

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Guidelines for the Release of Fisheries Information

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Document Control

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Introduction

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) holds a vast amount of data on behalf of New Zealanders. This data is an important strategic asset of significant value to New Zealand. This data may be used by the private, public, and non-government sectors to drive innovation and contribute to economic, social, and environmental progress.

Management of information within MPI and public access to it are governed by the:

- *Public Records Act 2005* – determines what and when information is considered a public record
- *Official Information Act 1982* (OIA) – sets out the framework for making official information available and the grounds for withholding it
- *Privacy Act 2020* (PA) – protects personal information contained in official information and provides for access and correction by the identifiable persons.

MPI also follows the broader open government approach which seeks to ensure transparent government through open data and information that supports a principle of information availability and engagement with government.

Fisheries management information

Information that MPI holds in relation to fisheries management is:

- a public record
- official information under the OIA
- information that has been collected in accordance with the requirements of the *Fisheries Act 1996* ('the Act').

Official Information Act

Any requests for information will be considered on their own merit in accordance with the purpose of the OIA and the principle that information shall be made available unless there is good reason to withhold it (subject to the Chief Executive's obligations under the Act to make the information available).

Any information relevant to a request for information is collated, reviewed, consulted on (where required) and put through an approval process to ensure that both the interests of those who are the subject of the information and the public are weighted/balanced prior to a decision being made and its release to a requestor.

MPI recognises that a commercial operator's fishing knowledge may be a valuable commodity. As a principle, MPI will seek to protect the information received from individual fishers, while balancing the public interest within the framework of the OIA and the requirements of the Act.

Subject to any requirements of the Act and in the context of information contained within fisheries management databases, information will not normally be released if:

- it is considered commercially sensitive, and releasing it would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the permit holder who supplied it
- it would impact on the supply of similar information in the future
- we do not have permission for its release under our contractual obligations without first obtaining consent.

Privacy Act 2020

The PA defines personal information as information about an identifiable individual. Most fisheries databases will hold personal information. Examples include imagery (photos of an individual), and names, addresses, infringement information and so on.

The PA's Principle 6 gives individuals the right to access their personal information held by MPI, when that information is readily retrievable. Like the OIA, the PA allows information to be withheld if it is considered necessary to protect specific interests, including where it is necessary to protect the safety or privacy of other individuals, or where disclosure would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

In most cases, government agencies cannot charge for processing a request for information under the PA.

Guidance applies to MPI Fisheries information only

These guidelines only deal with fisheries information MPI has collected under its statutory authority under the Fisheries Act and associated regulations. These guidelines for the release of fisheries information do not cover, or provide, any guidance or information regarding the release of information to other government agencies. **Furthermore, the guidelines do not cover any subsequent proactive release of statistical information that promotes transparency and may assist managing and minimising information requests.**

Disclaimer

The information contained in this guideline is intended to provide guidance to:

- MPI staff
- contracted agencies, and any approved service delivery organisations who hold information collected under the provisions of the Act, by or on behalf of MPI.

All reasonable measures have been taken to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information in this guidance. MPI may change, delete, add to, or otherwise amend information contained in this guideline without notice, and disclaims any and all responsibility for any inaccuracy, error, or any other deficiency in the information.

About this Document

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the release of the fisheries information in the topics described below, to:

- MPI staff
 - any agency contracted to perform functions under section 294 of the *Fisheries Act 1996* (“the Act”) (currently FishServe)
 - any approved service delivery organisation (ASDO) to whom any specified functions, duties, or powers have been transferred under section 296B of the Act (currently FishServe).
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Information topics

The main body of these guidelines discusses information under the following topics:

- quota
 - licensed fish receivers
 - high seas permits
 - annual catch entitlement
 - permits
 - fishing vessels
 - fishing farmers
 - catch, effort, and landing
 - geospatial position reports
 - fisheries observer
 - research
 - customary fishing
 - electronic monitoring
 - data combinations.
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Scope

These guidelines cover the release of fisheries information including electronic copies of data set and reports. These guidelines specifically apply to the following categories of information:

- information collected under the Act and required to be public
- information collected as a consequence of maintaining statutory registers including information stored in MPI’s databases
- data collected as a result of MPI’s contractual arrangements with suppliers stored in MPI’s databases.

