

Hefty fine for Melbourne man

A 31 year old Melbourne man has been convicted and fined \$1000 after Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Fisheries Officers detected him with eight times the legal catch limit of pipis at Venus Bay on New Year's Eve 2011.

He was in possession of 17 litres of pipis and did not produce a valid recreational fishing licence to an authorised officer for inspection, within the specified time as requested.

The interception by the of-



ficers was part of the state-wide compliance operation, codenamed 'Abyss', which focussed on the intertidal zone and the fishing restrictions that apply to the zone.

The intertidal zone is defined as the strip of land from the high tide mark to where the water is at least two metres deep at any given time.

Acting Regional Fisheries Officer Chris Angwin said officers monitored activity at Venus Bay, especially during the periods when large numbers of visitors were expected.

"People found to be breaching the regulations are dealt with by official warnings, infringements or possible court attendance, depending on the circumstances."



The future looks bright for the seafood industry if the above photograph is any indication to go by. On a cold Melbourne morning this group of young entrepreneurs was enjoying a cup of warm coffee and a conversation relevant to their age. L to R. Tony Karamaloudis, Paul Mantzouranis, Michael Patakis, Theo Patsiotis and last but not least Terry Arhon.

Victorian Shadow Treasurer condemns new fines for boaters

The Victorian Shadow Treasurer Mr. Tim Pallas says that the Napthine Government is propping its budget by "slugging Victorian boaters with 93 new and increased fees".

Mr Pallas said Opposition analysis of the Napthine Government's new and increased

boating fees and fines showed there are now 33 new increases in fines and 60 new fines.

A small sample of the fines itemised by Mr. Pallas are:

The fine for operating an unregistered ves-

sel or vessel not exempt from registration has increased from \$147 to \$704 – 379%

Being an owner of a commercially operated vessel, operate the vessel, or cause or allow the vessel to be operated, without a safe construction certificate (in the case of a natural person) \$1,408.

Tassal wins two TSIC awards

Tasmanian salmon producer Tassal has won two Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council awards.

The Business Award which is presented to a seafood business that employs more than 10 people full-time that demonstrates business growth, innovation, excellence in product, service and marketing and that has contributed towards a positive future for the seafood industry.

The Environmental Stewardship Award was presented to Tassal for leadership, commitment and innovation that contributed substantially to improving environmental stewardship / sustainability in the seafood industry.

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The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon Australia's new Fisheries Minister

Australia's new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is Joel Fitzgibbon the Federal Member for Hunter. Mr. Fitzgibbon replaces Senator Joe Ludwig, a strong supporter of Julia Gillard, who resigned following her ballot loss to The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

Mr. Fitzgibbon was first elected to the House of Representatives in March of 1996 to represent the Hunter electorate in New South Wales.

He served as Minister for Defence in the first Rudd Government between December 2007 and June 2009. Following his re-election in the 2010 Federal election, Mr Fitzgibbon was elected by the Labor Caucus as Chief Government Whip



The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon the new Federal Minister for Fisheries

and served in this position until May 2013. Mr Fitzgibbon was born in Bellingen, NSW, in 1962.

He attended Maitland Marist Brothers and St Patrick's Primary, Cessnock. After leaving high school Mr Fitzgibbon trained as an auto-electrician and ran his own business for more than ten years. In addition to his trade qualifications Mr Fitzgibbon holds a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Newcastle.

"The Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry sectors are critical to Australia's future economic success and particularly critical to so many regional economies. I look forward to working with the many stakeholders to make this industry stronger and to position Australia to take advantage of our unique position close to Asia and rich in natural resources" said Mr. Fitzgibbon

Australia/Japan relationship more than whale issue

Foreign Minister Bob Carr has expressed concerns that existing differences between Australia and Japans whaling policy do not spill into other areas of the two countries relationship.

Senator Carr has said that the relationship between the two countries is more than the whale issue.

While some say that Japan's scientific programme to catch 850 mink whales in the Southern Ocean yearly will not endanger the stock others view the programme as a parody of science.

Customs: From A Chinese perspective

The Customs and Excise Studies Centre, in conjunction with the ACT Exporters' Network and the Export Council of Australia, recently ran a webinar on Exporting to China.

It was an opportunity for Australian Exporters to hear an insider's view on the Chinese Customs Service from Dr Li Li, Associate Professor

at the Shanghai Customs Institute.

The Shanghai Customs Institute is the only body in China that focuses on educating China's Customs officials.

In 2011, Dr Li Li was promoted to an associated professor at Shanghai Customs College, and she is currently

the youngest associated professor at the college. At the same time, she has published a number of books.

She has also been appointed as a Commissioner of the National Customs Origin Supervision Technique Committee, and took part in FTA negotiations with ASEAN.

Αφροδίτη Τρουπιώτη
Δικηγόρος Ελλάδας
G Zindilis Lawyers

Με πείρα και διαρκή παρουσία 26 χρόνων στα Ελληνικά Δικαστήρια και Δημόσιες Υπηρεσίες αναλαμβάνουμε όλες τις ναυτικές υποθέσεις στην Ελλάδα.

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Christopher Collins leaves VRFish

After six and a half years at the helm of VRFish as its Executive Officer Christopher Collins is departing the organisation and its 721,000 members.

During his time there Chris has seen a better alignment and a coming together of recreational fishers and an improved relationship and mutual respect between the recreationalists and their "cousins" from the commercial sector.

