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<http://www.ato.gov.au/corporate/content.asp?doc=/content/76594.htm&page=5&H5>



Fuel tax credit guide for businesses

Changes from 2008

From 1 July 2008, fuel tax credits will be expanded:

- petrol, as well as diesel, will be eligible for a full fuel tax credit when used in previously eligible EGCS activities (for example, agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and marine and rail transport)
- petrol and diesel will be eligible for 50% of the full fuel tax credit when used in activities, machinery or equipment **not** previously eligible under EGCS. A full fuel tax credit will apply from 1 July 2012.

More information on these entitlements will become available at a later date.

Sections within Introduction

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Last Modified: Tuesday, 19 February 2008

http://www.news24.com/Regional_Papers/Components/Category_Article_Text_Template/0,2430,486_2274737~E,00.html

HERMANUS
Times

Brought to you by:

21/02/2008 09:35 AM - (SA)

'Boiling point' after arrests

Lianda Beyers Cronjé

A massive operation to clamp down on abalone poaching and illegal diving in an effort to enforce the total ban on commercial abalone diving that kicked in at the beginning of February, has been launched in the Overstrand by the police and marine and coastal management (MCM).

Spokesperson for MCM, Carol Moses said compliance efforts have generally been stepped up and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, such as the SAPS and SANparks have been intensified.

In one of its biggest successes so far, the police arrested 15 alleged poachers during a bust near Robben Island on Wednesday night last week. The suspects, aged from 22 to 37 years are all from Hawston.

They are facing charges of contravening the Marine Living Resources Act. At least 77 abalone, abalone shucking tools and two "superduck" inflatable boats were confiscated.

The names of ten of the suspects have been released by the police. They are Rudy Jeptha (24), Andre Makkapan (29), Owen Gunston (28), Llewellyn Poole (26), Halley Cloete (24), Emale Marais (22), Eben Poole (37), Richard Gardner (23), Thulani Fiuana (27) and Anthony Fransman (26).

The law enforcement drive has elicited an outcry on the side of the public who claim that the police are ignoring the human rights of innocent citizens as well as acting unnecessarily brutally.

Law enforcement officials have been active throughout the last two weeks. MCM's building in the new harbour was cordoned off on Saturday.

Cllr Jan Gelderblom of Hawston together with the mayor of the Overstrand district municipality Marenica Gillion called for an urgent meeting with local police officers on Tuesday to vent their grievances.

Gillion said the police harassed innocent people who were picnicking at Die Vlei in Hawston during the weekend. Exception was taken to the police's attitude and the way in which the people were handled as it could be seen as an infringement on people's human rights.

She added that the public would not hinder the police to do their work but they wanted to be handled with respect. Gillion also objected to the fact that the police were wearing balaclavas.

Pedro Garcia of the South African United Fishing Front is concerned that the situation in the fishing community of Hermanus and surrounds "is reaching boiling point".

Moses said however, that the arrest at Robben Island should be an indication that "our target is spot on". "The commercial abalone fishery has closed and as such no-one is allowed to fish. Those who derived an income from diving/fishing for wild abalone since 1 February do so illegally," she added.

· On Tuesday one ton of abalone was seized in Midrand when two Chinese nationals and a Malawian were arrested. They are suspected to be involved in a syndicate. The value of confiscated goods so far is roughly estimated at R1,4 million.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/cj_8128135



Abalone poachers caught in the act near Carmel

The Associated Press

Article Launched: 01/31/2008 06:10:53 AM PST

CARMEL, Calif.—State game wardens say they caught two abalone poachers in the act just south of Carmel.

Jonathan Conner of Salinas and Tony Le of Castroville had allegedly bagged 122 mollusks when they were discovered at Soberanes Point.

California Fish and Game warden Jess Mitchell says the 21-year-old Conner and 19-year-old Le have been charged so far with misdemeanor illegal possession of abalone. They could also be facing a felony conspiracy charge.

