

In brief...

History caught on camera

Two Unitec students are the first students in a project to photograph the transformation of a part of Auckland's waterfront over the next 25 years, including people, places and designs.

The Wynyard Quarter is to be transformed in stages by Sea+City Projects Ltd from a tank farm into a harbourside community with parks and plazas, apartments, shops and offices alongside the traditional marine and fishing industries.

Rebekah Robinson and Leigh Bell are the first students to take part in the project. "I thought the tanks were just industrial, defunct, monstrous beasts, but they're so impressive and it's great that some of them may stay," says Rebekah.

Special Areas ban waste discharges

Special Areas to prohibit the discharge of waste, including oil and garbage, from ships took effect in the "Gulfs area" and off southern South Africa on August 1. They provide extra protection from pollution from shipping in those areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, or MARPOL.

The "Gulfs area" means the sea nor-west of the rhumb line between Ras al Hadd and Ras al Fastej. The Southern South African waters Special Area encompasses the continental shelf region known as the Agulhas Bank, as well as the southern and central portion of the southern Benguela upwelling ecosystem.

The "Gulfs area" was established as a Special Area in 1973, when MARPOL was adopted, but the discharge requirements could not take effect until states in the region had ratified the convention and provided reception and treatment facilities for ship-generated wastes in ports, terminals and ship repair ports.

The opening of the Southern South African waters Special Area followed information that all the major ports in the area provided adequate reception facilities for oily wastes from ships.

Pilot boarding stations renamed

The inner and outer Auckland Harbour pilot boarding stations have been re-named.

The 'inner' station located at Lat 36°45'1.5 S, Long 174°49.8 E has been renamed 'Alpha'.

The 'outer' station located at Lat 36°44'2.2 S, Long 174°50'5.5 E has been renamed "Bravo".

NZ's seabed rights confirmed

NEW ZEALAND'S RIGHTS over 1.7 million square kilometres of seabed have been confirmed by a special United Nations commission.

Prime Minister Helen Clark says it is the result of more than 10 years work by New Zealand scientists and officials, costing \$44 million.

The approved area is more than six times the size of New Zealand's land mass.

Miss Clark says the decision allows New Zealand to pursue mineral and petroleum exploration on the continental shelf surrounding New Zealand, should it choose to do so.

SNAPPING SHRIMP AND FEEDING SEA URCHINS MAKE NOISY GUIDES

THE DISCOVERY THAT fish and crabs swim towards the source of underwater sound could result in a technique for re-stocking depleted reefs, according to a New Zealand scientist Dr Craig Radford.

His research earned him a runner-up prize in the MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards. Using an underwater listening device, Dr Radford found that snapping shrimps and feeding sea urchins make the loudest sounds beneath the ocean. His study showed underwater ambient noise around the New Zealand coast gets louder at dawn and dusk every day, largely due to shrimp rapidly closing their claws and sea urchins scraping their teeth on rocks while feeding.

Dr Radford, who is based at the University of Auckland University's marine laboratory at Leigh, was runner-up in the Understanding Planet Earth category of the MacDiarmid Awards presented by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Fish and crab larvae are frequently dispersed tens of kilometres out to sea and he set out to investigate how they return to the coast. He found that reef fish and crabs swim towards underwater sound, and concluded that noise generated around the coast plays an important role in guiding baby fish and crustaceans to a suitable habitat where they can settle.

He says replicating the sounds could attract fish back to depleted reefs and help fish and crabs to flourish in reefs that have been slow to colonise.

He is currently completing a post doctoral fellowship with the university on how larval fish and crabs use underwater sound as an orientation cue, including the frequencies they listen to, how loud underwater sound needs to be for them to hear it and how far offshore they can pick up sound.

He is collaborating on the research with scientists in Australia and the United Kingdom.



PHOTO: CAWTHRON

Ministry praises book

A BOOK WRITTEN and illustrated by 27, nine to 11-year-old Invercargill students has won a shower of praise from the Ministry of Fisheries.

MFish compliance manager, Andrew Coleman, said the book titled 'Pat the Poacher' had him hooked.

