

Fishers receive a pat on the back

A compliance operation conducted over the June long weekend in south west NSW has indicated that fishers are starting to get the message when it comes to complying with fishing rules and regulations, the Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan said.

"More than 850 fishers were checked by fisheries officers in south west NSW to ensure they were following the rules," Minister Whan said.

"There was a significant improvement in the compliance rate during this operation compared to the 2009 June long weekend results, which is particularly pleasing. Despite the positive results, there were still a number of fishers who were found to be breaching the rules with 26 penalty notices issued over the weekend.

"Penalty infringements ranging from \$100 to \$500 were issued for a variety of offences including failure to hold a fishing licence, fishing in closed areas, illegal use of fishing equipment and possession of undersized fish. A range of fish and equipment were also seized from the lower Murray River between Boundary Bend and Wood Wood including 21 hoop nets and a number of illegal fish traps."

Industry & Investment NSW Fisheries Compliance Director, Glenn Tritton said fish-

eries officers targeted Murray crayfish and trout fishing activity during the compliance operation. "Overall, most people checked fishing for Murray crayfish and trout, were found to be doing the right thing, however fisheries officers did seize 26 Murray crayfish from the Swan Hill area that were either undersized or females carrying eggs," Mr Tritton said.

"The fishing season for Murray crayfish is confined to the period from May to August each year to avoid the over-fishing of this valued native species, while trout rivers and streams are closed following the June long weekend until the October long weekend in NSW. "Murray crayfish are very slow growing and it is extremely important that fishers comply with the rules to aid in the long term sustainability of the species.

"Crayfish measuring devices and other advisory material are freely available from Industry & Investment NSW fisheries offices and most tackle outlets to assist fishers adhere to the rules."

A summary of the recreational fishing rules are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries, and in the 2010 NSW Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide.

The free guides are available from Industry & Investment NSW offices, and fishing licence agents, as well as bait and tackle shops.

No agreement at Agadir



Australia's Environment Protection Minister, Peter Garrett

Environment Protection Minister, Peter Garrett, said the door was now open for the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to grasp a unique opportunity for genuine renewal and reform following its annual meeting in Agadir, Morocco.

Minister Garrett said he welcomed the outcomes of the meeting, which made progress on conservation initiatives and importantly did not proceed with a proposal by the Chair which would have ended the moratorium on commercial whaling.

The proposal by Mr. Cristian Maqueira, chairman of the International whaling Commission, was to end the 24 year moratorium on commercial whaling in exchange by Japan, Iceland and Norway reducing the number of whales they kill.

The proposal was immediately condemned by pro and anti whaling nations. Japan adopted an inflexible position and threatened to withdraw from the conference if no progress was made in easing the ban. Together with Iceland and Norway, Japan saw the proposal as restrictive while anti whaling nations saw it as not providing enough protection.

Most participating countries have abided by the moratorium with the exception of Iceland, Norway and Japan. Japan uses a legal loophole

to carry out what it calls "lethal research" to kill almost 2000 whales a year.

A proposal to allow Japan to kill about 120 whales per annum in its coastal waters in exchange for a 50% reduction of its kill quota over a period of 10 years was backed by a number of anti whaling countries including Australia's closest ally, New Zealand. This left Australia as the only country advocating a hard line position for a tighter moratorium.

Under the proposal it is estimated that between 4,000 and 18,000 whales can be saved over the next 10 years.

The conference has been dogged by allegations of vote buying by the richer countries of the IWC by bribing the poorer members. Approximately 17 nations had their voting rights suspended because they had not paid their annual fees.

Former Beatle, Sir Paul McCartney, has been very vocal in his opposition to re-legalise whale killing. The ex Beatle has urged the Norwegian Government not to lift the ban and to protect the sea-faring creatures.

"Its time to end the cruel slaughter of whales and leave these magnificent creatures alone" said Sir Paul.



From Left: Lou Mesimeris, Fotis Dimitrellos, Jim Kouyioumtzis, George Apostolou, George Lekakis and George Tsolakis.

The Poseidon Angling Club, after a two day fishing trip to Portland, Western Victoria, had its hands full of blue fin tuna. These gentlemen are not commercial fishers but amateurs, who not only enjoy eating fresh seafood but also enjoy catching it. Long time fisherman and current Victorian Multicultural Commission chairperson Mr. George Lekakis, second from right, said the tuna were caught within an hour and attributes the Club's successful catch to the abundance of Blue Fin Tuna in Portland. Mr. Lekakis is an ardent supporter of the sustainable management of our fisheries.

