



OIA16-0461

21 OCT 2016

Graham Carter
C/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request received by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 16 August 2016 relating to *all reports regarding new net inventions by Karl Warr and Geoff Birch*.

MPI understands that a 'Rick Burch' has been associated with fishing net invention and testing, and not a 'Geoff Birch'. MPI does not hold information on any person named Geoff Birch, and has interpreted your request to be in regard to net inventions by Karl Warr and Rick Burch.

MPI has not written any reports that exclusively focus on net inventions by Karl Warr and Rick Burch. However, their work has been referenced in various fisheries related Aide Memoires and Briefings. I am therefore releasing a series of relevant extracts to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Extracts are being provided as the majority of the content of the below documents falls outside of the scope of your request.

- Extracts from Briefing B14-223: *Commercial Inshore Fisheries*, dated 28 November 2014.
- Extracts from Briefing B14-265: *Meeting with Andrew Talley – Commercial Inshore Fisheries*, dated 10 December 2014.
- An Extract from an Aide Memoire provided to the Minister for Primary Industries on 30 August 2016 entitled: AM16-0494 – *Update on Hawke Bay Fisheries*.

Please note that an extract from briefing B14-463 – *Fisheries Management Quarterly Update – 1st Quarter 2015* on net inventions by Karl Warr and Rick Burch has already been provided to you in response to your previous request referenced: OIA16-0460.

Yours sincerely


Peter McCarthy
Chief Legal Adviser

The following information is extracted from Briefing B14-223: *Commercial Inshore Fisheries*.

Key Messages

1. Representatives of Fisheries Inshore NZ and Seafood NZ wish to discuss a number of inshore commercial finfish fisheries management matters from a strategic/ national perspective, including:
 - Recreational Fishing Parks; and
 - Initiatives in commercial inshore fisheries relating to new approaches to managing selected inshore stocks; deployment of cameras and fishing gear trials.

11. A number of fishing gear trials underway demonstrate the scope for innovation in commercial fisheries. It will be important to ensure that any regulatory barriers are addressed.

Inshore Fisheries Initiatives

21. Three specific Initiatives relating to commercial inshore fisheries will be raised, namely:
 - new approaches to managing selected inshore stocks;
 - use of cameras; and
 - fishing gear trials.

Fishing Gear Trials

29. There are a number of types of innovative fishing gear being developed at present. The joint industry-MPI funded precision harvesting technology is the most well-known. Rick Burch, a Hawke's Bay fisher, has for a number of years promoted changes to the standard diamond mesh of trawl nets. More recently, another Hawke's Bay fisher, Karl Warr has developed a cage in the middle of a trawl net which reportedly allows undersized fish to swim through and unwanted fish to be returned to the water unharmed.

The following information is extracted from Briefing B14-265: *Meeting with Andrew Talley - Commercial Inshore Fisheries*.

Talking Points

9. A number of fishing gear trials underway demonstrate the scope for innovation in commercial fisheries. It will be important to ensure that any regulatory barriers are addressed.

Inshore Fisheries Initiatives

23. Three specific Initiatives relating to commercial inshore fisheries may be raised, namely:
- new approaches to managing selected inshore stocks;
 - use of cameras; and
 - fishing gear trials.

Fishing Gear Trials

31. There are a number of types of innovative fishing gear being developed at present. The joint industry-MPI funded precision harvesting technology is the most well-known. Rick Burch, a Hawke's Bay fisher, has for a number of years promoted changes to the standard diamond mesh of trawl nets. More recently, another Hawke's Bay fisher, Karl Warr, has developed a cage in the middle of a trawl net which reportedly allows undersized fish to swim through and unwanted fish to be returned to the water unharmed. Talley's have also been proactive in the South Island by insisting that ACE fishers catching for Talley's deploy 125mm codend on all Bottom trawl gear. Talley's have provided these to ACE fishers at no cost.
32. MPI is working to create an environment where fishers are incentivised to use gear that minimises unwanted catch. Monitoring of commercial fishing activity is a key component of this approach along with creating a regulatory framework that encourages innovation around gear use.

The following information is extracted from Aide Memoire AM16-0494: *Update on Hawke Bay fisheries.*

2. Industry have agreed to implement the following voluntary measures to reduce commercial fishing effort and juvenile mortality:
- Trialling of new trawl gear types within Hawke Bay to reduce the catch of small and unwanted fish; including, a fixed stainless steel cage cod end, and a mix of larger diamond mesh in the lengthener of the net and turned mesh (T45 and/or T90) in the cod end.