introducing kahawai into the quota management system. But it was concerned about the local depletion of kahawai.

"Kahawai is a valuable public resource that is being squandered by high volume, low value commercial fishing that is achieving minimal returns."

Document DOMPOS0020040423e04I0002x

RECREATIONAL ANGLERS HOPING TO HOOK KAHAWAI QUOTA.

By HO-SANG Mathew LOH.
360 words
16 April 2004
The Christchurch Press
16
English
(c) 2004 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Recreational anglers want the lion's share of the **kahawai** quota and are fighting hard to get up to three times more than their commercial rivals.

The deadline for submissions on the introduction of the "people's fish" **kahawai** into the Quota Management System expired yesterday.

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) proposes to issue commercial kahawai quotas in perpetuity based on commercial catch histories with the remainder put aside for customary and recreational use.

Recreational fishing advocates Option4 are outraged by the proposal and have been busy lobbying the Government about the impact of allocating kahawai quotas.

Option4 is a group of recreational fishing advocates who have formed an action group to ensure their views and submissions are heard and acted on. There have been widespread public concerns about declining kahawai stock for more than a decade with recreational fishing people adamant the fishery had:

An Option4 spokesman said the fishery was no longer managed to provide recreational access to a reasonable share of the kahawai resource. The recreational fishery was increasingly in conflict with commercial fishing people, he said.

"Accepting the dregs of an overheated purse seine (using two boats to set a net around a school of fish and then closing it at the bottom) fishery that was unconstrained till 1991 is not good enough, and will not be accepted by non-commercial fishers, now or in the future."

With kahawai not under quota, fishing companies caught as much as they wanted till catch limits were imposed in 1991.

Option4 believes MFish continues to put the interests of commercial fishermen above the rights of the public to fish for kahawai.

The proposed total allowable catch for commercial fishers is 3335 tonnes with 1391 tonnes and 2780 tonnes for customary and recreational fishing respectively.

"Clearly the Ministry of Fisheries has decided to ignore the incessant public concerns regarding the poor state of the kahawai fisheries and conflict caused through excessive fishing over the years," the Option4 spokesman said.

"Years of effort and participation in fisheries management forums by dedicated recreational fishers is to be dismissed and ignored."

Document THEPRE0020040417e04g0002e

KAHAWAI QUOTA PLAN ANGERS RECREATIONAL FISHING LOBBY.

By HO-SANG Mathew LOH.

313 words

15 April 2004

Dominion Post

1

English

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RECREATIONAL anglers want the lion's share of **Kahawai** quota and are fighting hard to get up to three times more than their commercial rivals.

The deadline for submissions on the introduction of the **kahawai**, or "people's fish", into the quota management system expires tomorrow.

The Fisheries Ministry proposes to issue commercial kahawai quota in perpetuity based on commercial catch histories, with the remainder put aside for customary and recreational use. The proposed total allowable catch for the fishing industry is 3335 tonnes, with 1391 tonnes and 2780 tonnes for customary and recreational fishing respectively.

Recreational Fishing advocates option4 are outraged by the proposal and have been lobbying government about the impact of allocating Kahawai quota.

Option4 is a group of recreational fishing advocates who have formed an action group to ensure their views are heard and acted on.

There has been widespread public concern about declining kahawai stock for over a decade with recreational anglers adamant the fishery has suffered significantly reduced catch rates because of increasing fishing pressure and declined in quality, both in fish size and abundance.

An option4 spokesman said the fishery was no longer managed to provide recreational access to a reasonable share of the kahawai resource. The recreational fishery was increasingly in conflict with commercial fishers, particularly with purse seiners and set netters. "Accepting the dregs of an overheated purse seine fishery that was unconstrained until 1991 is not good enough, and will not be accepted by non-commercial fishers, now or in the future."

With kahawai not under quota, fishing companies caught as much as they wanted till catch limits were imposed in 1991.

Option4 believes the Fisheries Ministry continues to put the interests of the fishing industry above the rights of the public to fish for kahawai.

THE PEOPLE'S FISH C3.

Document DOMPOS0020040417e04f00027

PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE'S FISH.

By HO-SANG Mathew LOH.

745 words

15 April 2004

Dominion Post

3

English

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NEW ZEALANDERS are outdoors people and part of many Kiwis' upbringing includes going fishing for **kahawai** off the beach, rocks or local wharf.

Grandparents and even parents remember giant schools of **kahawai** churning up the sea within a stone's throw of the shore.

That abundance and the fish's fighting qualities made the kahawai the "people's fish".

Many New Zealanders will never forget the thrill of hooking their first kahawai.

But the people's fish has been under extreme pressure for more than a decade and now the Fisheries Ministry intends introducing kahawai into the quota system from October 1, 2004.

That plan has recreational fishing enthusiasts up in arms, with political lobbyists option4 - so named because the group suggests an additional option to the three provided by the ministry - especially active.

"Have you ever been burgled?" is the question posted on the option4 website.

"If you have, you know how non-commercial fishers feel about the latest proposal to give massive quotas to the fishing industry," the website continues.

And according to option4, it is all because of a handful of commercial fishing boats which barely make a profit even though they catch most of the kahawai landed off the New Zealand coast.

An option4 spokesman said even though recreational fishing people had been telling the ministry for more than 10 years that the kahawai fishery was in serious decline, the ministry had decided to ignore the rights of a million non-commercial fishing enthusiasts in favour of five purse-seine boats.

Research has revealed that it takes up to 20 times longer to catch a kahawai in some areas than it did before the development of the purse-seine fishery.

"Nevertheless," the option4 spokesman said, "the ministry ignores the views of some of its own people by insisting there is no scarcity of kahawai.

"They then compound that fallacy by recommending that purse seine vessels should therefore be given quota based upon their past catches."

Option4 is adamant that the ministry "can not, or will not" see that the huge catches by purse seiners are the main reason for the "dreadful" state of the kahawai fishery.

"Although records are patchy, we know the purse seine catch has gone from nothing in 1975 to peak at 8300 tonnes in 1988.

"They have taken over 80,000 tonnes since 1982. It is inconceivable that such massive extractions inflicted over so many years would have had no effect on recreational and customary fishers."

Option4 also points to what it describes as the negligible value of the purse seine fishery. "The ministry's own paper shows that our prized kahawai is worth only an average of 44 cents per kilogram at the wharf and most is exported for bait, fishmeal and cat food."