New fee system in WA

The Western Australian Government will replace the existing cost recovery model of fee setting for Western Australia's commercial fishing sector with a new five per cent access fee from July 1, 2010.

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore said the new fee arrangements followed extensive consultation with the industry's peak body, the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC).

"Commercial fishers will pay an access fee of five per cent of the gross value of production (GVP) rather than fees based on cost recovery for bigger fisheries and a mix of fees and charges for other fisheries," Mr Moore said.

The net financial effect after the change from cost recovery to an access fee is largely unchanged with industry paying about \$18

million per annum to the State Government. Under the new arrangements, the industry retains the right to ask the Government to provide additional services on a cost recovery basis.

A review of the existing fee setting arrangements that began in early 2009 revealed the limitations and inequities of the existing cost recovery model.

"The review showed that some fishers paid less than one per cent of GVP while others paid more than 10 per cent. Concerns were also raised about the strength of existing rights for commercial fishers.

"The new fee structure will also provide more flexibility for the department to direct resources, such as research and compliance activities, to those fisheries most at risk.

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July 2010 Vol. 8 - No. 6



Email: info@seafoodnews.com.au www.seafoodnews.com.au

ISSN 1834 - 4399

Expensive xmas day	No agreement at Agadir	The great crab escape	Maritime safety reform	International Seafood & Health Conference
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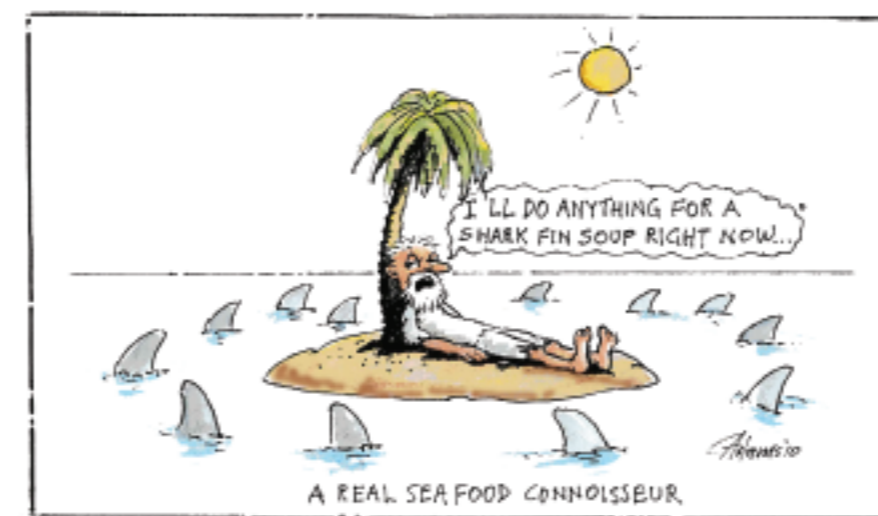


Is this the **NEW** site?

Will this inner City construction site be where the "centre" of Melbourne's seafood industry be located in the near future? From all accounts it would seem that the majority of wholesalers that are currently at the present site of the Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market (MWF) will be relocating here. The ones that have chosen to go their own way have already set up premises elsewhere. If it turns out that this is the final resting spot of what is today known as the

Melbourne Wholesale Fish Market it is a far better position than what its previous position was removed to be. This new position is not far from the current MWF location. We are adopting a wait and see attitude on this matter as we do not want to misinform anyone. We will endeavour to inform our readers of the final outcome.

The perfect prawn



After 10 years of careful breeding and research, scientists have developed what could be the world's most perfect prawn.

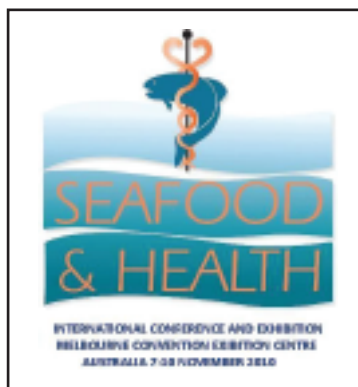
CSIRO scientists and the prawn industry have bred an improved Black Tiger prawn which is producing record yields in aquaculture farms and winning awards.

