

20 OCT 2016

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



OIA16-0462

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 asking for *all catch per unit of effort (CPUE) reports for Cray 6-7-8; all rules and information regarding the number of craypots around coastal towns and camping grounds; and all rules and information regarding the number of commercial pots in any given area.*

The latest Rock Lobster Fisheries Plenary Report published in November 2015, summarises fishery, biological, stock assessment and stock status information for the two main species of Rock Lobster found in New Zealand, the spiny red rock lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*) and the packhorse rock lobster (*Sagmariasus verreauxi*). The plenary report can be found at the following link: (http://fs.fish.govt.nz/Doc/24022/13-ROCK%20LOBSTER_FINAL.pdf.ashx). This report includes CPUE information for the CRA 6, 7 and 8 rock lobster fisheries.

The primary measure that is used to sustainably manage commercial rock lobster catch is through the setting of an annual Total Allowable Commercial Catch. There are no restrictions on the number of commercial pots used for targeting rock lobster in New Zealand. However, there are voluntary commercial restrictions that are followed in some areas of the coastline where there is overlap with recreational fishers in summer months. For instance, commercial fishers voluntarily do not fish the Gisborne and East Cape parts of the CRA 3 fishery from 1 September to 15 January.

Information regarding the annual number of commercial potlifts by rock lobster statistical area can be found in a Fisheries Assessment Report at the following link: (www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/12699).

Further information on the rules of lobster fishing, which includes the rules on using pots in regard to commercial fishing, can be found in the *Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001* at the following link: (www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2001/0253/latest/DLM76407.html).

Yours sincerely



Peter McCarthy
Chief Legal Adviser

Growing and Protecting New Zealand

Office of the Director General
Legal Services

Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Telephone: 0800 00 83 33, Facsimile: +64-4-894 0300
www.mpi.govt.nz