This lack of value causes anger because it is accepted that the kahawai is worth up to 16 times more to the non-commercial sector when account is taken of the spending required for a day's fishing.

Option4 is working closely with other non-commercial organisations including the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council to prevent what they describe as theft of the public's kahawai fishery.

Recreational fishing organisations will argue that industrial fishing using spotter planes and purse seine boats capable of exterminating whole schools in a single set, has caused the decline in the kahawai.

"The 15-year expansion of this fishery was unconstrained and at the expense of, prior non-commercial fishing claims," the spokesman said.

The public had for years stressed the unfairness of the seek-and-destroy method being used on such a vulnerable inshore species as Kahawai.

"But for too long the public have been ignored. Clearly this is unacceptable."

Option4 also believes that the ministry will write off concerns about the declining kahawai stocks as anecdotal.

"Why are they anecdotes?" asked the option4 spokesman "Because the ministry has not conducted the science to prove one way or the other whether what we are saying is true or not. This means all we have is anecdotal evidence."

He also warned that the kahawai fishery may eventually be reduced to half of the existing low level.

"There's no talk about rebuilding the fishery or even leaving it where it is. the ministry will allow it to be fished down even further which will only aggravate the conflict between non-commercial and commercial fishers."

Document DOMPOS0020040417e04f0002d

FOOD POISONING WARNING.

65 words
20 May 2003
Dominion Post
3

English
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A FOOD poisoning scare has sparked a warning for people not to eat smoked **kahawai** sold by North Island supermarkets and two Auckland retailers.

The Food Safety Authority said three people in Auckland were reported to have suffered histamine poisoning. One received hospital treatment. The **kahawai** was sold as unpackaged fresh fish between May 12 and 15 at several northern retail outlets.

Document dompos0020030521dz5k000s0

FRESH SMOKED KAHAWAI RECALL IN NORTH ISLAND.

279 words
19 May 2003
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2003 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, May 19 - People are being warned not to eat smoked **kahawai** fish bought from several North Island supermarkets and two fish retailers between May 12 and 15.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority said the **kahawai**, supplied by Seamart in Auckland, had been linked with suspected cases of scombroid histamine food poisoning in the top half of the North Island.

Available as unpackaged fresh fish, the kahawai had been sold at Seamart at the Viaduct Basin, Sea Kai Direct Ltd and Foodtown, Countdown, Woolworths, 3 Guys and Big Fresh supermarkets throughout the North Island, the authority said.

Histamine poisoning occurred when fish from the scombroid group

- kahawai, mackerel, tuna, bonito and butterfly kingfish - were not chilled adequately between harvest and consumption, allowing bacteria to act on the fish producing histamine which could be toxic to humans.

Freezing or cooking the fish once it has been contaminated would not kill the toxin and prevent illness.

The symptoms of histamine poisoning included a skin rash, localised skin irritation especially around the mouth, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, low blood pressure, headache, tingling, flushing and possibly respiratory distress, the authority said.

The most common symptoms were flushing of the face and neck, which could be hot and uncomfortable, and diarrhoea. There were rarely any long term effects. Symptoms could last from a few hours to a few days.

People who may have eaten fish bought from the supermarkets or retailers listed were advised to consult a doctor if they were concerned.

More information on Scombroid histamine poisoning is available at the NZFSA website - www.nzfsa.govt.nz.

NZPA WGT mjd dj

cs.

Document NZPA000020030519dz5j00036

Sewage plant revamp returns life to harbour.

By Philip English.
673 words
7 April 2003
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 2003 The New Zealand Herald

Fish are jumping and birds are busy in front of the outfall from the Mangere sewage purification works as the plant begins work after its \$450 million, five-year overhaul.

Previously, it would have been unheard of for fish like **kahawai** or mullet to be jumping at the site. For more than 40 years smelly and sludge-filled oxidation ponds excluded the sea from the scene.

Now, with the ponds gone as a major part of the upgrade, wildlife has been returning to the area beyond the predictions of planners involved in the project.

The upgraded plant, opened on Friday by the Prime Minister, Helen Clark, includes New Zealand's biggest coastal marine restoration project.

In total, 500ha of oxidation ponds have been returned to the sea and 13km of shoreline has been returned to the Manukau Harbour.

"It's all a good news story, I have to say," says Watercare Services projects general manager Derrick Adams.

"Wonderful" is the single word a kaumatua of nearby Makaurau Marae, Maurice Wilson, uses to describe how he and his people feel about the upgrade and to be included in the project, unlike their treatment when the plant was first constructed.

"It's still effluent. It's not drinking water but the effect on the receiving environment is minimal," says Mr Adams of the 286,000 cu m of treated wastewater that passes through the plant every day.

Watercare Services believes the effluent is treated to a higher standard than any sewage-treatment plant in New Zealand can achieve.

When the original plant was opened in 1960, treatment involved primary sedimentation and disinfection by the oxidation ponds.

A second level of treatment was added later in the form of an early biological breakdown process.

Now improved sedimentation remains as the primary level of treatment, followed by a state-of-the-art biological-nutrient removal process, filtration and ultra-violet treatment of the effluent to carry out the job of the oxidation ponds.

The old plant made about 100 tonnes of sludge a day. The upgraded plant produces 300 tonnes, destined for landfill.

The new outfall discharges the treated effluent twice a day at high tide.

Mr Adams says levels of viruses, faecal coliforms and nutrients have been reduced dramatically - in some cases by up to almost half those of the old treatment process.

Watercare Services is required to meet new effluent standards by October 1. Commissioning of the plant is continuing, but Mr Adams is confident the new standards will be met by the target date.

Mr Wilson says the foreshore is still not as clean as it was before the plant was opened, but the water quality of the area is improving to the point that it is starting to resemble what it was like 40 years ago.

"Our parents were humble people. In the days when the treatment plant was built there was little consultation from the authorities," he said.

"But the old people agreed to the building of the plant and its ponds because they believed it would improve the lives of fellow Aucklanders.

"Our old people gave up their traditional fishing and shellfish gathering grounds, their local beach and the Oruarangi Creek estuary where they launched their fishing boats. "In many ways they made the

biggest sacrifice of all. Now our places are coming back to us ...

"When I heard the sound of the sea rolling back in after all those years it was truly a great day."

By October 1, Watercare Services will also have to ensure that there will be no more objectionable odours from the plant at its boundary. A nearby resident of 42 years, Jan Brinkman, says locals have put up with smells, noise and midges.

