

December 2010

End of an Era

As many of you are aware, long term ‘Territorian’, Fisheries Technician and Industry Liaison Officer, Mac’ MacCartie is moving on. Mac’ has spent 19 years working for Fisheries, ten of which have been on secondment to the Northern Territory Seafood Council.

Mac’ came to the Territory in 1980 and worked at a variety of jobs until he arrived at Fisheries. It was at Fisheries he developed his skills in designing and fabricating commercial fishing gear. This led to a long term association and passion for the industry.

Mac’ and his partner, Anna, are moving to South Australia to spend time with his son and to pursue career options which are limited in the Territory.

Mac’ says “We may be moving south for a while but we are Territorians at heart and we will be back – just when is the question”.

“As far as the industry is concerned, despite the pressures placed on it and the hurdles it has to continually jump, I have faith in its future. I’ve met and worked with some great people and will miss them”.

Industry wishes Mac’ and Anna all the best for their future adventures in South Australia and their presence in the Territory will be missed.



Mac' MacCartie always keen to combine his passion for cooking and the seafood industry



Quick Read

Blue Mud Bay

The Tiwi Islands have not extended their interim arrangements with the NT Government for access for fishers to the inter-tidal zone.

www.fishing.nt.gov.au/

Get Online!

Have you visited the Support NT Caught website yet? If not, get online!

supportntcaught.com.au



SUPPORT NT CAUGHT

Facebook Site

Are you a fan of **Support NT Caught**? If so show your support by joining us on facebook!

NSIA Reviews Priorities

The National Seafood Industry Alliance met in Canberra in October 2010 to review its key priorities. They remain to be Marine Bioregional Planning; Promotion of industry (including CoOL); RD&E and Federal Regulation

Dr Kelly Hits Ground Running

Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, has been busy actively meeting with industry, including a recent meeting in November with NTSC Chairman Rob Fish and continued contact with the NSIA.

Chairman's Report

Merry Christmas everyone. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and Happy New Year. I'd like to take the chance to thank everybody for their help with the Council in the last year.

In that, I mean everyone, everyone who has supported the Council in our work, attended meetings, MACs, board meetings etc etc and just as important everyone who's told us when we doing something wrong!! This feedback is essential to ensure the Council is actually meeting your needs.



And to those who tell everyone else we are doing a bad job but are never seen at the Council, its time you came and aired your views here. The seafood industry has enough people trying to knock us over without us sniping at each other.

So let's cut a deal if you have an issue come and tell us in the New Year and my promise we will do our best to fix it up. Then next year I can thank you too!

The Council operates with a massive staff of two!! So a special thanks to Irawan and of course Katherine who have helped transform the Council to one of the most respected fishery councils in Australia. Also thanks to Lyn and Suzanne who have ensured the image of our industry has improved every day.

And a big thank you and good bye for now to Mac'. I obviously haven't known Mac as long as most but his ability to communicate with Seafood Council members has been invaluable over the last few years. His knowledge of the industry's history will be a big loss to the Council. The industry and I are seeing a good mate moving on – so don't be a stranger Mac'.

Now here is one we haven't been able to do for a while – a thank you to a politician. I cannot thank Senator Trish Crossin enough for her ongoing support in our Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL) campaign.

Only last week Trish made an impassioned speech in the Senate for other States to roll out the NT's CoOL requirements. The Senators ongoing and vocal support for our campaign is very much appreciated and I hope members are aware of the support Trish is providing the industry. You may even like to thank her yourself.

And hey Nigel (Senator Scullion) how about you get a bit more vocal in backing the campaign!!

Really have a great Christmas and New Year!

Rob Fish
Chairman – Northern Territory Seafood Council

2010 NTSC AGM

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was held on 13th November 2010 at the Botanical Gardens.

At the AGM, Chairman Rob Fish advised members of the recent Board decision to create an Industry Contribution Fund to enhance the *Support NT Caught* campaign.

Following the meeting, Jane Munday, Michels Warren Munday presented to Northern Territory Seafood Council members on “what makes a good news story”.