So good are these prawns that they have won five gold medals at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in the past two years, including 'Champion of Show', the highest award possible.

The scientists from CSIRO's Food Futures Flagship have used DNA technology to ensure the breeding program captures the very best Black Tiger prawn stocks that nature can provide and boost the performance of stocks each breeding season.

With about 50 per cent of all prawns sold in Australia currently imported from countries such as China and Vietnam, developing an Australian prawn that breeds in captivity and is completely sustainable is a major gain for both the local prawn industry and consumers wanting to buy Australian seafood.

Continued on page 2



International Seafood & Health Conference The Wonders and Opportunities of Our Oceans Exhibition

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Australian Governments urged to boost seafood consumption to improve public health



Australian Governments have been urged to encourage greater consumption of seafood to avoid a looming "epidemic" of mental ill health and other brain disorders. This follows a warning from the world's foremost authorities in neuroscience and nutrition, meeting in London recently, that western nations will suffer "unthinkable health, social and fiscal consequences" unless they increase consumption of DHA, an Omega-3 oil found most abundantly in seafood.

International Seafood & Health Conference keynote speaker, Professor Michael Crawford, said, "We need to see action at the most fun-

damental level to circumvent the mental health epidemic facing our society. The issue must be addressed in school-level education; maternal and infant nutrition; food, agricultural and fisheries policies; and in moving to adequately address river, estuarine and coastal pollution. We estimate that the bulk of the mental health issues could potentially be addressed and the impending rise in disorders reversed through adequate nutrition and we urge all parties to come together in tackling this most serious of problems. The financial, social and political issues for the function of society and peace demand the highest priority be given to this issue

WE WELCOME MORE HIGH PROFILE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Robert Eugene Anderson, MD, PhD is the Dean McGee Professor of Ophthalmology and George Lynn Cross Research Professor. He holds faculty appointments in the Departments of Ophthalmology, Cell Biology, Geriatrics, and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and is Director of Research in the Department of Ophthalmology and the Dean McGee Eye Institute. His re-

search over the past 40 years has concentrated on the role of omega-3 fatty acids in the retina. His laboratory was the first to demonstrate the essentiality of omega-3 fatty acids in retinal function. Most recently he discovered that the biosynthetic step catalyzed by the protein that is mutated in Stargardt Disease, a juvenile form of macular degeneration, is the elongation of very long chain omega-3 and omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids.



Dr. Joseph R. Hibbeln, M.D is Acting Chief, Section of Nutritional Neurochemistry in the Laboratory of Membrane Biophysics and Biochemistry at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Hibbeln originated the field of omega-3 fatty acids in depressive and aggressive disorders and has contributed more than 75 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

haviours among the children. He is a co-author of the US Food and Drug's recent evaluation that the benefits of seafood during pregnancy outweigh the risks of typical methyl mercury exposure. He participated in developing American Psychiatric Association treatment recommendations by the for omega-3 fatty acids in 2006. His interests have included the cross-national comparisons of seafood consumption to rates of psychiatric illnesses, epidemiological comparisons with in countries, depletion of omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy as a reversible cause of depressions associated with pregnancy

His interests include the benefits of fish consumption during pregnancy in supporting higher IQ among and more optimal social be-



Dr. C. Leigh Broadhurst, Ph.D. is an analytical and field research geochemist at the Environmental Management and By-Products Utilization Laboratory, Animal and Natural Resources Institute, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, MD. Her research publications span scientific fields from high temperature magmatic simulations to the origin of type 2 diabetes. Dr. Broadhurst currently works on phytoremediation and phytomining of

Ni, Zn, Cd and Mn and the health and environmental effects of heavy metals in the environment. In addition, she participates in a cross-disciplinary scientific collaboration which investigates the impact of brain-specific nutrition on the origin of modern human intelligence. Dr. Broadhurst has also been an author, lecturer and consultant in the natural products industry for 18 years, with a special emphasis on long-chain polyunsaturated fats.



