New crabbing gear laws from 2 April

Tnverted crab dillies also known as witches' hats have been banned in Oueensland from **1** 2 April 2010.

Fisheries resource manager Mark Lightowler said the ban was in place to combat 'ghostfishing' and reduce entanglement and death of breakdown. non-target marine species.

mesh, which can easily entangle marine easily released unharmed.

Pest fish a threat to **Northern NSW**

species such as turtles, sharks, rays and fish, The phasing out of witches' hats was Fishers should also remember to mark their and it is difficult to release these species" said announced back in December 2008 as part of crab apparatus with an identifying tag bearing weight in their construction and have a tenden-fishing rules for inshore fisheries. cy to drift and become lost. They then contin- A long lead-in period for the ban was put in Individuals should not use a total of more than ue to 'ghost-fish' until they become buried or place to give both suppliers and consumers four items of crabbing apparatus, including

Mr Lightowler said other types of crab pots or Other crabbing apparatus including hoop dil- gear from a boat or from the shore." "Inverted dillies are made of a light gauge dillies allowed fish and unwanted crabs to be lies (sometimes called lift dillies) and crab pots

Mr. Lightowler. Inverted dillies are light- an overhaul in recreational and commercial the owner's surname and address. time to update their crabbing gear.

can still be used.

A northern NSW, continues to put native sonal aquarium. fish populations at risk.

In recent months there have been new reports widespread. The fish, known as the Pearl Cichlid or Pearl of the pest fish being spotted near Dum Dum Eartheater (Geophagus braziliensis), was first on the Tweed River and again at Doon Doon If you catch one, take a photo, freeze it and reported in the areas around Murwillumbah Creek, below Clarie Hall Dam, on a tributary record exactly where you caught it, then call and Uki in late 2008 and is believed to have of the Tweed River.

any combination of crab pots or dillies per person. This applies if you are using crabbing For more information visit

www.deedi.qld.gov.au

popular aquarium fish on the loose in been released into local waterways from a per- These new reports, together with the repeated floods experienced over the last year, have raised fears the cichlid may have become more

I&I NSW on 02 4916 3877

Farewell Jim Diamantaris

he sudden and untimely passing of Mr. Jim Diamantaris of Diamond Fisheries is a blow to the seafood industry that has deeply saddened his family, friends and many colleagues.

Mr. Diamantaris was born in the village of Repanidi on the Greek island of Lemnos in 1935 and was the youngest of five children. At the age of fourteen he was sponsored to come to Australia by the President of the Victorian Fishermens Association, Mr. Theo Marmaras. He arrived by ship at Station Pier, Port Melbourne, in 1950 with a suitcase filled with his few belongings and dreams of a better and brighter future.

Although he came from an island he was too young to have any knowledge or experience with seafood. His first job in Australia was as a oyster shucker. This was the beginning of a very successful career in seafood in the domestic and export sectors.

His specialty was wholesale seafood processing for both the domestic and export markets, particularly scallops and abalone. During the 1980's and 1990's his seafood to Seafood News I could not allow the passing of Tasmania, produced many tonnes of scallops pass without me commenting. and abalone for the export markets. Today the business focusses on servicing major I remember Jim as a young teenager at Greek

Letter To The Editor:



Jim Diamantaris in Indonesia demonstrating to the locals how to fillet shark

processing plant on Flinders Island, such a character as Dimitri (Jim) Diamantaris to

supermarkets and wholesalers nationally. dances and community functions. He used to sit at our table at dances and grace us with his over-A far more personal tribute to Jim is the let- whelming beaming character. He had a great ter which we received from Mr Costas sense of fun and to his last, retained a sparkle of Cosmas a friend and colleague of Jim's. mischief in his eye. He began working at the old Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market in the fifties. He worked extremely hard and lived a very Although I am not now a regular contributor active social life. It certainly was active. He





