

How do we Increase the Effectiveness of the Harvesting Sector?



The Key to Effective Harvesting is: Industry Self Management

Achieved Through:

- ▶ Formal Codes of Practise.
- ▶ Memorandums of Understanding
- ▶ Harvesting Plans
- ▶ Diver Accreditation
- ▶ Civil Contracts

Formal Codes of Practise

▶ Use of UBA

- Ensure breeding aggradations are left
- Health & Safety

▶ Tool selection

▶ Handling

- In-water measuring
- Return of undersize to reef

▶ Transportation

- Quality
- Compliance

▶ Timely Landing to LFR

- Quality
- Compliance

Memorandums of Understanding

- ▶ Currently being used successfully in Victoria Australia
- ▶ Achieves a more sustainable distribution of fishing effort
- ▶ Controls diver behaviour

Harvesting Plans

- ▶ As part of a Fisheries Plan a Harvesting Plan replaces the need for MOU's.
- ▶ A Harvesting Plan contains Spatial Management Tools
 - Voluntary closures
 - Increase of effort in under-utilised areas
 - Decreases effort in over-utilised areas by capping removals per micromanagement area
 - Voluntary size limits for different areas (both minimum and maximum)
 - Real time or near real time reporting of catch per micromanagement area
 - Elimination of race for catch
 - Sharing of information (diving conditions, stocks)

Harvesting Plans (Continued)

► Effect of Harvesting Plans

- Greatly improved spatial management driven by industry with the support of MFish
- Maximises value of CPUE data
- Minimises risk of serial depletion (without the need for further regulation)
- Establishes a time series of areas fished
- Documents depletion / recovery
- Creates an understanding of productivity per micromanagement area
- Keeps the CPUE at a high and sustainable level
- Eliminates the need for expensive stock assessments

Diver Accreditation

Paua Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Life cycle – (age at maturity and harvest etc) • Growth rates - by different areas– reasons for this. • Stress – Non eating, cutting, sunlight, • Habitat – importance of returning correctly to the reef etc.
Post harvest Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin stacking and overnight storage ▶ Minimum size limit tolerance • Shell damage, wrenching, handling, sunlight, cutting etc ▶ Bin labelling
State of the local fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how the stock assessment surveys are carried out • Demonstrate the dropping bio-mass, the increased catch effort etc
Management initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrate to harvesters/divers the initiatives that are being implemented e.g 5B TGB project, moving catch effort - UBA trial, sub-division, closed areas, re-seeding, shelving, MSL increase etc.
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Presentation on PacMan and the continuing efforts against poaching. • What harvesters could be doing to assist and what to do if you suspect poaching etc – 0800 POACHER etc.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reportage – show the usefulness of info gathered from fine scale reportage etc by demonstrating outputs. • Explain why accuracy is needed.
Workshop	<p>Itemise the problems – break into small groups and have them come back with their solutions.</p>
Completion & evaluation	<p>Get buy in from the attendees to comply with the Code of Practise and reducing harvesting mortality</p>

Professionalize Divers

- Training and experience
- An accredited diver has a stake in the industry
- Demonstrates responsibility and respect for the resource
- Valued member of a professional team
- Job security
- Will reduce number of participants

Paua Divers in New Zealand

	TACC (kgs)	# of Divers	Kgs per diver
Pau1	1930		
Pau2	121188	34	3564
Pau3	91615	32	2862
Pau4	326543	28	11662
Pau5a	148983	45	3310
Pau5b	90000	43	2093
Pau5d	89000	36	2472
Pau5 (Combined)	327983	72	4555
Pau7	187240	85	2202

Abalone Divers in Australia

Fishery	Number of divers	TACC (tonnes)	Tonnes per diver
Tasmania	125	2607	20.9
Victoria	71	1,400	19.7
New South Wales	40	281	7.0
South Australia	35	877	25.1
Western Australia	23	330	14.3
TOTAL Australia	294	5,495	18.7
TOTAL New Zealand	375	1,056.5	2.8

Civil Contracts

- ▶ Used to Support the use of Codes of Practice and Harvesting Plans
- ▶ Between Processor, Quota Owner, Ace Holder, Diver, PauaMAC's, & PICL
- ▶ Is a Binding Agreement
- ▶ Covers Liabilities, Obligations, Powers, Damages and Confidentiality
- ▶ Not New – in use by Challenger Scallop Enhancement and Oyster Management Companies

Effective Harvesting

- ▶ Is prising off paua in harmony to production (natural or enhanced)
- ▶ Is avoiding serial depletion
- ▶ Is demonstrating responsible and mature practices
- ▶ Is wise and sustainable utilisation
- ▶ Is stewardship of the resource
- ▶ Is good business