Dr Felice Jacka is an NH&MRC Post Doctoral Research Fellow. She has been with The University of Melbourne since 2002, working on collaborative projects between the divisions of psychiatry and epidemiology within the University's Department of Clinical and Biomedical Sciences, based in Geelong, Australia. In 2004, she was awarded an Ian Scott Fellowship to undertake a full-time PhD with the University of Melbourne, which was completed in October 2008. In 2006, she was awarded a highly competitive five-year National Health and Medical Research Council grant to examine whether diet and/or physical activity and exercise predict the onset, relapse, or remission of depressive and/or anxiety disorders over time.

etary magnesium in depression (2009). Results from her PhD study were published in one of the top scientific journals in psychiatry research: The American Journal of Psychiatry. Her continuing research focuses on the development of the evidence base concerning the role of diet quality in both depression and anxiety ,a research field that has previously received scant attention.

Dr. Felice Jacka has published two of the first articles worldwide concerning the association between diet and depression in both adolescents and adults (2010), and the first article to report a role for di-

She has a number of ongoing collaborations with research groups in both Norway and Brazil, as well as other institutions in Australia, with a focus on the nexus between psychiatry and public health. Her ongoing research interests primarily focus on the role that lifestyle factors play in both depressive and anxiety disorders. With a background in psychology and a strong interest in nutrition and public health, she hopes that her work will support a preventative approach to mental illness and will lead to better outcomes for those affected by these illnesses.

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Appointment for shark campaigner



Ms. Valerie Taylor appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

The shark expert, Valerie Taylor, who for fifty years has fought for the protection of the great white shark and the grey nurse, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

Ms. Taylor also wants to see lions, the potato cod and marine turtles also protected. She has also fought for the conservation of habitats including the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef Marine Park in Western Australia.

in the past Valerie and husband Ron, wrangled sharks for Hollywood movies such as Orca, and Jaws.

The hugely successful Jaws unfortunately presented the image of the shark as a mindless killer. This resulted in the senseless killing of thousands of sharks. Valerie has been trying for years to reverse this negative image of one of the oceans most vicious predators and at the same time one of the most misunderstood creatures.

Call for public comment

Western Australia's Fisheries Minister, Mr. Norman Moore has called for public comment on a discussion paper detailing the framework for a proposed new Act of Parliament to manage the State's fisheries and other aquatic biological resources.

The proposed Act will replace the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA) and the Pearling Act 1990, establishing the basis for a 'sea change' in the management of aquatic biological resources, fisheries, and their environment.

Mr Moore said significant pressures had developed in Western Australia's fisheries and the aquatic environment, since the current (FRMA) came into force 16 years ago.

"There is a critical need to provide an effective legal framework, which can meet the sustainability challenges posed by WA's marine and freshwater environments and better integrate our approach across government and industry" said Mr. Moore.

The Minister believes that with WA's population

expanding, demand for natural resources was increasing and it was vital aquatic ecosystems were appropriately managed and protected. A more integrated approach, with sufficient flexibility, will be needed to meet the challenges ahead

"Discussion and feedback about how we move forward, to meet the challenges of the future, will be vital to ensuring we have a sustainable future for our valued living aquatic resources and I invite public submissions on the framework presented" Mr. Moore said.

Submissions close on July 26, 2010. After analysis, a final proposal for the new Act will be developed. Subject to State Cabinet approval, a draft Bill will be prepared and further public input will then be sought on the detailed content of the new Act.

Details about how to lodge a submission can be found on the department's website at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au>, where you can also read or download a copy of 'A Sea Change for Aquatic Sustainability' - Fisheries Occasional Paper 79.

Speak up for seafood

The President of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, (QSIA), Mr. Michael Gardner is calling on the Federal and State Governments to "speak up for seafood" so as to end public confusion over the sustainability of the resource and at the same time ensure long-term security of supply.

According to Mr. Gardner the "environment industry" was attacking commercial fishing as a means of fund-raising and said it was time for governments to publicly defend their fisheries management practices.

"It's high time both the Australian and Queensland Governments stepped forward, defended their fisheries management regimes and stated unequivocally that the principle of stock sus-

tainability is the foundation stone of fisheries management.

"Australia in general, and Queensland in particular, have implemented world's best practice fisheries management regimes that ensure major fisheries are sustainable Mr Gardner said. As things stand, it's easy for the general public to confuse government silence with tacit admission and for industry to mistake stoicism for cowardice. Governments need to step forward and speak up for fisheries, stating clearly that fisheries are sustainable.

Mr Gardner has accused environmental lobby of using examples of overseas fisheries combined with exaggeration and emotion to create the impression that Australian fisheries are in crisis. "This just isn't so" said Mr. Gardner.

Maritime safety reform

The Commonwealth Government has committed funding for the 2010/2011 financial year for maritime safety reform.

