

Mediaportal Report

► Fishing tangled up in red tape

Southland Times, 20/03/09, General News, Page 14
By: None

NEW ZEALAND'S **fisheries**, governed by 8000 different rules and **regulations**, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, say **PricewaterhouseCoopers** consultants. The **fisheries** framework and perceived dysfunctional relationships within it had led to "highly adverse" outcomes in the sector, PWC told Fisheries **Minister Phil Heatley**.

Keywords: courts(1), crisis(1), debate(2), economy(1), fish(1), fisheries(9), fishers(2), fishing(3), Government(1), Heatley(2), industry(3), issue(1), issues(2), management(3), Minister(2), Ministry(1), more(1), Phil(1), PricewaterhouseCoopers(1), quota(3), reforming(1), regulation(1), regulations(1), Sector(3)

Clip Ref: **00048818073**

322 words
Type: News Item
Photo: Yes

► Bureaucracy, rows hold back fishing

The Dominion Post, 20/03/09, Business Day, Page 2
By: NZPA

New Zealand's **fisheries**, which are governed by 8000 rules and **regulations**, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, consultancy **PricewaterhouseCoopers** says. The **fisheries** framework and perceived dysfunctional relationships within it had led to "highly adverse" outcomes in the sector, it told Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley.

Keywords: courts(1), crisis(1), debate(2), economy(1), fish(1), fisheries(9), fishermen(1), fishing(3), Government(1), industry(3), issue(1), issues(2), management(3), minister(2), Ministry(1), more(1), PricewaterhouseCoopers(2), quota(3), reforming(1), regulation(1), regulations(1), Sector(4)

Clip Ref: **00048819110**

324 words
Type: News Item
Photo: Yes

► Celebrate, not recessionate

Marlborough Express, 19/03/09, General News, Page 14
By: None

There is nothing like a bit of negativity to bring out the best in some people. I'm not sure if I live in a nutshell (sometimes it feels like a madhouse but that disappears after a glass of sauv or pinot), but I have always said that if you make your business grow in Marlborough you can make it grow anywhere in the world.

Keywords: aquaculture(2), MUSSEL(7), Mussels(6)

Clip Ref: **00048794839**

437 words
Type: News Item
Photo: Yes

▶ **Radio NZ - National (Auckland)**
11:00 News - 19/03/2009 11:03 AM
Nicola Wright

The Seafood Industry Council's Chief Executive, Owen Symmans, says the sector deserves more public confidence in its ability to manage fisheries resources.

Interviewees: Owen Symmans, CEO, Seafood Industry Council

Duration: 0.41

Summary ID: W00034080717

This program or part thereof is syndicated to the following 2 station(s):-

Radio NZ - National (Wellington), Radio NZ - National (Christchurch)

© Media Monitors

Demographics

Demographics are not available as the media outlet has not commissioned audience research into this timeslot.

▶ **COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR PAUA, MUSSEL POACHING PAIR**

NZPA Newswire, 19/03/09, National, Page 0

By: NZPA

Wellington, March 19 NZPA - An illegal haul of excess and undersize seafood was described as appalling by a Rotorua District Court judge yesterday. Nathan Arai Simon, 33, unemployed, was convicted and sentenced to 130 hours community work after pleading guilty to charges of possessing excess paua, possessing undersize paua, possessing excess mussels, and failing to stop for a fishery officer at a checkpoint.

Keywords: Fisheries(1), Ministry(1)

Clip Ref: **00048803220**

228 words

Type: NZPA Newswire

Photo: No

▶ **FISHERIES SECTOR NEEDS SHARED ASPIRATIONS, CONSULTANTS SAY**

NZPA Newswire, 19/03/09, National, Page 0

By: NZPA

Wellington, March 19 NZPA - New Zealand's fisheries, which are governed by 8000 different rules and regulations, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) say. The fisheries framework -- with its perceived dysfunctional relationships -- has led to "highly-adverse" outcomes in the sector, the consultants told Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley.