All information is held within a database but only some of it is publicly available.

Aim The aim of the guideline is to produce a consistent approach across MPI, its agents, and ASDOs when considering the release of fisheries information contained in databases.

Information requests All requests for information must be handled under Part 2 of the *Official Information Act 1982* (the OIA) and/or Part 4 of the *Privacy Act 2020* **unless**:

- the information is contained on a public register, in which case the requester should be given details of how to obtain the information from the register, i.e. hours of inspection, fees etc. The public registers include the *Permit Register*, the *Fishing Vessel Register*, the *Annual Catch Entitlement Register*, the *Quota Register*, and the *High Seas Permit Register*
- a person requests personal information relating to themselves that is held by the MPI. The *Privacy Act 2020* provides that that information must be disclosed to that person
- the request is made by a body corporate in New Zealand for personal information, in which case the request must be considered under Part 4 of the OIA (unless that information is part of a public register).

Deciding whether to release or withhold information In accordance with the OIA, MPI has an obligation to make information it holds available unless there are good grounds to withhold it. The grounds for withholding information are listed in the [Official Information Act 1982](#).

There will be cases where there are grounds for withholding information, yet it is considered to be ‘in the public interest’ to release it. When considering the public interest, the test is to consider if the information would be of legitimate concern to the public as opposed to information that would be merely interesting on a human level. There are many factors to consider when determining whether or not to release information including the significance of the information, the people who may be affected by its release, or the level of interest the information may generate. If satisfied, MPI may consider releasing information in the public interest.

Information topics

Quota Information

Introduction	<p>This section covers quota information that is derived from allocations and transactions made in relation to quota. This information is contained on the <i>Quota Registers</i> held under the <i>Fisheries Act 1983</i> and <i>1996</i> and the FIS (MPI's own database) and Kupe (FishServe's database).</p> <p>The superseded registers and databases are described at the end of this 'Quota Information' section.</p>
Quota Register (1996 Act)	<p>Section 124 of the <i>Fisheries Act 1996</i> ('the Act') requires the Chief Executive to keep a <i>Quota Register</i>. MPI owns all information contained in the <i>Quota Register</i> that is required under the Act to be held in the register (section 124(4)). This register is maintained by FishServe.</p>
Register access and Privacy Act	<p>Section 127 of the Act, and the <i>Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001</i> specify what information must be in the Quota Register.</p> <p>Section 129 of the Act states that the Quota Register is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act and is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours. The Registrar must also provide to any person copies of all or part of the register on payment of a reasonable charge.</p> <p>This means all quota information collected under the Act and held in the Quota Register is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information to the public.</p> <p>This includes information such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quota holder name, client number of each quota holder and last known postal address • email address (if listed) • ITQ and PITQ held • quota transfers • TAC and TACC.
Other quota information	<p>Any quota information that is not included in the Quota Register must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and/or Privacy Act.</p>

Information that may be withheld	<p>Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligations in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so and the need to consider each request on its own merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, the following information may be lawfully withheld on privacy grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal phone numbers of quota holders who are natural persons in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned (s9(2)(a) OIA) • quota holder's physical address • on a case-by-case basis - quota transaction price (commercial sensitivity).
Full list of information	For a full list of quota and QMR information refer to Appendix A.
Contacts for assistance	Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe on (04) 460 9555.
Charges	FishServe charge for extracts from the Quota Register in accordance with the OIA guidelines. More information is available in the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines .

