

PAUA INDUSTRY COUNCIL Ltd

SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

2006 Paua Industry Conference

Once again the conference was a huge success with 98 delegates attending and a further 12 people joining us for the conference dinner and enjoying the hugely talented and hilarious entertainment.

We would like to thank all those who presented at this conference – the uninitiated will not appreciate how much time and effort goes into putting together a good presentation, but we can assure everyone that it is heaps.

Many topics were covered and copies of the presentations are available for download from the PICL web site (www.paua.org.nz). They have been converted to 'Portable Document Format' (PDF) to make the file size smaller for easy downloading. To download, go to www.paua.org.nz/2006conference.htm.

Recreational Advisory Forum Presentation

PICL was asked by MFish to update the Recreational Advisory Forum Group in Dunedin (Pau3, Pau5A, Pau5B & Pau5D areas) on the many issues we are faced with and what the industry is doing.

Our presentation was well received and the forum was very interested to hear of the advancement in our industry structure and the unity it has brought, along with the voluntary fisheries management initiatives we now have operating in many areas and the successes that are coming from the various reseeding trials around NZ.

Commercial Catch Sampling

PICL successfully tendered for the MFish contract to measure a percentage of the commercial catch.

The first objective of the contract is to produce a catch sampling programme (i.e. how many shells need to be measured from each QMA each year). We have sub-contracted the compilation of objective one to NIWA and the final draft is due to be put before the Shellfish Working Group in mid September.

Once the first objective is signed off the second objective swings into place which is getting out there to start measuring a percentage of what our divers are harvesting. We will be operating differently from the traditional shell measuring programme, which in the past has been done post processing. Instead PICL will be measuring "on location" (e.g. measuring the paua as the diver empties his kit bag). This method adds slightly to the cost but provides superior information that will be used to better estimate the state of paua stocks. This contract will provide a positive cash-flow to PICL.

Data logger update

The two CPUE data loggers and the one shell-length data logger that PICL have purchased are back with the manufacturer getting an upgrade. These units are our guinea pigs and we are still making improvements.

The latest upgrade will allow the manufacturer in Tasmania to email us software improvements that we can download straight into the units.

With respect to the shell-length data logger, this will allow us to easily re-engineer the software so that it is better suited to the requirements of the commercial catch sampling contract.

Four more data logger units have just arrived (2 for PauaMac4 and 2 for PauaMac5). An order for 10 more units for Pau4, 2 units for Pau7 crews and 2 units for Pau2 crews have just been placed. These will be used to introduce dive crews to the concept of logging data while harvesting.

PAU5a Industry Package

Instead of implementing quota cuts the Minister has accepted the package that PAU5a quota owners have developed as a solution to sustainability problems in the southern zones of PAU5a. The package includes subdividing PAU5a into 6 sub zones, setting harvesting limits for each sub zone, reducing the catch in the southern 3 zones by 50% (which equates to a 30% reduction of the total PAU5a TACC), increasing the harvesting size limit to 130mm in the southern 3 zones and 127mm in the

northern 3 zones, introducing a manual log book system so that there is a better understanding of the fishing effort, having harvesters attend a SITO paua diver accreditation course and finally producing a fisheries plan around these initiatives in the near future.

This package puts PAU5a at the top of the ladder as the QMA with the most comprehensive industry led fisheries management initiatives. It is a credit to the PAU5a industry and should be an inspiration to other regions.

Voluntary Size Limit Increases

There are now four South Island paua QMA's with introduced voluntary increases in harvest size limits. PAU5a and PAU5d have introduced two new size limits for the whole of these QMA's (130mm and 127mm), PAU5b has introduced one new size limit of 130mm for all of this QMA and PAU3 has introduced a size limit of 127mm for their northern two voluntary subdivisions.

The benefits are clear - an extra one to two years of spawning before paua are harvested and the added weight of larger paua (meaning less paua harvested per tonne) that will ensure more paua in the water in the coming years.



SITO Diver Accreditation Courses

A number of PauaMAC's have just completed SITO paua diver accreditation course and the numbers attending has conclusively demonstrated the industries desire to have better skilled participants.

