

# PAUA INDUSTRY COUNCIL Ltd

NEWSLETTER THREE – March 2005

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

### Spatial Allocation

Protecting our access rights is proving to be one of the biggest issues currently facing the industry. PICL are involved with:

(1) The conflict that is happening over Nugget Point (in Otago) which is being targeted by DoC for a Marine Reserve. We believe this has to be stopped as the transfer of fishing effort (to other areas of the coastline) will cause undue stress on the remaining paua stocks in Pau5D. This can only lead to more quota cuts for the commercial sector. Various meetings have been attended between the fishing industry, PICL, PauaMAC5, MFish and DoC and it is just the start of a long battle.

(2) A large amount of time has also gone into the background and preparation of the PICL submission on the Government's Marine Protected Area Strategy. The PICL and SeaFIC submissions have been circulated to the PauaMAC's and are available either by emailing PICL or asking your PauaMAC representative. PICL's submission focused on four key areas: The absolute need to protect property rights, the absolute need for risk based policy and what the real risks are, the potential and needless cost to New Zealand and two recommendations.

The recommendations were a) that the MPA strategy be risk-based. Where no, or minimal risk is identified (as for rocky reef systems) no exclusion of fishing is sought b) if the first recommendation is not accepted, quota must be purchased by the Crown on a willing buyer/willing seller and retired to balance for the loss of access.

(3) Preliminary discussions have been held between the paua and cray industries with Ngai Tahu re the location and purpose of some future Maori mataitai reserves. Initial indications are that much can be achieved by discussion and compromise (and a lot can be learnt from the "Gifts and Gains" principle utilised in the Guardians of Fiordland project).

We (everyone in the paua industry) can't afford to sit back and say "spatial allocation disputes will never happen here" because you can rest assured that these challenges are coming our way. We have to get up to speed and 'match fit' to handle these or we will find ourselves at the bottom of the heap dreaming about the good old days...

February truly was submission season and PICL staff and directors went well beyond what would normally be expected of them to fully address all the issues on behalf of Industry.

### Submission on MFish Statement of Intent 2005/06

MFish's Statement of Intent (SOI) is their business plan. Submissions are invited from stakeholders and PICL's submission covered the following aspects. We supported a collaborative approach in the development of fish plans. We stressed the need for increasing the efficiency and accountability of fisheries services provided by MFish and in particular those pertaining to compliance. Support of property rights that underpin the QMS was well covered and we asked for a change of culture from the national compliance office.

### Stock Strategies Submission

PICL's submission on Stock Strategies supported SeaFIC's stance of implementing a joint approach to fish plans and rejecting the concept of stock strategies. We also stressed the need to properly define the rights of all stakeholders to address the potential for future fisheries decline as effort from all non commercial sectors increases.

Industry initiatives to rebuild stocks and enhance the paua fishery under a fish plan will be all for nothing if poaching continues at present levels. Additionally, recreational and customary rights need to be more clearly defined. The commercial sector must not continue to bear the burden of TAC reductions.

### Joint Compliance Working Group

The joint compliance working group has met five times now and has provided a report to the Minister. The following four key strategies were identified: Information Strategy, Detection Strategy, Intervention and Prosecution Strategy and a Voluntary Compliance Strategy. For each strategy a suite of initiatives were identified. The Minister's office will shortly release more information on the report and the next steps to be taken. It is expected that the working group will be asked to continue working and undertake prioritization and analysis of the initiatives to allow immediate work to start on regulation changes. This is a huge step forward for our industry and underlines the value of having the mandate that PICL gives us to work collaboratively with the government.

To maximise the benefit of regulation changes and the new willingness of MFish to work with us, we need quota owner and ACE holder input and support.



Good information flow is the key to effective enforcement so if you see anything untoward do not hesitate to pick up the phone and ring 0800 4 POACHER. Alternatively if you prefer, contact your PauaMAC representative who will pass your information on confidentially. We also need to ensure our own house is in order. As soon as we can convince MFish of that, the sooner they will become more effective in apprehending poachers. Time wasted on us is time wasted full stop.

