

MARITIME
SEAFOOD
EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION



Maritime & Seafood Educators Association Of Aotearoa (MSEAA)

Chairman's Report 2010/2011

The maritime sector continues to promote a diversity of opportunities for the future. The last year has included a wide range of activities and projects which will increase the importance of this sector and enhance the potential for our nation's EEZ.

News items have included ongoing off-shore oil and gas exploration, extraction and surveys, moves to progress wave and tidal power projects (Kaipara, Cook Strait, Akaroa, Taylors Mistake, Stewart Island & the Chathams), Pacific ocean deep sea mining projects (including rock phosphate mining on the Chatham Rise) and additional iron-sand extraction off Taranaki.

The EPA has now been legislated to assume protection for our oceans and marine reserves have been established around New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands. There was an extensive Kermadec Islands marine expedition which identified new species and the annual Cook Strait humpback whale survey indicated an increase in numbers this year. The NIWA research ship, Tangaroa, has been upgraded with increased capability with a recent project to map undersea landslides in Cook Strait.

In the aquaculture sector firms are investing more with Sealord upgrading its infrastructure, Sanford acquiring Pacifica Seafood and King Salmon eager to double its surface space. Record numbers of cruise ship passengers continue to visit New Zealand.

In spite of the impacts upon the sector due to natural disasters and economic turmoil the sector appears to be sustainable and of significant importance to the New Zealand economy.

MSEAA acknowledges the impacts upon a number of its members and supporters including tertiary funding impacts, the TEC ITO sector audit, unit standard changes (particularly First Aid) and reorganisation at the Seafood ITO and Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology. In spite of this all still provide a positive service and contribution to MSEAA and in particular we acknowledge its supporters: Seafood ITO, Competenz and MNZ. We thank the two ITO's for hosting our executive meetings in Wellington and Auckland during the current year. In particular we extend our thanks to Vicki McEnaney, Andrew Brownlee and Harkesh Grover.

Harkesh has provided us with timely updates on maritime news, reviews and changes and Sriyani Warusavithana has distributed Competenz information on maritime qualifications and unit standards including recent work around First Aid. The Seafood ITO continues to support us both by direct engagement and through participation in sector advisory groups. This has been ratified at the highest level with SITO CEO Owen Symmans.

The 2010 conference was successfully held in Auckland with a range of industry leaders addressing attendees. Plans were established to hold the 2011 conference in Christchurch but the earthquakes made that untenable and accordingly the 2011 conference with its theme of "Changes and Challenges" will be in Auckland at the same venue as 2010. I acknowledge the important work that has been put in by Louise Deehan-Owen in preparing for the 2011 conference.

During the year our website has finally been enhanced and now has the potential to host more information about us. Aligned to this is a Facebook page.

MSEAA plans to deliver on five simple business objectives:

- Deliver an annual conference
- Operate a quality website
- Ensure press releases and news items acknowledging MSEAA
- Increase membership
- Gain new sector members.

I believe that we have moved positively on most of the objectives and the coming year will see further progress.

Next year will continue provide opportunities and challenges for our provider members with the next TEC investment plan round, continuing NZQA EER and the wider NZQA Targeted Review of Qualification (TROQ).

There is some safety in numbers and MSEAA continues to be recognised by many stakeholders as an important and established tertiary representative organisation.

I acknowledge Christine Burt who is a most vital organiser for MSEAA providing invaluable support to MSEAA and its executive. Thank you Christine.

Dan Forsman
Chairman
12 August 2011