Attendance was PauMAC5 had 42, Pau4 had 39 and a joint course of Pau7, 3 and 4 had 11.

CSO Levies

All of the PauaMAC's have had their SeaFIC 2nd Tier (CSO) levies approved so funding for our industry structure is in place for another year.

PICL Web Site Upgrade

The PICL web site has had a revamp (www.paua.org.nz) and now has copies of our past newsletters, 2006 conference presentations and expandable picture thumbnails.

ACC LEVY

In our last newsletter we tabled the new ACC levies for the 2006/07 year. Unfortunately there was a slight error in this table. See below for the corrected version.

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) \$2.04 (income) \$3.29 (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 \$2.67 and for SELF EMPLOYED (Non-Income) it is a saving of \$ 4.37

Difference

- The 2006/07 SEWA (income rate) for 04191 Shellfish & Paua Fishing was \$2.04 not \$2.02
- The 2006/07 SEWA (non-income) for 04191 was \$3.29 and not \$3.25 as was indicated.

Quote: *If we always do what we've always done then we will always get what we always got.*

Paua Medium Term Research Plan

PICL and NIWA have been awarded the MFish contract to develop a Medium Term Research Plan (MTRP) for paua.

Medium Term Research Plans are an important component of the Ministry's annual research planning process, although it is anticipated that ultimately research planning will be incorporated into the specification of objectives for fisheries, and the associated required services, within fishery management plans.

The research required to support paua fisheries management is considered annually by the Shellfish Research Planning Group. This group is convened by the Ministry of Fisheries and stakeholders can participate in the formulation and evaluation of research proposals. In determining research proposals to be put forward for the following year, Research Planning Groups must take into account the Medium Term Research Plan for the fishery.

The current shellfish Medium Term Research Plan devotes four pages to paua. However, this primarily lays

out the planned schedule for catch sampling, research dive surveys and stock assessments using the current integrated length-based model.

This project will allow the development of a much more extensive document that reviews the current state of knowledge of paua fisheries, their management in New Zealand and overseas and identifies the priority areas of research for improving assessment and management of the New Zealand paua fisheries. It provides an opportunity to step back from the current research cycle and critically evaluate those areas of research that will provide best value for future management.

In laying these out for a period of 3 to 5 years there is an opportunity to avoid *ad hoc* annual planning and put in place a structured process to address the critical management information needs.

This draft Paua Medium Term Research Plan will go in front of the Shellfish Working Group in mid September.

The Wellington South Coast

The Wellington South Coast has been described by scientists as the most productive paua habitat in NZ, but unfortunately it was closed to commercial paua harvesting well before the Quota Management System was introduced 20 years ago - the reason was over-fishing. However, since the commercial closure in 1972 the area has been a hot bed of poaching activity with MFish compliance estimating that over 150 tonnes of paua is stolen by fish thieves from this area each year.

Paua 2 have been in discussions with MFish for the last 15 years trying to get the area re-opened to commercial and at last it looks like progress is being made.

MFish, Recreational, Customary and Commercial have all agreed that the first step should be to have a "look and see" survey to get a feel for the state of this fishery (i.e. has it been decimated by fish thieves or are there still good stocks available). At the next Shellfish Working Group meeting a Paua 2 "industry led" survey proposal will be put forward.

The idea is that PAU2 ACE will be used for a one-off harvest of 10 tonne from the Wellington South coast as part of a survey to investigate abundance and size frequency from fine spatial scale catch and effort data and sampling for population size structure. Additionally, fine scale data on habitat availability and type for fine spatial scale management and qualitative data on the abundance of emergent pre-recruit paua to investigate recruitment will be collected.

Using industry divers means that the survey will effectively be at no cost, although the survey design and reporting was contracted to NIWA with a portion of these costs being met through a TechNet grant from NZTE and Paua 2 is hopeful that due to the high level of public good, the remaining design and reporting costs will come from MFish.

This is good positive stuff and shows that when all the stakeholders meet around the table and talk about "sharing" a fishery then progress can be made.