However, currently undermining the whole system are the totally pathetic sentences handed down by the courts. Most often a penalty upon conviction is much less than that delivered by way of an infringement notice and hardly any effective deterrent. Two initiatives we need to pursue vigorously are *minimum* sentences and education of the judiciary. This might include provision of impact reports (both environmental and economic) to support sentencing.

### **Fisheries Plans**

PICL is continuing to work with MFish as they fine-tune their expectations of Fisheries Plans. In the meantime PICL have been successful in gaining a \$2,000 funding grant to allow the Cawthron Institute to input into the "Empowerment Tools" document which is essentially a compilation of the actions that the industry could be doing to maximise the value/production of the paua fisheries (things such as different size limits, closures over spawning, spreading catch effort, etc). From the "Empowerment Tools" document, PauaMACs will then be able to isolate which actions they think will be most applicable for their fishery (and therefore include in their Fisheries Plan).

### **Gift for Neil Andrew**

Neil Andrew has left NIWA for a role as a science co-ordinator at the World Fish Centre, in Malaysia. Neil is highly respected in the NZ paua industry and his new role will be a loss to the New Zealand fishing sector.



*Ed Arron (left) and Jeremy Cooper presenting the Ripi to Neil Andrew.*

As a token of the industries appreciation PICL had a Ripi (a traditional Maori paua harvesting tool) carved from whale bone by Lance Le Quesne on Stewart Island.



### **Directors meeting**

We had a PICL directors meeting on Feb 11 2005. There was a very extensive agenda as there is so much going on at present. The minutes have now been finalised and are available by emailing PICL or asking your PauaMac representative. The next PICL directors meeting is scheduled for mid March.

### **Cluster Funding**

PICL was successful in obtaining \$15,000 from NZTE for cluster development. This will pay for extra work that was needed to get PICL set up on a sound basis. This includes constitutional work, accounting systems and reporting that provide for absolute transparency and smooth running.

### **Industry Conference**

The paua industry conference will be held on June 9–10 2005 in Christchurch. We hope this will be the "coming together" of our industry (and your partners). We have produced a draft conference agenda and this contains sessions on Compliance, Marine Reserves, Reseeding, Harvesting, the use of data etc.

This year we are aiming to get presenters from various different sectors to speak and then complete the session with a panel discussion so once industry have heard the various sides to the issues we can debate them and try and get some industry consensus.

As an example, for the Marine Protected Area session we are aiming to get representatives from DoC, MFish and SeaFIC to present their sides of the story and then let the industry lead the ensuing debate.

### **Reseeding co-ordination**

A meeting of PauaMAC representatives was held in Blenheim to build a coordinated approach to reseedling. A lot of information is becoming available and the lessons learned in one region need to be transferred to others.

The minutes from this meeting and the presentation that Rodney Roberts (Cawthron Institute) gave are available by emailing PICL or asking your PauaMac representative.

# Around the regions

## **Paua 2 Industry Association Inc**

The working group tasked with looking at spreading catch effort has been formed and has met for the first time. Work will start on the South Coast project proposal later in the year.

As very little of the PAU2 quota management area is commercially fished there is good opportunity to spread effort though opening closed areas and accessing stocks through variable minimum legal size limits. These opportunities will probably only come to fruition through a fisheries plan, but PAUA 2 is well placed to progress this with both talented people and a budget in support.

**Ed Arron, Chairman – PAUA 2 Chairman and PICL Chairman**

## **PauaMAC 3 Incorporated**

The season has gone well, with most divers well through their quotas. Our Reseeding is looking good with some excellent growth rates showing up. Continuity of supply of seed is an issue that we are working through at the present time.

Illegal take is still a problem along the coast, particularly the taking of juvenile fish above the low water mark.

**John Nicholls, Chairman Paua3 and PICL Director.**

## **Pauamac 4 Industry Association Inc**

PauaMAC 4 executive is making steady progress working through the projects in the business plan; here are a couple of updates:

Stage one of the re-seeding project happened in February 05, with everything going well, even the weather held out for the week. Now we are gearing up for the Translocation project due to take place in March.

