



OIA14-493

30 JUN 2015

Graham Carter
Editor
Fishing and Outdoors Newspaper

Dear Graham Carter

I refer to your official information request on 2 June 2015 relating to:

1. *"All information, discussions, and reports relating to the exporting of 'live fish' to Asian markets.*
2. *Who and what are the market contacts?*
3. *Any information relating to the use of the new PSH net system being developed [by] Sanford Limited, Sealord Limited and Aotearoa Fisheries Limited to catch live fish and the exporting of 'live fish' using this method to Asian markets?*
4. *Any information or reports that point to the likelihood of our NZ 'live fish' exports being used as menu items in Asian restaurants?*
5. *Any information relating to live fin fish and crayfish export sales which end up in restaurants as 'live' fish on menus?"*

Under the Official Information Act 1982, we have provided you with statistics on live fish exports to Asian countries as reported by the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) electronic certification system. Further information regarding the certification process can be found at: <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/exporting/e-cert/>

Please note, there is no lobster (crayfish) data for 2006 or 2005. This information cannot be found in MPI records despite reasonable efforts to locate it.

Live lobsters (crayfish) and eels may be exported for slaughter for human consumption. All other live finfish, excluding eels, and aquatic animals may be exported for purposes other than human consumption. All live fish and aquatic animal export consignments must meet International Air Transport Association animal welfare requirements.

MPI does not hold any information on post arrival treatment of fish consignments once landed in other countries. Once the consignments are accepted and cleared into the importing country, they are no longer under MPI's control. Therefore, we cannot provide information in response to your questions at four and five above.

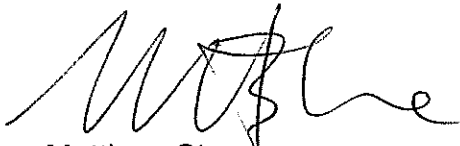
While we can't require other countries to follow our animal welfare laws, New Zealand contributes to multilateral discussions on animal welfare issues and to the development of international guidelines for animal welfare. There are international standards around animal welfare for fish, for example the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules for stunning and killing farmed fish.

In relation to your request about Precision Seafood Harvesting (PSH), PSH seeks to develop a new wildfish harvesting technology that aims to produce higher quality seafood while also improving the sustainability of our fish stocks.

PSH is not about the development of live fish exports to other countries. In fact, New Zealand does not currently export live fin fish. The PSH programme is about developing a system to land fish unharmed so we can minimise waste and return more fish to the sea alive and unharmed. It will make New Zealand's fishing sector the global leader in sustainability and care for our oceans.

In addition, the seafood industry must comply with New Zealand animal welfare laws, regardless of the catch method.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Stone', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Stone
Director, Animal and Animal Products