Tith such smiles, who can resist purchasing seafood from Dimitria (left) and her mother Pepina Paraskevas of "Fish on Sydney" in Coburg. Pepina ho is Egyptian Greek has been in the seafood industry nineen years and has never looked back. Some time ago when afood News spoke to them Dimitria lamented the scarcity of

absolutely full of life. I remember when he used to do the country run serving the retail outlets. He was so open and giving, some- a smile to my face. thing that remained with him to the end. He was much loved by all of his customers. Anna My great sympathy goes out to his wife Mary, Koumpara – told me that he had was a godfather or best man in every country town he Diamantaris served on his country run. Even during his relative short stay in hospital, his unexpected Costa Cosmas. death brought the nurses to tears. Knowing

seafood advertising material available to retail outlets. With womanly ingenuity and taste they have overcome the problem They have designed and printed their own advertising materia Today their shop is decked out with posters, leaflets and point o sale material. In addition we also found Huon's "Winte Recipes" on display for their customers to take

was as warm as toast, loving, enthusiastic and Jim Diamantaris I understand their reaction. These later years I lost social contact with Jim, but the thought of him will always bring

Plafadellis, from ANZ Fisheries his children and grandchildren. Their loss is great as is all who knew of Dimitri (Jim)









Queenscliff seafood feast

Getting bigger by the year









Fishermen John Murdoch and Cliff Rossak from Geelong Victoria preparing a variety of seafood for the BBO. 2 Some of the 15.000 visitors who queued for over an hour to purchase their fresh seafood lunch. 3 Volunteers Ian Miller and Dawn Shirley barbeque garfish. 4 Jenny Best and Kacey Bennett at the Huon marquee were offering their visitors salmon and smiles. Who could efuse such a treat.

More on page 5 SEAFOOD NEWS 1

Illustration: Con Aslanis

Profits up

buyback, profitability in three key \$20.4 million and boat numbers fell by Comonwealth fisheries has improved since between 16 and 40 per cent. the conclusion of the Securing Our Fishing Future structural adjustment package in November 2006.

ment package on the profitability of resulted in an improvement in boat level Commonwealth fisheries, estimates the effects on profitability of the \$149 million fishery concession buyback component of the However, the improvement in profitability Securing Our Fishing Future structural adjustment package. The package was designed to assist fishing businesses to voluntarily exit the industry, after years of low have also contributed to the increased profprofitability, and allow fishing stocks to itability. The report notes the importance of rebuild

Among the fisheries targeted for exit assistance were the northern prawn fishery, the Fisheries buybacks should not be considered eastern tuna and billfish fishery and the stand-alone management tools. Much of Commonwealth trawl and gillnet, hook and what can be achieved through buybacks can trap sectors of the southern and eastern scale- also be achieved through good management fish and shark fishery. Across these key fish- of fisheries resources.

ccording to ABARE's latest report on eries, the report shows that fishery level profthe effects of the fishery entitlement its increased by between \$3.9 million and

Through the removal of less efficient and less profitable vessels, fishery cost structures have changed, so catches are now taken at The report, Impact of the structural adjust- lower cost for all target fisheries. This has profitability.

> cannot be entirely attributed to the buyback. External factors such as changes in prices, fisheries management and stock variability good fishery management in the creation and preservation of fishery profits.

**** **FX46VN** certificate

s of 1 April 2010, all consignments ing documentation attesting that that the A of fish and fish products exported to Vietnam will be required to be which, at the time of production of the prodaccompanied by an FX46VN certificate, issued via EXDOC. Exporters should contact AQIS to have this set up as a default for your products if exporting to Vietnam.

Vietnamese authorities have also requested a separate health certificate be issued for fish and fish products exported to Vietnam for further processing for export to the European Union (EU). AQIS should be in a position to issue this certificate after 31 July 2010. In the interim, any consignments of fish and fish product exported to Vietnam from Australia for further processing, may require support-

SYDNEY FISH MARKET REDEVELOPMENT

A \$40 million redevelopment of the Sydney Fish Market will be undertaken in partnership with the NSW Government, over the next two years. This is subject to the finalisation of a Deed of Agreement with the NSW Government

By the end of 2012, Sydney Fish Market will redevelopment for Sydneysiders". finally be able to present the site in a manner commensurate with the world class quality seafood sold there.

"In short, I'm stoked!" said Grahame Turk, Managing Director of Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd. "This is great news for seafood lovers and tourists. The redevelopment will improve our visitors' experience by providing increased access to the foreshore, improved seating and public amenities, multilevel undercover parking and additional retail and wholesale outlets"

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mation on this requirement, please contact AOIS Canberra. All AQIS registered land based establishments and vessels which undertake processing, as defined in the 'Export Control (Fish and Fish Products) Orders 2005 are eligible

uct, were approved to process and export

fishery products to the EU. For more infor-

to export to Vietnam. Amendments to exporters Approved Arrangements to include new requirements for Vietnam as an export destination may be required. These may be discussed with your local inspector.