Superseded quota information sources

Quota Register (1983 Act)	<p>Section 28P of the Fisheries Act 1983 required the Chief Executive to maintain a quota register in respect of each quota management area for each species or class of fish. The register had to be kept at an MPI office determined by the Chief Executive, and copies were kept at MPI offices the Chief Executive considered were ordinarily used by persons who fish that quota management area.</p> <p>Each register was a public document open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours, and the Chief Executive supplied to any person copies of all or part of the register on request and payment of a reasonable charge for the production of the copy. Section 28P specified what must be contained on the Quota Register.</p> <p>Section 28P was repealed on 30 September 2001 and replaced with the <i>Fisheries Act 1996</i> Quota Register. The original register is still available to be searched.</p>
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**Southern
Scallop
Fishery
Registry**

This register held quota, transfer and lease information for the SCA7 fishery. The register was established for a short time from 1 October 1992 until 30 September 1995 under section 28ZR of the Fisheries Act 1983.

The register was a public document open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours, and the Director-General could supply to any person copies of all or part of the register on request and payment of a reasonable charge for the production of the copy. Section 28ZR specified what must be kept on the register.

**Quota
Management
Reports
(QMRs)**

Under Regulation 6 of the *Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 1990* quota holders had to file monthly returns recording the catch landed against their quota registration number. These returns were used to balance their catch against their quota holding. QMRs were replaced by MHRs on 1 October 2001. Information from these returns is recorded in the database.

QMR information can only be released as a summary that does not identify the quota holder. See following section 'Superseded quota information sources'.

Licensed Fish Receiver Information

Introduction This section covers Licensed Fish Receiver (LFR) information that is derived from LFR registrations and the subsequent LFR returns completed and provided to the Chief Executive under regulation 20 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017. The maintenance of LFR registration and returns is carried out by FishServe.

Information that is usually released Usually, information such as the following may be released:

- information that does not identify either the fisher or the LFR, i.e. the total greenweight by species reported by all LFRs, grouped into classes
- LFR name and premises address only (as provided by agreement and for the purpose of LFR operations)
- port prices by species or stock.

OIA considerations An assessment must be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether LFR information can be released or withheld. Reasons for refusal of requests for personal information are outlined in the *Official Information Act 1982 (OIA)*.

All decisions to withhold information must be balanced against the public interest test. They must also consider:

- section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA in order to protect information required under the authority of an enactment because making the information available would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) where the release of commercial information within the fishing industry may prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or who is the subject of that information.

In general, LFR information that may be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of the individual concerned includes information such as:

- details of the returns made by individual LFRs
 - personal phone numbers of individuals who are LFRs.
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Contacts for assistance Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.

Charges FishServe will charge for extracts in accordance with the OIA guidelines. More information is available in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

High Seas Permit Information

Introduction This section covers high seas information derived from issued high seas permits. This information is contained on the High Seas Permit Register and the database.

High Seas Permit Register Section 98 of the Act requires the Chief Executive to keep a High Seas Permit Register. This register is maintained by FishServe. Regulation 8 of the *Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001* prescribes which details must be kept on the High Seas Permit Register.

Register access and Privacy Act The Act (section 102) states that the High Seas Permit Register is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act and is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours. The Registrar must also provide to any person, upon request, copies of all or part of the Register on payment of a reasonable charge.

This means all high seas permit information collected under the Act and held in the High Seas Permit Register is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information to the public.

This includes information such as the following:

- permit holder name and postal address (see next paragraph)
 - client number of each permit holder
 - permit number
 - email addresses (if listed)
 - vessel registration number and name
 - vessel call sign
 - permit valid dates
 - whether permit is current, suspended or revoked
 - all conditions imposed on a permit.
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Address may be withheld Section 102 provides that on the application of any person, if the Registrar is satisfied that the disclosure of that person's address on the High Seas Permit Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person, or their family, the Registrar may direct that such information should not be made available for inspection or disclosure.

Other high seas information

Any high seas permit information that is not included in the High Seas Permit Register must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and or PA. Grounds to release or withhold information are detailed in both Acts respectively.

