Bay Chronicle



www.baychronicle.co.nz

Thursday, October 7, 2010

YOUR PLACE, YOUR PAPER

Kahawai 'under strain'

By KERI MOLLOY

A DECISION not to reduce kahawai commercial catch limits is a national shame, Te Runanga-A-Iwi o Ngapuhi chairman Sonny Tau says.

Recreational fishers have complained about a decline in kahawai numbers since the late 1980s and even went to the High Court to ensure more fish are left in the sea.

They say kahawai are worth more to them and the tourism industry than to commercial fishers and have called for commercial catch levels to be reduced to unavoidable bycatch only.

But Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has instead slashed the recreational allocation by 60 percent and customary allocations by 48 percent. The move follows a review of catch limits for kahawai fisheries and took effect on October 1.

Mr Heatley attended a New Zealand Sport Fishing Council conference in Paihia two weeks ago saying kahawai are a traditional food source for customary Maori fishers, a popular fish for recreational anglers but also a target species for commercial operators.

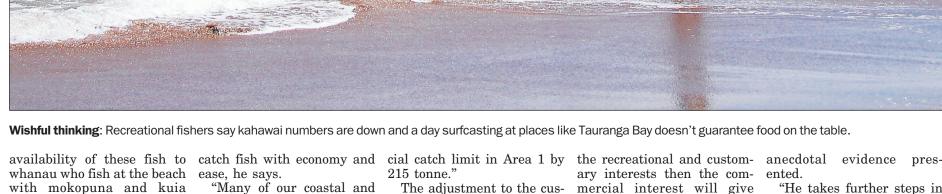
"I carefully considered the best scientific and management information available, as well as submissions from customary, recreational and commercial fishers and the public before making these decisions," he says.

Ministry research suggests kahawai numbers in Area 1 – between North Cape and Cape Runaway – are about 30 the Fisheries Act:

catch more easily," Mr Heatley says.

be under strain as a consequence of the decision.

tain continued decline in the nary people being able to ery by reducing the commer-



kaumatua.

percent larger than the have the larger vessels to fish in these recessionary times sustainable level set out in offshore, the beach is the due to fewer visitors.' safest place to take young He says the role of kahawai continue growing and give on even four or five years ago been ignored, he says. more fish for everyone to their days at the beach will be without kai to take home. species sit right in the middle

Mr Tau fears kahawai will kahawai do not go the same ably internationally recogway as toheroa.'

Northland's "Most important is the cer- advantage is based on ordi- a great non-commercial fish-

"Many of our coastal and

"These kahawai as "We sincerely hope that of our most valued and probnised food chain. Phil Heatley tourism gave up the chance of having

215 tonne."

nearby towns will find the tomary allowance sees it way. The minster's decision destroying the common law "Most of our people do not struggle even more difficult reduced by 60 percent from demonstrates an absence of right of families to fish to put 495 tonne per annum to 200

retained."

Ngapuhi, which has interests for the concerns of recin commercial fishing, has a reational fishers expressed in into cray bait and pet food policy that where their com- more than 1000 submissions and exported at low value.

ary interests then the com- ented. The adjustment to the cus- mercial interest will give leadership and fails to profood on the table. tonne is a farce, Mr Tau says. vide for all New Zealanders' "The ministry and minister well-being," Mr Tau says.

"At current catch levels families fishing and with in a balanced marine have merely manipulated the Kiwi Party leader Larry to experience the thrill of kahawai numbers are set to kahawai numbers well down ecosystem has apparently figures by toying with the Baldock tried to stop the catching their own kahawai customary and recreational kahawai quota going to com- in the inshore area," Mr allowances just so the com- mercial purse fishing in 2004. Baldock says. mercial catch limits can be He says the minister's decision on the quota whole schools of kahawai to "Te Runanga a Iwi O allocations shows disregard continue to be scooped from mercial interests clash with and ignores scientific and Shame on you minister."

"He takes further steps in

"He also endangers the future prospects for Kiwi kids

"Instead he allows for the water in nets, processed



Wishful thinking: Recreational fishers say kahawai numbers are down and a day surfcasting at places like Tauranga Bay doesn't guarantee food on the table.



ask about our courtesy van

09 407 8479

215 Kerikeri Road, Stone Store Basin

WINE TASTING AND TAPAS

Weds 3 Nov

Enjoy 6 amazing wines from the pinot family with delicious tapas to match

\$60 per person

Bookings essential



3 Course meal and live music

\$45 per person Bookings essential