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## **ILLEGAL FISHING.**

88 words

11 October 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

A fishing industry leader has attacked the **Ministry of Fisheries** over its failure to stop illegal fishing in Tauranga Harbour.

The Bay of Plenty Commercial Fishermen's Association treasurer, Allan Gard, said the ministry's compliance division was "conspicuous by its absence" in catching operators who persistently broke the rules.

The ministry's district compliance manager Steve Atwell, said he could understand the frustration of both commercial and recreational fishers, but said compliance efforts were stretched over a huge area.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dtab002dh

## **RULE CHANGES PROMISE EFFICIENCIES.**

257 words

26 August 1997

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

NELSON - New rules for oyster and scallop harvesting in Nelson waters will bring efficiency and ecological gains, the **Ministry of Fisheries** says.

Fisheries Minister John Luxton yesterday announced rules for recreational and commercial harvesting of both species this year. The rules are based on last year's 505-tonne total allowable commercial catch for oysters and retention of the 720-tonne catch limit for the Southern Scallop Fishery, which takes in Golden and Tasman bays and the Marlborough Sounds.

The season for commercial scallop fishing opened on Sunday and will run until December 18. The actual dredging start date will depend on scallop quality as determined by industry monitoring.

The recreational season, with its daily catch limit of 50 per person, opened on July 16 and will run to February 14.

After last year's inclusion of Nelson oysters in the quota system, there is a new commercial oyster season from October 1 to December 18. This coincides with the scallop season and is in addition to the traditional March 1 to August 31 season.

Recreational fishers, with their 50-a-day limit, will continue to have year-round access to Nelson oysters, introduced last year.

The chief executive of the Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company, Mike Arbuckle, said the first scallop boats were expected to go out on September 1.

The industry was expecting a season's commercial harvest of 350-400 tonnes.

This would be a significant improvement over the disappointing 230 tonnes achieved last year.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt8q00a2c

## GROUP OPPOSES TALLEY'S COCKLE PLAN.

304 words  
16 August 1997  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Nelson, Aug 16 - A Golden Bay environmental lobby group is objecting to a bid by Talley's Fisheries to expand its cockle harvesting operation into Golden Bay.

Talley's already has a permit to harvest a 480ha site at Tapu Bay, Riwaka, but has applied to the **Ministry of Fisheries** for a permit variation enabling it to harvest another 46ha at Ferry Point, north of Collingwood.

But Friends of Golden Bay said it was totally opposed to any intertidal aquaculture being carried out on a commercial basis.

Chairman Alan Vaughan said the group also believed the ministry could not legally allow the harvesting expansion to go ahead.

The group regarded the proposal as a new permit application, not a variation, because it involved a completely new site, he said.

As the ministry had imposed a moratorium in 1992 on the granting of new fishing licences in Golden Bay and Tasman Bay, a new permit could not be granted.

Mr Vaughan said the group was also concerned that the proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan, which could set limitations on aquaculture ventures, was still being drawn up.

Since many submissions to the plan opposed aquaculture, it was likely that aquaculture activities would be restricted or have strict conditions placed on them, he said.

If a permit was granted this could "make a nonsense" of the whole plan process.

Mr Vaughan said the ministry should carry out a study of the impact of cockle harvesting on the marine environment before renewing or issuing any permits.

Fisheries Ministry fisheries adviser Rochelle Selby-Neal said the ministry was processing the Talley's application and a decision would be made soon. She declined to comment further.

Talley's Fisheries fisheries development manager Peter Elphick also declined to comment.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dt8g00msy

## **ESTIMATE STINGS.**

69 words

8 August 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

A **Ministry of Fisheries** estimate that a new computer system will cost nearly \$20 million has led to industry representatives withdrawing support for the project.

A Seafood Industry Council spokes man, David Sharp, said the industry WAS appalled at the cost estimate by ministry officials.

He said private sector computer experts had estimated a maximum cost of about \$5.8 million.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt880048u

**MUCK-UP OVER MAF.**

66 words  
29 June 1997  
Sunday Star-Times  
10  
English  
(c) 1997

YOUR ARTICLE "Paua pirates on rampage" (June 22) referred to "MAF compliance chief" and " ... MAF (**Ministry of Fisheries**)". This is not correct.

The acronym MAF refers to the Ministry of Agriculture, a totally separate ministry from the **Ministry of Fisheries**, and has done so since the two separated on July 1, 1995.

DEBBIE GEE

MAF

Wellington.

(c) Sunday Star Times, INL 1997.

Document sunstt0020011004dt6t000rd

## **MORE THAN 130 CHARGES LAID IN FISHERIES BUST.**

218 words  
27 June 1997  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, June 27 - More than 130 charges have been laid against four commercial fishermen following a **Ministry of Fisheries** investigation into snapper quota in the eastern Bay of Plenty.

The ministry said in a statement today that Operation Link began eight months ago, when fisheries officers seized four vessels from a number of Bay of Plenty commercial fishers and receivers.

More than 60,000 documents were also seized, analysis of which uncovered alleged quota offences involving up to 30 tonnes of snapper valued at about \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year.

"The type of activity uncovered by this investigation smacks right at the heart of the quota management system," said the head of the investigation team, Mark Nicholson.

The quota management system is used by the ministry to hold the catch of commercial species within sustainable levels through the issuing of quota to commercial fishers.

"This type of abuse, particularly in the sensitive snapper fishery, is not acceptable.

