

PAUA INDUSTRY COUNCIL Ltd

MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

Mataitai meeting with Minister

Jeremy Cooper and Ed Arron (representing PICL) and Daryl Sykes (Rock Lobster) recently met with the Minister of Fisheries, the Hon Jim Anderson and senior MFish officials. The meeting was to convey to the Minister the frustration that is building within the industry over Mataitai reserves and to demonstrate to him that the MFish developed policy and process standards are completely unworkable. Further, the original intent of cabinet had been manipulated in regulations to what can only be described as an apologist's account; yet Mataitai reserves are still inexplicitly supposed to fit within the frameworks of the Quota Management System and the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Settlement.

Mataitai were promoted to the New Zealand public in the early 1990s as a way for Maori to secure customary management over parts of the coast that had historical significance for special food gathering purposes. Original documentation described these as 'named places' ie: a special mussel bed or a reef or a special rock etc, however current applications for great tracts of coastline go way beyond this.

A successful outcome on this matter is for all Maori entities that want a Mataitai reserve to receive one, because for this

to happen there is going to need to be a substantial change in the regulations and a swing in MFish's Policy and Process Standards to "small and discrete", ie: a rock or mussel bed or reef.

As it presently stands many Maori will miss out on Mataitai no matter how important a reef is to them due to prior Mataitai applications having already swallowed up too much space. Maori with commercial interests will also miss out when this stage is reached because of the "Prevent Test". This currently says that Mataitai will be approved right up to the point where the TACC can no longer be caught. This scenario doesn't bear thinking about – the fishery will be ruined and customary Maori denied their right to a Mataitai and commercial Maori denied their right to harvest their allocation under the Treaty Settlement.

Lets hope that MFish revisit their Policy and Process Standards wisely so that customary Maori and commercial can coexist in harmony.

2006/07 Budget

The PICL board has approved a draft budget for the 2006/07 fishing year. We needed to get this to the PauaMAC's early so that the contribution to PICL can be included in the PauaMAC CSO levy round.

The PICL budget is slightly less than last year. The main difference in the budget is the anticipated transfer of effort required – we have reduced the days we intend to spend on Fisheries Management from 100 to 50 and we have increased the days on Rights Protection from 40 to 115.

Unfortunately this is a sign of the times but issues associated with the fight for space are featuring high on the radar screen for the foreseeable future.

Copies of this draft are available from your PICL board member.

PICL is now an MFish service provider

PICL have become a registered Service Provider to MFish which will allow us to tender for some of MFish's research projects.

Getting involved at this level achieves two things – the first being that the industry will be ideally positioned so that we have our finger on the pulse and can help give direction to what is required (as opposed to having the process driven by people outside of the industry).

The second is to give PICL the potential for alternate income streams – the more money PICL can earn from outside contracts the less it has to request in levies from the industry.

Ultimately we would have external funding streams that provided the bulk of the revenue required to run PICL.

2006 Paua Conference

PICL had not budgeted for a paua industry conference but the Board of Directors has decided that there is so much happening the only way to keep the industry involved and fully informed is to hold a conference this year. Consequently we have set the dates as August 3 and 4 and to keep things as simple as possible, the conference will be held at the same place as last year – the Copthorne

Durham Street Hotel in Christchurch.

We are giving you plenty of warning so that as many people as possible can attend. Each year more and more partners choose to come and this year we will endeavour to make the conference dinner one to remember. There will be more on this in the next newsletter but mark these dates down in your dairy now.

Medium Term Research Plan

The first project PICL has put a tender in for is the Medium Term Research Plan for Paua which has one specific objective being "To prepare a Medium Term Research Plan that will identify the main research directions and needs for undertaking research on paua (*Haliotis iris*) over the next three to five years".

PICL has prepared a joint tender for this project in conjunction with NIWA. If we are successful we will be canvassing industry to establish what they think the most important research needs are for our fishery.

Part of our tender involves having an industry workshop at our next paua conference (August 2006) with the idea being that all of the regions can provide input to steer research in a direction that best suits their particular needs.

Should PICL be successful in winning this tender we will be looking to immediately commence the first phase of the project as we need to have it completed by early September this year.

Shed Sampling Contract

The second contract we will be tendering for is the Shed Sampling contract (where a percentage of shells need to be

measured and recorded in each region). The contract is due to be advertised in April with a start date of October 06.

If PICL is successful with this tender we plan move away from the traditional measuring of shells at the LFR and instead use digital technology out in the field to capture this data.