"In essence both recreational and commercial fishers co-habit the same space and face the same issues. Both share a love for fishing, both recognise that in order for the industry to continue to grow it needs healthy

sustainable fisheries with good access, good infrastructure and good management" said Chris.

He recently attended the Australian conference of the International Union Conservation of Nature (IUCN) that dealt with marine Parks where he gave a paper, from a recreational point of view to an audience of over three hundred delegates.

The conference which was sponsored by Parks Victoria. The conference did not invite



Christopher Collins departing VRFish

representatives from the recreational and commercial sectors to attend.

When Chris heard about it he volunteered to attend and found he was the only representative from the recreational sector speaking to an audience whose aim is to keep recreational and commercial fishers out of the marine parks.

There was no one representing the commercial sector at the conference.

He challenged his audience to provide proof where in the world did recreational fishers contributed to the extinction of a single fish species, something they were unable to do.

"Claims made by advocates of marine parks need to be challenged by commercial and

recreational fishers" said Chris. He sincerely believes that the Victorian commercial sector is very well looked after by the present management of Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV). Better communication and discussions needs to be developed between agencies at state and Federal levels. This was pointed out in the Borthwick Review released in December 2012.

The principal source of funding for VRFish comes from the recreational fishing licences. A lack of funding to VRFish and SIV has hampered the two organisations ability to counter arguments put forward by different environmental organisations who have much more money at their disposal and are better able to propagate their agendas.

Although he is leaving VRFish he is not abandoning fishing and plans to act in a consulting capacity to the recreational and commercial sectors, a space where he can best contribute.

Statutory Management Plan for Torres Strait Fin Fishery

At a meeting with the Torres Strait Regional Authority and before resigning as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator Joe Ludwig, announced that the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery became the first wholly traditionally owned commercial fishery in Australia to have a Statutory Management Plan, that will give greater certainty to fishers and the community.

"This Plan will give Torres Strait communities greater certainty about future access to fish resources and more opportunity to develop their fishing inter-

ests," said former Minister Ludwig.

Fishing has been and will continue to be a vital source of food, income and culture in the Torres Strait and will sustain the traditional way of life while at the same time promotes economic development in the Torres Strait. This will provide greater employment opportunities in the region.

The Plan supports participation in the fishery by non-traditional inhabitants through leasing arrangements.

Upgrade to navigational aids

The Victorian Minister for Ports Mr. David Hodgett has announced the completion of upgrades to navigational aids along the Aurora Channel in the Gippsland Lakes

The \$113,500 project included installation of the latest synchronised lighting technology along the channel.

The Aurora Channel is a very popular channel for recreational vessels accessing Bunga Arm, Steamer Landing and Ocean Grange. The new synchronised

lighting will make it easier for them.

Gippsland Ports CEO Nick Murray said the previous navigation aids were in poor condition and lighting for night navigation was recommended as part of an external audit.

The project was jointly funded through the Coalition Government's Boating Safety and Facilities Grant with a contribution of \$43,723 and Gippsland Ports' contribution of \$69,777.



Mini casserole with Sicilian flavours

I am on Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf of New Zealand, located about 17.7 km from Auckland. My friends have kayaks and go fishing. They catch mainly snapper off the beach where they live, but if they go to some of the other bays they catch John Dory, Kingfish and Hapuka.

In their kitchen they have some colourful, enamelled, cast-iron mini "casseroles" or "Dutch ovens" and I love them.

They are perfect for bringing to the table straight from the oven so do tell your guests to be ultra careful when they eat from them.

Also protect your table with mats.

Use any fish that is in season. Boneless fish like fillets is best for mini casseroles or fish cutlets that have a large central bone (for example snapper or mackerel). On Waiheke I used a mixture of Snapper and Hapuka and we all enjoyed eating the mini casseroles.

The simple Sicilian flavours are tomatoes, capers, garlic, olives and Sicilian common herbs. You cannot go wrong.

Of course the ingredients can go into one large casserole, covered and baked for 20 minutes.

For 6 people

INGREDIENTS

- 6 pieces of fish (1 serve per person)
- 4 large, peeled red tomatoes (or tinned)
- 1 tbs capers
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped finely
- fresh herbs, use 1 or more: parsley, basil, oregano, chopped
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 12 green olives or black olives, stoned

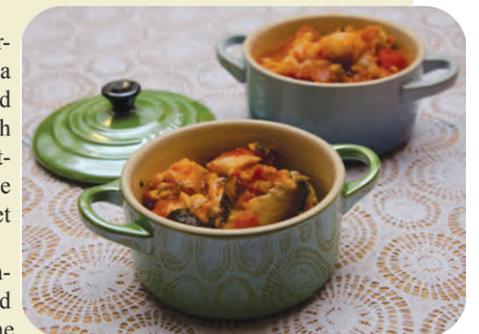
PROCESSES

Preheat the oven to 220°C.

Heat the extra virgin olive oil in a frying pan and pan-fry the fish lightly. Add a little salt. Remove the fish and set aside.

Add the other ingredients and sauté, until the

juice of the tomatoes is reduced. Spoon some of the tomato mixture into each mini-casserole. Place 1 piece of fish in each and top with more tomato. Either cover with a lid or if using a different type of ovenproof small baking dishes cover with metal foil and bake for 7-10 minutes, depending on how cooked you like your fish.



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