Sydney Fish Market congratulated the NSW

Government in seeing the wisdom in co-

investing in the future of one of Sydney's

icons and an integral part of the NSW

"It just wouldn't have happened without

Minister Macdonald's vision, energy and

enthusiasm", said Mr Turk. "He has been a

great advocate of the Market for many years

and has appreciated the importance of this

March's

10 best

3736

2614

2313

2290

1010

767

699

611

599

547

sellers

Species No 32kg

seafood industry.

tish

Blue Grenadier

Warehou Silver

Whiting School

Red Fish

Snapper

Dorry King

Mixed Fish

Squid Arrow

Flathead Tiger lrg

Flathead Tiger sml

Recreational fishing, beyond 2010

helping to shape the future of the recreational to help scope and implement a coordinated fishing industry in Australia.

The paper has been developed by the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee, Mr Burke said he had asked the Fisheries which was established by Mr Burke to provide Research and Development Corporation expert industry advice to the Rudd (FRDC) to work with the advisory committee Government. The committee brings together to coordinate the project and seek co-investexpertise and industry skills from across the ment from state and territory governments country from young leaders to highly experi- around and industry organisations. "We want enced fisheries scientists and managers.

The committee has met with recreational fishers across Australia and consulted on the direc- consistent approach." tions of the draft discussion paper, Recreational by millions of Australians, providing jobs and the long-term" Mr Burke said.

The committee said industry would like to see ational/rfids. better promotion of the importance of recre-

inister for Agriculture, Fisheries and ational fishing and to ensure the industry has a The Government is providing up to \$500,000 miles of the first state of the state of national data collection project for recreational fishing in Australia.

> to build on existing work by the states and territories and community-based recreational fishing organisations and encourage a nationally

Fishing in Australia, 2010 and Beyond. He has also written to the states and territories "Recreational fishing is a vital industry for to begin consultation and has asked for their many regional and rural areas that is enjoyed input on the suggested national framework.

injecting funds into local economies. "The Recreational fishers are urged to contact their Rudd Government will continue to help the local recreational fishing associations and put sector plan ahead to ensure it is sustainable for forward their views on the draft discussion paper, by 30 April 2010. The discussion paper is available at www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/recre-



W A rock lobster industry calls for individually transferable quota system

Mr Moore said the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and the Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC) had written to him establish a quota system.

"The issue of moving to a quota system has tage of the relevant market conditions. floated around for many years, but the industry has been reluctant, or unable, to achieve a con- Both WAFIC and the WRLC have written subsensus, I am buoyed by the fact that commeragreement" said Mr. Moore.

Scientific data has shown that one of Australia's most valuable fisheries is under extreme pressure.

Recent puerulus (juvenile lobster) counts, a reliable indicator of the amount of catch that will be available three to four years in future, has hit a 40-year low and prompted 'damage tem. He expected the initial brunt of these costs control

Western Australia's Fisheries Minister Mr. Norman Moore has given in-principle support to come lobster fishers' proposal to take the industry to tect the long-term sustainability and viability of an individually transferable quota system. the fishery. Mr. Moore conceeds however that these measures do not maximise the economic return of the catch.

Under a quota system, fishers will be allowed a reconfirming their support to immediately predetermined proportion of the catch and wil be able to make individual decisions about when to go fishing in order to take full advan-

missions on how a quota system could occur. cial fishers are finally achieving some form of South Australia and the Tasmanian commercial rock lobster industries already operate a quota system

> Issues such as the season's start and stop dates, pot allocation; and gauge and size restrictions will all be considered.

> The Minister said there would be additional costs in developing and managing a quota systo be borne by the industry.



In Brief

QSIA pleased

ueensland's Seafood Industry Queensland, trawlers also had excellent Association was very pleased with catches. the volume and variety of seafood that was available to consumers in that State The good rains this summer in North for Easter

Bundaberg had good catches of king prawns, located along the coast. banana prawns and tiger prawns. In southern

Easter Bunny

king fish at the same price as their one kilo- Who said there was no Easter bunny.

