



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

OIA25-0086

12 March 2025

Greg Presland
fyi-request-30071-bfc91e14@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Greg Presland

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2025 requesting the number of requests for commercial fishing camera footage. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act (OIA) 1982.

You requested the following:

Minister Shane Jones is proposing to prevent the use of the OIA to seek camera footage collected on fishing boats. How many requests have there been since cameras were introduced?

Our oceans and fisheries are important to all New Zealanders and are an important contributor to New Zealand's economy. The Government is committed to lifting New Zealand's productivity and economic growth to increase opportunities and the potential of the seafood sector, while ensuring sustainability continues to be at the forefront of fisheries management.

Since the introduction of the quota management system (QMS), which serves New Zealand well and supports the overall sustainability of our fish stocks, there have been substantial improvements in the verified information about commercial fishing activity. We now have more and better quality information about the fishery through electronic catch and position reporting and the introduction of on-board cameras.

We have an opportunity to harness this improved data to make our fisheries system more effective and efficient, while continuing to ensure healthy, sustainable fisheries that provide for all New Zealanders now and in the future.

More information in regard to the privacy aspect of on board camera footage can be found here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/commercial-fishing/fisheries-change-programme/on-board-cameras-for-commercial-fishing-vessels/privacy-and-on-board-cameras/>

Since the introduction of on-board cameras on commercial fishing vessels in 2019, to the date of your request, Fisheries New Zealand has received fourteen OIA requests for commercial fishing vessel camera footage.

Fisheries New Zealand

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You may be aware that Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback on a package of proposals under the Consultation on the Fisheries Reforms 2025 that will enhance value to fishers and better ensure sustainability. These proposed reforms would:

- improve the responsiveness, efficiency, and certainty of decision-making
- provide greater protection for on-board camera footage and ensure the on-board camera programme is workable
- implement new rules for commercial fishers that set out when QMS (Quota Management System) fish must be landed and when they can be returned to the sea.

The consultation opened on 12 February and will close at 5pm on 28 March 2025. You can have your say and make a submission using the Online submission form linked here: <https://mpi.surveymonkey.com/r/FisheriesReform2025ConsultationSurvey>

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SL', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Lawrence
Director, Science and Information