He is impressed by the removal of the plant's smelly sludge lagoons and oxidation ponds.

"That is a vast improvement."

Mr Brinkman believes, though, that the plant will always smell, just as it has done at times over the past week.

Document nzhlid00020030406dz470006x

SMOKED FISH RECALL.

68 words

12 December 2002

Dominion Post

3

English

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The Food Safety Authority has recalled fresh smoked **kahawai** distributed by an Auckland company after 21 people fell ill. It said unpackaged smoked **kahawai** bought between December 2 and December 9 from Seamart at Auckland's Viaduct Basin and Foodtown, Countdown, Woolworths, 3 Guys and Big Fresh stores nationwide could be infected with bacteria. The fish was linked to suspected cases of scrombroid histamine poisoning.

Document dompos0020021213dycc0005v

WARNING TO CHECK FREEZERS FOR ILLNESS-CAUSING FISH.

333 words
12 December 2002
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2002 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Dec 12 - People may have smoked fish stashed away in their freezers that could make them sick, the company that supplied the fish says.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) yesterday warned consumers who bought fresh smoked **kahawai** from several supermarkets and a fish retailer between December 2-9 not to eat it because it may cause illness.

Kahawai, supplied by Seamart in Auckland, and recalled yesterday, has been linked to 21 suspected cases of scombroid histamine food poisoning in the top of the North Island, NZFSA said in a statement.

Today Seamart spokeswoman Winsome Turnell said five fish were confirmed to have caused food poisoning.

She said people that had eaten affected fish would have been sick by now but she was worried there might be more being kept in freezers.

"That's the major concern."

Ms Turnell said it had not yet been established how much fish was affected and how it had happened.

The fish has been sold at Seamart at the Viaduct Basin in Auckland and Foodtown, Countdown, Woolworths, 3 Guys and Big Fresh supermarkets throughout New Zealand. It was sold as unpackaged fresh fish.

Histamine poisoning, which can be toxic to humans, occurs when fish from the scombroid group - kahawai, mackerel, tuna, bonito and butterfly kingfish - have not been chilled adequately between harvest and consumption.

Freezing or cooking the fish once it has been contaminated will not kill the toxin and prevent illness.

Symptoms include skin rash, localised skin irritation - especially around the mouth - nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, low blood pressure, headache, tingling, flushing and possibly respiratory distress.

There are rarely any long term effects, but symptoms can last a few days.

NZFSA advised people who may have eaten fish bought from the supermarkets listed to consult a doctor if they were concerned.

Consumers could return the fish to the place of purchase for a refund or contact Seamart on 027 279 8118.

NZPA WGT mt lb.

Document nzpa000020021212dycc000bk

Kahawai off menu.

261 words
12 December 2002
New Zealand Herald
English
(c) 2002 The New Zealand Herald

Kahawai off menu

Fresh smoked **kahawai** is linked to 21 suspected cases of histamine food poisoning last week in the top half of the North Island.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority yesterday warned against eating the fish, sold between December 2 and 9 at Seamart at the Viaduct Basin in Auckland, and Foodtown, Countdown, Woolworths, 3 Guys and Big Fresh supermarkets throughout the country.

Histamine poisoning occurs when kahawai is not adequately chilled between harvest and eating. The most common symptoms are hot flushes on the face and neck and diarrhoea.

Lights, nightlight banned

The Consumer Affairs Ministry has banned the sale and use of a Christmas tree lighting set and a nightlight because of potential fire and electric shock hazards.

The set of lights was connected to a two-pin parallel "tap on" plug marked "125V3A" or "220V3A". The lights were sold in unmarked plastic bags for less than \$5. The nightlight packet was marked "Fari Electron Nightlight". The nightlight itself was marked "Long Wei 220V AC 50/60Hz 1W".

Trusts in Christmas spirit

West Auckland licensing trusts are playing Santa Claus as they face a poll on whether their monopoly on liquor sales is to continue.

Yesterday, the Portage Trust said it would give \$55 for each pupil in a \$1 million one-off gift to schools in its area in January. Portage and Waitakere will also donate \$2.25 million towards the proposed Waitakere sports stadium.

The West Auckland Trusts say a further \$1 million could be added to their community grants next year.

Document nzhd00020021211dycc000n7

POISONOUS KAHAWAI RECALLED.

248 words
11 December 2002
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2002 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, Dec 11 - The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is today warning consumers who bought fresh smoked **kahawai** from several supermarkets and a fish retailer between December 2-9 not to eat it because it may cause illness.

Kahawai, supplied by Seamart in Auckland, has been linked to 21 suspected cases of scombroid histamine food poisoning in the top of the North Island, the NZFSA said in a statement.

The fish has been sold at Seamart at the Viaduct Basin and Foodtown, Countdown, Woolworths, 3 Guys and Big Fresh supermarkets throughout New Zealand. It is sold as unpackaged fresh fish.

The company was advertising the recall tomorrow.

Histamine poisoning, which can be toxic to humans, occurs when fish from the scombroid group - kahawai, mackerel, tuna, bonito and butterfly kingfish - have not been chilled adequately between harvest and consumption.

Freezing or cooking the fish once it has been contaminated will not kill the toxin and prevent illness.

Symptoms include skin rash, localised skin irritation - especially around the mouth - nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, low blood pressure, headache, tingling, flushing and possibly respiratory distress.

There are rarely any long term effects, but symptoms can last a few days.

The NZFSA is advising people who may have eaten fish bought from the supermarkets listed to consult a doctor if they are concerned.

Consumers can return the fish to the place of purchase for a full refund or contact Seamart on 027 279 8118.

NZPA WGT skr gs.

Document nzpa000020021212dycb0000b

TEA FOR TWO.

49 words
10 September 2002
Dominion Post
5

English
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Taita woman Sue Papa shows off two of the six **kahawai** her husband Willie caught in Wellington Harbour yesterday. A friend caught another three. Mrs Papa said there were a lot more **kahawai** in the harbour than usual. The three were fishing off rocks at Kaiwharawhara.

Document dompos0020020918dy9a000bg

GREEN MP CASTS VIEWS ON RECREATIONAL FISHING.

228 words

24 June 2002

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 2002 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Recreational fishing must be safeguarded, says Marlborough-based Green MP Ian Ewen-Street.