Australia has eight different administrations regulating commercial vessel safety in Australian waters (the Australian Government, six States and the Northern Territory (NT)). Maritime reform is intended to replace these systems with one national maritime safety regulatory system for all commercial vessels which will establish and maintain national uniformity in safety standards, regulation and administration.

A National Partnership Agreement (NPA) between the Commonwealth and all State governments will formalise the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) decision. Negotiations have commenced on the NPA, which will detail the mechanisms under which the national system for commercial vessels will operate. Details of how commercial vessel services will be de-

livered are being determined collaboratively by AMSA and the States and Territory maritime agencies.

The funds will support work being currently undertaken by AMSA in particular:

- 1 Rewrite of the Commonwealth Navigation Act 1912 incorporating amendments necessary to create a national maritime safety regulatory system for commercial vessels;
- 2 Transfer of National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) functions to the national regulator by July 2011;
- 3 Consultations with state/NT maritime agencies, NMSC, industry and the general public to refine the operation of the national system; and
- 4 Investigating options for a national database for commercial vessels.

To participate in the development of maritime reforms and to stay up to date with progress, please provide your email address to: maritimereform@amsa.gov.au.

Barra cheats beware!

"We can prove it", is the message from Barramundi Farmers' president Marty Phillips when talking about where barramundi comes from.

Mr Phillips was releasing results from new DNA tests for imported barramundi. The research results showed that there are significant and identifiable genetic differences between Asian fish and the Australian native fish that will show up in analysis.

"We can now test to make sure that consumers get what they pay for," Mr Phillips said.

Recently research by Associate Professor Dean Jerry from the James Cook University supported by the Australian Barramundi industry and the Seafood Research Centre, said it is now feasible to genetically identify fish that come from Asia, and not Australia.

"Asian and Australian fish are definitely genetically different" said Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Phillips considers the differentiation important because Australia consumers are prepared to pay nearly double the

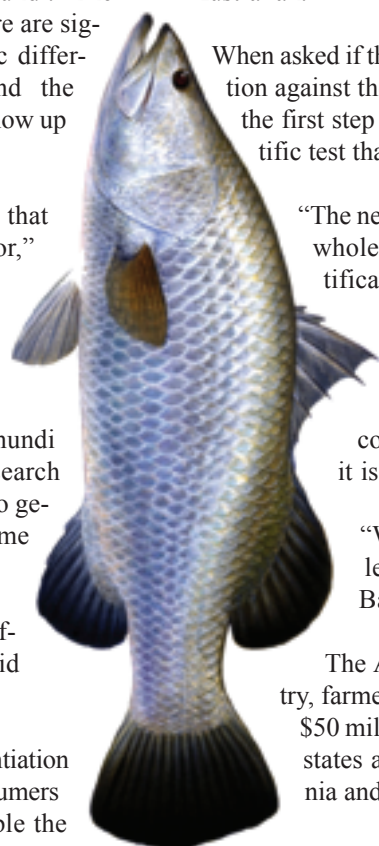
price for Australian produce compared to imported product. Australian Barramundi is on just about every menu in tropical tourist Australia. This is because it is fresh, sustainable and premium quality. Consumers suffer if lower quality imported product is substituted for Australian.

When asked if the industry intended taking action against the substitutes, Mr Phillips said the first step has been to establish a scientific test that left the issue beyond doubt.

"The next step is to inform sellers and wholesalers that we can test scientifically to confirm whether it is Australian. We do not think there is a huge amount of fraud, but we can now properly and scientifically test to confirm origins when we think it is necessary," Mr Phillips said.

"We do not have a major problem, but perhaps any potential Barra cheats need to beware."

The Australian Barramundi industry, farmed and wild take is worth over \$50 million and employs people in all states and Territories except Tasmania and the ACT.



European Commission closes the purse seine fishery

Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries decided to close the bluefin tuna fishery to purse seiners in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic, due to the exhaustion of the quotas allocated to them.

France, Greece and Spain have been informed of this decision which became effective as of the ninth of June, or earlier if the Member States concerned, have in the meantime, decided to close the fisheries for all vessels still today. The closure of the purse seine fishery is necessary to protect the fragile stock of bluefin tuna and to ensure its recovery as envisaged by the recovery plan of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). The Commission has declared a zero tolerance approach towards overfishing and will take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance across the board



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