Information that may be withheld

Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligation in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so and the need to consider each request on its merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, the following information may be lawfully withheld:

- personal phone numbers of individuals who hold permits holders in order to protect their privacy (s 9(2)(a) OIA)
 - vessel proposed activity as it would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information (s9(2)(b)(ii) OIA).
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List of information

For a full list of High Seas Permit information held refer to Appendix A.

Contacts for assistance

Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.

Charges

FishServe will charge for extracts from the High Seas Permit Register in accordance with the OIA guidelines. Further charging information are specified in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) Information

Introduction	<p>This section covers Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) holder information that is derived from allocations and transactions made in relation to ACE. This information is held on the ACE register and the database.</p>
Annual Catch Entitlement Register	<p>Section 124 of the Fisheries Act requires the Chief Executive to maintain an Annual Catch Entitlement Register, with a separate ACE Register for each year. MPI owns all information in the ACE Register (section 124(4)). The register is maintained by FishServe.</p> <p>Section 128 of the Act, and the Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001 set out what information must be contained in the ACE Register.</p> <p>The Act provides in section 129 that the ACE Register is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act and is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours. The Registrar must also provide to any person on request, copies of all or part of the register on payment of a reasonable charge.</p> <p>This means all annual catch entitlement information collected under the Act and held in the ACE Register is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information to the public (see following section on addresses).</p> <p>This includes the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACE holder name, client number of each holder last known postal address• email address of ACE holder (if listed)• ACE held• ACE transfers• limited MHR catch data i.e. total catch per fishing year quarter.
Address may be withheld	<p>Section 129 also provides that on the application of any person, if the Registrar is satisfied that the disclosure of that person's address on the ACE Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person or their family, the Registrar may direct that such information shall not be available for inspection or disclosure.</p>

Monthly Harvest Returns	Under Part 2 of the <i>Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017</i> permit holders must complete and provide to the Chief Executive Monthly Harvest Returns (MHRs) in order to balance their catch against their ACE holding. All MHR information is held on the database with only some held on the <i>ACE Register</i> .
Other ACE information	Any ACE information that is not included in the <i>ACE Register</i> must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and PA. All grounds to withhold data are detailed in both Acts respectively.
Information that may be withheld	<p>Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligations in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so, and the need to consider each request on its merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, the following information may be able to be lawfully withheld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• personal phone numbers of ACE holders who are natural persons in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned (s 9(2)(a) OIA)• physical address of ACE holder• on a case-by-case basis due to commercial sensitivity and confidentiality - ACE transaction price• details of individual MHRs.
Full list of information	For a full list of ACE and MHR information held refer to Appendix A.
Contacts for assistance	Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.
Charges	FishServe will charge for extracts from the <i>Annual Catch Entitlement Register</i> in accordance with the OIA guidelines. More information is available in the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines .

Permit Information

Introduction	<p>This section covers fishing permit information that is derived from fishing permits issued. The information is held on the <i>Permit Register</i> and the database.</p>
Permit Register	<p>Section 98 of the <i>Fisheries Act 1996</i> ('the Act') requires the Chief Executive to keep a <i>Permit Register</i>. This register is maintained by FishServe.</p> <p>The <i>Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001</i> specify what must be contained in the <i>Permit Register</i>.</p>
Register access and Privacy Act	<p>The Act (section 102) states that the <i>Permit Register</i> is a public register for the purposes of the <i>Privacy Act 2020</i> ('PA') and is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during ordinary office hours. The Registrar must also provide to any person, upon request, copies of all or part of the Register on payment of a reasonable charge.</p> <p>This means all fishing permit information collected under the Act and held in the <i>Permit Register</i> is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information to the public.</p> <p>This includes the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permit holder postal address (see following paragraph) • email address (if any listed) • permit valid dates • Schedule 4C stocks that may be taken • permits with prohibitions attached.
Address may be withheld	<p>Section 102 provides that on the application of any person, if the Registrar is satisfied that the disclosure of that person's address on the Permit Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person, or their family, the Registrar may direct that such information should not be made available for inspection or disclosure.</p>
Information collected prior to the register	<p>Prior to section 98 coming into effect on 1 October 2001, MPI took released certain permit information in anticipation of the establishment of the Permit Register. This category of information is now stored in the Permit Register, and under the Act is considered publicly accessible information and open for inspection (see later paragraph 'Pre 1 October 2001 Rules for releasing permit data').</p>