At the heart of the *Support NT Caught* campaign is profiling and introducing our seafood industry members to the public. Jane reminded NTSC members that some of the actions they take to be “part of their day” or “of no interest” actually make really interesting and popular news stories.

Interim Access Arrangements

The Northern Land Council has extended the interim access arrangements for commercial fishers to 30th June 2011 to allow commercial fishing to continue while negotiations and consultations with Traditional Owners continue.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council continues to meet with both the Land Councils and Government with the aim to reach an overarching agreement for industry as a whole.

Quick Read



\$330 Bargain

Commercial Fishers are able to attend the Seafood Directions conference for a bargain \$330, for more info see page 8.

Governance Training

FRDC are supporting the NTSC to run a one day training session the NTSC Board and members on the roles and responsibility of Board members. Training will occur in February 2011 and industry members interested in committee positions are encouraged to participate in this limited and very valuable opportunity.

Draft out for Review

The Offshore Snapper Advisory Group (OSAG) has released a draft management document for the Demersal and Finfish Trawl fishery. Copies of the framework are available at Fisheries reception and at the NTSC reception. Comments close 28th January 2011.

E-Newsletter

You can now register for your electronic copy of *Seafood Council News* by emailing ntsc@ntsc.com.au

Lyn has completed a revision of the Barramundi Fishery Environmental Management System (EMS), with industry assistance, and equipment has been purchased to produce it as a small, laminated booklet suitable for use on-board. The revised EMS includes information on avoiding or minimising sawfish interactions and industry-recommended tips on safe handling and release of sawfish.

OceanWatch Australia and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) have started a collaborative project which will see SeaNet Officers providing the post-harvest sector with information on seafood quality and Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) tools. Lyn attended training in Sydney on two of the tools developed by the Sydney Fish Market, a Quality Index Manual and OH&S video. If anyone is interested in these resources please contact Lyn.

The fourth NT Reference Group Meeting was held recently at the NT Seafood Council. The NT Reference Group meets twice a year to provide advice and drive the SeaNet Program from a regional and local level. The Reference Group, comprised of industry and natural resource management representatives, provides important input into Lyn's work plan.

Lyn attended the launch by Darwin Fish Market of a new line of seafood products for kids and interacted with consumers to raise awareness of the sustainability of our seafood industry.

Lyn has started a "faces of fishing" series of videos to go on the SeaNet NT YouTube Site (www.youtube.com/user/SeaNetNT).

The series aims to showcase aspects of fishing and life on board boats in various fisheries in the Top End. So far three videos in the series have been completed bringing the total number of videos on the site to eleven.



Taste testing at Darwin Fish Markets

The latest video shows trap fishing aboard *FV Aleatha T* while the previous two in the series profile the Aquarium Fishery and Spanish Mackerel Fishery. The videos have now had 7,000 views.

For further information Lyn Lambeth can be contacted on 08 8981 5194 or 0421 054 274 or by email lyn@oceanwatch.org.au

Queensland Pushing for Country of Origin Labelling

The Australian Barramundi Farmers Association (ABFA) recently stated that their biggest problem is having imported fish sold as *barramundi*.

As a result ABFA are working extremely hard to have Queensland and the rest of Australia follow the Northern Territory's lead in requiring the dining sector establishments to alert consumers to imported seafood.

In late November 2010, ABFA's Graham Dalton and Trevor Anderson from the Qld Aquaculture Industries Federation met Murray Watt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to Hon. Paul Lucas MP, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and has responsibility for food labelling.

ABFA representatives have also met with Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and made representations at the parliament farming the sea function held at Parliament House in Brisbane.

ABFA have been advised that the Queensland Government view ABFA's position very sympathetically and the government is keen to work out how to proceed, with the potential for the government to be in a position to legislate in the second half of next year.

ABFA will continue to lobby for these improved labelling laws for seafood in Queensland through further meetings with government, engaging with the Queensland Seafood Industry Association and Restaurant and Caterers Association.