Nearly all the 122 abalone allegedly taken by the pair were the rare black abalone. California's black abalone population has suffered in recent decades from over-harvesting and disease.

The federal government wants the mollusk declared an endangered species.

http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2008/02/18/11437_news.html

Trio face poaching charges

Michaela Farrington

18Feb08

APOLLO Bay Fisheries officers caught five men allegedly poaching abalone at a remote beach near the Twelve Apostles on Friday morning.

The five men from the Western suburb of Melbourne were apprehended at a beach near Moonlight Head and now face a range of abalone stealing charges.

Two of the men will be charged on summons with taking more than twice the legal catch limit for abalone and obstructing fisheries officers, among other offences.

Fisheries officers allege the pair made several attempts to evade apprehension by dumping some of the abalone.

One man was arrested and had all of his dive equipment seized including a wetsuit, dive hood, mask, snorkel, gloves, an abalone tool and catch bag.

Three of the men will receive multiple infringement notices for other abalone and fishing-related offences.

Fisheries officer Chris Epskamp said Fisheries Victoria was committed to protecting the state's valuable commercial and recreational fisheries and their long-term sustainability.

Anybody wishing to report fisheries offences should call that 24-hour fisheries hotline: 13fish or 13 34 74.

<http://iafrica.com/news/sa/922980.htm>

PRETORIA

Ton of perlemoen seized in Pretoria

Mon, 18 Feb 2008

Johannesburg organised crime detectives seized more than a ton of perlemoen (abalone) during a raid on a smallholding in Midrand on Monday.

Police also arrested a Chinese national and a Malawian, believed to be in the country illegally, in connection with alleged perlemoen smuggling.

"Reacting on a tip-off police raided the small holdings in Blue Hills," Captain Martin Hulk said.

He said it was too soon to determine where the perlemoen came from and what its final destination was.

The haul of shellfish was believed to be worth tens of thousands of rand. A final figure would be determined once all the abalone was weighed, Hulk said.

Sapa

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/press/072911-paua.htm>



29 November 2007

Caution needed - paua disease on our doorstep

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) is urging travellers to Australia to be mindful of a serious virus destroying abalone there and to take precautions to avoid inadvertently carrying it back to infect New Zealand paua.

'Clean and dry' is the best way to protect New Zealand paua, say MAFBNZ officials, as the virus appears to survive in damp gear.

The Abalone Virus Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is wiping out abalone in the Australian state of Victoria. It is expected to be generations before the abalone stocks on infected reefs begin to re-build.

MAFBNZ scientists say that while it's not certain the herpes-like virus would affect New Zealand paua, there's every indication it would, given paua is a member of the abalone family. If it established here, AVG would have a severe impact on commercial, customary and recreational fishing as well as tourism and export industries associated with paua.

MAFBNZ has strict border measures in place to prevent the virus jumping the Tasman and establishing in New Zealand shellfish. These include a range of border requirements, called Import Health Standards (IHS) which prohibit the importation of live abalone, require shells imported to be clean and dry, and require abalone for human consumption to be shelled and cooked (which destroys AVG). Further IHS's require any equipment associated with the water (e.g. aquaculture implements, diving and fishing gear) to be clean and dry before it can enter New Zealand.

MAFBNZ Director Border Standards Tim Knox says while he is confident that the current requirements in place are sufficient to keep AVG out of New Zealand, Kiwis returning from Victoria and Aussies coming here have a role to play in keeping the disease out by simply remembering the 'clean and dry' rule.

"It's very important that if people have been swimming or diving on the Victorian coast, they ensure their togs, wetsuits and other diving or surfing gear are thoroughly washed and dried before bringing them home and hopping into New Zealand waters.

"It's equally important that those who've been beach rambling in the area are aware their footwear should be clean and dry before returning home and that they avoid gathering shells. If they do wish to bring shells back to New Zealand, they must be free of any meat and thoroughly dry," Mr Knox says.