"Operation Link is a reminder to all those involved in the harvesting of our fish resources, both commercial and amateur, that the ministry will actively seek out those engaged in any abuse of the fisheries law and put them before the courts," Mr Nicholson said.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dt6r00nho

## **BIGGEST LEGAL HAULS FROM LOWER SOUTH IS.**

158 words  
22 June 1997  
Sunday Star-Times  
7  
English  
(c) 1997

TO meet paua fishing quotas, the **Ministry of Fisheries** has divided New Zealand into eight main paua fishing areas.

Each area has a total available catch and the amount of paua "landed" from each area is weighed. Latest "landed paua figures" for 1995-96 held by the **Ministry of Fisheries** show the biggest paua hauls that year came from the lower part of the South Island including Stewart Island where 424 tonnes of paua were landed.

Paua landed from the Marlborough region was 263.7 tonnes followed by Chatham and surrounding islands, which landed 220 tonnes.

The Wairarapa/Wellington area landed 119 tonnes and the east coast of the South Island to North Otago landed 92.89.

The Ministry of Fisheries advises fishermen after paua not to head to Auckland or Coromandel, where paua is so scarce less than one tonne was landed last year.

(c) Sunday Star Times, INL 1997.

Document sunstt0020011004dt6m000kp

## **FISH PERMITS ON THE LINE.**

By ADELIA FERGUSON.  
416 words  
10 June 1997  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

Hundreds of nearly broke fishers face losing their fishing rights tomorrow after having cheques returned by the **Ministry of Fisheries**.

Their federation says that fishers who sent what money they could afford for licence fees have been told they must pay the ministry's minimum or lose their permits.

The ministry says it realises that cancelling permits will send some fishers broke but it is legally bound to collect the money.

Today is the deadline for about 300 small operators who have not paid their annual fees to the ministry. From tomorrow the ministry will start suspending fishing permits or putting caveats on fish quota.

About 700 fishers initially refused to pay the fees in protest over the amounts and claimed unfairness. In April the Government announced that the primary production select committee would review the charges and fishers were urged to pay this year's fees.

The chief executive of the Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Tony Craig, said that those who could had paid.

Those who could not afford the full fees had sent the ministry what money they could with the promise of more.

"Those people have had their cheques returned and told that if they did not pay a minimum amount set by the ministry their permits would be cancelled," Mr Craig said.

That meant some small fishers - particularly those in small northern communities - would go bankrupt, he said.

"What's the point in sending someone bankrupt for the want of a few hundred dollars when it will cost thousands of dollars to keep them on the dole?" he said.

One of the inequities long complained about by small fishers is the fact that they pay the same permit fees for small boats as big companies pay for deepwater trawlers.

Many small fishers in the northern region earn just \$15,000 a year, out of which they must pay, on average, \$1200 to the Government on top of tax.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Fisheries, Robert Brewer, said that fishers who could not afford the full annual fees could arrange to pay them off in monthly, instalments, as long as the full amount was paid by start of the new fishing year in October.

Allowing them to carry debt over into the next fishing year would simply compound the problem, he said.

The licence fees were based on a formula recommended by the fishing industry, Mr Brewer said.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhd00020011002dt6a00704

## NEW FISHING LOBBY GETS HOOKS INTO PRICE RECOVERY.

By BOB EDLIN.  
417 words  
6 June 1997  
Independent Business Weekly  
English  
(c) 1997 The Independent Business Weekly

Representatives of a newly formed fishing industry organisation fronted up before a parliamentary select committee on Wednesday to flex their merged muscle politically for the first time.

They appeared before the primary production select committee, which is inquiring into the **Ministry of Fisheries'** cost recovery regime for fisheries management.

More significantly, they spoke on behalf of the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd (SEAFIC), the new generic body representing the whole industry.

"Many more submissions and dealings with the Crown will follow," said Bruce Young, chief executive of Moana Pacific and a council member.

SEAFIC's 13 founding directors represent most major companies, the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission and specific sectoral interests.

David Sharp, a fisheries consultant and member of the Fishing Industry Board, is acting chairman. Peter Talley, of Talleys Fisheries, is deputy chairman.

SEAFIC - which this week advertised for a chief executive - embraces the interests of:

- \* Fishing Industry Association members, historically major quota holders; and
- \* The Federation of Commercial Fishermen, traditionally representing small owner-operators.

Both organisations will delegate the bulk of their activities to SEAFIC officially from July 1. They then will go into abeyance, handling only the administration of their own winding-up.

Furthermore, the Fishing Industry Board has agreed to appoint SEAFIC as its agent to carry out most of its activities.

The agency agreement has not been finalised, but Young said "the intent of all these moves has been confirmed with the appropriate resolutions at the appropriate general meetings or directors' meetings."

Only the detail and final contracts remain to be sorted out.

The industry historically has been represented by several groups. Over the past two years, they have been planning to merge "as one common happy family with some common vision," said Young.

The FIB will meet infrequently in future, essentially to ensure its agency contract with SEAFIC is working effectively and to report to the Crown as required by law.

SEAFIC eventually is likely to replace the FIB.

But "the nub of it is that SEAFIC will now be the one body speaking on behalf of the seafood industry," said Young.

It will deal with the Crown on cost recovery principles and procedures affecting all sectors of the industry.

Another typical issue will be the co-ordination of quota holders' views on the setting of catch levels each year, although SEAFIC won't have a view of its own, Young emphasised.

(c) The Independent Business Weekly, 1997.