Queensland also meant there have been good catches of estuary fish like barramundi, Ports all the way from the Gold Coast up and mud crabs. There were also good supthrough Moreton Bay and the Sunshine plies of other fish, like reef fish, tuna and Coast to Tin Can Bay, Hervey Bay and mahi mahi, depending on where you were

R etail seafood buyers at the Melbourne gram. Apparantly there was such a rush on the one kilogram variety that supplies were Kunolesale Fish Market could not the one anogener to the rescue and depleted. Cleanseas came to the rescue and to purchase Cleansea's two kilogram buffet provided them with the two kilogram fish.

A pleasant surprise

Seafoods (Melbourne) a visited. Both Mr. is looking forward to it.

hris Gambrellis, of MC Seafoods was Morrison and Mr. Yung were impressed with pleasently suprised when the the quality of Australian seafood and Chris's ✓ President and CEO of McCains knowledge of seafood. Mr Morrison who Foods Mr. Dale F. Morrison, from Canada visits all of McCains plants worldwide twice and Mr. Steven A Yung, Managing Director, a year, will again be in Australia, either, in Australia and New Zealand paid MC November or December this year and Chris

Good mussels sales say growers & distributors

sel sales have doubled in the past five years, remainder have put their licence into Supplying the markets are three companies abeyance or just stopped farming for the from South Australia, six from Victoria and time being.

Mussel growers and distributors are pleased with the current levels of mussels sales. They say that mus-

12 Month good behaviour bond for illegal net use

42 year old man from Teesdale Court. A Victoria, received a 12 month good The man pleaded guilty to using commercian behaviour bond and was ordered to fishing equipment without authority, Victoria, received a 12 month good The man pleaded guilty to using commercial donate \$400 to a community volunteer attempting to take fish from inland waters organisation after pleading guilty to three without a recreational fishing licence and fisheries offences in the Colac Magistrate's having unattended lines.

Sink your teeth into Gummy sharks

Deple who enjoy a serve of flake and ment action in recent years has led to well-I ing that they are eating a product from recreational fisheries for this species in both a well-managed and sustainable fishery.

Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Michael Hodder, said most of the fish sold as 'flake' are gummy sharks, which Australia.

"Intensive monitoring, research and manage-



chips can do so with confidence know- managed and sustainable commercial and Victorian and Commonwealth waters." Mr Hodder said.

In Victoria, gummy sharks are an important target species for both the commercial and are common in the marine waters of southern recreational fishing sectors and are a vital source of fresh fish to restaurants and markets.



Queenscliff Seafood Feast

he Queenscliff Seafood Feast held annu- on the day was contributed to the Royal considers it as the largest and best seafood Minister for Fisheries. event in Australia.

visitors from the four corners of Victoria. This itors at his stall. vear the attendance was estimated at fifteen thousand people.

tribute the seafood sold at the festival.

This year in addition to the feast there was also The Seafood Show. Its organisers claims that it is the world's only over the ocean seafood trade show.

Perched in line like seagulls on the his toric Queensclif pier were white stalls tent

showcasing new and exciting seafood products or State and Federa Government information booths disemenating information abou seafood.

Fisherie Victoria wa

Matt Ward promoting produc tive, competitive and sustainable fishing. At the AFMA tent Mr. Tim Dawson

was very excited at the excellent response of visitors to the hundreds "We are ple know about

doing to protect

sustainable fishing into the future."

Promoting the International Seafood Health Conference to be held in Melbourne in Royal Childrens Hospital and some of that November was its Chairman Mr. Roy Palmer came from the goodwill of the seafood indusand Mr. John Richards. Ten per cent of all try. sales of posters calenders and recipe books sold

ally at Queenscliff Victoria is getting Children's Hospital fund. Mr. Palmer was also L bigger and better by the year. The the guest speaker that evening at the charity Australian Fisheries Management Authority dinner attended by Mr. Joe Helper Victoria's

The Executive Director of Austrimi Seafoods, Held to raise money for the Royal Children's Mr. Wayne Heenan was offering his services Hospital of Melbourne it attracts thousands of and knowledge about seafood to the many vis-

At the Huon tent, demand for the Salmon horsd'oeuvres was so great that Kacey Bennett, Many local fishers and seafood companies con- Jenny Best, Richard Longden and the other

C

staff were run off their feet trying to keep up.