Other permit information	Any permit information not included in the Permit Register must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and PA. All grounds to withhold data are detailed in the OIA and/or PA.
Information that may be withheld	<p>Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligations in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so and the need to consider each request on its merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, the following information may be lawfully withheld on privacy grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• personal phone numbers and physical address of permit holders who are natural persons in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned (s 9(2)(a) OIA).
Pre 1 October 2001 Rules for releasing permit data	<p>For releasing pre 1 October 2001 permit data (information collected and stored outside the Register), the following rules were established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MPI should release data to the permit holder who originally provided the data• MPI may consider releasing data to a 3rd party if it has clear consent to its release from the permit holder who originally provided the data. If in doubt, contact the permit holder.• MPI may consider releasing the names of permit holders but not any other details to 3rd parties who do not have explicit approval from the permit holder only if that information is contained within the Permit Register. The list of permit holders may be a subset of all permit holders i.e. permit holders who were permitted to target certain non-quota stocks. If the information is not within the Register it may not be released without consent.
List of information	For a full list of permit information held refer to Appendix A.
Contacts for assistance	Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.
Charges	FishServe will charge for extracts from the Permit Register in accordance with the OIA guidelines. Further charging information are specified in the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines .

Fishing Vessel Information

Introduction This section covers fishing vessel information that is derived from vessel registrations. This information is held on the *Fishing Vessel Register* under the *Fisheries Act 1996* (the Act) and the database. See the section *Additional information sources* on page 19 for additional sources of fishing vessel information. Previously this information was held on a vessel register under the *Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986*.

Fishing Vessel Register (1996 Act) Section 98 of the Act requires the Chief Executive to maintain a *Fishing Vessel Register*. This register is maintained by FishServe. Information relating to fishing vessel registration is collected under Part 6 of the Act. Regulation 7 of the *Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001* describes which details must be kept on the *Fishing Vessel Register*.

Register access and Privacy Act The Act (section 102) states that the Fishing Vessel Register is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act and is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee during ordinary office hours. The Registrar must also provide to any person copies of all or part of the register on payment of a reasonable charge.

This means all fishing vessel information collected under the Act and held in the Fishing Vessel Register is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information.

Information such as the following will be released because it is held on the Fishing Vessel Register. Under the Act this information is required to be made publicly available and open for inspection:

- vessel owner, operator and notified postal address (see next paragraph)
 - email address (if any)
 - vessel name and registration number
 - vessel registration dates
 - vessel status (for example, NZ vessel, foreign owned NZ vessel, foreign licensed vessel).
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Address may be withheld Section 102 provides that on the application of any person, if the Registrar is satisfied that the disclosure of that person's address on the Fishing Vessel Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person, or their family, the Registrar may refuse to make that information available for inspection or disclosure.

Available information	<p>All the information collected under the Act and contained in the <i>Fishing Vessel Register</i> is publicly available. It is a statutory requirement to make the <i>Fishing Vessel Register</i> open to public inspection.</p> <p>Any fishing vessel information that is not included in the <i>Fishing Vessel Register</i> must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and/or PA.</p>
Information that may be withheld	<p>Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligations in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so and the need to consider each request on its merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, the following information may be lawfully withheld:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal phone numbers of vessel owner, operator or agent who are natural persons in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned (s 9(2)(a) OIA) • crew names and contact details • vessel specifications e.g. length, colour, configuration • processing and storage capacity.
List of information	<p>For a full list of vessel information held refer to Appendix A.</p>
Contacts for assistance	<p>Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.</p>
Charges	<p>FishServe will charge for extracts from the Fishing Vessel Register in accordance with the OIA guidelines. More information is available in the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines.</p>