Document indbuw0020011001dt66000x2

## **POACHERS GET OFF THE HOOK.**

290 words  
14 May 1997  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

It may be as well that the **Ministry of Fisheries** does not have to catch Fish to support itself. If its record in nailing poachers is any indication it would struggle to survive.

A blitz on recreational fishers over the summer yielded just 35 prosecutions for illegal possession of fish, shellfish and crayfish. Yet the black market for snapper in Auckland is estimated by ministry officials at 1800 tonnes a year. Honest commercial fishers who have recently had the northern snapper quota cut from 5000 to 3000 tonnes have a right to be furious at the softly, softly approach that routinely seems to be taken to poachers, particularly since the industry contributes towards the cost of policing fisheries regulations.

Just why the ministry is so kindhearted to blatant breaches of the law is beyond comprehension. Enforcing fisheries regulations should be as straightforward and automatic as enforcing motoring regulations. Letting people off with warnings just encourages the breaches to continue.

The fact is that baby snapper are caught by the bucket-load on jigging hooks designed to catch fish of just that size. If the minister cannot bring itself to prosecute people with just one of those under-sized fish, then it perhaps should look to ball the sale of the equipment that catches them.

Commercial fishers should be the most vigilant of all gamekeepers. Each one of their number who breaches quota regulations devalues the quota of others. And every tonne of black-market fish means it will take longer for the fishery to recover. It amounts to blatant property theft. It is time that fishers, commercial and recreational, fished in fear of being approached by a ministry inspector.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhd00020011002dt5e006f

## **PATROL NETS MEN WITH ILLEGAL SNAPPER CATCH.**

By ADELIA FERGUSON.

319 words

13 May 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

Four men in a runabout have been caught with nearly 300 snapper, many of them undersized, as the **Ministry of Fisheries** continues its crackdown on the lucrative Auckland black market.

Fisheries officers on a routine patrol in the Tamaki Estuary found the fish hidden in the forward lockers of the 7m boat.

The snapper are believed to have been caught with handlines on Friday between Rangitoto and Waiheke Islands.

The catch was counted and measured yesterday.

A fisheries officer, Howard James, said that nearly half the 298 snapper were undersized. The men's runabout was impounded.

Ministry officials suspected that the fish were destined for the Auckland black market, estimated to consume 1800 tonnes of snapper a year.

Most of the poached fish - caught either by commercial fishers breaching quota regulations or by "pseudo amateurs" flouting recreational rules - was sold to fishmongers, restaurants, takeaway bars and the public.

The growing black market coincided with the Government's decision - backed by the High Court - to cut the commercial snapper catch in the area by 1900 tonnes because of fears that the fish was threatened.

Last year the Government agreed to spend an extra \$2 million over two years trebling the number of fisheries officers in Auckland in an attempt to stamp out poaching.

The Ministry of Fisheries' Auckland compliance manager, Ian Bright, said yesterday that seven new officers had just joined the unit. They would be used to keep a closer eye on commercial fishers.

The blitz on recreational fishers, which saw 35 people prosecuted over the summer for illegal possession of fish, shellfish and crayfish, would also continue, he said.

The maximum fine for those caught with fish taken illegally was \$10,000.

The Ministry of Fisheries has not yet decided whether to prosecute the four South Auckland men caught last Friday.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhd00020011002dt5d006ca

## **THREATS OF `BLOODSHED`.**

By David GEE.  
419 words  
3 May 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
2  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

**Ministry of Fisheries** workers say they have been threatened with death by fishermen who are involved in a row over the payment of cost-recovery levies.

Fisheries services staff say the telephone threats, made from throughout the country, included a claim that "there will be bloodshed over this" and two threats were "to kill anyone who boarded the vessel".

In another incident a barrage of abuse went on for two hours and staff have complained to the National Union of Public Employees' secretary-organiser, Ivan Finlayson, about the many abusive telephone calls made to them.

A ministry spokesman said yesterday that staff had received hundreds of abusive phone calls since the end of March. They had eased off now and angry fishermen were "talking more reasonably."

He said all calls had been anonymous, and most ended with the slamming down of the receiver.

Mr Finlayson said he questioned the responsibility of senior management at the Ministry of Fisheries in relation to the health and safety of fisheries officers.

The threats were in response to ministry letters, posted on March 24, to more than 2000 members of the fishing industry, advising them of the implications of not paying outstanding cost-recovery levies. The letters said that if they did not pay, caveats could be placed on quota and permits could be suspended, Mr Finlayson said.

A Public Service Association organiser, Dave Scott, confirmed that threats had also been made to his members, and he was aware of an undercurrent within the ministry about the threats.

In January the Federation of Commercial Fishermen decided to withhold payment of the Government's cost-recovery charges, because they believed them to be unjust.

The federation's chief executive, Tony Craig, said the bills for cost-recovery were the "last straw for fishermen and quota owners who had been subjected to a long list of different charges in the past two years."

Mr Craig said members were prepared to pay fair and reasonable costs but were no longer prepared to accept "Government attempts to offset its own policy advice and enforcement costs against the industry."

He said farmers were not subject to a levy for the police monitoring sheep stealing, and shopkeepers were not charged separately for police to monitor shoplifting.

A ministry spokesman said the matter was now before Parliament's primary production select committee for review, and denied that fisheries officers were uninformed about the letters being sent out.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt5300dvm

## KOHA FOR CATCH TEST CASE GOES TO COURT.

312 words  
29 April 1997  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - A Far North fisherman charged after trading his catch for koha (gifts) will claim in a court test case that he was fishing in "legal customary Maori fishing areas."