He has come out in support of recreational fishing, prompted by a plan to put kingfish and **kahawai** under the tradeable quota system.

"Kahawai, in particular, and kingfish are major recreational species in Marlborough," he said, "a fact which fits in well with Green Party policy of making kingfish and kahawai recreation-only species".

He said once it was absorbed into the privatisation process of tradeable quotas, the fish effectively became a property right.

"The nature of the tradeable quota system was that with wheeling and dealing quota was aggregated, usually resulting in the fishery being monopolised by corporate fisheries interests."

Mr Ewen-Street said the economic value of recreational fishing was considerable through tourism-generated spending.

A study in recent years on five species of recreational fish, among them kingfish and kahawai, showed an economic value of almost \$1 billion a year.

Both were top sports fish, with kahawai the "Kiwi family's fish" that everyone liked to catch around river mouths.

However, purse seining had devastated kahawai numbers around Marlborough, with reported recreational catch rates at the Wairau bar and diversion a shadow of past years.

Besides, there was a cultural aspect of the public's right to go fishing for fun and food, he said.

Document thepre0020020625dy6o0000k

SOUNDS FISHING 'BEING DESTROYED'.

412 words

16 January 2002

The Dominion

9

English

(c) 2002 The Dominion, INL .

THE Fisheries Ministry has been criticised for its management of Marlborough Sounds fish resources, said to be on the verge of collapse by ecological group Guardians of the Sounds.

Guardians spokesman Peter Beech said yesterday that overfishing by commercial and recreational fishermen in part of a zone called Area Seven, which extends from the Clarence River to the West Coast, had already stripped the area of cod, snapper, scallops, paua, kina and moki. Warahau were being "slaughtered" and **kahawai** stocks were also down by more than 80 per cent.

He said the ministry, which is charged with policing the area, was doing nothing while it was being destroyed.

"The Sounds is the biggest recreational fisheries area in New Zealand south of the Hauraki Gulf, and we don't have a fulltime fisheries officer or patrol vessel, yet Nelson has seven," Mr Beech said. "We shouldn't wait for the ecology of the Sounds to be completely stuffed before we fix it."

Monitoring and compliance in the area should be handed to the Marlborough District Council, with a fulltime patrol, he said.

On a fine day, there could be up to 300 boats with fishermen and divers in Queen Charlotte Sound, Mr Beech said. They had destroyed blue cod fisheries and brought paua resources to the verge of collapse.

One commercial fisherman was setting rig nets up to 800 metres long in the inner Sounds - a "wall of death" for fish - yet there were no rules in place to stop it, he said.

The group wants a ban on commercial fishing, use of set nets, set lines, and general fishing in nursery grounds, to give stocks a chance to recover.

The ministry's acting manager in Nelson, Kim Drummond, said the issue was not that simple.

Ensuring there were enough fish for everybody was complicated by the fact that fish availability in some areas depended on conditions. Numbers were also affected by changes to fish habitats caused by industries such as logging.

Commercial fishing in the Sounds was more highly regulated than probably any other area, with all catch taken recorded and counted against a limited quota, he said.

Ministry communications manager Alan Meek said the number of fisheries officers in the area was to be increased from seven to eight, and they were not just confined to Nelson.

"They are very very mobile, with boats and helicopters. They're often about, but people don't always see them."

Document domn000020020117dy1g0005v

MONITORING STARTS ON MARLBOROUGH FISHERY.

106 words

5 September 2001

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 2001 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Fisheries scientists will today start a health check of the most important recreational fishery in the Marlborough Sounds. For almost three weeks National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research scientists and technicians working under contract to the Ministry of Fisheries will use cod pots and line fishing to check the abundance of blue cod, a fish which is the third most frequently landed by New Zealand recreational fishing people after snapper and **kahawai**.

They will do the survey from the commercial fishing boat Lady H. R. in Queen Charlotte and Pelorus sounds and along the eastern coast of D'Urville Island.

Document thepre0020010906dx950000b

FIRST TIME AND HE'S HOOKED.

128 words

13 January 2001

The Dominion

12

English

(c) 2001 The Dominion, INL .

FIRST-TIME angler Jovan Burns, right, and best mate Jordan Coupar were grinning from ear to ear after some deliciously good beginner's luck at Queen's Wharf in Wellington yesterday.

The Te Horo pair, both aged 6, hauled in a **kahawai** and 10 silver warehou during three hours' fishing on an outgoing tide. James Higgins, who was teaching the boys to fish, said Jovan hauled in the first catch seconds after dropping his first line. As a crowd gathered to watch, the boys just kept hauling in 1 to 1.5-kilogram fish.

The catch would feed the boys, their families, and a few neighbours, Mr Higgins said. And the boys were hoping to be back out with their rods today.

Document domn000020010711dx1d007w3

ALARM OVER DEPLETED FISH RESOURCES IN MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS.

230 words
13 January 2000
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 2000 New Zealand Press Association

Blenheim, Jan 13 - Local fishing organisations and businesses say they are still concerned about the depletion of fishing resources in the Marlborough Sounds.

The drop in **kahawai** numbers is the biggest concern.

Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association chairman Tony Orman said kahawai had been steadily declining for about 10 years, but there was nothing happening to prevent further reduction of the species.

Orange roughy, snapper, paua, crayfish, whitebait and almost every major fishing resource were also becoming harder to find, he said.

Mr Orman said kahawai was being over-fished and nothing was being done to restrict this.

While recreational fishers were one cause, the real threat to the species were deep-sea fishers who netted large numbers of the fish at a time.

The kahawai were then exported to Australia where they were used in pet food and crayfish pots.

This was an appalling waste of a resource, Mr Orman said.

Mr Orman said this year was the worst he had ever seen in kahawai numbers decline, especially in the Marlborough/Nelson area.

However, New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen vice president, Dick Hall, said while there had been a major reduction of kahawai resources through large netting operations in the past, these had stopped five years ago and the population of kahawai was slowly returning.

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Document nzpa000020010815dw1d000nh

WARNING OF KAHAWAI OVER-FISHING.

343 words
14 May 1999
The Christchurch Press
6
English
(c) 1999 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

BLLENHEIM - Labour fisheries spokesman Jim Sutton should direct his attention to the over-fishing of **kahawai**, particularly in Cook Strait, instead of fishing licences, say Marlborough fishermen.