Additional information sources

Fishing Vessel Register (1986 regulations)	<p>Under section 4 of the <i>Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986</i> (repealed 30 September 2001) the Registrar at each place of registry was required to maintain a register of fishing vessels in a form specified by the Director-General.</p> <p>This pre 1 October 2001 vessel information collected under the <i>Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986</i> was kept in Haku (the pre 1 October 2001 database). All the data was considered part of the register, and information for the current year of vessel registration was released and data for previous years withheld.</p>
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**Interim
release of
information**

MPI released certain vessel information in anticipation of the *Fishing Vessel Register* under the Fisheries Act 1996. All applicants who applied for vessel registration were informed via their application form that the information may be available to the public.

**NZ Western
Central
Pacific
Fisheries
Convention
Vessel
Register**

Under regulation 6 of the *Fisheries (Western and Central Pacific Ocean Highly Migratory Fish Stocks) Regulations 2003* the Chief Executive must keep a register called the *New Zealand Western Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Vessel Register*. This register is held by MPI's International Fisheries Management team.

The register is not public but particulars that have been provided to MPI under the *Fisheries Act 1996* may already be on the Fishing Vessel Register and is public.

Regulation 6 specifies what must be included in the register.

Aquaculture Information

Introduction This section covers aquaculture information that is or was derived from the:

- Part 9A of the *Fisheries Act 1996* which establishes a fish farm register and register of aquaculture agreements (“various registers”). *Marine Farm Act 1971*
 - *Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983*
 - Part IVA of the *Fisheries Act 1983*
 - Marine Farm permits.
-

Freshwater fish farms The *Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983* licensed all land-based fish farming operations. A database was set up to record fish farm licence details.

Fish Farmer Register Under section 186K of the *Fisheries Act 1996* the Chief Executive must keep a *Fish Farmer Register*.

Regulation 9 of the *Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001* sets out what matters are required to be on the *Fish Farmer Register*.

Under section 186M the fish farmer register is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act 2020 (‘PA’). The register is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during the hours stated by notice in the Gazette under section 186K(5). The Chief Executive must, on request and payment of a reasonable charge fixed by the Chief Executive, supply to any person copies of all or any part of the register.

This means all fish farmer information collected under the Act and held in the *Fish Farmer Register* is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information.

Section 186V states information that must be entered in the fish farmer register. The register must also contain information required by regulations made under section 297. As at April 2018 these regulations have not been set.

Address may be withheld Section 186M(5) provides that on the application of any person, if the Chief Executive is satisfied that the disclosure of that person’s address from the Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person, or their family, the Chief Executive may direct that the information must not be made available for inspection or disclosure.

In Fisheries Act:

fish farming—

(a) means the breeding, hatching, cultivating, rearing, or ongrowing of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for harvest; and

(b) to avoid doubt, includes the possession and ongrowing of harvestable spat; but

(c) does not include an activity specified in paragraph (a) if the fish, aquatic life, or seaweed—

(i) is not in the exclusive and continuous possession or control of the fish farmer; or

(ii) cannot be distinguished or kept separate from naturally occurring fish, aquatic life, or seaweed

aquaculture activities has the same meaning as in the [Resource Management Act 1991](#)

In Resource Management Act:

aquaculture activities—

(a) means any activity described in section 12 done for the purpose of the breeding, hatching, cultivating, rearing, or ongrowing of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for harvest if the breeding, hatching, cultivating, rearing, or ongrowing involves the occupation of a coastal marine area; and

(b) includes the taking of harvestable spat if the taking involves the occupation of a coastal marine area; but

(c) does not include an activity specified in paragraph (a) if the fish, aquatic life, or seaweed—

(i) are not in the exclusive and continuous possession or control of the person undertaking the activity; or

(ii) cannot be distinguished or kept separate from naturally occurring fish, aquatic life, or seaweed; and

(d) does not include an activity specified in paragraph (a) or (b) if the activity is carried out solely for the purpose of monitoring the environment

