

In brief...

Greenpeace calls for stronger climate action

Greenpeace is calling for stronger action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the wake of the government's release of three major reports on December 11.

The three reports outline a draft energy strategy for New Zealand, as well as proposals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions now and beyond 2012. They were a good start but did not go far enough, said Greenpeace spokeswoman Cindy Baxter.

The government needed to urgently adopt policies to reduce greenhouse pollution at the rate scientists said was required to avoid dangerous levels of climate change. That meant cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 20 to 30 percent by 2020, and 80 to 90 percent by 2050.

Greenpeace welcomed the move to put a price on climate-changing pollution, but worried that emissions trading was too complicated to be implemented quickly. "We need carrots and sticks," Baxter said.

RUSTING HULK A COSTLY HEADACHE

AN AUCKLAND EYESORE, the *Atlantic Trader*, continues to be tied up at Westhaven some six years after she was delivered from Miami in the United States to New Zealand.

A Waikato farmer, John Ramsey, bought the 73m ship for a price believed to be several million dollars in 2001 for a new service across Cook Strait.

When the *Atlantic Trader* arrived he was horrified at her poor state, and later discovered that the ship's marine survey report was a fake.

Maritime New Zealand banned the ship from going to sea, as the hull was so rusty it was feared she would sink. "It is certainly one of the worst ships we have ever seen in terms of its total unseaworthiness," the director of Maritime NZ, Russell

Kilvington, said in 2001.

According to a report in the New Zealand Herald, Ramsey paid five years of berthage fees at \$200 per day, thought to be more than \$300,000, to Titan Marine Engineering, where she is tied up at a wharf on Hamer St in Freeman's Bay.

He sold the *Atlantic Trader* to an Australian in late 2005 for \$1, who then sold it to a mystery owner. Neither has paid any fees to Titan Marine, which says it is now owed about \$70,000.

The owner of Titan Marine, Mike Frewin, says legal proceedings are underway. "It is probably better that I don't say anything."

Maritime NZ says the hulk can only be towed to a scrapyard, and only after extensive work was done to make her safe and watertight.

Diving vessel joins charter fleet

THE CHARTER CONNECTION, based in Gulf Harbour, recently added the former diving vessel *Divercity* to its fleet of charter fishing vessels.

The 14.5m powercat, designed by Malcolm Tennant, has been converted for line fishing, while still retaining the ability to service the diving industry. She is now fully operational and is skippered by Damian Clayton.

See www.charterconnection.co.nz

MOBILE NETWORK CLOSES

TELECOM'S 025 NETWORK will close at 1800 on March 31. Very few countries still use this type of mobile technology. It has therefore become difficult to service and maintain, a Telecom spokesman said.

The 027 network is the future of Telecom's mobile network, with services such as mobile broadband, texting, and picture and video messaging. Sites on elevated coastal locations provided coverage for marine customers in many parts of the country, the spokesman said.

The 027 network has a limit of 120km for line-of-sight communications. A properly installed 027 phone with an elevated external marine antenna located well clear of other superstructure objects should therefore deliver excellent results, he said.

Outside the main recreational marine areas, Telecom suggests that customers consider the Motorola M800 fixed "car phone" as a replacement for their existing 025 phones.

The M800 offers a high-resolution display for easy reading and a well-spaced keypad. Optional extras include a privacy handset and a data kit that allows the M800 to be used as a modem or to send and receive data and fax calls to a PC. The M800 should be teamed with a suitable marine antenna.

Readers of *Professional Skipper* magazine can benefit from a special upgrade offer on the M800 phone with prices starting at \$99 (and free installation up to \$150 in value) depending on the type of existing 025 connection and the level of monthly mobile spend.

Send your contact details and your existing 025 number to the editor, and a Telecom dealer will call you to discuss your options.

All customers upgrading to 027 can keep their old 025 number with just a prefix change to 0274. Calls will be diverted for free from the old 025 to the new 027 number for 12 months after upgrading. This offer ends on April 30.



Danish scientists say our waters are clean

DANISH SCIENTISTS HAVE given New Zealand a tentative "thumbs up" for the negligible pollution found in fish samples collected off Banks Peninsula.

