IN BRIEF - New Sea Around Us Project to study jellyfish

CANADA
Monday, November 01, 2010

The global catch of jellyfish is now at more than 250,000 tonnes of tentacles every year. However, researchers like the Sea Around Us Project’s Lucas Brotz, are still trying to figure out if there has been a rise of jellyfish globally.

Brotz is using anecdotal information of jellyfish accounts through time to build a global model and he is seeing evidence of population increases but is not yet prepared to say if they are significant, which is mentioned in a recent article at Livescience asking if jellyfish are menaces or misunderstood.

His work was also recently mentioned and in a story at edible Vancouver, exploring the jellyfish as the next catch du jour.

IN BRIEF - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to aid Sri Lankan image

SRI LANKA
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) will hold its 16th annual sessions of the Conference of Parties in Sri Lanka in March 2011.

The upcoming IOTC meeting will hopefully boost the country's international image as a nation committed to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, said Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Minister Dr. Rajitha Senaratna.

He believes that it will revolve Sri Lanka's name from the category of non-corporative countries that show no interest or commitment to international laws and regulations to combat IUU fishing. "We were blacklisted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission because we have not participated in their meetings for over three years," he said.

He said, several countries informed him that they want large quantities of fish from Sri Lanka after we were able to explain the IOTC about our fisheries and the future plans to develop that sector.

Explaining the Ministry's plans to develop the sector, Senaratna said they plan to introduce modern multi-day boats with on board Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW).

The system can preserve the quality of fish with RSW system. The fish quality remains fresh with the system.

"Bank of Ceylon has agreed to provide us with a loan of USD 9 million to buy these vessels," he added.

Source: Daily News

IN BRIEF - Government accused of lying over seriousness of Sydney Harbour toxicity

AUSTRALIA
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

The NSW opposition has accused the government of Australia of failing in its duty of care after it was revealed that warnings about the toxicity of seafood in Sydney Harbour could remain for decades.

Commercial fishing was banned in the harbour in December 2005 after raised levels of potentially harmful dioxins, a group of organic chemicals, were found in several species of fish and crustaceans.

The source is said to be the former Union Carbide pesticide factory at Homebush Bay, in the city’s inner west.

Recreational fishers are also warned not to eat anything caught west of the bridge and eat only a very limited amount of seafood caught east of the landmark.

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But a report on Saturday revealed that the toxins, which in high levels have been linked to cancer and birth defects, have spread up to 10 kilometres upstream and downstream and could remain present for decades.

NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water director of specialised regulation, Craig Lambert, said the fishing ban and warnings would likely remain just as long.

"I don't want to predict but that's the kind of thing we are talking about. We think it will be decades," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted him as saying.

State opposition climate change spokesman Catherine Cusack said the government knew since 2008 that the dioxins had spread, but failed to issue warnings.

Source: AAP
IN BRIEF - Ahold share buyback update

NETHERLANDS
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

Ahold has repurchased 1,413,198 Ahold common shares in the period from 25 October 2010 up to and including 29 October 2010.

The shares were repurchased at an average price of EUR 9.8424 per share for a total consideration of EUR 13.91 million.

These repurchases were made as part of the EUR 500 million share buyback program announced on 4 March 2010.

The total number of shares repurchased under this program to date is 29,412,928 common shares for a total consideration of EUR 295.8 million.

IN BRIEF - Vietnamese delegation to study aquaculture in Victoria

AUSTRALIA
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

The recent revival of the troubled mussel industry will be one of the focal points for a Vietnamese delegation studying aquaculture in Victoria, Australia.

Seven delegates from Vietnamese government departments will visit Snobs Creek, Queenscliff and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in Melbourne to swap information and examine Victorian aquaculture.

Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Travis Dowling, said collaboration between industry and DPI researchers had turned the mussel industry around and was attracting international interest.

"Export of aquaculture products is already a major industry in Vietnam and their government is keen to expand aquaculture which already generates more than a billion dollars," Mr Dowling said. "The delegates will be looking at different models of technology transfer in aquaculture and the field and farm services operated by the DPI."

They will be visiting farms and studying demonstration models on rainbow trout and mollusc aquaculture.

The November visit is part of the International Engagement component of the Aquaculture Futures Initiative (AFI) which aims to transform Victoria's aquaculture industry into globally competitive sectors through international engagement.

Source: Fisheries Victoria

IN BRIEF - Malaysian exports to Russia set to resume

MALAYSIA
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

Malaysia’s export of seafood products to Russia is expected to resume by the year-end.

This follows discussions between the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) and Russia’s Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Service of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor).

In a statement Monday, MATRADE said, in order to revoke the current ban and expedite the process of re-starting Malaysian seafood exports to Russia, Rosselkhoznadzor has proposed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be initiated with the relevant Malaysian agency.

In January last year, Rosselkhoznadzor issued its requirements with regard to approved Malaysian seafood processing establishments, permitted to export products to Russia.

In 2009, Russia’s seafood imports were valued at USD 1.63 billion. Among Asian exporters, Malaysia is ranked fourth after Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia in respect of seafood exports to Russia, amounting to USD 680,000 in 2009.

Seafood exports to Russia include crustaceans (shrimp, prawn and lobster), fish and cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish and octopus).