The UBA and Green weight / Meat weight projects, finalising scoping of projects and sorting out whom to appoint to carry out each project.

**Alan Culverwell, PauaMAC 4 Executive member and PICL Director.**

## **PauaMAC 5 Inc**

In the South the big issue on our radar screen has to be DOC's looming formal application for a Marine Reserve at Nugget Point. Catch statistics for the area show that between 8 and 10% of the

Pau5D TACC is caught in the area of the proposed Reserve.

Should it proceed the Minister of Fisheries will have to reduce the TACC proportionately to protect remaining fish stocks. Industry views this as an arbitrary confiscation of a private property right and will vigorously oppose the application.

It is unfortunate that this issue has arisen now. PauaMAC5 has a number of projects to complete this season which will determine the direction of future management of our fisheries and we have to ensure that fighting the MR application does not reduce the effort we put into management initiatives. A series of meetings will be scheduled in each of the PAU5 QMA's within the month to start the active management projects outlined in the MAC's Project Plans.

**Storm Stanley, Chairman - PauaMAC5 and PICL Director.**

## **PauaMAC 7 Industry Association Inc**

- Visual reports and scientific trials on the reseeded project are very encouraging, and this will be finalized by an in-depth economic model which will be drawn up by June 2005.
- Compliance within Area 7 is gaining further momentum, but even at this stage we are seeing positive results on our seabed.
- The proposed fish plan is progressing and it will be ready to present to an industry meeting planned to happen in May
- Some PauaMAC7 members attended the Shellfish Working Group meeting held in Blenheim on February 23. Paul Breen (NIWA) presented the alternative "CPUE Standardization" document and it was well received.

Final sign off from MFish on the Decision Rule which has been set up by PauaMAC7 to govern the release, if any, of the 2004/05 shelving agreement is expected shortly.

- The Area7 fishery is showing positive signs of a gradual rebuild with a large amount of the catch already taken. Weather conditions have been average to good.

**Dave Baker, Chairman - PauaMAC7 & PICL Director.**

## Australian Presentation

The Tasmanian Abalone Council have asked that PICL do a presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Abalone Convention (to be held in Hobart –Tasmania – more about this below) explaining the structural changes the NZ paua industry has been through. What has been achieved in our industry is no mean feat and it is pleasing to see other Abalone fisheries around the world recognising this.

## Australasia Abalone conference

The third National Abalone Convention (Australia) will be held in Hobart, Tasmania at the Hotel Grand Chancellor from May 11 – 13, 2005. The Convention will attract more than 200 Australia-wide participants including divers, processors, quota-owners (investors) and distributors. Outcomes from the convention will drive national strategies for the future of the industry.

The Tasmanian Abalone Council (TAC) will host the convention with support from the Abalone Council Australia, the Victorian Abalone Committee, the Abalone Industry of SA Inc, the Abalone Industry of NSW and the Western Australian Abalone Industry Association.

A wide range of speakers have been secured, covering topics ranging from Post-Harvest issues, Diver related issues, Marketing and Research. Speakers will cover the wild fishery as well as aquaculture.

Registration brochures are now available from Melinda Mullen, Tasmanian Abalone Council Ph:03 6231 1955 Fax: 03 6231 1966 email [convention@tasabalone.com.au](mailto:convention@tasabalone.com.au) or by downloading from the TAC internet site [www.tasabalone.com.au](http://www.tasabalone.com.au). There is also Sponsorship and Trade opportunities available.

## Other Stuff...

**How to be more productive** - If there's never enough time in your day, this is a must-read.

Seven common-sense rules for achieving more - and worrying less.

<http://www.nbnz.co.nz/business/banking/information/publications/yourbusinessupdate/article.asp?article=0042>

That's all from us this time.

The Paua Industry Council Ltd.

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David Baker & Jeremy Cooper

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