We have already purchased one digital shell length data logger (that also records GPS co-ordinates) and we would invest in another two of these units to be shared around the country if we are successful.

Another SITO unit standard for the Paua industry

PICL are working with SITO to develop a Unit Standard for the collection of field data.

For the Shed Sampling contract we need to show that we have people trained within the industry who can reliably record information and who understand the need to have random samples etc.

The unit standard has been written and will be submitted to the NZ Qualifications Authority to have it validated and registered. In the meantime PICL will need to produce learning material for this course and develop a way to categorise shell fouling and shell shape etc.

ACC LEVY

For the last two years PICL has made submissions during the ACC levy Consultation round lobbying to have your ACC levies reduced. At last we have tasted success. The 2006/07 rates will drop from previous years. This year we were the only group to receive a movement of Classification which was not consulted upon but requested by a submitter (PICL).

Employers Account

Classification unit	2005/06 current risk group & employer levy for every \$100 of payroll	2006/07 new risk group & employer levy for every \$100 of payroll
04191 Shellfish & Paua Fishing	Ocean & coastal fishing \$2.73	Agriculture Services & Aquaculture (medium risk group) \$2.17

Self-Employed Work Account

Classification unit	2005/06 current risk group & employer levy for every \$100 of payroll	2006/07 new risk group & employer levy for every \$100 of payroll
04191 Shellfish & Paua Fishing	Ocean & coastal fishing \$4.71 (income) \$7.66 (Non income)	Agriculture Services & Aquaculture (medium risk group) \$2.02 (income) \$3.25 (Non income)

The net result is that per \$100 of payroll the EMPLOYERS ACCOUNT reduction is a saving of 56 cents and for SELF EMPLOYED (Income) it is a saving of \$2.69 and for SELF EMPLOYED (Non-Income) it is a saving of \$4.41

"If a man would move the world, he must first move himself"
– Socrates

FishSAFE

Additional to the new ACC rates is an initiative that has just been introduced by the Government. For those businesses that engage in the FishSAFE scheme where you make your working environment a safer place you will receive a further 10% discount on the new rates listed above.

To see this press release go to our web site www.paua.org.nz and look under the Announcements sections for "Small Businesses To Be Rewarded For Workplace Safety Schemes". You can also go to www.fishsafe.org.nz to read about this initiative.

Fuel Rebates

The negative effect of the NZ dollar falling in value is that fuel prices are going to continue to rise.

Providing you are operating your vessel principally for commercial purposes and are operating under an approved Maritime Safety Plan you are entitled to a tax rebate on the petrol you use in your boat. This refund amounts to 31.806 cents per litre and includes a refund of 6.05 cents per litre refund on your ACC levy.

For more information contact the Land Transport NZ on 0800 699 000 or go to their webpage on this topic – www.ltsa.govt.nz/factsheets/14.html.

SeaFIC

SeaFIC CEO Owen Symmans attended the February PICL board meeting as an invited guest. Owen updated the meeting on various issues that SeaFIC are involved in. He was also able to contribute to some of the discussions had during the meeting and he has offered SeaFIC staff to assist with some of the issues that came up such as:

1. Utilising the SeaFIC computer system to produce maps of the coastline that can be circulated around PauaMAC's so that local knowledge can be added. This will allow the creation of habitat maps that could be used to identify parts of the coast that might make good MPA's without having undue affect on our commercial catch.
2. He also offered to have his team look into the issue of property rights compensation and on what grounds we may have in the future if our rights are eroded or simply taken from us to give to another sector.

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal, a commitment to excellence, that will enable you to attain the success you seek" – Mario Andretti

SeaFIC big day out

PICL were invited to attend the Big Day Out that SeaFIC organised. This was a promotion designed to bring people that work in Government departments face to face with fishing industry representatives and SeaFIC did a splendid job of this. The trip included tours of the Sealord Nelson factory to see production lines in action and it also included a tour of a deep sea trawler and longliner. A bus then headed for Havelock to look at salmon and mussel farms.

The relaxed atmosphere and good food accompanied by a few beers set the scene whereby we could converse one on one with Government officials and media about the problems and issues the Paua industry is facing. We were able to talk directly to many influential people that you usually only ever come into contact with via emails and the telephone, but who have a strategic part to play in the future of the seafood industry. We thank SeaFIC for this initiative and expect to reap some benefits from this.

This newsletter was produced by the Paua Industry Council Ltd for the Paua Industry

That's all from us this month.

The Paua Industry Council Ltd.

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