

# PAUA INDUSTRY COUNCIL Ltd

NEWSLETTER TWO – December 2004

## What's happening at the Paua Industry Council Ltd (PICL)?

You can get an expanded version of the details below by either asking your PICL representative or emailing PICL.

### ACC Submission

We have lodged a submission with the Accident Compensation Commission opposing the rates the Paua Industry pay for ACC as we have been lumped in with the rest of the fishing industry and pay the same rates as fisheries that use ocean going vessels.

### Marine Reserves

The Government's proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) strategy is a big threat to paua quota owner's property rights and a large amount of PICL's resources will go into strengthening the industry's position on this issue as the debate on MPAs in each region in NZ is starting to hot up.

We are working on an overall strategy with other fishing sectors and SeaFIC and will be compiling a strongly worded submission to go to Government over the next month. The Government's current position is to put 10% of the marine area (out to the 200-mile limit) into protection with marine reserves being the principle tool.

The MPA strategy is silent on compensation and you can rest assured that PICL's submission will be addressing this most serious omission.

### Research Co-ordinating Committee (RCC)

During this round of meetings (Shellfish Working Group, Plenary and then Research Co-ordinating Committee), the paua industry has fought hard to make MFish and the Science providers more accountable.

PICL has made an application on behalf of the industry asking that the stock assessment process is reviewed before any more dive surveys are undertaken and also identified a raft of research projects that paua were to be quite inappropriately levied for. In Ministry feedback to our submissions; released just prior to this newsletter going out, we can happily report the following:

- MFish is to review paua research survey methodology this financial year and the funding will come from the "MFish Other Services Budget".

- The proposed stock assessment of PAU5D is to be delayed to incorporate the results of the above review.
- The repeat survey of PAU5A will be "undertaken subject to the results of the review" (PICL will continue to oppose the cost recovery of this repeat survey).
- MFish has removed paua from the cost recovery specifications for the following projects: ENV2005/20, ENV2005/21 and SAM2005/01

### Compliance group

A joint Paua Industry / Ministry of Fisheries compliance working group has been established to identify problems and solutions that will help curb poaching. This group is meeting on a regular basis and is already proving to be constructive and fruitful.

The group will report directly to the Minister of Fisheries after exploring a wide range of options and will be making firm recommendations for his consideration.

The working group has been strengthened by input from fishery managers who are taking the opportunity to use this process to feed into the development of a stock strategy for paua. This working group is proving to be a very good example of getting far better outcomes when MFish and industry work collaboratively.

### Fisheries Plans

The Fisheries Plan process will allow the commercial sector to play a role in the future of paua fisheries management by developing a plan that "maximises the value" of the fishery and all PauaMacs are going to need to go through this process in the next year or so.

PICL is developing a range of "Empowerment Tools" that could be used by PauaMacs to maximise value.

The MFish alternative is Stock Strategies but these address only risk and do not incorporate maximising value in a fishery.



## Cluster Funding

PICL has submitted an application to New Zealand Trade and Enterprise for funding to develop a cluster. This effectively means getting a professional person involved that can assist us in building an even more cohesive industry that operates collectively.

## Industry Conference

We are aiming to have an industry conference in June 2005. We hope this will be the "coming

together" of our industry (and your partners) but as yet have not settled on a venue. If you have any ideas for to PICLs, presentations or where we should hold the conference please liaise with your PauaMac executive.

## AAA Presentation

A presentation was given to the Australasian Abalone Processors Association and we were congratulated on how far the NZ Paua industry has advanced in the last two years.



*The last industry working group meeting before PICL was incorporated. From left: Dave Baker, Alan Riwaka, Liz Keys, Fred Nicolls, Alan Culverwell, Ed Arron, Jeremy Cooper, Storm Stanley, Mark Janis, Geoff Pacey.*

## Around the regions

### PAUA 2 INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC

Our mid September association meeting focused for the first time on the fishery rather than on politics. Very bad weather throughout the 2003/04 season resulted in an unprecedented concentration of diving effort in Southern Wairarapa where the hard rock geology made for clearer diving conditions.

This season the same south west weather pattern continued and to counter the effects of continuing concentration of fishing effort a working group was formed during our AGM this month to investigate ways to spread fishing effort north.

Also being undertaken this year is the design of a research plan that will allow the status of paua stocks in our large but closed Wellington South Coast area to be evaluated. It is envisaged that commercial fishers working under a special permit will undertake the research during limited commercial fishing within the closed area. This area has seen no fisheries management for 30 years and the status of stocks is simply unknown. Preliminary discussions with the recreational sector show support for this research but we acknowledge that it is a first step towards having the area reopened as part of the commercial PAU2 fishery.

