



OIA16-0441

20 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 1 August 2016 relating to *all registration numbers (of vessels) and all those fishing for species; photos of all NZ registered fishing vessels; and all ports that each vessel operates from.*

Section 103 of the Fisheries Act 1996 requires vessels to be registered in the Fishing Vessel Register in order to take fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for sale, in New Zealand fisheries waters.

The details of all commercial fishing vessels registered under the Act are held on a public register which is accessible electronically and available publicly. The administration of this register has been devolved and is managed by FishServe and can be found at the following link: (<https://www.fishserve.co.nz/information/vessels>).

Your requests for *all registration numbers of vessels and all ports that each vessel operates from* is refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as the information requested is publicly available.

MPI does not request or store photographs of all New Zealand fishing vessels. However, MPI does hold some assorted images of certain vessels in our systems, which have been submitted for various purposes. Some of the stored vessel imagery is very poor quality and is now out of date. To search through MPI databases and identify which images belong to vessels that are still currently fishing in New Zealand waters would require substantial collation and research. Therefore, this part of your request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA.

In making the decision to refuse part 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.

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 your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McCarthy', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back down.

Peter McCarthy  
Chief Legal Adviser