"Most of all, people returning from Australia should make sure they declare on arrival that they've been using the Victorian coast and/or are carrying shells or gear for water activities in order that Biosecurity Inspectors can check that they are safe."

MAFBNZ hopes people with friends and relatives in Victoria who are planning to visit New Zealand let them know of the paua virus concerns and spread the 'clean and dry' message.

For further information, please contact:

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Phone 04 8940163 or 029 8940163

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802150163.html>



South Africa: Authorities Arrest 17 Suspected Abalone Poachers

BuaNews (Tshwane)

15 February 2008

Posted to the web 15 February 2008

Gabi Khumalo
Cape Town

Barely three weeks after the diving ban regulations on abalone were Gazetted, authorities have arrested 17 suspected poachers during a night-long operation in Hout Bay and Robben Island.

The diving ban regulations were Gazetted on 1 February 2008.

Robben Island was one of four areas where a total ban on diving has been placed as part of measures for the protection of wild abalone and to promote the recovery and rebuilding of the resource.

In terms of the regulations for the protection of wild abalone, a penalty of up to R500 000 or a prison sentence of up to two years can be imposed for failure to comply with the regulations.

Thursday's arrest follows a collaborative enforcement between officials from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the South African Police Services (SAPS).

The officials swooped down on alleged poachers in two separate incidents during the early hours of morning.

Fifteen suspects were brought to Cape Town harbour earlier in the morning after officials from DEAT and SAPS took up position on and around the Island throughout the night to ensure the arrest of all the suspects.

When the suspects realized their boat was taken over by law enforcement officials, they swam to the island where they attempted to hide.

As officers were positioned on land and at sea, the presence of a dispatched police helicopter to Robben Island added air positioning.

A super duck fishing vessel, 77 abalone and abalone shucking equipment were confiscated.

The second arrest took place almost at the same time when another super duck was confiscated at the Hout Bay harbour after law enforcement officials monitored two men entering the harbour with a super duck, presumably intending to poach.

The skipper was arrested in accordance Merchant Shipping Act.

The second suspect was arrested for an outstanding warrant of arrest linked to another abalone poaching case.

In 2006, the DEAT announced it has seized over R3 million worth of assets from marine poachers and made dozens of arrests in enforcement and compliance operations.

Resources, technical equipment and five vehicles confiscated valued at more than R3 million were seized and approximately 3 tons of abalone were confiscated during these raids.

<http://www.northcoastjournal.com/021408/offthepavement0214.html>

Ab Fab *Stalking the abalone, and living to tell the tale*

By Peter Starr

The prized red abalone. USGS.gov photograph by David Lindberg.



Sara and I went abalone collecting with our friend Mike last summer, but haven't gone since. If the weather and the sea were nicer I imagine we would have been hooked. I love to clam, especially on the East Coast, where the water is warm, the bottom is fine white sand easy to rake and dig in and the take is virtually unlimited. Clamming in Cape Cod is kind of like housework in warm happy water. Not so abalone collecting.

Here in Humboldt the abalone needs big rocks and lots of clean, fast moving cold water, and so they are generally in the surf or deeper water. Being a kind of snail, abalone are not bottom feeders like clams, and so can't be in the sand and sediment. All abalone graze on living macroscopic algae (large seaweeds). The adult red abalone we're permitted to collect prefer giant bull kelp, and so are always in and around very large rocks or boulders that anchor this giant seaweed. The large abalone also need deep cracks or rock overhangs to hide in, and this is where you find the big mollusks. I had little trouble entering the cold, rough water, but it was another thing to put my hand inside those deep dark fissures and crannies.