Keywords: aquaculture(1), farming(1), fish(2)

Clip Ref: **00048797064**

474 words

Type: NZPA Newswire

Photo: No

▶ **Radio NZ - National (Auckland)**
10:00 News - 19/03/2009 10:01 AM
Nicola Wright

PricewaterhouseCoopers has compiled a report on New Zealand fisheries, as part of the Government's Fisheries 2030 strategy, finding the sector must overcome conflict and bureaucracy to avoid a crisis.

Interviewees: Cherie McQuilkin, Reporter
Mentions: Phil Heatley, Minister of Fisheries ; Seafood Industry Council
Duration: 0.53
Summary ID: W00034079440
This program or part thereof is syndicated to the following 2 station(s):-
Radio NZ - National (Wellington), Radio NZ - National (Christchurch)
© Media Monitors

Demographics

Demographics are not available as the media outlet has not commissioned audience research into this timeslot.

▶ **Sealord delays contract talks bid**
Nelson Mail, 19/03/09, General News, Page 1
By: Josh Reich Joshr@nelsonmailconz

Sealord has delayed its attempts to bring forward negotiations on the collective employment agreement for staff at its Nelson fish factory, deciding instead to wait until the agreement comes up for renewal later this year. Last month the company announced plans to switch nearly half its production from its Vickerman St processing plant to a leased factory trawler.

Keywords: announced(1), announcement(1), company(3), fish(2), issue(1), issues(1), loss(1), Sealord(4), trawler(1)

Clip Ref: 00048795340

351 words
Type: News Item
Photo: No

▶ **Fishermen charged over blue cod**
Marlborough Express, 19/03/09, General News, Page 3
By: Jo Gilbert

Two recreational Blenheim fishermen will appear in court next Wednesday on charges of breaching the Marlborough Sounds blue cod fishing ban. Ministry of Fisheries Nelson district compliance manager Geoff Clark said the two men would appear in the Blenheim District Court on charges of taking blue cod in a closed area and possessing blue cod taken from a closed area.

Keywords: Cod(7), Fisheries(3), fishing(5), minister(1), Ministry(1), officers(1), patrol(1)

Clip Ref: 00048793860

159 words
Type: News Item
Photo: No

▶ **Fishing up a storm is best done indoors**
NZ Truth, 19/03/09, General News, Page 16
By: None

BOY, these weekend storms certainly slow the fishing down. They re called leftover cyclones and they drift down from the tropics.

Keywords: fish(11), fishing(12), fishinghohepa(1), marine(1), reserves(1), sea floor(1)

Clip Ref: 00048798469

1131 words
Type: News Item
Photo: No

▶ **Illegally sold pipi, oysters at market**

Gisborne Herald, 18/03/09, General News, Page 4

By: None

Clip Ref: 00048786305

415 words

Type: News Item

Photo: No

A GISBORNE sickness beneficiary has been sentenced to 150 hours community service after he was caught illegally selling oysters and pipi at the flea market. Watene Tawa Waikari, 59, appeared before Judge Eddie Paul in Gisborne District Court.

Keywords: Court(1), fish(2), Fisheries(2), fishers(2), fishery(3), illegal(3), Illegally(3), Legislation(1), lobster(2), manager(1), market(6), markets(1), Ministry(1), paua(1), profits(1), seafood(3), shellfish(3)



Fishing tangled up in red tape

NEW ZEALAND'S fisheries, governed by 8000 different rules and regulations, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, say PricewaterhouseCoopers consultants.

The fisheries framework and perceived dysfunctional relationships within it had led to "highly adverse" outcomes in the sector, PWC told Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley.

"There is no immediate crisis, but there are significant tensions," PWC said. PWC's independent review of the industry was commissioned as part of the Fisheries 2030 programme to unlock more economic potential in the sector.

Mr Heatley said the report offered a "useful package" of measures that could enable better value to be gained

from fisheries and contribute to a strengthening of the economy.

