



TERRA MOANA  
natural capital coaching

## Environmental Defence Society Conference Presentation Aug 2017

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By Katherine Short

Thank you Gillian.

Thank you also EDS for inviting my comment. Apologies for my voice, I have a cold.

I have three points of comment arising from this morning and yesterday related to:

- Shared space
- Coastal fisheries
- And Mud

The political panel yesterday agreed we must urgently address marine governance and Volker mentioned the need for an ocean policy. Coastal waters especially are increasingly crowded and their

ecological health declines. The oceans are shared whether our legal framework or various sectors reflect it or marine creatures and habitats know it.

I had seventeen years in WWF's global marine programme leading fisheries ecosystem-based management policy and certification work alongside colleagues doing marine spatial planning. The last four years I've been a sustainability adviser to Moana NZ (previously Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd) through my company Terra Moana. Our kaupapa is inherently collaborative and fearlessly innovative. Our very partnership between a 30 year seafood industry chap, Tony Craig and myself, with a conservation science NGO background models that daily. We are deeply aware that it is the relationship between Iwi and the Crown that will make or break marine management. The most heartening aspect for me of the future of all resource management in Aotearoa is the growth of the Maori economy and influence Maori are increasingly having. Consider, what are the parallels between kaitiakitanga and ecosystem-based management? Could Iwi Maori lead Aotearoa forward in marine governance? Could Iwi Maori develop a Maori based scientific design of what a protection system could look like to underpin seafood production and reinforce rights rather than the current situation of protection risking undermining them? Could that help us resolve how we share our entire EEZ? Being denied an opportunity to say yes is such a waste.

Volker mentioned the importance of rec fishing for keeping the link to authentic seafood. A great novel perspective from a fishing industry leader. When we formed the company Tony was building Fish4all, the free voluntary catch recording app to support the recreational sector to demonstrate their size of the pie and raise funds and fill the gap Dion referred to. Trends are your friends and although we have controls on the number of fish one can take, we don't control the numbers of people taking them and so don't know real time catches.

By example: MPI's rec. survey suggests 250,000 recreational fishers from East Cape to North Cape who are entitled to take 7 SNA / day, 365 days a year. Taking an average fish of 250gms the legal latent potential is 159,687tonnes. Hands up who knows what the Ministerial allowance is?

[ $250,000 * 7 * 365 * 250 = 159,687,000\text{kilos}/1000 = 159,687\text{tonnes.}$ ]

It's 3900t. Of course we'd never catch that full latent potential, there are likely not enough fish in the sea not days fished. The point is we don't know in any one year. That's a gaping hole in our fisheries management. Getting critical mass for Fish4all is a slow grind and we welcome support. Please download and share it to show your support for its kaupapa!

WWF and the importance of humility laid out a vision for NZ fisheries, some flesh on the bones opportunities. The seafood sector recognises that unless it credibly pulls up its socks, it may not be allowed to operate in the coastal realm at all. Why is the environmental NGO community not scrutinising the holes in all fisheries management, beyond commercial?

I am heartened by the OpenSeas programme and Volker mentioned its 3rd party verification which is essential. It is not itself a 3rd party certification and hasn't yet developed an improvement response addressing those risks.

Independent 3rd party certification is problematic in New Zealand as we don't embrace how it underpins natural capital and ecosystem services, delivers the sustainable development goals,

increases transparency, and grows primary produce value. Sadly too, the Marine Stewardship Council has mostly reinforced polarities between ENGOs and the seafood industry to date here. Yes, the seafood sector and government have been slow to admit their failings, it was good to hear Minister Smith yesterday acknowledge the need to address the ecosystem elements of the quota system. What has been missed by the ENGOs though is the extensive investment in research, science and operational improvements the sector has made to get over 50% of New Zealand's seafood MSC certified as well as the internal improvements MSC itself has and continues to make. Last week I facilitated a dialogue co-hosted by Fisheries Inshore NZ and the MSC to consider using its pre-certification toolkit to improve coastal fisheries. New Zealand's coastal fishing communities need it, they need partnerships, support, resources, empowerment, and most importantly public acknowledgement that they matter are respected and that what they produce is valued, by ENGOS would be really good. They are squeezed by a perfect storm of quota structures, advocacy campaigns, recreational fishers, aging fleets and personnel, and ecological and environmental risks. I believe we all want a credibly sustainable and respected coastal seafood community, as economic activity and to produce food. That's why Terra Moana and Moana New Zealand are now developing a responsible fisheries awareness programme for at least fishers supplying Moana.

On to Mud..... with Moana, the Sustainable Business Council and Landcare, we pioneered a world first ecosystem service review of a commercial seafood, paua. This put the sediment impact on valuable taonga species firmly on industries' agenda. Sediment is smothering habitats and animals and costing us. Our economic valuation of the lost paua quota value from reduced kelp habitat in Queen Charlotte Sound calculated \$25 million over 13 years. That fishery has since suffered another 50% cut and further estimates of sediment costs on several other fisheries added up to over \$100 million. The point is we don't know and we don't manage fisheries in relation to their environment.

We must. Houston, we have the technology, the awareness and the legislation, we are simply not collaborating and co-investing strategically to use them. Coastal habitats and all dependent on them, need an urgent and deliberate shift in the focus of coastal management....and don't forget: catchments extend out to sea!

- Complete the QMS
- Fixed shares, security
- Transparently report all sectors