When I asked Mike about his scariest experience collecting, I expected him to mention the waves or the rocks and crevices, or perhaps a shark. He said once he had just come up from a dive in 10 feet of water when a seal popped up right in his face. "It scared the crap out of me." Mike also once stepped on a red

urchin just as he started to collect. Instead of taking immediate care, he continued to search (and got his limit of three abalone). The next day the infection had spread close to Mike's knee and so he went to the hospital to have the spine dug out. Urchins have reverse barbs and tend to dig themselves in. The doctors had to administer lots of local anesthesia and use a fluoroscope (a live x-ray) to get a three-dimensional view of the wound. "They triangulated with three pins and just started cutting in. It left me with a scar and a tender heal for three months." But this was not the scariest thing Mike's encountered. That involved me. Later.

These extreme conditions have protected the abalone in Humboldt and, to a lesser degree, in Mendocino. Everywhere else in California, and probably the rest of the world, abalone are on the decline. (One species, the white, from Southern California, is the only mollusk to be listed on the federal endangered species list. It probably won't make it.)

Until the 1960s, commercial abalone fishing was big business in California, with much of the product dried for sale in Chinatown and around the world. The center for the harvest was off the central and southern coasts, where conditions were perfect. There the tidal waters are warmer and easier to enter, but the deeper waters are cold enough for reproduction. The shallow continental shelf extends far off shore, allowing pickers and divers to harvest the mollusks for miles off the coast. The first pickers were the Japanese and Chinese, whose cuisine included abalone. Commercial fishing peaked at an annual harvest of over 2,500 metric tons in 1957. Thereafter, about 2,000 tons were harvested annually until 1969, when landings and abalone abundance went into sharp decline.

Interestingly, those huge populations were really an anomaly. Before commercial harvesting really took off in the late 1800s the abalone was actually quite rare, primarily because they were the favorite food of the sea otter. At that time the only place abalone were safe was in deep crevices, where the otters couldn't reach. Even deep water didn't afford protection, as otters can dive to 100 meters, deeper than the bull kelp. It wasn't until the otter population was decimated by fur traders in the 1800s that the abalone population exploded, and then came to the attention of commercial fisheries. By 1992, commercial abalone landings were 260 tons, and then declined precipitously until 1994 (the last year measured) when 140 tons were harvested. In 1997, a commercial moratorium was instituted with a very limited recreational take permitted north of San Francisco.

Now abalone are raised in farms. Humboldt State University ran a program in the 1970s to study declining wild abalone population and also did pioneering work in abalone aquaculture (and salmon and steelhead farming, outside what is now the Arcata Marsh and Waste Treatment plant). Systems to spawn and raise the creatures were designed, and this eventually lead to a successful commercial abalone business in Crescent City that sold small (2-3 inches) abalone to the restaurant trade.

Unfortunately, an infectious disease ("Shell Withering syndrome") was discovered in the captive stock, and Fish and Game ordered the farm shut down. They were concerned the disease would enter the native population and destroy the struggling wild fishery. Now commercial abalone are raised in warm Hawaii waters where the creatures are not native (and so there is no threat from farm-centered diseases into wild populations). Because the abalone won't spawn in warm water, pumps must bring up cold ocean from 3,000 feet down.

We went out at dawn with Mike. We climbed down a big bluff (it was very steep in parts, and we had to let ourselves down a rope handhold) and then scrambled across several hundred yards of boulders to get to the collecting area. We suited up, waded out among the rocks and surf and began our hunt. For a brief time we were witness to a tide pool at sunrise, full of wondrous creatures and colors: orange sea slugs, green and purple sea anemones, spiny urchins and darting fish. We saw young rock cod. Mike showed us how to feel along the undersides and crannies for the large conical shape. You have to be careful so as not to disturb the snail. A relaxed shell is easier to pry off with a crowbar. It's also important not to wound the creature, especially if it is small and you have to return it. That's because abalone blood does not clot and the animal will bleed to death from even a small cut.