Commonwealth Funding for NT Fisheries

The Northern Territory Seafood Council has been successful in obtaining funding under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country to conduct a review of the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) or Codes of Practice (CoP) of five fisheries in the Northern Territory.

The project is a partnership with SeaNet NT and the project implementation will be rolled out by NT SeaNet Extension Officer, Lyn Lambeth.

The project will look at environmental risks to fishing ecosystems and promote bycatch reduction strategies. The project will also address the potential lack of environmental awareness and responsibility amongst all members of the industry, including crew and licence lessees.

The project will assist industry to improve public perceptions and support for commercial fisheries and could assist in achieving or being reassessed for, export accreditation under the EPBC Act.

Seafood Leadership Graduates 2010

Lyn Lambeth, NT SeaNet Extension Officer completed the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, finishing with the graduation and industry dinner at Parliament House in Canberra on 24th September 2010.



2010 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program Graduates (Lyn Lambeth 3rd from Right)

The graduation and dinner was attended by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Dr Mike Kelly and Australian Greens Senator for Western Australia, Rachel Siewert.

The Northern Territory Seafood Council proudly sponsored Lyn to complete the nine day course which was held over a six month period.

“I gained a great deal of experience in operating at a professional level, under pressure and in coordination with a diverse group of people from varied sectors of the industry,” said 2010 Graduate, Lyn Lambeth.

The Seafood Council Board is highly supportive of this important course which builds leadership capacity for our industry. Previous graduates supported by the NTSC include Katherine Sarneckis, Jethro Gill, Peter Manning and Norm Hedditch.

Nominations for the 2011 Program will be open soon; expressions of interest can be lodged through the following website <http://www.ruraltraininginitiatives.com.au> or phone the Seafood Council for further information on 8981 5194.

Bright Idea? Make it Happen

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation are proudly sponsoring the Fisheries and Aquaculture Award, one of the nine awards available. Each of the nine categories includes a grant of up to \$22 000. If you're aged between 18 and 35 and have a great idea for a project then start working on your application now!

For more information please visit www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards or contact the Science Awards Manager on 02 6272 2260 or scienceawards@abares.gov.au

New Faces at the Port Corporation

The Darwin Port Corporation is going through some big changes under the leadership of CEO, Robert Ritchie. Several new people have been recruited to upper management positions to assist in the expanding operation. The Northern Territory Seafood Council will relay the new Port Corp structure in the March 2011 newsletter by which time the recruitment is complete.



One new face is Peter Raines, as General Manager City Wharves, Peter is responsible for Marina and Retail operations, cruise facilitation and the City Wharf facilities, including the Duckpond and Hornibook's.

Peter has joined the DPC after a short retirement. Peter was the joint owner of the Bank of Queensland Darwin franchise and previously the Managing Director for Sterling Property Services in the Northern Territory. Peter is the former chairman of the Cullen Bay Marine Management and has an extensive background in contract maintenance operations.

Peter has commenced the pre-cyclone clean up and is preparing a plan for longer term improvements at these facilities such as ablation up grades and stabilisation of the embankment on the Frances Bay Drive side of the basin. Peter is keen to engage stakeholders in the process and has held a meeting with Seafood Council CEO, Katherine Sarneckis.

Frances Bay Marina Advisory Group

As a result of the meeting between DPC's Peter Raines and NTSC's Katherine Sarneckis, an advisory group will be set up to assist Peter in determining priorities and direction for future infrastructure upgrades and improvements. The structure of the group has yet to be determined but the Northern Territory Seafood Council Board is keen to progress the matter early in the New Year.

Manning Requirements

As most readers will be aware, minimum manning requirements for fishing vessels are determined by vessel length, horse power and area of operation. It is invariably a combination of Master/Skipper/Coxswain, MED and general crew holding 'Elements of Shipboard Safety' and Radio Telephony' tickets.

