

27 OCT 2017



OIA17-0588

JG Hatherly
c/- FYI website

Dear JG Hatherly

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 2 October 2017 requesting the following:

- *Could you please inform me how many observers have been on inshore fishing boats in the last 5 years.*
- *How many days have the observers worked on these inshore boats in the 5 year period.*
- *The number of offences that have resulted in prosecutions from these observers reports during this time.*

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

The following were classified as inshore fisheries for the purpose of observer coverage during the five years from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017.

- West coast North Island set net
- West coast North Island (inshore) trawl
- Snapper (SNA1) standard trawl
- East coast North Island bottom longline snapper
- East coast South Island (inshore) trawl
- East coast South Island set net
- South coast South Island set net
- Hawkes Bay trawl
- East coast North Island danish Seine
- East coast North Island bottom longline bluenose
- West coast South Island (inshore) trawl
- Precision Seafood Harvesting (PSH) vessels.

Over the years from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017 88 observers were deployed in these inshore fisheries.

Each day a vessel has an observer on-board is classed as a sea-day. The number of sea-days obtained on inshore fisheries during the five years from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017 is approximately 6792. Note this figure is approximate as fishing activity and vessel movements are fluid, vessels operating in an offshore fishery may move into an inshore fishery at times, which may not be captured in the figures provided.

Your request for the number of offences that have resulted in prosecutions from observer reports over the five year period is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA on the basis that such a request would require substantive collation and research.

The Ministry for Primary industries (MPI) does not hold the information requested in the way that you have asked for it. MPI would need to manually search a large number of individual trip folders, many currently held in archives, in order to identify any specific observer information provided to MPI's Compliance directorate for further investigation.

In addition, MPI's Compliance directorate would then need to manually check and match that information with their investigations in order to determine any observer reports that may have formed a part of any prosecution. This would require a substantive amount of work and would also be very difficult to tie individual prosecutions back to an observer report.

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



Steve Halley
Acting Director Fisheries Management