Spencer Samuels, aged 42, has been charged with obstruction after failing to answer **Ministry of Fisheries** questions about his fishing practices.

The case will be heard over two days in the Kaikohe District Court from Thursday.

The Confederation of Chiefs of the United Tribes, which will represent Samuels, says the case will test the customary fishing rights of Maori.

Samuels' 12m steel longliner fishing boat, estimated to be worth about \$80,000, was confiscated by the ministry last November and the obstruction charge laid in February.

Samuels said the confiscation and charge followed his fishing in customary Maori fishing areas near the Cavalli Islands, off Northland's east coast.

He gave his catch to the confederation in return for koha, including money, kumara and potatoes. They were not considered sales, he said.

Samuels said his chiefs had issued him with fishing permits for snapper, kina, paua and crayfish.

The confederation's legal adviser, Eru Manukau, said Maori customary rights were ratified by the Treaty of Waitangi, which was a legal contract between the Crown and the confederation of chiefs.

To deny those rights conflicted with the principles of law.

He said that although the Fisheries Act 1983 reaffirmed Maori customary rights, it was misinterpreted. The ministry had "made a complete boo-boo in this case."

Samuels' uncle, the Labour list MP Dover Samuels, said he did not want to comment on the specifics of the case, but his mother and grandfather had been commercial fishers at Matauri Bay for many years.

"They exercised their customary right but also held fishing licences and abided by the laws and regulations."

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt4t00669

## **ACT CLAIMS COVER-UP ON FISH QUOTA SNAG.**

130 words

28 April 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

WELLINGTON - The Act agriculture spokesman, Owen Jennings, says a Government attempt to cover up a "monumental blunder" over fishing quotas may cost fishermen \$50 million.

The Government has taken the unusual step of introducing retrospective legislation to prevent fishermen suing the **Ministry of Fisheries** for errors in the register of fishing quota.

Mr Jennings said it was little good the Government offering \$10 million in compensation when the ministry had admitted the loss could be as much as \$50 million.

A computer problem has been blamed for short-changing fishermen on their fishing quotas.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Luxton, said the Fisheries Quota Operations Validation Bill would prevent fishermen taking legal action against the Crown.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt4s0065m

## **SHELLFISH SIGNS MULTI-LINGUAL.**

274 words  
18 March 1997  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

Shellfish limit signs in English, Chinese and Samoan were erected at Piha on the Auckland west coast yesterday in a new bid to stamp out illegal gathering.

**Ministry of Fisheries** officers and Auckland Regional Council rangers placed the signs in beach ear parks and on Lion Rock to spread information about shellfish regulations and bag limits.

They are aimed at the ethnic groups who are the main shellfish gatherers at the beach.

A ministry district compliance manager, Ian Bright, said Piha residents and honorary fisheries officers had pressed for the multi-language signs.

Residents were concerned mussel, crab and welk stocks were being depleted, and honorary fishery officers were frustrated by the number of people saying they did not understand signs in English.

Mr Bright said that if the multi-language signs proved successful they could be tried in other parts of the Upper North Island coast with similar problems as Piha.

Languages used on the signs could be changed to suit a particular beach's main shellfish gatherers. Wording on the signs could also be changed to reflect local concerns about different species: for example, to have signs at Raglan stating the limit for cockles.

Mr Bright said education about conserving stocks was the answer.

Besides the signs, the ministry is undertaking an information campaign in local Asian-language media.

Pamphlets were planned written in Asian and Pacific Island languages, as well as Maori and English.

The Chinese Weekly had carried articles about fishing regulations, while ministry staff had appeared on Asia Dynamic television programme and had talked to Pacific Islands church groups.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt3i004yh

## **MULLET FISHING TRIAL DELAYED BY OUTCRY.**

By ADELIA FERGUSON.

236 words

9 December 1996

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

Public protests have prompted the **Ministry of Fisheries** to postpone a trial on the west coast of powerhauling for mullet but officials still believe that the idea is worth investigating.

A ministry spokesman, Mr Richard Fanselow, said it was possible that powerhauling would allow fishers to make more money from fewer fish, which meant the total commercial catch could be reduced without hurting incomes.

Powerhauling, a common method in Australia, involves taking nets out to sea in boats and hauling them back to land by four-wheel-drive vehicles.

The ministry had granted a 12 month licence for the scheme to be tested on west coast beaches in Auckland and Northland but has delayed the permit until February.

Mr Fanselow said powerhauling would allow fishers to operate in the surf, where they could catch mullet full of valuable roe. Most of the present mullet catch was taken from estuaries and the fish were not carrying roe.

Critics of the proposal have said that not only mullet but kahawai and snapper would be caught in the nets. They also cite possible environmental damage from vehicles as a reason for not allowing powerhauling.

Mr Fanselow said powerhauling had never been done in New Zealand and ministry officials did not know what effects it would have.

He said the trials would be closely monitored.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhld00020011019dsc90046k

## **CRACKDOWN ON LIMITS FOR FISHERS.**

113 words  
9 December 1996  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

Extra fisheries patrol staff will be out in force this summer, watching for fishers who flout legal daily catch limits.

The **Ministry of Fisheries** is warning recreational boaties that it is beefing up its compliance work.

The campaign is aimed especially at snapper limits.

Along the east coast, from Wellsford to Kaiaua, the daily bag limit is nine snapper. On the west coast, from Marakopa to the Kaipara Harbour, up to 15 can be taken. Snapper must be at least 27cm.