The sample of bile taken from a trigger fish caught just outside the harbour on January 7 showed pollution levels only slightly above those taken in pristine Arctic waters.

The 49 scientists aboard the Royal Danish Navy frigate *HDMS Vaedderen* that berthed at Lyttelton on January 8 are taking part in a global expedition, Galathea 3, which covers a range of projects. They include producing a global pollution map, and calculating how much carbon dioxide is absorbed by the world's oceans and its likely effect on climate change.

They are collecting and examining a wide range of marine life during the eight-month voyage around the world, during which they will steam about 39,000 miles and call into 16 ports, including Greenland, Chile, the United States Virgin Islands, the Solomon Islands and the Azores. The specimens are analysed in six containerised laboratories specially fitted aboard the frigate.

A Danish scientist on board, associate professor Jan Christensen, said the most unpolluted site found so far was in the Arctic Ocean off Greenland, where there were no

humans for thousands of kilometres. "By comparison, fish sampled from Copenhagen Harbour - our own home garden - showed the highest levels of pollution. That's bad."

Christensen said the global pollution map he hoped to produce at the completion of the expedition would be a world first.

Expedition scientific leader Professor Katherine Richardson's project is to find out how much atmospheric carbon dioxide the ocean absorbs, in order to discern the role of the seas in mediating climate change.

Prof Richardson said computer analysis showed that the world's oceans had taken up about half the extra carbon dioxide that humans had generated. "The problem is, it's not going to continue to do that."

She said CO2 broke down calcium carbonate, and when it was absorbed into the ocean and became acidic it affected the myriad of marine organisms that made calcium carbonate, including lobsters, crabs, fish, corals and some seaweeds.

Assuming CO2 emissions continued at current levels, computer projections showed that by as early as 2065 there would be no regions in the oceans where conditions would be right for producing calcium carbonate. "There is nothing you can blame for this ocean acidity except the CO2 in the atmosphere."

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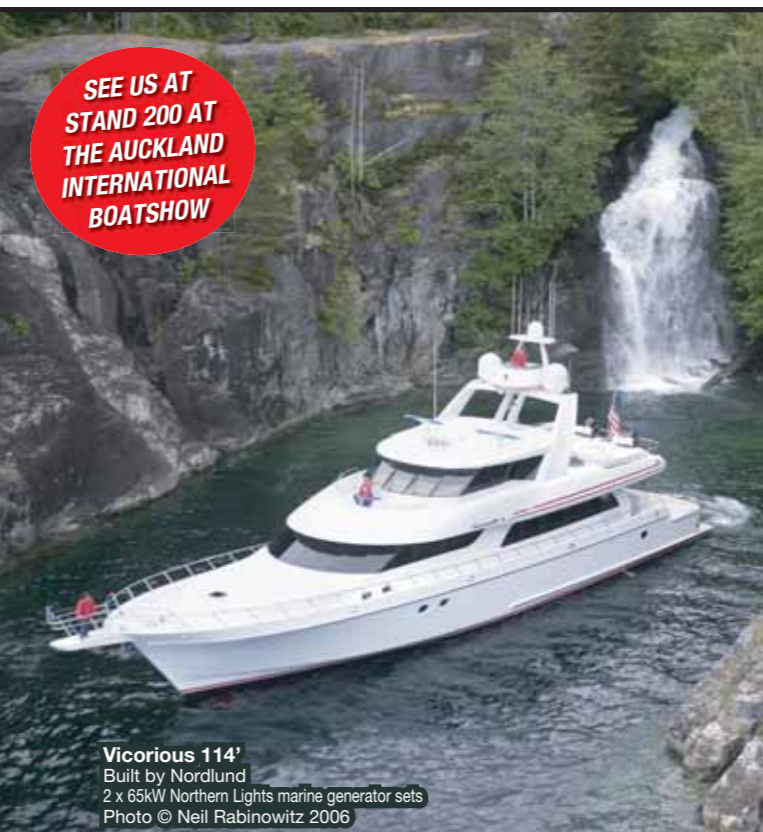
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Vicorious 114' Built by Nordlund 2 x 65kW Northern Lights marine generator sets Photo © Neil Rabinowitz 2006

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