He said the book, about the perils of poaching, impressed the ministry so much, it was worthy of a special presentation.

"It recognises all of the messages we try

to get across, it's just fantastic," he said.

Written and illustrated entirely by the pupils of Room 4 at Ascot Community School, the book tells the story of Pat, a fish thief.

For their efforts the fisheries ministry presented the class and the school with a plaque, books, DVDs and a \$200 book voucher.

The book can be viewed online at the ministry's website.

CHARTER OPERATOR POCKETED FEES

A QUEENSTOWN FISHING guide and charter operator has been arrested for not issuing fishing licences to clients and pocketing their fees.

Queenstown police said the 52-year-old man faced four charges of causing loss by deception.

Detective Matthew Jones said the business included a boating trip, guiding, use of fishing

equipment and a 24-hour fishing licence.

The man allegedly failed to issue fishing licences to clients and pocketed the \$19 fee, which was payable to Fish and Game Otago. Jones said Fish and Game Otago contracted a private investigation company to look into the allegations in January. The arrested man appeared in Queenstown District Court on August 11. Further charges could follow.

406 EPIRB failed during search

ON SUNDAY AUGUST 31, 2008 at approx 0500 the yacht, *Time to Burn*, lost its keel while transiting the Bay of Plenty.

At the time of the accident the yacht lay on its side, after the keel failed at its hull mount attachments, for approx 30 minutes, long enough for the crew to get off mayday calls and activate both 406 and 121 EPIRB's.

The yacht then inverted allowing the one survivor to secure himself to the rudder while the other crew member remained close by in the water.

The Coastguard arrived on the scene at around 0700 finding the vessel completely inverted and one survivor roped to the rudder. The body of the other crew member was in the water 100m away, having succumbed to the conditions. At the time of the accident the weather was cold with a SE 15knts and a 2m sea running.

It was not until 1600 Sunday afternoon that the decision was made by the insurers to attempt a salvage. Gear and equipment and personnel were mobilised for an 0800 start on the Monday morning.

The *Edward G* tug out of Tauranga was used and headed toward the last position given by the National Rescue Coordinating Centre in Wellington, about 1 nautical mile north of Karewa Island.

Nothing was found in this area and around this time the 406 EPIRB appears to have failed and ceased transmitting.

Meanwhile the 121 continued to transmit giving a very rough position but enough to enable a spotter plane, on the scene at 1120, to locate the hull after 30 minutes. At this point the vessel was about 200m off the surf zone, half way along Matakana Island, after drifting some 20nm.

By 1300 divers had attached towlines to the upturned vessel and a very slow 1 knot tow was commenced to Tauranga. At around 1900 the vessel was eased, upside down, into the marina travel lift, trailing debris, broken mast, rigging, sails, etc and lifted ashore.

Why the 406 failed and ceased transmitting will be the subject of part of the forthcoming accident investigation into this incident by Maritime New Zealand.

FAST-TRACKED FISHING FOLLY?

THE FAST-TRACKED Fisheries Act Amendment Bill has been strongly criticised for being in "collusion" with commercial fishing and for giving the fisheries minister too much power.

The legislation was developed to fend off law suits from fishing companies unhappy with reduced catch limits.

Legal challenges to Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton's decisions on setting catch limits for commercial fishing have focused on the lack of information on fish stocks.

But a law change to make catch-limit decisions on limited information legally robust has been slammed by those who might have been expected to support it.

Mr Anderton says the opposition has missed the point of the new law.

"Certain fish stocks are in trouble but because there isn't enough scientific evidence available, I can't lower the quota," he said.

"Getting it would be hard and prohibitively expensive in some cases. In the case of orange roughy, it might not be possible to get the required information until the species was gone."

He said there was no time for full consultation with stakeholders, but the bill had been drawn up conjointly by commercial fishing representatives and the ministry.

"The select committee has allowed for all groups to have their say."

Customary fisheries advocate, Paul Haddon, says the haste was unnecessary because fisheries most in need of protection, orange roughy and bluenose, could be protected with interim measures.



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