"The fundamentals of our fisheries are sound. Now is the time to build on them for the future," he said.

Fisheries Ministry staff will work with the industry to pick the best suggestions from the report and put together a plan to implement them.

One issue identified was a lack of clarity over allocation of quota rights, which appeared to suit some players.

There were also barriers to quota transfer among the existing rights holders.

High levels of intervention, regulation and compliance enforcement by the Government made the minister the ultimate decision-maker, often with an aftermath in the courts.

"Some stakeholders said they felt that the innovation, creative energy and joy that were once part of fishing had been diminished by a lack of trust and difficult relationships," PWC said. Sector stakeholders tended to debate issues from different ideological corners. There needed to be greater co-ordination of coastal land management and fisheries management.

Problems with public perceptions of fisheries and fishers, and the poor "brand" for commercial fishers, had resulted in low-quality debate. There had been practical difficulties reforming aquaculture management, partly because investors were uncertain about the high standards set for fish farming compared with land-based agriculture. NZPA



Lack of clarity: Allocation of quota rights is one of many tricky issues for New Zealand's fishing industry



'Bureaucracy, rows' hold back fishing

NEW ZEALAND'S fisheries, which are governed by 8000 rules and regulations, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers says.

The fisheries framework and perceived dysfunctional relationships within it had led to "highly adverse" outcomes in the sector, it told Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley.

"There is no immediate crisis, but there are significant tensions."

PricewaterhouseCoopers' independent review of the industry was commissioned as part of the Fisheries 2030 programme to unlock more economic potential in the sector.

Mr Heatley said the report offered a useful package of measures that could enable better value to be gained from fisheries and contribute to a strengthening of the economy.

"The fundamentals of our fisheries are sound. Now is the time to build on them for the future," he said.



Lack of clarity: Allocation of quota rights is one of many tricky issues for the fishing industry.

Fisheries Ministry staff would now work with industry stakeholders to pick the best suggestions from the report and put together a plan to implement them.

One issue identified was a lack of clarity over allocation of quota rights which appeared to suit some players.

There were also barriers to quota transfer among the existing rights holders, the report said.

High levels of intervention, regulation and compliance enforcement by the Government made the minister the ultimate decision-maker, often with an aftermath in the courts.

"Some stakeholders said they felt that the innovation, creative energy and joy that were once part of fishing had been diminished by a lack of trust and difficult relationships," PwC said.

Sector stakeholders tended to debate issues from different ideological corners. There needed to be greater co-ordination of coastal land management and fisheries management.

Problems with public perceptions of fisheries and sector workers, and the poor "brand" for commercial fishermen, had resulted in low-quality debate.

There had been practical difficulties in reforming aquaculture management, partly because investors were uncertain about the high bar for fish farming compared with land-based agriculture. NZPA



Marlborough Express
19/03/2009
Page: 14
General News
Region: Blenheim Marlborough
Circulation: 10371
Type: Provincial
Size: 168.85 sq.cms
MTWTF--

Celebrate, not recessionate

There is nothing like a bit of negativity to bring out the best in some people. I'm not sure if I live in a nutshell (sometimes it feels like a madhouse but that disappears after a glass of sauv or pinot), but I have always said that if you make your business grow in Marlborough you can make it grow anywhere in the world.

Now it looks like they can't make it grow in the rest of the world, but all I hear is the great things that are happening in our region. One of those is the celebration of our local heroes, the Greenshell mussel.

Mussels have always played an important role in my kitchen – both at work and at home – as they are quick and easy to prepare and have wide appeal.

Make sure that you select tightly closed mussels if you are purchasing them as this means that they're alive. Any mussels that are slightly gaping when tapped will close and if they don't, then throw them away.

Mussels are treated the same as all shellfish: cook them quickly with a high heat until the mussel releases itself from the shell. Any mussels that have not opened need to be discarded. I prefer to serve in large bowls, where people can get their fingers in and use the shells as natural spoons.