Kahawai were potentially a huge attraction to tourist anglers because of their sporting characteristics, Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association chairman Tony Orman said. He believes that **kahawai** are being caught by big companies purse-seining. The resource was being over-fished for Australian markets for crayfish bait and pet food, he said.

Mr Orman also suggested the Labour MP look into why the Ministry of Fisheries was failing to respond to reports on illegal fishing, bogus amateur fishermen, and black-market rackets in the Marlborough Sounds.

Kahawai numbers were definitely down in Cloudy Bay and the Sounds, he said.

"Boil-ups of feeding fish accompanied by seagulls are now a rare occurrence," he said."

Over-fishing of kahawai was a concern because it was the No.1 for family fishing, because of its fighting ability. A fish caught by a tourist would probably be released and earn thousands of dollars for New Zealand instead of a dollar or less for Australian pet food, Mr Orman said.

Mr Sutton said a licensing system should be set up for recreational fishermen in areas such as the Marlborough Sounds where numbers of cod were low.

Mr Orman said he would not be against a saltwater licence run along the lines of the Fish and Game trout-fishing model. "No way would the public pay a fee for it to disappear into the Government coffers," he said.

Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations co-chairman Dr Hugh Barr said the proposal to charge people for recreational saltwater fishing was out of touch with the million New Zealanders who enjoy recreational fishing.

"If a licence fee was ever brought in, it would be only with the blessing of the vast majority of New Zealanders and that the revenue went to the sport and not the Government's Consolidated Fund," Dr Barr said.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1999.

Document thepre0020010911dv5e00nkg

ROW KEEPS SPECIES OFF FISHING QUOTA.

By Jonathan MILNE.

467 words

14 May 1999

The Dominion

6

English

(c) 1999 The Dominion, INL .

MOVES to add valuable fish species to the quota system have been indefinitely delayed because of a disagreement between the Fisheries Minister and the industry over his refusal to pay compensation.

The industry, with the support of Maori commercial fishing interests, has refused to forgo compensation for quotas it would lose in settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims. The fish species, which include southern bluefin tuna, **kahawai**, kingfish and freshwater eels, now seem unlikely to be freed from the old, problematic permit system before this year's election.

The industry accepts that the Government is obliged to provide 20 per cent of quotas to Maoris when it transfers species to the quota management system. But it says the livelihoods of many permit holders are threatened if they are not compensated for that loss.

Fisheries Minister John Luxton had told the industry, at its annual conference in Auckland this week, that there was a legislative window of opportunity to introduce the species to the quota system.

After an uproar from the industry over the condition he set - that they forgo compensation - Mr Luxton said the Government had deferred the decision to push the legislation through this year.

The Government since 1997 had signalled that it did not believe additional compensation was required. New quota property rights gave existing fishermen an asset which they could for the first time trade and borrow against, Mr Luxton said.

Seafood Industry Council chairman Dave Sharp said yesterday that the Government had promised compensation for losses in the settlement of Maori claims.

"The National Party stated it would not address one grievance by creating another, yet that is exactly what Mr Luxton is going to do," Mr Sharp said.

The Government's agreement with Ngai Tahu still requires it to introduce one of the affected species, South Island eels, to the quota system by October 1 next year.

Mr Luxton said that if Labour became government it would not compensate the fishing industry.

But Labour fisheries spokesman Jim Sutton disputed that, and said Mr Luxton was blackmailing the industry.

"The situation regarding the harvesting of Foveaux Strait oysters, in which compensation was given when the catch was reduced to ensure the sustainability of the industry, should not be regarded as a special case.

"The cynical view is that the Government is waiting for permit holders to die off, so it won't need to compensate them," Mr Sutton said.

Under the old permit system, the licence to catch fish dies with the permit holder.

Mr Sutton made public advice to the Government from the Crown Law Office, issued under the Official Information Act, which said the Government would probably have to legislate if it wished to avoid paying compensation.

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Document domn000020010904dv5e00hmj

SURFCASTING CONTEST TO AID YOUTH PROJECTS.

148 words

5 January 1999

The Christchurch Press

7

English

(c) 1999 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Fish will be the bait to raise funds for community projects in the Amberley area. They will lure keen fishermen to Amberley Beach on January 10 to take part in the Amberley Lions seventh surfcasting competition. Funds raised in the contest will go toward community projects with an emphasis on those which help youth. Entrants can register at the Amberley Domain at a cost of \$12 for adults and \$3 for children 13 years and under.

Lion's spokesman Henk van Lier said high tide would be just after noon so some good catches were expected. Last year 225 anglers took part in the contest with 65 fish being measured during the six-hour competition. The winning fish in the senior section was a 64cm long **kahawai** while the largest junior fish was a 50cm shark.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1999.

Document thepre0020010911dv15004wg

DIRTY WATER PROSPECTS FOR MANY.

By Peter SHUTT.
558 words
9 April 1998
The Christchurch Press
20
English
(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Mako at French Pass; red cod in abundance around much of the coastline; blue cod in the Marlborough Sounds, Akaroa, and Moeraki, as well as greyboy, trumpeter, **kahawai**, tarakihi, kingfish, groper, and other species. It has been a good fortnight for South Island marine anglers.

That's just as well because salmon rivers turned nasty last week, and much of the freshwater fishing interest has waned. If discoloured water did not discourage salmon anglers, the winds did. Last Tuesday, wind and rainfall in Central Otago smashed any hope of fishing, and that weather pattern covered much of the South Island before disappearing eastwards.

The Marlborough Sounds is certain to provide good sport at Easter - with French Pass a special fishing experience - and Nelson/Golden Bay a marine fishery worth of investigation. Do not forget to take a trout rod. An 8.8kg trout has been caught in Takaka waters, which is unexceptional for that area although they are not easily caught. If you do not see big trout, be prepared for fighting fish over 2kg.

All along the West Coast and South Westland you will find magic rivers and lakes. I am fearful the rivers may be discoloured but have no doubt the lakes will be fishable. North Canterbury, central South Island, and Otago lakes will also be the prime fishing spots for Easter. Inland Central Otago lakes are very high, and have had an influx of dirty water from swollen inlet streams. The trick might be to fish from a boat, and fish deep, because this season the fish have stayed away from lake edges.

Cooler weather brings trout to the mouth of inlet streams to start their spawning runs, and that means sport for anglers. It also means you will have to fish a wet fly - to keep the fly down where the trout will be, so do not look for trout on the surface.