Recently two men were fined for exceeding the limit and had a boat, outboard motor and trailer seized by the Crown.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhd00020011019dsc900469

## FISHERIES OFFICERS RAID BAY OF PLENTY SITES.

By ROSALEEN MACBRAYNE.  
274 words  
14 November 1996  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

WHAKATANE - Teams of fisheries officers investigating blackmarket fishing scams in the eastern Bay of Plenty swooped on Whakatane and Opotiki on Tuesday and yesterday.

The major "search and seizure" raid was the climax of an inquiry into alleged quota avoidance said the **Ministry of Fisheries** district compliance manager, Mr Steve Atwill, of Tauranga.

"We are concerned about what we have found," he said.

More than 30 sites, including business premises, residences and vessels, were visited and several people connected with the fishing industry were interviewed.

Mr Atwill said about 50 fisheries staff from took part in the fraud investigation.

Some property, believed to be boats, vehicles and fish, was seized but Mr Atwill would not elaborate. As far as possible, commercial fishers were being allowed to carry on their livelihoods in the meantime."

It was too early to say what, if any, charges would be laid. "But indicators of serious discrepancies between reported and actual landings [of fish catch] have been identified," he said.

Investigators had 60,000 seized documents to analyse, and it could be months before the ministry knew exactly what had been uncovered.

"We have some very vulnerable fisheries in the Bay of Plenty and the size of this operation reflects our concern that the catch must remain within the limits of quota," said Mr Atwill

"The Ministry of Fisheries in Tauranga believe we have a quota avoidance problem in this district and we are determined to come to grips with

Snapper and tarakihi were most threatened he said, but other species were also involved.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhd00020011019dsbe003fc

## SHIPPING FIRM TO SUE FISHERIES MINISTRY.

By JENNI McMANUS.

565 words

25 October 1996

Independent Business Weekly

English

(c) 1996 The Independent Business Weekly

European shipping firm Interkarel is preparing to take the **Ministry of Fisheries** to court to challenge what it regards as the illegal seizure by fisheries inspectors of five of its vessels.

Proceedings aimed at getting the ships released could be filed in the High Court at Wellington as early as today.

And, says Interkarel's lawyer Hakan Schiller, his firm is also finalising legal action which could make New Zealand the first country to be hauled before a just-established international tribunal in Hamburg for allegedly breaching the International Law of the Sea Convention.

Schiller, a Swedish lawyer from the Gothenburg firm of Hemberg, has been in Wellington this week trying to negotiate with the Fisheries Ministry for the release of the five ships.

So far, he has not succeeded.

Two vessels, the Osha and Orlovka, were arrested two months ago. Three others, the Om, Olenino and Ognevka, were seized on Tuesday. All are owned by Interkarel, a company 80% owned by Swedish and Italian shareholders and 20% by Russians.

Interkarel recently spent \$10 million having the ships refitted in a New Zealand shipyard.

Schiller said he offered the Fisheries Ministry a \$600,000 bond, underwritten by London insurers Black Sea & Baltic, for the release of the two vessels initially seized - a common practice under the International Law of the Sea Convention, which New Zealand recently signed.

But the ministry refused, saying the London firm was "unreliable" and had a "vulnerable rating," he said.

The ministry, meanwhile, has refused to specify the allegations against his clients, Schiller says. They have been told, however, that there is a "suspicion" they have been exceeding their quota and the ships will be impounded indefinitely while officials gather evidence.

The ministry has refused to tell Interkarel whether the complaint was laid by a competitor.

Interkarel had bent over backwards to try to clarify the allegations with the ministry, Schiller said. But the ministry refused to be specific and no criminal charges had been laid.

Meanwhile, his clients were losing thousands of dollars a day. Two of the ships had been seized at the height of the hoki season.

"That a modern, democratic country can treat a reputable overseas company in the way we have been treated has been a revelation to me. I feel the Ministry of Fisheries has been unreasonable, arbitrary and high-handed," he said.

In what could become a third prong to the legal action, Wellington constitutional law experts Chen & Palmer have been instructed to prepare a legal opinion on whether the ministry has breached the unreasonable search and seizure provisions of s21 of the Bill of Rights Act.

"These are government officials, exercising public power and they are required to observe due process," says partner Mai Chen.

"There appear to be concerns not only in international law under the Convention of the Law of the Sea...but also for breaches of the Bill of Rights Act."

The Act, she says, is clear.

"Either you arrest people and lay charges, or you release them. There is no intermediate holding pen," she says.

One option for Interkarel is to sue the Crown for damages, claiming breaches of the Bill of Rights Act.

Fisheries Ministry communications manager Robert Brewer was contacted yesterday for comment. By press time he had not responded.

(c) The Independent Business Weekly, 1996.

Document indbuw0020011018dsap001xc

## **FISHING FIRM FACES PROBE INTO CATCHES.**

79 words

23 October 1996

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

An Auckland fishing company is under investigation by fisheries officers amid allegations of false reporting of catches.

Five boats fishing on behalf of Abel Fisheries have been detained in the South Island as **Ministry of Fisheries** officers investigate.

Two boats, the Orlovka and Osha, have been held for two months, first in Nelson and then in Lyttelton. The Om, Olenino and Ognevka were seized in Lyttelton yesterday.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhd00020011019dsan00376

## **FIA GOES FISHING FOR RESEARCH COMPETITION.**

By GARTH BRAY.  
349 words  
20 September 1996  
National Business Review  
English  
(c) 1996 The National Business Review

The Fishing Industry Association is to launch a fresh bid to persuade the Commerce Commission to force competition in the fisheries research industry.

