



OIA16-0438

21 OCT 2016

Graham Carter
fyi-request-4405-68346635@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 9 August 2016 relating to the following:

1. "All information, reports, emails and notes regarding the meetings with LegaSea Hawkes Bay and David Turner, Scott Gallacher, Andrew Coleman and Steve Halley regarding these meetings and the Nathan Guy on what has been done or suggested to be done?"
2. We respect the ten-year boat ramp survey carried out by Hawkes Bay Fishing Clubs and LegaSea Hawkes Bay what has the MPI decided to do to make the Hawkes Bay inshore fishery more sustainable?
3. We request all information, reports, emails and notes regarding the meetings with LegaSea Hawkes Bay and David Turner, Scott Gallacher, Andrew Coleman and Steve Halley regarding these meetings and the Nathan Guy on why nothing has been done to satisfy recreational fishers in the Hawkes Bay area?"

In regards to your first and third questions, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has met with LegaSea Hawkes Bay on 15 July 2015, 27 August 2015, 6 October 2015, 17 November 2015, and 18 March 2016. It has been decided that a summary of these minutes will be released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) pursuant to section 16(1)(e). This summary will be provided to you once it has been processed.

Please note, meeting notes were not drafted following the 27 August 2015 meeting. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

You have also requested all other information, including emails and notes, regarding these meetings. This portion of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

In making the decision to refuse parts of your the request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA on the grounds that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, we considered this request together with your other requests relating to fisheries management issues. We also considered whether fixing a charge would enable us to grant your request. Given the considerable amount of information requested, we have decided that charging would not be appropriate. The diversion of resources required to meet your requests would unreasonably interfere with the operations of MPI.

Secondly, pursuant to section 18B, we considered consulting you about revising the scope of the requests. Given the substantial amount of information requested, we do not see that entering into correspondence on this issue is likely to refocus the requests down to a manageable scale.

In regards to your second question, MPI is committed to working with all sectors in Hawkes Bay to resolve longstanding concerns about local fish abundance. While the wider fisheries management area that Hawke Bay is a part of is performing well, there is information to suggest that recreational fishers are finding fewer fish in near shore waters in the Bay. The science is not clear on the specific causes, but environmental factors other than fishing are likely to be playing a part.

MPI has invested considerable time and effort to facilitate discussions between representatives from the recreational and commercial sectors, including LegaSea, over the past 18 months.

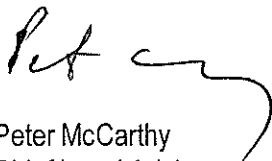
As a result of these discussions, industry have agreed to implement the following voluntary measures to reduce commercial fishing effort and juvenile mortality, including:

- seasonal fishing restrictions in an area covering the freshwater springs and within a line from Cape Kidnappers to the southern corner of the Wairoa Hard;
- commercial conservation measures for hapuku and bass on the Lachlan Banks and Ridge;
- trialling of new trawl gear types that fish within Hawke Bay to reduce the catch of small and unwanted fish.

MPI is committed to continue working with recreational and commercial fishers in the Bay to find further lasting solutions.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse parts of your request.

Yours sincerely



Peter McCarthy
Chief Legal Adviser