Spinning tackle will work well providing the colour stands out against the discoloured water. I expect a bronze or black zed spinner or toby will prove best. Wet flies with red, dark green, or black bodies will probably work well too.

If you are fortunate enough to fish clear water, look to the silver spinning tackle. Genuine silver shines in the water whereas chrome does not. Just be sure to fish it deep.

Nymph fishing will almost certainly prove better than dry fly, even if the water is clear.

Hare and copper or pheasant tail nymphs are a common solution, but I would prefer a green-bodied hare and copper nymph.

Line or leader colour or strength is not of prime importance unless fishing clear water. Any amount of colour in water allows anglers to use heavier weight leaders, and this, in turn, may be valuable if casting into a onshore breeze.

You might like to write, fax, or e-mail me an answer to a question. What is the body colour of the nymph I propose you use over Easter?

Write to me at 88 Pages Road, Timaru, or fax (03) 688-3539, or e-mail peter.shutt.timaru@clear.net.nz

The winner of the competition in the last column was Ken Bailey, of Ashburton. His copy of Salmon Fever is in the mail.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du4900rj3

ANGLING INTO THE BOOK.

66 words

28 March 1998

The Christchurch Press

3

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Rotorua angler Lisa Papuni's record catch has made it into the Guinness Book of Records. The 10-year-old Westbrook Primary School pupil caught a 3.05kg **kahawai** while fishing with her family at Matata, between Tauranga and Whakatane, last December and now holds a junior world record. - NZPA

Supplied by New Zealand Press Association.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du3s00qk6

TOWER POWER FOR THE BIG AND TALL.

494 words

19 November 1997

The Dominion

10

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

THE Sky Tower, world famous in ... well, in Auckland, has been attracting some overseas interest. Sky City has announced that the tower has been invited to join the prestigious World Federation of Great Towers. It transpires that this is an international organisation representing 22 towers around the world, including the real biggies in Toronto, Moscow and New York.

AUCKLAND may be New Zealand's most populous city (with the biggest tower) and consider itself the epitome of sophistication, but that doesn't mean the children have to miss out on the best of huntin', shootin' and fishin'. One Point Chevalier family, terribly proud of their new dinghy, recently strolled across the road, carrying the dinghy, for a spot of deep-sea fishing at the local beach - a pretty, if somewhat tidal, cove. A mere hour later dad and kids returned home proudly displaying two large **kahawai** caught from the dinghy.

These were cooked to perfection in a banana curry sauce.

STILL on the marine front ... Goat Island Marine Reserve, near Leigh, is a popular diving and picnic spot over the summer. The five-kilometre long reserve, more correctly called the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve, is a wonderful location for spotting marine life. But it appears that even a reserve may not be safe from poachers. One diver reports seeing the bodies of several dead crayfish minus juicy and expensive tails. DOC community relations manager Warwick Murray says it is possible that the abundant crayfish population is too much temptation for some people and DOC has occasionally heard of poaching in the area.

While it polices the reserve, Mr Murray says there is a limit to what DOC can do and it would be keen to hear from anybody who can steer the department toward the offending parties. However, he says, he doesn't believe it is a major problem, and notes that there is a limit to the number of crayfish tails that can be tucked inside a wetsuit.

On the other hand, crayfish do moult every year, leaving behind an empty shell which could be mistaken for a dead crayfish. Our underwater reporter, though, is convinced there is more to it than that.

AUCKLAND'S reputation for being a teeny bit on the wet side is not totally undeserved. On Sunday it fairly bucketed down, leaving residents with little option but to indulge in a long Ponsonby lunch. But one plucky bunch at the Te Atatu Pony Club forged ahead with their open day; about 50 young riders bravely took their steeds through the pelting rain as the ground became a sodden pool and grim-faced parents waited out the events.

Though the rain seemed heavy, Metservice recorded a mere 17.4 millimetres, well short of the 68mm Whitianga had to contend with.

*This weekly column looks at trends and events in the country's biggest population centre.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dtbj003rf

STUDY OF OLD FISH COULD OFFER HUMAN AGING CLUE.

1,317 words
16 June 1997
The Dominion
11
English
(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

A study of a **kahawai** kept in a Napier aquarium for more than two decades may tell us how old fish are, and just possibly change our view of how we grow old. Warren Barton reports

BOB GAULDIE is excited. He says the big, five, maybe six-kilogram **kahawai** that has lived for 23 years in the Napier aquarium and has just been put to sleep could help unlock a secret that still puzzles scientists around the world.

It could confirm that some fish do live to a ripe old age, which could, in turn, have tremendous repercussions on our view of how and why things grow old, perhaps even of our own mortality.

But Dr Gauldie suspects the study, for which the fish has given its life, will not support the notion that some species can live to be several hundred years old.

He believes a CAT scan at Wakefield Hospital in Wellington and an examination by pathologists at the Wellington Medical Laboratory and by experts in aging at the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences will prove that the kahawai is already senile.

Being able to identify this as an old fish could provide a benchmark for scientists like Dr Gauldie who have been working for years to tell the age of fish accurately.

The big plus here is that he already knows how long the fish has been in captivity, so he knows roughly how old it is.

The question now is whether at 20-something years of age it is old or still young.

"We know that in most humans, in most vertebrates, you can see the deterioration in the bones, the teeth, the eyes, the internal organs, and changes in the brain cells that are characteristic of old age," he says.

"We have a lot of experience looking at old humans, so let's see if we can match these conditions in this fish."

With the tests behind them, Dr Gauldie and friends Dr Richard Feltham, the radiologist at Wakefield hospital, and Dr Clinton Teague and Dr Peter Bethwaite at the Wellington Medical Laboratory, can say the kahawai had arthritis and a number of the conditions associated with aging in humans.

Dr Gauldie says it must have been a very uncomfortable fish and, in terms of this species, a very old one: "In its natural environment, old fish are last in the queue, first on the menu."

At last there is a benchmark for kahawai: an indicator of how fast these fish grow.

This may not seem all that important to the layman but it is the answer to the key question in fishery management.

As Dr Gauldie puts it: "One of the easy explanations for the decline of a particular fishery is that you've made a mistake in the age.

The fish are much older than you thought, much slower growing."

But what if it turns out those fish were not that old and your belief is disguising some other process that's going on in the fishery?

"That is why it is so important to straighten out this age issue as quickly as possible and to develop techniques that allow us to take an individual fish and get a reliable estimate of age."