This Saturday be prepared for another celebration of the mussel, which is one of the region's largest earners. Mussel processing employs hundreds of people and the industry has gained worldwide respect as a clean, green and sustainable aquaculture fishery.



Thousands of people will gather in Havelock, the Greenshell capital of the world, to hustle and bustle, laugh and eat, drink and socialise, learn and have fun as the 2009 Mussel Festival celebrates yet another successful year.

RECIPE FOR MUSSEL SUCCESS

- 1 energised aquaculture industry
- A whole bunch of passionate mussel people
- Thousands of local consumers
- A handful of tourists (not too many, as then the locals miss out)
- Education areas
- Mussels races and activities
- Bouncy castles and swings
- Large field and various arrangement of tents and gazebos
- Proud sponsors and businesses that want to support a good thing

└ Choose a fine day in March (preferably a Saturday) and promote and advertise that you have the best product in the world. Tell everybody you are on rain or shine. Use famous New Zealand entertainers and musicians to help provide ambience and atmosphere. Get people to sell their food and wine to the consumers so that they have an enjoyable day, and make sure that the kids have fun on the bouncy castles. Finally, thank everybody for their support and pack up til next year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR PAUA, MUSSEL POACHING PAIR

Wellington, March 19 NZPA - An illegal haul of excess and undersize seafood was described as appalling by a Rotorua District Court judge yesterday.

Nathan Arai Simon, 33, unemployed, was convicted and sentenced to 130 hours community work after pleading guilty to charges of possessing excess paua, possessing undersize paua, possessing excess mussels, and failing to stop for a fishery officer at a checkpoint.

Rangi Cooper, 33, a housewife, was also convicted and sentenced to 100 hours for her part in possessing the haul.

Judge Paul Barber said that he found this kind of offending appalling.

He ordered that the \$1000 Nissan vehicle Simon and Cooper were driving, which belonged to Simon's father, be forfeited. But he added the vehicle could be returned to the owner on payment of \$75 to the Ministry of Fisheries. The pair were caught after fishery officers set up a checkpoint to inspect seafood being taken from the Maketu area in eastern Bay of Plenty in December last year.

Simon sped off when asked by a fishery officer to pull over, before being stopped by other officers 300 metres along the road.

An inspection of his vehicle revealed a total of 372 green lipped mussels -- well over the legal daily limit of 50 per person.

Ninety-four paua, all undersize, were also found. The limit is 10 per person per day.

NZPA WGT ljm dj nb

19/03/09 15-45NZ

FISHERIES SECTOR NEEDS SHARED ASPIRATIONS, CONSULTANTS SAY

Wellington, March 19 NZPA - New Zealand's fisheries, which are governed by 8000 different rules and regulations, need to overcome conflict and bureaucracy, consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) say.

The fisheries framework -- with its perceived dysfunctional relationships -- has led to "highly-adverse" outcomes in the sector, the consultants told Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley.

"There is no immediate crisis, but there are significant tensions," they said in an independent review of the industry.

The review was part of the Fisheries 2030 programme to unlock more economic potential in the sector.

Mr Heatley said the report offered a "useful package" of measures that could enable better value to be gained from fisheries and contribute to a strengthening of the economy.

"The fundamentals of our fisheries are sound, now is the time to build on them for the future," he said in a statement.

Fisheries Ministry staff will now work with industry stakeholders to pick the best suggestions from the report and put together a plan to implement them.

One issue identified was a lack of clarity over allocation of quota rights which appeared to suit some players.

"It allows them to critique the system while not taking responsibility for improving it," the report said.

There were also barriers to transfer of quota among the existing rights holders.

High levels of intervention, regulation and compliance enforcement by Government made the minister the ultimate decision-maker, often with an aftermath in the courts.

"Some stakeholders said they felt that the innovation, creative energy and joy that were once part of fishing had been diminished by a lack of trust and difficult relationships," PWC said.