The flow of visitors along the pier was constant and solid that it had Scott O Talbot working his fingers to the bone trying to keep up with bookings for Charity Restaurant. The end of the historic Queenscliff pier

was transformed into a sophisticated seafood restaurant that opened on Good Friday and stayed open for only a week.

All praise must go to the hundreds of volunteers that make the event possible every year and to whoever had the brilliant idea of parking visitors cars in a paddock outside of the town of Queenscliff. The creation of the temporary railway platform next to the paddock from which isitors board ed the vintage that transported hem into and Queenscliff was a great

the Australian fishing industry and continue introduction and farewell to the Seafood Feast.

This year the Good Friday appeal raised almost fourteen and a half million dollars for the

Please note

Kaliroe is currently on leave. Her recipe column will recommence on her return. We will nowever be publishing other exciting recipes for your enjoyment.

SEAFOOD NEWS 5

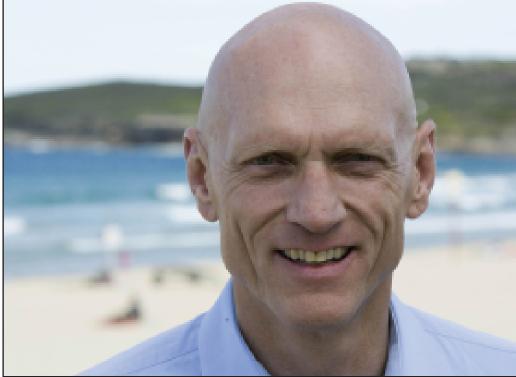
Professor Gra eating the br NON CONTROL Roy Palmer and John Richards promoting the International Seafood Health Conference to be held in Melbourne

there with Mr. Scott O Talbot taking bookings for the Charity Restaurant while his mother Mrs Talbot looks on



information kit bags handed out. very happy be here repre senting AFMA and to let peo

Doha says no to ban



Australia's Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett "Listing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna on Appendix II will help drive better conservation outcomes and management"

ban on the cross border trade of Atlantic Blue fin Tuna that had caused a storm at the 175 nation (CITES) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species at Doha,

Qatar has been settled.

Japan, who is the major consumer of Blue fin Tuna, had indicated from the very begining that it would not abide by any ban on the species.

he contentious issue of placing a Its powerful lobbying was able to convince delegates to the conference not to place the ban. The motion was defeated the 68 against, 20 in favour and 30 abstentions. Japan has opposed the ban because of inaccurate scientific data suggesting that Atlantic Blue fin Tuna numbers are not as bad as the proponents of the ban are suggesting. They feel that the tuna and marine resources should be best regulated under regional authorities, such as the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Maria Damanaki visits Spain

aria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, paid a three-day visit to Spainish cities of Madrid and Vigo to meet with political leaders, industry representatives, shipowners and other stakeholders and gauge their views on a range of issues.

In Madrid, the Commissioner held talks with the Minister for the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Mrs Elena Espinosa Mangana and met representatives from a number of Spanish fishing industry associations and discussed a range of topical issues, including Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform and the future of aquaculture.



(ICCAT) in this case. The ban had been sponsored by Monaco which claimed that since 1957, numbers of the species have fallen by almost 75 percent. The most dramatic drop however is estimated to have occured within the past decade and has been attributed to Japan's demand where raw tuna is used in traditional dishes such as sushi and sashimi. Almost eighty percent of Atlantic blue tuna caught finds its way to Japan.

Because tuna is a migratory species and can not be confined within the borders of a single nation the need for a ban is imperative say its supporters. Other threats come from illegal fishing and the failure of Governments to implement existing safety measures that would guaranty the species sustainability.

Although there seemed to be growing support for the ban it was not to be. Australia voted against the ban. Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett had said Australia would support measures to improve the conservation and recovery of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Mr Garrett said listing of the species on Appendix II of the Convention would enable better accountability and improved fisheries management for the species to ensure sustainability into the future.

"Australia strongly believes that firm and effective fisheries management, including through international fora, offers the best means to secure populations of this species of tuna across the globe. "Listing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna on Appendix II will help drive better conservation outcomes and management of tuna stocks through the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which listing under Appendix I would not achieve.