This is also why the Orange Roughy Management Company, representing the orange roughy quota holders, is footing much of the cost of the research. Orange roughy is one of the species over which there's been tremendous controversy, with some researchers suggesting they live for 150, 200, maybe up to 800 years.

But Dr Gauldie thinks not. "The oldest fish we've seen are about 16, which means that the average catch is going to be between five and about 12 years old, the majority between seven and nine.

"Compared with hoki, for instance, that's quite old. The average hoki catch is probably of three to five-year-olds, which means you're looking at a fast-growing fishery from which you can take more fish."

Till about the 1950s the general method of accurately specifying a fish's age was based on scales and to some extent on the otoliths, or the "earstones" found in the heads of all fishes. They have rings on them, like those in tree trunks which indicate age.

A DECADE ago, an American scientist discovered that, in addition, there are smaller rings that are laid down daily. Then, in 1992, it was reported that in some fish the larger rings are not annual ones, but are created every 28 days, on the lunar tidal cycle.

This led to many surprises. Instead of being 70 or 80 years old, big, deep-water snapper and groupers around the Hawaiian and central Pacific islands were suddenly only nine to 12 years old.

And it led to other studies on tuna and billfish and the discovery that swordfish were effectively doubling in size every month.

It had an enormous impact on management thinking, and on the thinking of Dr Gauldie, who talked about it to his friend Chris Romanek, the Nasa scientist who last year concluded after studying a mineral from Mars that there was once life on the planet.

The mineral he was looking at was the same as that which is in the fishes' otoliths - calcium carbonate.

Together they worked out a model of how the otoliths ought to grow based on the chemistry of the mineral. "Part of that model's prediction was that we could open up fish, get inside the inner ear, extract the fluids that surround this growing crystal material, measure all the components then from the model back-calculate how fast it must be growing if it's sitting in a solution of that composition," Dr Gauldie said.

"It was a very nice way of testing whether the rings thought to occur each day do or not. And we found that they do."

But it provided only a snapshot of what was occurring at the time the measurement was taken.

With the help of Dr Graeme Coote, Dr Gauldie is now using the linear accelerator at the institute to scan the kahawai's otoliths and decode the accumulated information they contain.

It's exciting, ground-breaking stuff that could lead to all sorts of other questions, says the scientist who has spent most of the past nine years working at the University of Hawaii, and in September will leave for Bolivia to do some work in the Amazon Basin.

By then he should have completed the analysis of the kahawai study and done more work on orange roughies, which are, after all, the object of the exercise.

"Just suppose," he says, "that we do have fish, maybe orange roughies, that do live for a very long time.

"Why do they live for this length of time when we don't?"

Support for aquarium

DR BOB GAULDIE is right behind a \$5.7 million plan to transform the 20-year-old Napier Aquarium into the New Zealand National Aquarium.

"I think it's appropriate that we should have a national aquarium and that it should have research facilities," says the scientist who has carved out an international reputation in the aging of fish.

"The quality of the fish in the present aquarium, in terms of their health and their behaviour is remarkable. They actually have snapper spawning in there.

"It's a tribute to Rob Yarrall and his staff who have demonstrated over and over again their capacity to maintain fish in a condition that is unmatched in many parts of the world."

The plan, which has yet to be approved by the city council, would see the aquarium transformed into a series of natural environments, complete with smells and sounds, even salt-water spray. If approved it could be operating next summer.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dt6g00az9

MORE SALMON SPOTTED IN HARBOUR AND RIVERS.

By Gil NORMAN.

364 words

16 October 1996

The Dominion

12

English

(c) 1996 The Dominion, INL .

HIGH numbers of salmon spotted in Wellington Harbour as well as lakes and rivers in southern Wairarapa are raising speculation the fish is becoming established there.

Fishing authorities said that large numbers of salmon have been caught in runs of **kahawai** and it was not known if the fish was becoming established in upper reaches of rivers.

Some sea-running trout had been mistaken for salmon.

The past president of the Federation of Freshwater Anglers, Strato Cotsilinis, said reports of salmon being caught in the harbour over the past four weeks had been significant and considerably greater than in previous years.

The reports were a month earlier than usual and, because they were running with kahawai, he suspected they had escaped from salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

But some of the reports were that salmon weighing up to eight kilograms had been caught, and if this was the case they would be wild salmon not associated with farming.

Fish and Game Council director Bryce Johnson said there had always been salmon taken from time to time in the Hutt, Rangitikei and Ruamahanga rivers but he did not know the reason for a sudden increase.

He said he had verified a 5.5kg fish caught in the Hutt River just below the Silverstream bridge last year as a quinnat salmon.

Sports stores in the Wairarapa said yesterday they had received reports of salmon being taken in the Lake Ferry area and the Ruamahanga River in the past few weeks.

Wairarapa Fish and Game Council ranger Colin Shaw said he had seen one which had been caught in the lower reaches of the Ruamahanga River and last December there had been unconfirmed reports that 11 had been caught at the mouth to Lake Onoke when the kahawai were running.

He said a salmon was easily identified because the inside of its mouth was black.

Wellington Fish and Game Council senior Wairarapa ranger Andrew Bond said quinnat females died after spawning and the eggs would have had to be fertile for salmon to establish in the upper reaches of the river.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1996.

Document domn000020011017dsag002fc

SANFORD HOOKS ORDERS FROM CHINA.

274 words
18 November 1993
New Zealand Herald

1
English
(c) 1993 The New Zealand Herald

A fact-finding mission to China in April has paid a \$2.73 million dividend for Auckland-based fishing company Sanford Ltd.

That is the value of a 2,000-tonne order of frozen mackerel and **kahawai** destined for the Manchurian port of Dalian.

Sanford's Tauranga purse seiner fleet caught the fish. It was processed locally before being loaded on a freighter at Mt Maunganui.

The company's marketing manager, Mr Graeme Burke, said yesterday that the order was "one off" at this stage.

He said the Chinese would have to assess the fish before placing any more orders.

But he said Sanford was quietly confident.

It is the first time the New Zealand fishing industry has sent a large consignment to China.

Sanford's Tauranga manager, Mr Ian Hughes, said the Chinese were particularly interested in the kahawai.

Mr Burke said any idea of exporting fresh fish to China would be between five and 10 years away.

"There are no direct flights from New Zealand to China," he said.