Compliance

MFish has invited PICL to present to a District Compliance Manger's conference in Wellington in October. The National Manger of Surveillance has also asked for feed back from the regions to this conference so anyone with information or suggestions please contact your PICL director before the 2nd week of October. This is a very positive initiative and a very welcome and significant change in attitude and signals a real desire to work collaboratively with industry in the fight against fish thieves.

**Updates in brief from the
Paua Industry Council Ltd (PICL) Meeting
Monday September 11th 2006, Picton**

Shell Length and Data loggers

Four new data loggers are due at the end of September with 2 going to PAU5 and 2 to PAU4. The shell logger is being upgraded to accommodate measuring shell overhang.

SITO training and Diver ID's

The unit standards have still not been finalized with the NZQA. PICL will be writing to the NZQA and SITO on this matter. Some of the course material needs to be individualized to reflect each areas practices. PICL will work with the PAUAMAC's to develop a diver ID card to help each PAUAMAC to self regulate. Once established MFish will be asked to integrate the numbering system into PCERLs.

Levies

SeaFIC have approved all CSO levies. Next year Helen Regan from RLIC will produce a timeline to help the PAUAMAC's with the levy process.

Service Contracts and Chairman's Honorarium

The service contracts and a Chairman's honorarium have been approved. The honorarium will be reviewed annually. A market review of remuneration paid to the CEO will be carried out before next year's budget is set.

Commercial Catch Sampling Contract

Objective one is to design a protocol and NIWA has been contracted to do this. This project will require strong management in order to ensure its success and prove that industry can be a credible service provider. Land Sea Consulting has been contracted to manage and provide field work for the first term of the commercial catch sampling contract.

Biosecurity

It appears that the abalone herpes virus in Tasmania did not come from imported abalone feed, however it is still not known where it did come from. NZ is checking to ensure imported dried seaweed is pathogen free.

Information

Industry will support prosecution of fish thieves by supplying a victim impact statement to the courts. R Naylor is writing a paper on the environmental effects of paua harvest (nil effect) for industry to use as required.

Mataitai Update

Waitutu – Boundary issues are being discussed within iwi.
Moeraki – Progress on this application has slowed.
Kaka Point – Progress on this application has slowed.
Tory Channel – No new information available.
West Coast – New application, industry/iwi dialogue started.
The PAUAMAC's are monitoring each of these applications.

Annual Financial Accounts

The annual accounts were approved. A copy of the accounts is available from J Cooper: cooper@xtra.co.nz

Compliance

MFish are putting \$10,000 towards the national industry initiated compliance campaign which will be launched later this month. Fishing celebrity Graeme Sinclair will give support and publicity to the campaign. PAUAMAC's have been asked to consider contributing funding to ensure that the campaign remains industry controlled.

Reseeding

A letter has been written to the Minister outlining PICL's positions on the genetic sourcing of brood stock. PICL will arrange to have a schedule of the MFish approved protocols for sourcing and reseeded paua stocks drawn up, confirmed by Julie Hills and circulated to the PAUAMAC's for them to use when dealing with local MFish offices.

Reseeding bits 'n pieces

Liz Keys will be presenting a paper written by J Cooper on paua reseeded in NZ at a conference in Seattle, USA. J Cooper has written an article on industry reseeded initiatives for the MFish magazine 'The BITE'

Research Programmes

1. The genetic structure of the Black Foot Paua (cost recovered) The cost of this will be dependant on research done by the University of Canterbury; if their results are good then the cost will be reduced. This project will cover 40 sample sites nationwide.
2. Proposal for the development & patenting of micro satellite genetic markers for industry use & ownership (4-5 yr, \$100 – 200,000 project). This project will cost approx \$100,000 if industry takes control.

Conference

This was very successful and discussions are taking place about next years conference. PICL is talking to the Rock Lobster Industry Council about the possibility of a combined paua/cray industry Conference for 2007.

Full meeting minutes are available from your PICL Director.

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

PIC Ltd

That's all from us this month.

The Paua Industry Council Ltd.

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