"Australia believes raising the conservation status of the species as a means to deliver better international fisheries management, is the best way of ensuring sustainable harvest and management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna into the future, rather than simply banning international trade alone.

"Imposing a blanket prohibition on international trade through an Appendix I listing would undermine international fisheries management and cooperation to protect this species, and at the same time allow individual countries to continue to catch Atlantic Bluefin Tuna for domestic consumption.

Australia is proposing that strong measures be taken to protect eight shark species currently exploited on a global scale for their fins and for liver oil products. Many of these sharks can be found in relativly healthy numbers in Australian waters. We will be backing an Appendix II listing for oceanic whitetip, spiny dogfish, porbeagle, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, great hammerhead, sandbar and dusky sharks, which means ongoing take and international trade can continue on a scale that will not be detrimental to the survival of these species."

APFA member to participate in tenth NSILP

att West, the Mackay based prawn farmer at Australian Prawn Farms and member of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association (APFA) will be one of the participants in the 10th National Seafood Industry Leadership Program (NSILP).

Matt, who has been in the industry for the past nine years holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Science with Honours in Aquaculture, and is a pivotal member of the APFA Research and Development committee. He also helps to run what may be the only aquaculture farm in Australia with ISO14001 accreditation.

The NSILP, which is in its 10th year, aims to develop new leaders for the seafood industry. The highly competitive program has this year selected 18 participants, with Mr West being one

of them.

"It is evident that we have people who aspire to lead their industry into a sustainable and productive future, and whose impact may be felt from the small business level, through to influencing federal decision making. This makes for a very dynamic and complex process for the participants ,this is not easy, but leadership isn't easy," Ms Briggs said.

Participants will attend three residential workshops over six months, learning how to apply their skills to a wide variety of areas, including involvement in regional development, industry association boards, government decision making, marine research initiatives and effective business management.



Sydney Fish Markets Manag-Director ing, Grahame Turk said Sydney Fish Market has been a proud sponsor of the National Seafood Indus-Leadership trv Program since its inception and is proud to be involved in the program onece again in 2010.

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Fisheries

The Commissioner's itinerary in Vigo included a visit to see the Community Fisheries Control Agency at work, a tour of Intermares - a vessel built to disseminate information and provide practical on-board training in a broad range of subjects - a visit to a shipowners' cooperative and an official dinner with ministries of Galicia. On Saturday the Commissioner took a tour local shellfish farms and processing facilities.

"Today I am visiting Vigo, the official seat of the Community Fisheries Control Agency whose activities fall under my remit as Commissioner. It is a priority to visit the agency as one of my first activites as European Commissioner at the beginning of my mandate, because our common fisheries policy will only work if we have effective implementation and a well functioning Europe wide system of control and inspections.

Maria Damanaki is from Greece has been a member of the Greek Parliament for many years.

Funded by the Fisheries search and Development Corporation (FRDC) and

sponsored by the

Sydney Fish Market (SFM), the NSILP commenced on March 30th, in Hobart and will conclude with the graduation ceremony in September 2010 in Canberra.

Ms. Jill Briggs, from Rural Training Initiatives and Manager of the NSILP, believes the program provides essential skill development and encourages program participants to implement leadership change at all levels of the seafood industry

Matt West, one of the participants in the 10th National Seafood Industry Leadership Program (NSILP)

"This important program is vital

for the growth and success of our industry as it provides a valuable pathway for our upcoming leaders to develop and nurture the necessary skills so that they may lead our industry into the future," Mr Turk said.

Further information about the program can be obtained by contacting Jill Briggs on 02 60357284 or 0409 455 710, or via email at jill@ruraltraininginitiatives.com.au

APRIL 2010



The Australian fishing industry had been characterised by exporting high value products, such as prawns and lobsters

Fall in Australian fisheries production

that the gross value of Australian fisheries production, over the course of this mestic fishing industry this cements a decade, has declined by around 30 per cent in real terms.

ABARE's Fisheries Manager, Robert Curtotti, said that the decline followed the sharp appreciation of the Australian dollar and changing trends in world fisheries production and trade. As a result, the real value of Australian fisheries exports has declined by 44 per cent since 2000-01.