Unfortunately the fog returned and the sea was suddenly dreary and cold. Sara and I only found a single abalone. It was much too small, about 4 inches across, and so we left it where it was. The penalty for poaching can be severe. On our way back to the car the scariest thing that ever happened to Mike then occurred ... to me.

In Mike's words: "We were climbing back up the steep bluff. I had pulled myself up the rope and was waiting on a landing for Sara and Peter. Just as Sara arrived the rope went slack or twitched or something, and so I glanced down to see Peter disappear below us."

I had been cocky, hanging onto and using my arms (and not my body and legs) to pull all my weight up on the rope, instead of just using the rope for balance and support. It snapped and I went backward and landed with a thump. I lay there in shock with no pain or discomfort, then I saw Mike and Sara over me. At this point I had twitched all my limbs, found nothing wrong and said with a blush and giggle, "I'm okay." I turned around to discover I was lying about 10 or 15 feet below where I had been, with my body just short of a near vertical drop. And I was fine.

<http://narooma.yourguide.com.au/news/local/general/yet-more-abalone-seized/1181889.html>

Narooma News

13 February 2008 - 1:56PM

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Yet more abalone seized

Stan Gorton



NSW Fisheries officer Cheryl Gross counts 208 of the total 521 abalone located in a vehicle on the Princes

Highway.

A BERMAGUI man was found with 521 abalone packed in three Styrofoam boxes while making a midnight dash up the Princes Highway.

The 42-year-old was stopped by police for speeding in a routine traffic stop near the Cullendulla truck stop just north of Batemans Bay just after midnight on Monday.

Department of Primary Industries officers are now investigating the case and the man is likely to face charges for fisheries offences.

This brings the number of abalone seized on the South Coast to more than 1500 over the summer with poaching hotspots including around Narooma, Mystery Bay and Bermagui.

Commercial abalone divers are concerned about the impact on local abalone stocks and question whether the species can handle such sustained pressure from illegal fishers apparently working in organised manner to supply markets in Sydney.

Monday morning's seized shipment was brought back to Narooma and each of the shucked black abalone were photographed and recorded for the pending prosecution.

Local fisheries officers are encouraging anyone who witnesses or knows of poaching to immediately contact the Narooma office on 4476 2072.

Poachers typically face charges such as possessing more than the legal bag limit of abalone and possessing shucked abalone adjacent to waters, offences that carry a maximum penalty of \$11,000 and/or three months imprisonment or both and \$5500 respectively.

The legal recreational bag limit for abalone is two per person per day. It is also illegal for a recreational fisher to shuck (remove the meat from the shell), or have shucked abalone in their possession, in, on or adjacent to any NSW waters.

<http://www.sbpost.ie/post/pages/p/story.aspx-qqqt=IRELAND-qqqm=news-qqqid=30347-qqqx=1.asp>

THE POST.IE The Sunday Business Post Online

Cork shellfish company applies for bankruptcy

10 February 2008

By Ian Kehoe

A Cork firm that bred expensive shellfish has sought bankruptcy protection, after running up more than €2 million in debts.

Feirm Eisc, which is based on Cape Clear island off west Cork, ran into financial difficulties, after failing to raise capital from a stock market flotation in London. The company has now petitioned the High Court for protection from its creditors.

An interim examiner, Kieran Wallace of accountancy firm KPMG, was appointed last Thursday, and there will be a full hearing in the coming days. According to court documents, Wallace intends to source €550,000 in new capital, which will be used to refinance the company. The Dublin accountant has 70 days to finalise a rescue package.

Feirm Eisc produces abalone, a delicacy that sells for upwards of €100 a kilogramme. The company was established in the early 1990s by the Cape Clear Co-operative, in partnership with regional development authority Udaras na Gaeltachta.

It initially farmed turbot, halibut and ragworms but, in 2002, it began a pilot scheme to see if abalone could be farmed. The company spent more than €700,000 on its production facility, a significant proportion of which came from Udaras na Gaeltachta.