Seafood and Maritime Industry Training (SMIT) conducts regular courses in all of the above. If there is enough interest in 'Elements of Shipboard Safety' and 'Radio Telephony' tickets, SMIT will put a course for the above in January 2011 before the start of the Barramundi season on top of the regular courses they run throughout the year.

SMIT can be contacted on 08 8981 0495.

Seafood Conference Set To Impress Industry

Every two years the seafood industry holds a conference and the overarching theme of the Seafood Directions 2011 Conference will be **"The Productivity Challenge"**. All aspects of the processes that define the areas of the productivity challenge will be examined in depth. With only the most informative presenters to inspire and provide direction for the industry.

Seafood Directions 2011 is set to deliver a tight program presenting new innovations and products to help seafood businesses become more efficient in supplying the consumer with fresh Australian Seafood.

With the aim to attract as many commercial fishers from around the country as possible to the conference, registration for commercial fishers is only \$330, which includes:

- All conference sessions (Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th)
- 1 Ticket to the BBQ lunch at the Gold Coast Prawn Farm (Sunday 23rd)
- 1 Ticket to the "Freshest Catch Direct from the Boat" at Gold Coast Fisherman's Co-op (Sunday 23rd)
- 1 Ticket to the Welcome Reception (Sunday 23rd)
- 1 Ticket to the Australian Seafood Industry Awards dinner (Tuesday 25th)
- and more!!



Seafood Directions Conference

Gold Coast Convention Centre 23 - 25 October 2011

Seafood Directions 2011 sets the compass for the industry in a 3 day series of presentations, workshops and functions. Connect directly with stakeholders, government, suppliers and buyers in the stunning playground of the Gold Coast.

SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS 2011
THE PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGE

For all queries including sponsorship and exhibition opportunities contact:

Shearwater Consulting Pty Ltd
T: (+61) 7 4031 2345
E: info@shearwaterconsulting.net
W: www.seafooddirections2011.com



Eminent Fisheries Scientist Departs the NT

Long term fisheries research scientist, Dr Rik Buckworth has decided to call it a day. After almost 29 years with Northern Territory Fisheries Rik has accepted a position with CSIRO in Brisbane. Rik came to the Territory in the eighties to initially work on crocodiles with the infamous Graham Webb.

He moved to Fisheries and was based at Groote Eylandt for some time. He has conducted research on a plethora of different species and fisheries and is well known for his innovative approaches to research and stock assessment.

His two latest achievements have been the development of the “genetag” used in Spanish mackerel research and the gaining of his PhD.



Dr Rik Buckworth with a memento made from his work colleague and good friend Adrian Donati

The Northern Territory Seafood Council extends best wishes to Rik in his future endeavours with the realisation that his departure is the Territory’s loss and Queensland’s gain.

What’s in the weather?

When it comes to commercial mud crab fishing, the weather plays a vital role in influencing whether catches are to be high or low.

Recent research has shown that temperature and rainfall have significant impact and influence over mud crabs, which are a fast growing, short lived species that are strongly linked to environmental conditions.

At the end of 2009 commercial crabbers left the fishery with huge numbers of crabs and were expecting a bumper year in 2010. But heavy rainfall intervened in late March/early April which put a large amounts of fresh water into key crabbing areas at a critical time. By the time the crabbers reached their grounds, Mud Crabs were very few to found.

Due to the late start and weather influences the 2010 Mud Crab season has been much lower than expected. Many commercial crabbers are wrapping up their 2010 operations before the wet season kicks in and cuts off road access to get the Mud Crabs to market. All are hopeful for an early return in March 2011, water levels permitting!

NT Labelling Laws Research Project

A successful Ministers Media event was initiated by the Northern Territory Seafood Council to coincide with the third round of consumer surveys in October 2010. The purpose of this media event was to raise the profile of the NT Labelling Laws for consumers. Great coverage was received on ABC, Channel 10, and NT News all covered the story.