۲

"In 2007-08, Australia became a net importer of seafood products in value terms for the first time," Mr Curtotti said.

George Kailis, Professor of Management at the University of Notre Dame in Western Australia, outlined future trends for the domestic fishing industry.

Professor Kailis said that since the 1970s, the Australian fishing industry had been characterised by exporting high value products, such as prawns and lobsters, while imports, although higher in volume, remained lower in value.

"However, in 2007-08 a key cross-over event

elegates at the ABARE Outlook con- occurred when both the volume and the value ference held in Canberra were told of imports exceeded that of Australian production," Professor Kailis said. "For the dolong-term shift towards domestic markets and consumers," he said.

> Ewan Colquhoun, Director of agribusiness and resources consultancy, Ridge Partners, said the fishing industry should have the opportunity to better inform the decision-making process, and that there was a need for targeted research and development.

> "Trade-offs in how marine resources are used are necessary, and research and development can help resolve these trade-offs," Mr Colquhoun said.

> Executive Director of Recfishwest, Frank Prokop, highlighted to delegates the benefits of recreational fishing and its role in Australian society. "Recreational fishing is a sizeable industry that provides significant health benefits and positive family activity opportunities," Mr Prokop said.

Mr Prokop said the future of the sector will require an ongoing focus on responsible and sustainable fishing in which anglers have a key role to play.

Victorian mussels growing stronger

ictoria's Port Phillip Bay's once struggling mussel industry is nearing full recovery with this year's harvest expected to produce approximately 500 tonne of mussels. This figure is expected to double next year.

The recovery has been attributed to the successful collaborative research program between Government and industry. The Victorian Minister Responsible for Fisheries, Mr. Joe Helper said "without the collaborative investment, the bay's mussel farming industry would probably be nonviable by now."

Funded jointly by the Brumby Government's \$205 million Future Farming Strategy and industry, the program involved the development of a small state-of-the-art bivalve shellfish hatchery and a production and selective breeding research program.

Mr Helper said before the hatchery was established, Victorian mussel harvest had fallen dramatically because of poor availability of wild spat (baby mussels) in Port Phillip Bay.

The shortage of spat is thought to have been due to the impacts of drought, exotic marine species and other environmental factors.

A joint research and development agreement was developed between Government and industry to

start a hatchery-based mussel breeding program at the Department of Primary Industries' Queenscliff research facility to address the shortage.

After some initial difficulties were overcome, researchers and employees from the mussel industry successfully produced spat at the Queenscliff hatchery. They are now looking at ways to utilise new technology to expand what the hatchery can produce.

Mussel farmer, Lance Wiffen who runs Sea Bounty, the only Organically Certified Mussel growing company in Victoria, believes the industry can recover to its previous level within two years. "It's fantastic to finally see a big bright light at the end of a long tunnel," Mr Wiffen said. The idea of a hatchery was put to the Government by Mr. Wiffen who also convinced a number of other growers to participate in the project.

State Parliament Member for Bellarine, Lisa Neville, said it was fantastic to see the bright outlook from an industry that had been doing it tough. "Aquaculture is such an important part of the Bellarine region and the mussel industry has faced some bleak times. However, through industry working with the Brumby Labor Government, the horizon is much brighter which can only be a good thing for the Bellarine" Ms Neville said.



\$38 million development for Queenscliff Harbour

ohn Brumby, the Premier of Victoria last month officially opened the new Queenscliff Harbour redevelopment. "The redevelopment has secured the future of the Queenscliff Harbour as a working commercial fishing harbour.

The Harbour was developed under a public/private partnership between Parks Victoria and Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd at a cost of \$38million. The Victorian Government contributed \$5 million to the redevelopment of the harbour with the remainder \$33 million in public sector investment.



The Premier of Victoria, Mr John Brumby

The redevelopment includes an expanded safe harbour, improved environmental protection, 24-hour public access to the harbour perimeter, an expanded marine servicing area, improved boat sewage pump out and fuelling facilities, the latest travel lift technology and a working port for the commercial fishing and charter vessel fleets.

Lance Wiffen (left) from Sea Bounty and John Mercer from Fisheries Victoria examine mature mussel ropes and hatchery produced mussel spat.



Missed an issue of Seafood News? Visit our website www.seafoodnews.com.au