Comparing Fish farm register and register of aquaculture agreements

<p>Information to be entered in fish farmer register</p> <p>(1)The chief executive must enter the following information in the fish farmer register:</p> <p>(a)the address, email address (if any), and client number of each registered fish farmer:</p> <p>(b)a unique identifier for each fish farm in relation to which a fish farmer is registered:</p> <p>(c)the size in hectares of each fish farm in relation to which a fish farmer is registered:</p> <p>(d)details of any conditions imposed under section 186S of the Act:</p> <p>(e)details of any—</p> <p>(i) variation of a fish farmer’s registration under section 186W of the Act:</p> <p>(ii) suspension of a fish farmer’s registration under section 269 of the Act:</p> <p>(iii) revocation of a fish farmer’s registration under section 186Y of the Act.</p> <p>(2)The information required by subclause (1) is in addition to the information required by section 186V of the Act.</p> <p>Regulation 9: added, on 1 January 2006, by regulation 3 of the Fisheries (Registers) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2005 (SR 2005/319).</p>	<p>Information to be entered in aquaculture agreement register</p> <p>The chief executive must enter the following information in the aquaculture agreement register:</p> <p>(a) the name and address of the regional council in whose region the area is situated that the agreement relates to:</p> <p>(b) a description of the space in the coastal marine area that the aquaculture agreement relates to:</p> <p>(c) the name, address, email address (if any), and client number of each person who has requested the registration of the aquaculture agreement; and the name and client number of, and stocks held by, each quota owner who has consented:</p> <p>(d) the stocks that the aquaculture agreement relates to:</p> <p>(e) details of any consents given by the High Court under section 186ZG of the Act:</p> <p>(f) the date on which the aquaculture agreement was registered:</p> <p>(g) the coastal permit number or coastal permit application number which the aquaculture agreement relates to:</p> <p>(h) the expiry date of the coastal permit that the aquaculture agreement relates to.</p> <p>Regulation 10: substituted, on 1 October 2011, by section 27(2) of the Fisheries Amendment Act 2011 (2011 No 68).</p>
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Register of Aquaculture Agreements

Under section 186ZE of the *Fisheries Act 1996* the Chief Executive must keep a *Register of Aquaculture Agreements*.

Regulation 10 of the *Fisheries (Registers) Regulations 2001* sets out what matters are required to be on the Aquaculture Agreement Register.

Under section 186M the register of aquaculture agreements is a public register for the purposes of the Privacy Act 2020. The register is open for inspection on payment of the prescribed fee (if any) during the hours stated by notice in the Gazette under section 186K(5). The Chief Executive must, on request and payment of a reasonable charge fixed by the Chief Executive, supply to any person copies of all or any part of the register.

This means all aquaculture information collected under the Act and held in the Aquaculture Agreement Register is publicly accessible information. Subject to any identified privacy or commercial concerns there are no restrictions on the release of this information.

Section 186M(5) also provides that if the Chief Executive is satisfied, on the application of any person, that the disclosure of that person's address from the Register would be prejudicial to the personal safety of that person, or their family, the Chief Executive may direct that the information must not be made available for inspection or disclosure.

Available information

All information collected under the Act and contained in the various registers is publicly available. It is a statutory requirement to make the Aquaculture Information Register open to public inspection.

The release of any other marine, fish farm and or aquaculture information (collected and held outside the various registers) must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested can be released or withheld under the OIA and/or PA.

Where information is collected and held in a database in general, subject to the obligations in the OIA to release information where it is in the public interest to do so and the need to consider each request on its merits, or where the information may already be publicly available, some information may be lawfully withheld.

To clarify information held within the various registers is collected and disclosed within the requirements of the Act. If Information is collected outside of those requirements or as a consequence of maintaining the various registers, that information can only be considered for release or withheld under the OIA and/or PA.

Note that the Freshwater Fish Farming licenses are not held on a public register.

