



OIA16-0491

20 OCT 2016

Graham Carter
C/- fyi.org.nz

Dear Graham Carter

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 25 August 2016 relating to information on the RV Tangaroa. Please find below a response to each part of your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

1. *We request a copy of the report on the survey carried out by the RV Tangaroa, New Zealand's only deepwater research vessel, on the Scampi fishery, for the last ten years.*

There have been no surveys on the scampi fishery carried out by the RV Tangaroa, therefore the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) does not hold any reports on this subject. This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

MPI is committed to ensuring viable and sustainable fisheries. As such, MPI undertakes regular targeted trawl and photographic surveys in key scampi fisheries (although not with the RV Tangaroa, as stated above). These inform Bayesian stock assessments of these stocks. Further information on these surveys including results of the stock assessments can be found in the Fisheries Assessment Plenary Volume 3, which is available at the following website: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3890>

2. *We request all information, reports, emails and charts which show the bycatch by trawlers fishing for scampi.*

MPI has made reports on this topic publicly available at the below websites. These reports are done on a regular basis and when the newest edition becomes available, it will be accessible via the MPI website.

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/7185>

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/4721>

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/4210>

Your request for all emails is refused under section 18(f) as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

As part of reporting requirements, trawlers are required to report all bycatch to MPI. However, to work through the various databases to find material in scope of the request would require substantial collation and research. Therefore, under section 18(f) of the OIA, this part of your request is also refused.

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..

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 Advisor