"The market is just not there yet although the Chinese do prefer fresh fish.

"It would be better to first get the good quality frozen market established."

He suggested frozen scallops for the hotel trade as one option.

Mr Burke shied away from commenting on the possibility of a future joint fishing venture with the Chinese in New Zealand waters.

He would say only that there are "all sorts of talks."

Sanford has just made its 14th shipment of fish to Iran.

It won the supply contract three years ago. It now brings in \$20 million a year.

Document nzhd00020011121dpbi002pn

Kahawai fish tagged for research.

154 words

8 July 1991

New Zealand Herald

10

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

Scientists from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have tagged and released nearly 5,000 **kahawai** in the Bay of Plenty in an effort to find out more about the popular species.

The research project co-ordinator, Dr Brian Jones, of Wellington, said another 5,000 fish were tagged in Tasman Bay earlier this year.

He said scientists wanted information on age, growth rates and movements of kahawai, which were the second most important recreational fish in the North Island, after snapper.

There were worries that commercial fishermen were increasing their catches, making it harder for sports anglers to hook kahawai.

The breed was believed to live to about 15 years, but there is no definite proof of that.

"This research programme was started to try to get the answers."

If kahawai were a long-living fish, then accurate information was essential for effective conservation and management of stocks.

Document nzhd00020011124dn7800d6o

Largest seafood shipment bound for Iran.

86 words

15 June 1991

New Zealand Herald

16

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The largest single shipment of seafood to leave New Zealand is due out of Tauranga today bound for Iran.

The Frio Ionian will sail with 4,100 tonnes of mackerel and **kahawai** worth more than \$3.4 million.

The load is more than twice the previous biggest shipment of barracouta, mackerel and other species.

An initial 400 tonnes was picked up by the Frio in Nelson last week, with the balance being loaded on Thursday and yesterday at Mt Maunganui.

Document nzhd00020011124dn6f009oi

Kahawai FISHING quotas on hold.

426 words

1 April 1991

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The shelving of plans to bring commercial **kahawai** catching under quota control has angered sports fishermen and failed to impress the fishing industry.

****FULL_TEXT** Instead of putting the popular species on quota the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, has announced interim control measures which will see purse seine boats, which take the bulk of the catch, fishing competitively in a restricted season.

In many overseas fisheries competitive targeting for a restricted season has been blamed for the collapse of fish stocks.

Three companies are involved in purse-seining for kahawai.

Under plans made by the former Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, kahawai were to have joined other major commercial species under quota control today.

The president of the Sports Fishing Council, Mr Noel Turner, said yesterday that the decision was an about-face by the new minister.

"He had promised to uphold the decisions of the former minister.

"It is very obvious that the minister has been pressured by commercial interests. They are trying to increase their catch records for when the quota system is finally brought in," he said.

Council members were angered by the further delay in bringing kahawai under quota control, Mr Turner said.

They had fought strongly to limit the rapidly growing commercial kahawai fishery, especially off the east coast of the North Island.

The managing director of Sanfords, Mr David Anderson, said the minister appeared to have kicked touch to gain more time to think about how to control the fishery in the long term.

Based on aerial surveys conducted late last year, Mr Anderson said he was not concerned about the overall state of the kahawai fishery but said the species might not be as prolific in some areas as they had been previously.

"The commercial industry definitely wanted kahawai to be put on quota. That is a responsible attitude.

"I don't think the interim proposal is in the best interests of the fishery. In planning your fishing operations a competitive catching system is not the most economic.

"With an overall quota people can plan their fishing and effect some economies," Mr Anderson said.

Sanfords is the largest operator in the kahawai fishery with five purse-seine vessels.

The minister said he had decided not to accept the proposal to bring kahawai under the quota system because he was concerned about how the bycatch of other species would be handled and about the eligibility of commercial fishermen for quota.

There was only a small amount of detailed knowledge about the fishery, he said.

Document nzhld00020011124dn410039d

FISHING - Kahawai quota is introduced.

303 words
27 September 1990
New Zealand Herald
3
English
(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Kahawai will come under the fisheries quota system next year in a move limiting the commercial catch for one of the most popular species among amateur anglers.

****FULL_TEXT** The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, yesterday announced restrictions which will limit the commercial take to 6500 tonnes.

And until next April he will ban the big purse seine fishing boats which account for most of the commercial kahawai take from fishing in Quote Management Area 1, which stretches from North Cape down the east coast to Cape Runaway.

The move has received a mixed reception.

Recreational fishermen want more restrictions and the commercial sector is concerned that the minister acted "without scientific evidence."

The initial kahawai quotas will be valid for one year and will not be transferable.

The president of the Sports Fishing Council, Mr Noel Turner, said his organisation would push for the moratorium on purse seiners in Area 1 to become permanent.

The council did not believe it was right that one of the most important recreational species had been threatened by commercial interests for relatively little gain.

Most of the kahawai catch was exported to Australia and used for crayfish bait.

The president of the Fishing Industry Association, Mr Peter Talley, said the total allowable catch level had been set without apparent scientific evidence.

The industry association represents all seven of the purse seine boats which fish for kahawai in New Zealand waters. Five are based in Tauranga and two in the South Island.

The minister also announced reductions in commercial quotas for hoki, orange roughy, squid, blue warehou and red cod.

While most inshore species had shown a marked recovery since the introduction of the quota system four years ago, adjustments were needed to guard against depletion in some stocks, Mr Shirley said.

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Fish species "clobbered".

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Purse seiners are targeting **kahawai** in a bid to establish better catch histories before quotas are introduced, says Dr Michael Godfrey, a member of a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries advisory board.

Dr Godfrey, the International Game Fish Association representative in the Bay of Plenty, said commercial fishermen realised the significance of imposed catch limits on **kahawai**.

"That is why they are out clobbering them as hard as they can, trying to increase their catch histories."

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, said yesterday that commercial catches of kahawai would be restricted from October 1, when separate quotas for areas and methods would be set.

The limits on the total commercial catch would be an interim measure until a quota system for kahawai was introduced.

The minister warned commercial fishermen against taking more kahawai just to establish individual catch histories.

He said the methods used for issuing quota were under review and there was no guarantee that catch histories would be a basis for future quota.

The president of the Big Game Fishing Council, Mr John Chibnall, said there were about one million recreational anglers in New Zealand.

Most fished between Cape Runaway and North Cape, where kahawai were under greatest strain.

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