It was not possible to use fisheries and maintain all aquatic environments in a "pristine" condition, but members of the public and environmental groups were concerned about the environmental impact of fishing.

There needed to be greater coordination of coastal land management and fisheries management.

Sector stakeholders tended to debate issues from different ideological corners and talk past each other, even when apparently similar language was being used.

Problems with public perceptions of fisheries and fishers and the poor "brand" for commercial fishers had resulted in low-quality debate.

Fishers had been slack about their public image, when positioning NZ fish products for the top end of markets was essential, and required public confidence in environmental and fisheries management practices.

And there had been considerable practical difficulties in reforming the management of aquaculture, partly because investors were uncertain about the high bar being set for fish farming compared with land-based agriculture.

The cumulative effect was a highly-regulated system with philosophical issues and a lack of confidence and trust influencing the development of rules.

The consultants called for a vision for the future, with new ways of doing things to ease potential problems and maximise value from fisheries.

The review was commissioned by the Fisheries Ministry in August last year.

NZPA WGT kca kk kn 19/03/09 12-55NZ



Nelson Mail
19/03/2009
Page: 1
General News
Region: Nelson
Circulation: 18437
Type: Provincial
Size: 141.37 sq.cms
MTWTFS-

Sealord delays contract talks bid

By **Josh Reich**

joshre@nelsonmail.co.nz

Sealord has delayed its attempts to bring forward negotiations on the collective employment agreement for staff at its Nelson fish factory, deciding instead to wait until the agreement comes up for renewal later this year.

Last month the company announced plans to switch nearly half its production from its Vickerman St processing plant to a leased factory trawler.

It wants to halt the wet fish night shift at the factory, with the loss of 160 processing jobs. Up to a further 20 salaried staff also face the prospect of losing their jobs.

The company also signalled that it wanted to save \$1.8 million a year in

labour costs from the remaining staff.

It had hoped to bring forward collective employment agreement negotiations, which were due to take place in May, to discuss where savings could be made.

Service and Food Workers Union assistant national secretary Neville Donaldson said there were three parts to the negotiations: the reasoning and financial justification for the restructuring, the new structure and staffing requirements, and looking at how \$1.8 million could be saved in labour costs.

“It is that third phase that the company has now withdrawn.”

Mr Donaldson said the union was not upset by the move, as the negotiations were highly complicated, and it allowed attention to be focused on the other issues.

“At the end of the day, whether it is now or whether it is later, the issue has to be addressed.”

Mr Donaldson said before the delay that there was the potential for union members who were losing their jobs to vote on the pay and conditions of those remaining. “So the whole thing is going to be focused and determined by those who are going to be directly affected, and that has to be a positive.”

He said there was an expectation from the union and Sealord that negotiations related to job cuts would be completed by the end of next week, and a final announcement on how many jobs were set to go would be made after that.

Sealord chief executive Graham Stuart could not be reached for comment.

See **RALLY** Page 3



Fishermen charged over blue cod

by Jo Gilbert

Two recreational Blenheim fishermen will appear in court next Wednesday on charges of breaching the Marlborough Sounds blue cod fishing ban.

Ministry of Fisheries Nelson district compliance manager Geoff Clark said the two men would appear in the Blenheim District Court on charges of taking blue cod in a closed area and possessing blue cod taken from a closed

area.

The men were allegedly caught with blue cod filets during a routine patrol by fisheries officers.

They were fishing near the Waikawa Bay Marina. Penalties include a \$20,000 fine and forfeiture of vessel and fishing gear.

The four-year recreational blue cod fishing ban in the enclosed Marlborough Sounds was introduced last October by former

fisheries minister Jim Anderton to rebuild "dramatically depleted" stocks.

Cod may be caught from the outer Sounds, but the onus is on those fishing to prove where they reeled in their catch.

Additionally all fish caught outside the Sounds must be landed whole or gutted but not filleted.



