



# Friday update



## Captain's Blog

August, 18, 2017

### Election campaigns go up a gear

And so it begins in earnest.

The New Zealand Parliament rose this week, kick-starting a five week election campaign that will be much more interesting than many believed possible just a few weeks ago.

With Labour surging in the polls, the Greens imploding, and National desperately trying to steer a steady course amongst landmines such as United First's political future and Maori Party allegiance, the only constant is a smiling Winston in the corner. Although one should always be quietly nervous in the face of his uncharacteristic silence. The battle now moves from Parliament to the provinces.

Behind the scenes, last minute policy announcements are being finalised and a legion of staff are coordinating a cross-country marathon of military precision to get their leaders in front of as many New Zealanders as possible.

Expect an announcement a day, pretty much, from the major parties - some that have been in the pipeline for months, others devised hurriedly overnight to deflect and distract from the policies of their opponents.

This is not a time for any sector to misstep and raise any new issues of its own. There are hungry policy-makers circling the traps hoping to make your problem their solution.

The campaign trail is mostly a well-oiled machine fuelled by frenetic backroom activity attuned to every twist and turn of its enemies. The leaders will move from

## In the Media

### Talley's skipjack tuna gets tick of sustainability

New Zealand's main skipjack tuna purse seine fishery has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as being sustainably managed.

The certification covers the Talley's Group Limited (Talley's) fleet of two large purse seiners, is valid for five years, and allows skipjack to be sold under MSC's 'blue tick' of sustainability.

Talley's operations manager Andy Smith said skipjack purse seining in New Zealand waters is an environmentally friendly fishing method in which no fish aggregating devices are used and in which the target species comprises over 98 percent of the catch.

"The main bycatch species, jack mackerel and blue mackerel, are managed in accordance with New Zealand's quota management system," said Smith.

A single protected species, the spine-tailed devil ray, is an occasional bycatch, amounting to around 0.03 percent of the total catch.

The fishery operates over five months from December to April, commencing off the east coast of North Island and then onto the west coast of the North and South Islands, south to Hokitika.

[Read more](#)

**Halt new regulations – fishermen**  
**Otago Daily Times (12 August)** Southern fishers want the Ministry for Primary Industries to temporarily stop the

town to town daily, criss-crossing the North and South Islands. There will be multiple visits to key seats such as Auckland Central, and no ethnic group will be forgotten. There will be photo opportunities at popular crossroads like the Mangere market where harried advance staff will run alerts of opposing parties politicking in the same area. There will be selfies at dozens of shopping malls and the obligatory sea of 'human hoardings' as the parties' youth wings line roads and carparks with a mass show of political colours. And what does this mean for votes and sector groups like seafood? Unless we misstep, not much. We must hunker down and watch the show. That will include the three-yearly infliction of paid political advertising which begins August 23. This year, National gets to spend around \$1.2 million of taxpayer's money and Labour just over a million to try to convince you to give them your vote. In theory, this avoids very rich parties and benefactors influencing the democratic process.

It is a somewhat comforting inevitability that most left/centrist or right/centrist parties, despite differing policies will, like water, always find its own level. And that will almost always be centrist, because that is where the vote is. The seafood industry, despite deep frustration around lack of key detail around the introduction of the electronic monitoring project (IEMRS), is sailing a fairly smooth course in 2017 and it seems unlikely five weeks out from the general election that we will become a political target. Stocks are sustainable and well managed and the sector is a key contributor to the exports that fuel our employment, our communities and our economic well-being.

That contribution by ordinary New Zealanders out there every day in all weathers catching and processing healthy seafood is emphasised in the current promise to do the right thing and protect the resource for future generations.

We admit to not always getting it right and the industry still has work to do on thorny matters such as discarding. This year we have steadied the ship after some rough waters in 2016, but elections can be queer fish and who knows what unexpected issue might be thrown up?

Now the Aussies are weighing in over dual citizenship, with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop particularly upset over the bombshell that her deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, was a Kiwi. There is a young Bishop in our Parliament. What if Julie has a secret Kiwi link and turns out to be his grandmother?

introduction of integrated electronic monitoring and reporting system (IEMRS). Whilst they back parts of the regulations, the fishers said they are "unworkable, excessive and possibly unlawful" in their current state.

The fishers expressed their dissatisfaction in a three-hour meeting with MPI in Invercargill last Friday.

Fisheries spokesman Bill Chisholm said they had supported IEMRS in good faith, but the whole process had declined into unworkable proposals.

"The potential for outages and cost overruns alone is massive, especially as the Ministry has ducked shoving accountability for running the IEMRS platform to private providers," Chisholm said.

"We want to get this right first time, and not be beholden to unaccountable bureaucrats running their own agenda.

"All we ask is that the Ministry genuinely works with us within reasonable time frames, so we can get this project right."

[Read more](#)



### Seafood industry praises decision to fast-forward microbeads ban

Seafood New Zealand says the industry is delighted that the Government has decided to bring forward the ban on microbeads.

Associate Environment Minister, Scott Simpson announced today that the ban will take effect six months after World Trade Organisation notification, which means microbeads will be banned in New Zealand by May 2018.

Microbeads are used as exfoliants in make-up and other beauty products, do not biodegrade, and are a hazard to the environment.

Seafood New Zealand chief executive, Tim Pankhurst said microbeads' impact on oceans and marine life is well known.

"Research tells us that fish eat the tiny particles, rather than their normal food

And our friend Russel Norman at Greenpeace is a dingo. Heaven forbid, but if this goes on we might have to send him back

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### Registrations closing for Paua Conference 2017

Registrations are now closing for Paua Conference 2017. Running in Nelson on August 24 & 25, the Paua Industry Council have put together a great lineup to update attendees on the sector. Book now to hear an interesting and informative range of speakers, and for a chance to catch up with everything paua from throughout the country. To register go to [www.paua.org.nz](http://www.paua.org.nz) or email [Helen.Regan@nzrocklobster.co.nz](mailto:Helen.Regan@nzrocklobster.co.nz)

sources, and often die of starvation – or do not mature.” The seafood industry also welcomed the decision to widen the scope of the ban from just beauty products to all car, cleaning and household products using microbeads. “The sooner these hazards are replaced with safer alternatives the better and we applaud the government for expediting the ban,” said Pankhurst.

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