However, management believed they needed to spend more than €3 million to develop the facilities properly, according to its court petition. In December 2004, the company agreed a deal with Neptune Ocean Resources and its parent company, Asia Abalone.

Under the deal, Neptune took a 90 per cent stake in Feirm Eisc, with the remaining 10 per cent controlled by the co-op and Udaras na Gaeltachta.

In addition to an initial investment of €440,000, Neptune agreed to pay for the farm's infrastructure and operating costs. Neptune planned to finance the deal by raising funds on the AIM in London.

Solicitor Gerald Keane was due to be appointed chairman of the new company, but he never took up the role. "The flotation was a failure and, therefore, the necessary finance for the company was not made available," the petition stated.

The company has survived since then on grants from Udaras na Gaeltachta and loans from Neptune, according to court documents. KPMG was brought in to review the company's position, and it was then decided to appoint an examiner.

The company believes that it can survive if it raises €555,000 in new finance and develops a smaller scale fish farm. The company also expects to raise further capital from Udaras na Gaeltachta.

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http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=14142



Theft of truck and abalone

Release date: Wed 6 February 2008

Last updated: Wed 6 February 2008

Police are seeking witnesses to the theft of a truck and abalone stolen from a processing factory in Port Fairy overnight.

Investigators believe the factory was broken into some time between 6pm last night and 8am this morning with access being gained by cutting open the security gates.

The processed abalone weighing about 4.5 tonne is valued at approximately \$230,000.

The truck, a 4 tonne white Hino refrigerated van was found abandoned on the Port Fairy-Hamilton Road, approximately 6 kilometres north of the township about 10am.

The abalone had been removed from the vehicle.

Police are urging anyone who has information regarding the theft or the location of the abalone to contact **Crime Stoppers** on **1800 333 000** or website **crimestoppers.com.au**.

Senior Constable Wendy Willingham

Media Officer

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/outdoors/20080209-9999-1s9outnotes.html>

Outdoors report: Barking at commission 'watchdog'

SignOnSanDiego.com
BY THE UNION-TRIBUNE

By Ed Zieralski

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

February 9, 2008

If you've ever attended a California Fish and Game Commission meeting, you've likely heard or seen Paul Weakland.

As Richard Rogers, president of the commission, said, every agency that holds public meetings has a Paul Weakland. The state Fish and Game Commission has Weakland, although yesterday, it was only for part of its meeting.

Call him a watchdog, a pest, a critic, a kook, a devout activist who cares deeply about abalone, any of the above. One Department of Fish and Game official once said of Weakland: "His gravestone will read, 'Loves abalone, hates otters.' "

For the most part, Weakland is tuned out by those on the commission, those in the Department of Fish and Game and many in the audience.

Most have heard him blast the DFG for poisoning the ocean and killing abalone with the withering syndrome disease that he claims was spawned in the DFG's own aquaculture abalone plant. He often says that divers are the true stewards of the resource and repeats often that the Fish and Game Commission lies and has no honor.

Sometimes he gets personal, like the time he called Michael Flores the "worst president the Commission ever had." He can be nice, as on Thursday, when he complimented outgoing Deputy Attorney General William Cunningham on his service to the commission and legal work. Cunningham is retiring after 31 years of public service. He's moving to Oregon for some serious fly-fishing and mountain biking.

Now, if only Weakland could get such interests, the commission would be much obliged.

Weakland's diatribes usually are tuned out, but yesterday, in what could only be described as one of the uglier moments commission observers could remember, Rogers became enraged as Weakland spoke at the public's podium. Rogers, who later apologized to the others in the meeting for "losing it," scolded Weakland as if he were a bad student and then demanded that game wardens escort the man out of the room. That was Weakland

being ushered out of the Shedd Auditorium of Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute.

Veteran observers remembered one other time when Weakland had to be escorted out, and that was when current commissioner Jim Kellogg was president.