Fishing up a storm is best done indoors

During a rough spell, take some time out to clean your tackle, re-spool your reels or sharpen your hooks as it's usually hopeless when the weather refuses to co-operate

BOY, these weekend storms certainly slow the fishing down. They're called left-over cyclones and they drift down from the tropics.

We've certainly copped some rain, but it's all good since it's filling up our dams and rivers.

I'm often asked what the fishing is like in storms. Well, back in the days when I was spending a lot of time fishing from the shore I did head out to the lee side of peninsulas to try and catch that trophy fish.

It rained and it blew but the wind was offshore so the area right out in front of the rocks was calm. In fact, I remember fishing off the rocks near Rawhiti in the Bay of Islands during the time Cyclone Bola hit.

The thing is, I didn't catch many fish. Sure, I caught the odd pannie but never any big ones. The few times I went out in winds more than 30 knots, to fish in the lee of the land, I caught

not much at all.

So you have to ask yourself: Is it really worth the effort to pit yourself up against nature, only to come home empty handed? My answer to the question, "What's the fishing like in storms?" is that it's hopeless!

My advice is to stay in, enjoy the warmth and safety of your home and re-spool your reels or sharpen your hooks.

The very best weather conditions are winds of five to 10 knots with slightly overcast skies. Calm weather – and we're talking mirror calm – can have the same effect on fishing as a raging storm.

After about three days of calm weather fish can get lethargic and stop biting because of it. They'll still have a go at your bait, but not as aggressively as they would normally. It's a bit like fishing on the day of the full moon.

There is an excellent way to

ensure you fill your weather-associated quota of fish. First, all you need to know when a low-pressure system is approaching the country.

The easiest way to find this out – other than having your ear glued to the radio – is to head out to the west coast at low tide and cut yourself a piece of bull kelp from around the bottom of the rocks. Take it home and nail it to the shed. This is the best fishing barometer there is.

During fine spells the bull kelp will be as dry as sandpaper and as hard as nails. However, once the edge of a low-pressure system comes near it moistens slightly and wilts. As soon as that happens grab your fishing gear and head out to your favourite posse.

The immediate weather won't have been affected by the low, which might be about eight

Maori fishing calendar

Date	Rating	Bite time	Comment
Mar 19	Bad	7.28	Forget it today
Mar 20	Bad	8.19	Enjoy the fire
Mar 21	Good	9.07	Best try your luck
Mar 22	Good	9.54	Be positive – go on!
Mar 23	Good	10.39	Tackle it in style
Mar 24	Good	11.22	This could be a beaut
Mar 25	Good	12.06	Is luck on your side?




back



HAPPY CHAPPIES: Tacklebox prizewinners Ian (left) and Stuart (right) had a successful Hohepa excursion



I've been keener than most in my lifetime and done my share of crazy fishing, but I'd have to say when the winds are that high I haven't been fortunate for a good catch



hours away, but its approach has a definite affect on your piece of kelp.

The fish can also sense the slight change in barometric pressure and will know there's a bit of a storm coming, so they'll start eating up large. It might be way out of the bite-time cycle but they'll start eating.

The reason is they can sustain themselves through the coming low-pressure system blow.

Some say snapper and other fish will move from shore areas out into the deeper water, and before they head out will swallow stones which act as a sort of ballast.

Exposed marine reserves will be depleted of snapper, in particular, as a storm approaches.

During a storm, fish are relatively safe in the deeper water. But even there the push and shove of the seas can affect them.

Based on these theories, fishing is certainly not too good when the winds are at 25 knots or higher. There are exceptions to this, of course. But by and large, staying home and doing something else is my advice. I've been keener than most in my lifetime

and done my share of crazy fishing, but I'd have to say when the winds are that high I haven't had good results.

A good catch is had when winds are calm, up to 15 knots, so there you go.



Ian and Stuart (PICTURED) had a great day out fishing with me after buying a famous Tacklebox game won them the trip.

On this particular day two strange things occurred, which always happens when you haven't got your camera handy.