Source: Bernama

IN BRIEF - Aurora Algae to open headquarters and facilities in Australia

AUSTRALIA
Tuesday, November 02, 2010

The California-based algae producer, Aurora Algae, has announced an expansion of its operations, opening a regional headquarters in Perth and plans for its first commercial production facility in north-western Australia.

Aurora Algae’s co-founder and Australian Managing Director, Matthew Caspari, will oversee the construction and operation of the commercial-scale facility.

"The combination of a perfect climate and the right blend of resources – including abundant seawater, industrial CO2 and skilled labour – made north-western Australia an ideal location for our initial, high-yield commercial facility," Mr Caspari said.

Aurora Algae produces algae-based products for the pharmaceutical, nutrition, aquaculture and fuels markets. The company’s patented production process uses robust, high-performance algae strains in open pond systems.

Aurora Algae has also developed the industry’s first commercial-scale photosynthetic platform for sustainable, algae-based product development, utilizing sea water algae strains that thrive in open ponds.

The company pioneered a unique, energy-efficient method for harvesting algae using technology commonly used in the waste-water treatment industry rather than a traditional centrifuge approach.
IN BRIEF - Morpol announces new management structure

UNITED KINGDOM
Monday, November 01, 2010

Further to Morpol’s acquisition of Northern Isles Salmon (previously Mainstream Scotland) and Lakeland group (the salmon farming operations of Marine Farms), they have announced the management structure of the Scottish salmon farming operations.

The Managing Director of the combined company will be William Liston, former Managing Director of Lakeland Group. William Young, former Managing Director of Northern Isles Salmon Ltd. is named Production Director and the department heads of Freshwater, Seawater and the Technical area will report to him. Mark Warrington will be in charge of the sales, processing and harvesting departments. William Liston will report to Steven Rafferty, Morpol CFO and liaise on sales and processing with John-Paul McGinley, Morpol COO.

“We are very pleased to have the new management structure in place for our farming operations in Scotland, and particularly to have William Liston as the Managing Director with his vast experience built up over many years. He has led the Lakeland Group to be recognised as one of the top performing companies, not only in Scotland, but on a global basis. Morpol management will have close contact with the Scottish management with an aim to maximise profitability and synergies throughout the value chain and to take an innovative approach to the company”, says Jerzy Malek, Morpol CEO.

“I am delighted and honoured to have been given the privilege of leading the combined forces of what was previously the Lakeland Group and Northern Isles Salmon. We will shortly be bringing these two names under one umbrella. The newly formed

IN BRIEF - Salmon run smaller than previously predicted

CANADA
Monday, November 01, 2010

It's still a record breaking run, but this year's Fraser sockeye return wasn't as large as scientists first predicted.

The Pacific Salmon Commission says the final count may be around 29 million fish, a drop from 34.5 million.

While the run is still the largest in memory, Stolo Native Fishery spokesperson Emie Crey says a 20 per cent margin of error is cause for concern.

He says there are two possibilities to explain the discrepancy: one is their math was simply bad and the fish were never there to begin with.

The other one is that they permitted overharvesting in the commercial sector.

It's not the first time predictions have been so inaccurate.

The 2009 return where only one million of the estimated ten million sockeye showed up is now the subject of a judicial inquiry.

Source: CKNW News Talk 980

IN BRIEF - Catfish farmers call on government for aquaculture funding

NIGERIA
Monday, November 01, 2010

The Catfish Farmers Association of Nigeria (CAFAN) has urged the Federal Government to provide necessary technical facilities and funds to improve aquaculture in the country. Chief Tayo Akingbolagun, President of the association, made the call in Lagos during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria.

He said that fish farmers were being confronted with dire financial constraints, inadequate storage facilities and shortage of experienced veterinary doctors, stating that the challenges were impacting negatively on aquaculture.

He also urged the government to provide educational programmes that would lead to the production of qualified officials, who would in turn educate local fish farmers.

"Government should provide an enabling environment for the business to thrive," he added.

Akingbolagun stressed the need for the provision of facilities for the production of fish feeds and fingerlings, saying that those being imported were very expensive and below standards.

He said Nigeria needed good marketing of fish to arouse farmers' interest, encourage them and draw the attention of prospective investors to the business.

Source: Nigerian Compass

IN BRIEF – Iridium closes financing facility

UNITED STATES
Saturday, October 30, 2010

Iridium Communications Inc. (Nasdaq:IRDM) today announced that it has successfully closed the financing facility for its next generation satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT. The facility is provided by a syndicate of nine banks led by Deutsche Bank AG, Banco Santander SA, Société Générale, Natixis and Mediobanca International S.A., and includes BNP Paribas, Crédit Industriel et Commercial, Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. and Unicredit Bank Austria AG. They will provide up to USD 1.8 billion of financing to Iridium for the design and manufacture of Iridium NEXT satellites.

"We are extremely pleased with the size of the facility, which together with internally generated cash flow, we continue to believe is sufficient to fully fund our next
generation of satellites,” said Tom Fitzpatrick, CFO, Iridium. “We are also obviously pleased with the facility’s highly attractive funding cost, long-term nature, and with the covenants and other terms that have been agreed. We are proud to be associated with the pre-eminent group of lenders that have participated in the facility and believe their support speaks well of our future prospects.”

In connection with the closing of the financing, Iridium’s Full Scale System Development Contract with Thales Alenia Space became effective, replacing the existing Authorization to Proceed.