This time, Weakland was responding to the DFG's report on the San Miguel Island abalone resource. He used his usual comments, many of which most commission regulars know by heart.

He talks of "lack of integrity," "no honor," "bureaucratic double-shuffle," "it's a sham," "it's a charade," "this is fraud," "it's a farce," and so on.

Later, Rogers explained that he'd been putting up with Weakland's rants long enough and could no longer keep from kicking him out of the meeting. He said Weakland disrupts the public process by commenting on every single subject.

"He makes the same diatribes for every issue in meeting after meeting," Rogers said. "We have people here whose very livelihoods, their very cultures are at stake, and he gets in the way of their testimonies. He's taking up valuable time from people who need to comment. There are times when we're really rolling with good comments and discussions, and he steps up there and disrupts the entire meeting. I just had enough of it. Today was just too much. He actually cast racial aspersions upon a very trusted and valuable contractor who works for Fish and Game."

Rogers said Weakland also threatened a DFG employee on Thursday.

"Believe me, it hurts me to have to tell a member of the public to leave the meeting, but when he's keeping us from doing our work here, it has to be done," said Rogers.

To see the episode, go to the Fish and Game Commission Web site (www.fgc.ca.gov), go to the Feb. 8 meeting and then find it at about the 48-minute mark.

Commission notes

Commissioner **Michael Sutton** was in Oxnard yesterday hearing testimony from scientists who presented their findings from the first five years of monitoring the marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Channel Islands. He heard from state, federal and university scientists who presented results of nearly two dozen research projects during a special session of the California Islands Symposium.

With Kellogg out due to personal reasons, the commission lacked a quorum.

Brown pelicans

State Fish and Game has never de-listed a bird or mammal from the state's endangered species list.

But with yesterday's announcement by the federal government that the brown pelican will be de-listed from the endangered species list, the state is moving forward with its own de-listing of the bird and likely will beat the feds to the punch.

Both commissioners present yesterday, Rogers and **Cindy Gustafson**, agreed the process for de-listing an endangered species from the state's list should be made easier once a species is healthy.

"There's a perception that once something is listed it never comes off," Rogers said. Gustafson recommended that the DFG set some recovery population numbers and goals when it lists a species so that when a species does rebound, it's easier to take it off the endangered list.

Quagga mussels

Add San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County to the list of California waters that now have quagga mussels. It's the first Central California reservoir to get hit with the invasive species that clogs water facilities and disrupts the ecology of a body of water. Here in San Diego County, it's present in Dixon, San Vicente, Miramar, Murray and Lower Otay, all waters that get raw water from the Colorado River.

San Justo Reservoir water comes from San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento River through the Delta-Mendota Canal via the O'Neill Forebay and the San Luis Reservoir.

John McCamman, interim director of the DFG, is concerned that water agencies will use the mussels to deny angler and boater access. It already has happened in San Diego County. Lake Wohlford and Lake Cuyamaca both are prohibiting private boats until they acquire high-powered heat sprays that will kill mussels on private boats.

McCamman add

McCamman said he has let officials in Gov. Schwarzenegger's office know he is interested in becoming the next permanent DFG director. McCamman, who was chief deputy director under **Ryan Broddrick** before Broddrick resigned Aug. 31, took over on Sept. 1 and has settled into the job as director. He has assumed an active role for the DFG at commission meetings and was in San Diego both days along with Deputy Director **Sonke Mastrup**.

Salmon and smelt

As DFG biologists report the bad news on the collapse of the salmon fishery off the Central Coast, there was a good report that the Klamath River's salmon population has rebounded.

But the commission now will wrestle with this latest collapse in the salmon fishery that not only will impact California, but Oregon and Washington, too. It will await the recommendations from the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, which will meet March 7-14. It will meet again from April 6-12 to reach its final decision on salmon, and the Fish and Game Commission meets April 10-11 in Bodega Bay and will take public comments on the issue.