The **Ministry of Fisheries** had no reason to delay throwing the market completely open, association spokesman Vaughan Wilkinson said.

Mr Wilkinson disputed that the ministry still needed time to develop the procedures for dealing with competition.

"They must have resolved those issues to be able to have contracts with Niwa, which is an independent Crown research institute," he said.

As The National Business Review reported on August 30, Niwa's "preferred supplier" status saw it automatically net all but 8% of almost \$16 million worth of marine life studies, which the ministry purchased in July for the coming season.

That purchase "flies in the face of the Commerce Act", Mr Wilkinson said.

Before the season begins on October 1, the FIA will ask the Commerce Commission to investigate whether the ministry breached the act by rolling its arrangement with Niwa over into this year.

The ministry justified postponing competition until July next year because it needed to set standards for research projects and for handling the information they generated.

"The ministry was concerned to develop the procedures that would adequately monitor the contracts let and control the necessary access to the databases currently operated by Niwa," ministry spokeswoman Carolyn Risk said.

Eleven months ago the Commerce Commission indicated that further delay past July this year could be grounds for a second investigation.

However, it then accepted that the ministry wasn't dragging its heels after the ministry advertised 21 contracts publicly this year and assured the commission the rest would follow in 1997.

"On those grounds, the commission is not considering any enforcement action," spokesman Vince Cholewa said.

It would evaluate any complaint with its standard criteria.

These took into account whether a prima facie breach of the Commerce Act had occurred, as well as how quickly an offending party discontinued the practice after it was made aware of a breach.

(c) The National Business Review, 1996.

Document natbr00020011018ds9k0027p

## EVERYONE'S HAPPY OVER LATEST CRAYS.

By Steve ATTWOOD.  
397 words  
4 August 1996  
Sunday Star-Times  
5  
English  
(c) 1996

FOUR years ago the Gisborne crayfish resource seemed doomed. Commercial catches were becoming uneconomic and recreational fishers struggled to find suitably-sized specimens. Poaching was also rife.

An agreement between Maori and recreational and commercial fishers has changed that and the **Ministry of Fisheries** is hailing it as an example other coastal fisheries could follow.

Today in CRAY 3, the area between Mahia Peninsula and East Cape, the rock lobster industry is booming. Commercial fishers are enjoying catch rates up to four times what they were before the agreement.

"If we had continued to fish at the rates allowed by quota, and poaching had remained at its old levels, the resource would have been fished out and dozens of people and businesses would have lost a big part of their livelihood," said Gisborne rock lobster industry spokesman, Tuck Destounis.

The commercial fishers went to Maori and recreational users with a proposal. They were willing to take a 50% cut in quota, enact a September to February ban on commercial fishing, and take only male fish in the winter season. In return they sought, and got, support from Maori and amateur fishers for conservation measures, anti-poaching measures, and a slight decrease in the minimum legal size.

"The idea," Mr Destounis said, "was that commercial fishers could take less but maintain profitability levels by fishing in the winter when prices for crayfish are higher. The slight decrease in legal size helped fishers to meet their reduced quota."

A big part of the agreement was measures to reduce poaching. The total legal commercial catch was 360 tonnes a year before commercial fishers agreed to their 50% cut in quota. But poaching was estimated to take 400 tonnes annually, mostly undersized. Neville Buckley, Ministry of Fisheries regional manager (compliance), said by concentrating legal fishing to winter, poaching became a lot harder and more visible. "Because the agreement ensured all users are getting their fair share of crayfish, it creates an atmosphere of intolerance toward poaching," Mr Buckley said. Offenders were more easily seen and reported.

It took the new agreement only three years to reverse the fortunes of the CRAY 3 fishery and a survey shows the population of the delicacy has skyrocketed. This has allowed the ministry to approve a 25% increase in quota.

(c)INL, Sunday Star Times 1996.

Document sunstt0020011024ds8400092

## **FISHING FEE ATTACKED.**

By RAOUL DAROUX.

404 words

15 June 1996

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

Fishing company Sanford has criticised a 25 per cent increase in cost recovery charges proposed by the **Ministry of Fisheries** for the 1996-1997 year.

The new level of more than \$45 million was beyond the industry's ability to fund, said the company chairman, Mr Douglas Goodfellow.

Sanford reported a 23 per cent fall in its interim tax-paid profit to \$11.67 million in the February half-year. It blamed the fall on the strength of the New Zealand dollar and international competition.

Last year, it said the fishing industry, which contributed exports of \$1.3 billion in the April 1996 year, was likely to fall short of its export target of \$2 billion by the year 2000.

It said that Government costs must be reduced if the country was to have a viable and internationally competitive seafood industry.

Mr Goodfellow said the industry deserved the most competitive fisheries management possible.

This was sadly lacking at present.

The Government budget estimated that \$38.95 million would be recovered from the industry in the 1996-1997 year out of a total \$60.69 million of services purchased from the ministry.

But the manager of Simunovich Fisheries and a former president of the Fishing Industry Association, Mr Vaughan Wilkinson, said the budget estimate was made before the imposition of supplementary charges that arose during the year.

The ministry had consulted with the industry not on \$39 million but on \$45 million-plus.

Mr Goodfellow said the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, had to have the will to remove repetitive and unnecessary costs if he wished the industry to remain viable.

