

### In or out – that's the question being asked

It makes good sense that Fisheries Inshore would give serious consideration to supporting the introduction of new fish stocks into the QMS, particularly where management intervention is required to ensure sustainability, or where moving to a rights-based regime enables the best opportunity for a fishery to develop.

But in saying this, the QMS is not always the most appropriate framework for managing fish. Kingfish is an example where entry into the QMS has been fraught for commercial fishers and inadequate TACCs in some QMAs have meant high deemed values. To set an equitable catching allocation in a rights-based regime, we need good catch information from both non-commercial and commercial fishers and an understanding of how many fish are in the water.

Government is currently calling for submissions on its proposal to introduce three new species into the QMS. Two of these are sharks; both have limited commercial value and catch information is sparse and likely to be inaccurate.



Image source: [www.southern-edge.com](http://www.southern-edge.com)

### Hagfish

The third stock being considered is hagfish – this is a developing fishery that has some commercial value when targeted, in other parts of the world overfishing this species has occurred.

The government's proposal is light on how the hagfish QMAs and TAC/TACC would be set and tendered for – again we would be keen to hear your ideas. At this stage we see some merit in the proposal by Seafood New Zealand that is, 'hagfish are introduced into the QMS with a high TAC/TACC and industry delegated the powers to manage the development phase of the fishery'.



### Shark flash

Carpet Shark and Seal Shark

Both species until recently were recorded on catch returns as OSD. We suspect their inclusion into the QMS would present continual operational and administrative challenges for government officials, fishers on the water and companies trying to cover their commercial catch with ACE.

Is additional management intervention required? We think probably not but welcome your thoughts.

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## Spatial planning on the East and South coast South Island

Two marine spatial planning processes are underway on the East and South coasts of the South Island: the Kaikoura Te Korowai marine strategy and the Otago marine protected area forum.

The Te Korowai group, made up of local community marine and coastal representatives, first met in 2005 and have over that time considered marine protection for the coastal and marine region off Kaikoura. In 2012, the Group presented the Kaikoura Marine Strategy, titled “Sustaining our sea” to Ministers. One of the main areas proposed for protection is an extensive marine reserve closure from the shore and extending to the near full extent of the Kaikoura Canyon.

The Group is awaiting a decision by Ministers on the application of special legislation for the proposed marine reserve and other closed areas.

More recently the Minister of Conservation proposed the formation of a marine protected areas (MPA) forum for the Otago region from Timaru to Waipapa Point. The forum will be made up of 14 members representing a number of sectors who will consider area closures under the MPA Policy. Under this process, habitats will be classified and one of each habitat will be protected using different types of MPAs. Type 1 MPAs are full closures as a marine reserve while Type 2 MPAs exclude bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining as the main fishing methods; other methods such as long-lining, potting and set net can continue to operate providing no sensitive habitats are overly disturbed. Other sectors may continue to fish in Type 2 MPAs.

The Otago MPA forum is still being formed and notification of membership is expected soon. The Minister is looking for the forum to have their inaugural meeting in March and final site selection and implementation within two years.

All quota owners and fishers need to be cognisant of these processes as they will impact your fishing operations. For more information contact [Carol Scott](#) at Southern Inshore.



### Penguin Wranglers

Five Otago fishermen are now expert “penguin wranglers”. They recently joined the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and the Department of Conservation to help measure and weigh yellow-eyed penguin chicks in the Catlins. The fishermen learnt how to catch, measure and weigh the chicks and were a huge help to the penguin team.

Dave McFarlane, Field Manager for the Yellow-eyed penguin Trust was impressed with the way the fishermen got stuck in. “The nettles didn’t put them off crawling into the undergrowth to catch the chicks. They were keen to learn everything they could. We each have knowledge to share that can help better conserve the species.”

Ant Smith, President of the Port Chalmers Fishermen’s Association said “We really enjoyed learning about the land habits of the penguins we see torpedoing past our boats on the way to their feeding grounds. This year the chicks are very underweight and it is interesting to equate that to what we’re noticing at sea”.

Both the Trust and the fishermen are keen to continue to work together to help yellow-eyed penguins thrive on the Otago coast.

This is the second trip Southern Seabird Solutions has organised for fishermen to help with seabird research. During the first trip, Hauraki Gulf fishermen helped monitor black petrels on Great Barrier Island.

See [southernseabirds.org/sharing-the-gulf-dvd/](http://southernseabirds.org/sharing-the-gulf-dvd/)

