



11 JUN 2018

OIA18-0357

Graham Carter  
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Dear Graham Carter

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 17 May 2018 seeking information and answers to the following questions:

*Late November 2017 a Sanford fishing vessel returning to Port Timaru with a number of fish bins of salmon. Pegasus Fisheries, also landed a number of bins of salmon.*

*Many keen salmon fishermen and former volunteers for Fish & Game have gone on one of these Salmon By-catch Monitoring trips into the "Salmon Conservation Area" which just raises further questions:-*

The following information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

***Are Fish & Game still permitted to have volunteer observers on trips into the SCA?***

Yes.

***Who decides whether or not a Chinook salmon trawled out of the sea is a farm escapee or a wild fish? How can they tell the difference? They're not tagged. They are the same species. What's to stop all salmon caught being called "farm escapees" and hence not part of the 5-tonne annual quota?***

There is no annual quota, the 5 tonnes you refer to is part of the Salmon at Sea agreement. It doesn't make any difference where the salmon are from, they are just reported as caught under SAM3. If salmon are in the open ocean they can be caught and they are in effect wild fish.

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***If 5000 kgs can legally be caught each year, and sold, from within the Salmon Conservation Area (SCA), what weight can be caught outside the area, and sold?***

There is no annual catch limit. There isn't a limit outside the SCA, however, salmon doesn't feature as a bycatch species in reporting from the wider fleet. While occasional fish are caught they are not reported in large concentrations. All salmon that are caught can be sold, and must be reported to the Crown. A levy based on the volume caught is then paid to Fish and Game.

***Who within MPI and Fish & Game organizes these trips?***

It is a Fish and Game responsibility.

***There is a formal record kept of all sea-caught salmon sold by Licensed Fish Receivers (MPI Returns) and I would like a copy of the figures for the last 10 years.***

The following table lists sea-caught salmon in kilograms, as sold by Licenced Fish Receivers (LFRs), over the last 10 years.

Sea-caught salmon sold by fisheries LFRs, by year	Kgs
2017 / 2018	4130kg
2016 / 2017	185kg
2015 / 2016	575kg
2014 / 2015	704kg
2013 / 2014	1475kg
2012 / 2013	349kg
2011 / 2012	153kg
2010 / 2011	392kg
2009 / 2010	262kg
2008 / 2009	710kg

I trust this satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Anderson  
**Director Fisheries Management**