If the components of fisheries management were analysed and operated on a commercial basis recognising that the minister had to be satisfied with the sustainability of key stocks and to ensure a high degree of compliance - the total cost should not exceed \$24 million for the 1996-1997 fishing year.

A progressive reduction should follow thereafter, Mr Goodfellow said.

In a commercial environment, some of the staffing and costs arising from the ministry would simply not be tolerated.

Mr Wilkinson said the main areas where cost reductions to the industry should take place were in charges for policy advice to the minister and fisheries enforcement and compliance.

There were also charges for research, some of which should be shared with recreational fishing.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhd00020011019ds6f001f

**INDUSTRY SHOULD REBUILD FISHERY.**

121 words

12 April 1996

Independent Business Weekly

English

(c) 1996 The Independent Business Weekly

Fisheries Minister Doug Kidd has offered to repeal the law setting up the Fishing Industry Board to rid the industry of a layer of bureaucracy. Kidd, who was speaking at a fishing industry conference in Queenstown, criticised the board for costing the industry a lot of money for little return. He also told the industry not to waste money fighting the government's plans to cut the commercial snapper catch, saying the industry should look at ways of rebuilding the snapper fishery. Fishing Industry Association president Vaughan Wilkinson said the government should follow its own free-market philosophy and open up the **Ministry of Fisheries** and the scientific department to competition.

(c) The Independent Business Weekly, 1996.

Document indbuw0020011018ds4c002yt

## **FISHERIES MOVE.**

64 words

15 December 1995

National Business Review

53

English

(c) 1995 The National Business Review

The newly formed **Ministry of Fisheries** has leased two-thirds of Wellington's Feltex House. It will occupy six of the nine floors, a total of 2008sq m. The 90-odd staff were previously based on the Terrace, with some coming from Greta Point. Colliers Jardine's Stephen Maitland signed the six-year deal which included two three-year rights of renewal.

Document natbr00020011103drcf0004o

## **Scampi ban remains.**

213 words  
4 October 1991  
New Zealand Herald  
2  
English  
(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

Five scampi trawlers were tied up in Auckland by last night with their crews laid off after being told their future was uncertain.

A meeting in Wellington on Wednesday between senior **Ministry of Fisheries** officials and scampi operators failed to resolve the impasse that led to the fishing being abruptly stopped at midnight on Monday.

Last night one of the trawler skippers, Mr Tim Hunt of Whangarei, said he would be registering for the dole today and he had told his crew to do the same.

"One day we were out there fishing, the next day we were bringing the boats home and out of work," he said.

"More than a few of us have got families and mortgages to worry about."

Scampi fishing has developed over the past four years into an \$8 million a year export business employing more than 100 people.

But following a report from Greenpeace and the Maruia Society alleging that the trawlers were a threat to the marine habitat, the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, decided not to reissue permits for the fishery when they expired on Monday.

In Wellington yesterday a senior Ministry official, Dr Robin Allen, said the Ministry was still considering "whether and under what conditions" permits might be re-issued.

Document nzhd00020011124dna400ieb

### **Meeting aims to settle scampi strife.**

380 words  
2 October 1991  
New Zealand Herald  
2  
English  
(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

An urgent meeting will be held in Wellington today to try to sort out the problems which have brought the valuable scampi fishery to a sudden halt.

More than 60 fishermen were laid off yesterday when the **Ministry of Fisheries** declined to renew annual fishing permits for the deep water prawn-like lobster species.

Among suggestions the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, may put forward at the meeting is for a substantial reduction of the catch in the two main fishing areas.

The scampi industry has developed over the past three years into an \$8 million a year export business.

Yesterday Mr Kidd said there were strong concerns from the Federation of Commercial Fishermen, marine scientists and environmental organisations about the recent level of scampi fishing.

These concerns applied not only to the scampi themselves, but to other species which were caught incidentally.

The minister said scampi fishermen called to today's meeting would be asked to consider an annual catch limit of 60 tonnes in the fisheries area around Auckland and 120 tonnes off the central east coast.

He said this represented about half of last year's catch.

But Mr Vaughan Wilkinson, the resource manager for Simunovich Fisheries, which has operated six of the ten permitted scampi trawlers, said the proposed reduction was about a two-thirds cut.

The economics of scampi fishing would be doubtful at that level, he said. Last year Simunovich boats alone had harvested 350 tonnes.

Mr Wilkinson said there was no need for the scampi fishery to be shut down suddenly, as it was not in any danger of imminent collapse.

"In a democracy changes on the scale the minister is proposing should be worked out in an orderly and structured manner.

"It is the failings of his ministry that have brought this set of events where policy is being made at virtual gunpoint," he said.

But yesterday the minister's decisions were applauded by Greenpeace, which with the Maruia Society co-authored a report critical of the development of the scampi industry.

And the Federation of Commercial Fishermen said it expected the fishery would be back in action tomorrow.

The federation's chief executive, Mr Peter Stevens, said it had been working on a management plan.

Document nzhd00020011124dna200hzd

## **Ministry probes fish quota loan.**

478 words

8 June 1991

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The **Ministry of Fisheries** is investigating a \$2 million Japanese loan to three Aucklanders that has been secured against 39 tonnes of snapper quota.

Under the Fisheries Act it is illegal for foreigners to own or to have an interest in a quota.

Auckland's chief fisheries surveillance officer, Mr Rod Chadwick, yesterday sent a report on the deal to Wellington for legal interpretation.

One of the Auckland quota holders, Mr Robert Cobb, said last night that there was no Japanese investment as the money was only borrowed.