**Ed Arron**  
**Pau2 Chairman & PICL Chairman**

### PAUAMAC 3 INCORPORATED

The season had a slow start with weather conditions not great, November proved a better month with more settled weather.

Our voluntary subdivision areas are helping to spread the effort over the whole QMA with most divers making the effort to take their allocated percentages from each area.

Nothing much has happened with our reseedling programme in recent weeks, but this will pick up in the new year, early indications from previous reseedling is showing good growth levels.

**John Nicholls**  
**Chairman Paua3**  
**& PICL Director**

## **Pauamac 4 Industry Association Inc**

PAUAMAC 4 held their first Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23 November, to report on year ending, 30 September 2004. 31 Members were in attendance either in person or by proxy.

Catch effort: to October approximately 33 % of our TACC has been caught. Like the rest of New Zealand we have been experiencing less than favorable diving conditions and December is proving particularly bad.

**Alan Culverwell**

**Pauamac 4 Executive member & PICL Director**

## **Pauamac 5 Inc**

The question which invariably arises in conversations concerning paua fishing is "so how are things looking?" meaning what is the state of the fishery? For the Southern paua fisheries, Pau5A,B and D , the simple answer is that we are not sure.

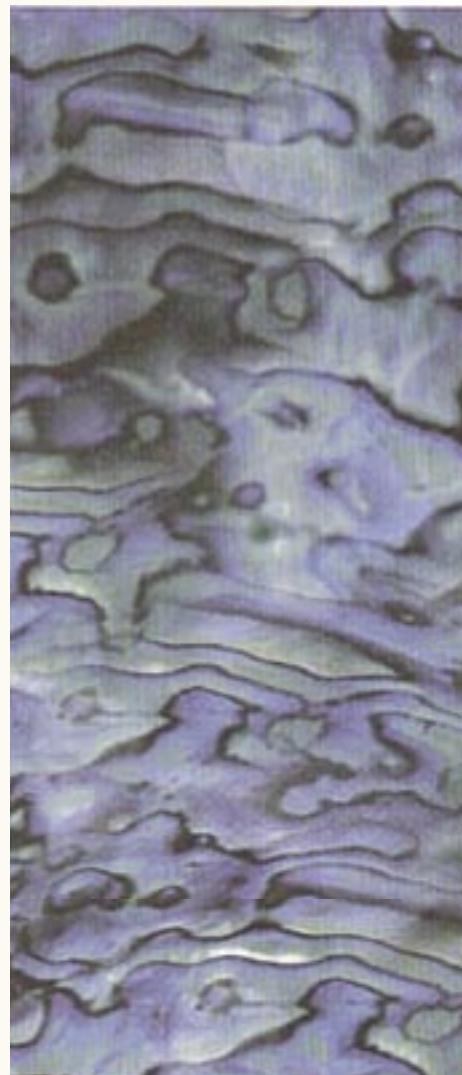
While Stewart Island fish stocks seem to be recovering after the recent quota cuts and the fishery on the Dunedin/Southland coastline may well be recuperating after similar surgery we can still only be cautiously optimistic.

Fiordland is a bit more problematic; it covers a one of the longest coasts of any paua QMA and is well protected by weather and its remoteness. On the other hand some experienced divers currently working Fiordland are uneasy about its longer term prospects.

This season a major effort will go in from PauaMAC 5 to firstly get a handle on exactly what stage each of the fisheries is at, decide on what is needed to address the management needs of each area and to get the projects required up and running.

We will be looking for some real support from quota owners and divers to help rebuild our fisheries.

**Storm Stanley, Chairman  
PauaMac5 and PICL Director**



## **Pauamac 7 Industry Association Inc**

The executive is making steady progress working through the projects in the business plan. There are now working groups set up for Shelving, Compliance, Rights Protection and a Fisheries Plan.

The 15% shelving is now complete and Paul Breen (NIWA) has developed a decision rule to determine whether the fishery can sustain

the 15% being caught. The decision rule will be applied at the end of April 2005.

We have applied for and been granted substantial funding for the development of a Fisheries Plan from the SeaFIC organized "Tools for Collective Action" project.

**Dave Baker  
Chairman PauaMac7 & PICL Director**

## Other Stuff...

A bit from FishServe



*The passing of the Fisheries Amendment Act 2004 has meant certain changes to fisheries legislation.*

*These changes included: Vessel Tenders – There is now a size limit on what can qualify as a tender for a fishing vessel. The limit can be no longer than six meters in length or 50% of the overall length of the fishing vessel is it carried by or attached to. If your fishing vessel's tender is longer than these limits it has to be registered as a fishing vessel.*



*That's all from us – have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*The Pava Industry Council Ltd...*

*Ed Arron, John Nicholls, Alan Culverwell,  
Storm Stanley, David Baker & Jeremy Cooper*

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