First, there were 500-odd





NZ Truth
19/03/2009
Page: 16
General News
Region: National
Circulation: 15253
Type: National
Size: 762.41 sq.cms
---F--

sootsysheerwaters diving into what looked like an enormous bubble swirling up from the sea floor. I would have understood it if there had been a known underwater spring where this was happening, but there was none. It had that look about it though.

I thought it might have been a whale, churning up the water beneath as it scooped up the tonnes of baitfish that showed on the sounder.

Whales, however, have to come to the surface at some time to breathe, and while we were there for about an hour none surfaced anywhere nearby. When we cast bait into the "bubble" we caught fish, but nowhere else.

Something big was under the

water churning things up, and as I mentioned, I'd never encountered anything similar before.

No fins, no whoosh as a whale takes a breath, nothing but big swirling bubbles. If anyone out there has any ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

Second, until that day the snapper were plentiful around the 30m mark, which was the depth where we'd witnessed the bubbles. One of our crew felt sick so I went in closer to the rocks to get out of the swell, and parked up at the mouth of a little bay.

The sinkers came off, and we cast floating pillies into the water. Before long, Ian caught a nice snapper, and at that exact moment Stuart had a run also.

That's interesting too. When one fish hits, if there is other bait in the water – it doesn't need to be near the one being eaten – it will get a hit was well. It's almost as if all the fish in the bay can "feel" another is biting so they look for something to eat as well. This happens a lot.

The boys had a wonderful hour casting and catching good-sized pannie snapper. But the thing was, there were no snapper close in the day before, because I tried and they were all out deeper.

If you'd like to come on a charter with me check out my webpage for the costs at www.fishinghohepa.co.nz and good luck out there.



Illegally sold pipi, oysters at market

A GISBORNE sickness beneficiary has been sentenced to 150 hours community service after he was caught illegally selling oysters and pipi at the flea market.

Watene Tawa Waikari, 59, appeared before Judge Eddie Paul in Gisborne District Court.

Fishery officers approached Waikari at the flea market last August and questioned him about his activities.

He pleaded guilty to illegally possessing and selling bags of pipi for \$5 each and 'big fat pacific oysters' for \$10.

He made \$200 that morning from selling approximately 12 bags of oysters and six bags of pipi.

Waikari took the pipi and oysters from the Ohiwa Harbour mudflats near Opotiki, and transported them to Gisborne to sell at the flea market.

He had sold oysters at the flea market on another occasion.

Waikari told the fishery officers that he thought selling shellfish was just like

selling whitebait and he thought it was OK to sell.

Waikari's lawyer Mark Sceats said that his client could not afford to pay a fine, nor was he well enough because of health problems to do community service.

Judge Paul said that if Waikari was well enough to gather seafood he could undertake community service, but light duties.

MFish prosecutor Morgan Dunn, said Waikari had a number of previous convictions relating to illegal rock lobster.

In addition to the 150 hours community service, Waikari's profits of \$231 and a blackboard sign which advertised his pipi and oysters, were ordered to be forfeited.

Gisborne district compliance manager Tom Teneti said the illegal sale of seafood at local markets was a serious concern to the Ministry and he hoped that this penalty would deter others from becoming involved in similar offending.

"People need to be aware that only legitimate entities such as licensed fish receivers and dealers in fish can sell directly to the public.

"Any seafood sold must come from a legitimate source and be accompanied by appropriate records showing proof of purchase."

Waikari's apprehension came from information provided by shoppers at the flea market who alerted fishery officers on the MFish 0800 4 POACHER (0800 476 224) hotline, he said.

"We encourage people to call with their concerns about suspected illegal activity like the offering of cheap shellfish — not only pipi and oysters, but also paua, rock lobster and wetfish."

Whitebait, which is administered by the Department of Conservation, can be sold by recreational fishers, but the sale of wetfish and shellfish is strictly prohibited by recreational or amateur fishers under Fisheries Legislation and the Fisheries Act 1996.