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5 August 2011

Right Honourable Phil Heatley
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

**FISHERIES & OCEAN CRISES -
PACIFIC ECOLOGIST OCEANS ISSUE**

Dear Minister

Enclosed is a copy of the Oceans issue of *Pacific Ecologist* with reports from marine and fisheries experts around the world on the oceans crisis including over-fishing. As Daniel Pauly, world renowned fisheries scientist from the University of British Columbia says from p. 32 ever increasing industrial fishing efforts have caused a global fishing crisis with repeated collapse of fish stocks worldwide. **Fisheries can be sustained into the future only if fish resources are allowed to recover and fishing efforts are reduced.**

Unfortunately, the NZ fishing industry, instead of providing a good example to the world, is playing a leading role in destroying the unique ocean habitat of the Ross Sea, by taking over half the fishing catch annually from the Ross Sea as, expert David Ainley and Cassandra Brooks explain from pages 37 - 44. A million tonnes of the slow-growing toothfish have now been taken and this is affecting the viability of toothfish. Ross Sea scientists worldwide are calling for an end to this fishery, which is now overexploited. **This fishing surely must be phased out, if NZ is to retain any credibility in sustainability credentials.** Unfortunately the NZ government has also recently increased the quota for southern blue fin tuna which is also in danger of extinction.

Also, the oceans are under increasing pressure from other stressors, not just over-fishing. If global warming and the inter-related acidification of the oceans, and other pollution of the oceans are not addressed fairly soon, experts say the prospects for life in the oceans to continue as we know it are dim, see article by marine geologist, Robert Dunbar from Stanford p.9. This will of course hugely affect the fishing industry and humanity's ability to survive. **Substantial reduction in global warming emissions are essential to stop ocean acidification effects and for the fishing industry to continue into the future.**

As Minister of Fisheries all the inter-related matters affecting the oceans from global warming, ocean acidification, plus general pollution of the oceans by persistent organic pollutants, and over-fishing affect the fishing industry and must be of concern to you as Minister of Fisheries.

Yours sincerely

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