"We are not the only people doing it. Most New Zealand fishermen owe money on their quotas and put their quotas up as security."

Mr Cobb said many New Zealand fishermen borrowed from Australian banks while his group had borrowed money from a Japanese bank.

"We have to go overseas to borrow because of the rates. If you want to stay in business the only thing you can do is go overseas."

News of the loans, revealed by the New Zealand Herald, has brought opposing reaction from fishing industry leaders.

The managing director of Sanfords, Mr David Anderson, said he was concerned at the possible implications of the deal.

"If this type of commercial arrangement is allowed to continue we could see a major part of the quota effectively disappear overseas."

The executive secretary of the Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Mr Peter Stevens, said his organisation was against any form of quota ownership or control by foreigners.

"I will be interested to see the Government approach to this. We would be concerned that this sort of action is the thin end of the wedge leading to overseas control of our fisheries."

However, the president of the Fishing Industry Association, Mr Peter Talley, said he was confident that the deal would be cleared by the ministry.

"There is no relationship between a debenture and having an interest in the quota. There is nothing to stop a kiwifruit farmer from Te Puke going to Japan to borrow money."

Mr Talley said that if the deal was ruled out of order it would have repercussions for capital flow into the local fishing industry.

"I don't see anything wrong with in - we have to increase investor appeal, not restrict it."

The two loans in question have been made by the Japanese company Nichimo which specialises in buying and selling marine products. They have been made to Aucklanders Mara Boskovic, Miladan Boskovic and Robert Cobb.

Documents in the High Court at Auckland show one loan for \$1.7 million at 3 per cent interest, secured against 30 tonnes of snapper quota in fisheries management area one (the North-East coast of the North Island).

A second "instrument by way of security" registered with the court shows a \$250,000 loan in which the security is nine tonnes of quota.

Document nzhd00020011124dn68008it



**Net ban among options BEING CONSIDERED BY THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES.**

104 words

23 August 1990

New Zealand Herald

11

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

The banning of nets from particular areas is one option being looked at by **Ministry of Fisheries** staff working with environmental, Maori, recreational and commercial fishing interests on problems associated with the use of sea nets in the Auckland area.

Progress had been made in defining options to tackle the immediate problem, the depletion of reef fish, according to the task force convener, Mr Arthur Hore, of the ministry.

Options being considered include closing areas to set netting, set net construction, mesh size, attendance at nets and restrictions on access to reef species.

Document nzhld00020011128dm8n00b9r

**Government penny-pinching on marine research is blamed for poor forecast of orange roughy stocks.**

675 words  
12 May 1989  
New Zealand Herald  
6  
English  
(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

Government penny-pinching on marine research is being blamed for the apparent collapse of multi-dollar orange roughy stocks.

Details of how far wrong the **Ministry of Fisheries** appears to have been in assessing the long-term viability of the species are only just being released.

\*\*FULL\_TEXT The latest findings suggests catches from the country's biggest orange roughy fishery will have to be cut from more than 30,000 tonnes a year to about 8000.

This is almost certain to lead to a pitched battle between the ministry and the fishing companies which have invested tens of millions of dollars in deepwater trawling and processing equipment.

Not only are people and equipment facing the likelihood of redundancies, but big question marks must hang over the value of the orange roughy quota, which has lately traded at around \$6000 a tonne.

The big changes in roughy stock assessment are also causing ripples of apprehension about the validity of the scientific information in other species.

One thing agreed on by observers from both sides of the argument is that not enough resources have been put into fish stock assessment before decisions on how much quota to allocate have been made.

And one of the main problems for the scientists has been the lack of a dedicated deep-water research vessel, first mooted in the mid 1970's and successively promised in a series of ministry budgets in the mid 1980s.

In its place a handful of dedicated scientists have had to rely on chartering commercial deep-water trawlers to work in depths of up to 1200m where orange roughy are caught.

For several years the resourceful scientists were able to pay for this by offering a fish for charter deal.

But the reforming zeal of a Treasury determined to place a cash value on everything in the country killed this arrangement.

Worse still, Treasury then backed down on a \$6 million promise to supply extra funds to the ministry's research budget so the scientists could legitimately hire the services of a deep-water trawler for research.

What irks so many fishermen is that the resource rentals and other fees they pay each year for access to the fisheries are about twice as much as is spent on research and policing - the balance disappears into the consolidated fund.

When the quota management system was introduced it was touted as a device that would essentially change fishing from a hunting industry to a farming business.

By working out how many fish there were in each species and fast they bred and became part of the adult breeding stock, it was planned to allocate finite amounts of quota so that each species would maintain a viable population.

It has proved difficult and costly getting reliable information on which to make these judgements for the inshore species.

In some species the change from hunting to harvesting is showing signs of success.

Snapper and trevally are two of the more common varieties which appear to be re-establishing their numbers since the quota system was introduced for inshore species in October 1986.

However, studying species which spend their lives in the darkness of the deep-water environment is a much more complex business.

At the depths where orange roughy and other commercially valuable species live it is not possible to tag and release fish for subsequent recapture and comparisons in growth and other biological details.

Complex mathematical models have to be developed from measuring and studying large numbers of fish.

The latest techniques in genetic identification can also be used to try to identify different points of origin and other useful information.

For many species the cost of doing this research may never pay for itself.

At least for orange roughy, which last year earned the country \$169 million in export receipts - the most important species in an industry which earned \$722 million - fishermen argue that the cost of reliable research will be worthwhile.

Document nzhd00020011129dl5c00bhb