The third round of surveys has been completed and marked the mid point for the NTSC's research project assessing the impacts on seafood labelling laws. Highlights from the third round of survey analysis include:

- There remains ongoing confusion around what "local" means in seafood labelling.
- When seafood is not labelled on a menu, over four in ten consumers assume it is sourced from overseas.
- Origin of seafood is the second most important attribute to consumers in restaurants and cafes - after freshness. Price was the equal fourth important attribute.
- Quality and availability year round are the most important influencers for the food service sector in purchasing more local seafood.
- 60% of the businesses surveyed are now labelling 100% of their local seafood.

Tactical Research Fund: *Tracking the impacts on seafood consumption at dining venues arising from the Northern Territory's seafood labelling laws* is supported by funding from the FRDC on behalf of the Australian Government.

For more information about the research project underway please contact Suzanne Morgan on 0429 808 022 or email morgansdarwin@bigpond.com

Marine Bioregional Planning

Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Tony Burke MP held a round table to discuss the Commonwealth Marine Bioregional Planning process with the commercial fishing industry on Tuesday 30th November 2010 in Canberra.

Northern Territory Seafood Council Chairman, Rob Fish joined the National Seafood Industry Alliance and other industry members who met with the Minister to discuss the timelines and processes to be implemented.

The North Region, which encompasses all Northern Territory waters is currently "on hold" until the South West Region (parts of South Australia and Western Australian waters) process is underway.

Further discussions will be held with the Minister in the New Year to ensure appropriate consultation and engagement processes are implemented to ensure minimal impacts on industry.

Support NT Caught Marketing

The Northern Territory Seafood Council has worked hard to increase the profile of *Support NT Caught* by keeping a steady presence in brochures and media around town.



Advert in This Week in Darwin

Perhaps the most successful activity currently underway is the 12 month *This Week in Darwin Eat Local* advertising , a feature in the AHA Hospitality Outlook and and the cooperative partnership with high profile monthly magazine Darwin Life.

For the past three months *FV Austral*, Mr Barra , Franks Seafood and Darwin Fish Market have supported articles written by Northern Territory Seafood Council Chairman Rob Fish – positive stories about the NT Seafood and its availability. We look forward to even more members promoting their product in the future.

“*FV Austral* needed to educate consumers they can buy prawns direct from us even when the boat isnt in. It took consistent advertising, but the phone has definitely started ringing thanks to our presence in Darwin Life, ”said Louise Deacon Casey.

Other highlights include the considerable print run and delivery of a brand new set of 9 *Support NT Caught* Recipe Cards, particularly popular for the festive Season. Next on the production line is a bright blue *Support NT Caught* food tag that will make it impossible to overlook NT Seafood available in the wholesale and retail stores.

Support NT Caught is now also starting to feature in tourism activity with opportunities for NTSC Members to feature their product in NT Cooking holidays and national events that showcase NT to the business tourism sector.

Training Needs Under the Spotlight

A training needs analysis for the seafood industry has been completed by Chris Calogeras, C-AID Consultants and the Primary Industry Training Advisory Committee. Chris interviewed about 30 people from across a variety of commercial seafood sectors including individuals, groups, large and small operators.

Information gathered will be used to identify short falls which may be able to be filled by people through the 457 visa programme or adapting current training to provide skilled people for our industry in the future.

ANNUAL FISHERMAN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: *Friday, 10 December 2010*

WHERE: *Darwin Ski Club*

TIME: *4:30pm to 6:30pm*

*Please come and join us and your fellow cohorts
for an end of year Christmas session!*

Finger food and limited drinks provided.



Coming Events

Event	Date	Venue
Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee	10 th December 2010	Berrimah Farm
Barramundi Licensee Committee GM	17 th January 2011	NTSC, conference room
NTSC Board Governance Training	9 th February 2011 (TBC)	TBA
NTSC Board Meeting	10 th February 2011	NTSC, conference room
Seafood Services Network Meeting	24 th February 2011	Perth
Seafood Directions	23 – 25 th October 2011	Gold Coast

NTSC CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Northern Territory Seafood Council offices will be closed over the Christmas break from 20th – 28th December 2010.

The office will re-open on 29th December 2010.