Information such as the following will be released because it is held on the various registers. Under the Act this information is required to be made publicly available and open for inspection:

- Fish Farmer Register
- Client name, address, email address (if any)
- Client number of each registered fish farmer
- Unique identifier for each fish farm
- Location and boundaries of farm, and
- Species that may be farmed.
- Details of any conditions imposed
- Details of any variation, suspension or revocation of registration

For a full list of Aquaculture information refer to Appendix A.

Contacts for assistance

Any external requests/queries should be directed to FishServe (04) 460 9555.

Charges

Section 67J(12) of the *Fisheries Act 1983* allows for consent authorities and Ministry for the Environment to be entitled to copies of all or part of the Marine Farming Permits Register free of charge. Further charging information are specified in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Information that has been added into the Fish Farmer Register

Marine Farm Act 1971 (repealed)

Under section 15 of the *Marine Farm Act 1971* the Director-General had to keep a register of leases and a register of licences, in which there had to be entered particulars of leases and licences in force (from 1/1/72). The Director-General also had to keep a register of lessees and licensees. The registers had to be kept open for inspection, during the ordinary hours of business, and a certified copy of any instrument registered in the register of leases and licences had to be, on payment of such fee as is prescribed by regulations under this Act, given to any person requiring it.

The *Marine Farming Act 1971* was repealed on 1 January 2005 and all leases and licences appearing as currently registered under that Act on that day were deemed to be transferred to the Fish Farmer Register under Part 9A of the *Fisheries Act 1996* register requirements.

Marine Farming Permits Register and Transition to Fish Farmer Register

Under section 67J (12) of the *Fisheries Act 1983* the Chief Executive must keep a register of all marine farming permits. The register must be a public document and must, during the ordinary hours of business, be open to inspection by the public at approved offices. A copy of all or part of the register must, on payment of the prescribed fee be given to any person requesting it.

Section 67J (9) specifies information held on a marine farming permit.

Part IVA of the *Fisheries Act 1983* was repealed on 1 January 2005 and all permits appearing as currently registered under that Act on that day were also deemed to be transferred to the Fish Farmer Register under Part 9A of the *Fisheries Act 1996* register requirements.

As at February 2018, there are still a small number of marine farming permit applications that may be lodged with MPI. These permit applications are now processed and registered under the Fish Farmer Register.

Catch, Effort and Landing Information

Introduction This section covers catch and effort information that is derived from catch, effort, and landing returns required by the now revoked *Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001* (information still retained in the database) and all event reports required by the *Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017*. Returns (paper) and electronic reports are held by FishServe on behalf of MPI. MPI also holds this data in its databases.

This information is not required to be made publicly available under the *Fisheries Act 1996* ('the Act') and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the *Official Information Act 1982* ('OIA') and/or the *Privacy Act 2020* ('PA').

Information provided by the Service Delivery Agency The Service Delivery Agency can make Catch, Effort and Landing information available to the permit holders who submitted it and those authorised by the permit holder to access this information on their behalf. While fishers provide information to four decimal places for location, information to permit holders will only be released to one decimal place unless specific authorisation by the fisher is provided.

Information available to the public Each request for information must be assessed against our obligations under the OIA and/or the PA. These obligations include considering: the request on its own merits, the public interest in the information, and whether the information may already be in the public domain.

For example, the information contained in these returns might be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, on the basis that it is considered to be commercially sensitive, and disclosure of the information may be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the permit holder who supplied it.

Information may also be withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA, on the basis that its provision has been required under the authority of an enactment and that disclosure may be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, and it is not in the public interest to disclose it.

However, access to some catch, effort, and landing information may also be released to an external person or organisation if it is summarised and/or anonymised:

- location data is truncated to 1 degree of accuracy (or statistical area)
- date and time data are truncated to month and year
- no individual vessel, person, organisation identifying information, nor attribute is released (including vessel key or perorg key)
- no month and 1 degree (or statistical area) strata has less than 3 vessels or persons, or organisations present.

Where requests for catch, effort, and landing information are possibly of a sensitive or highly sensitive nature, the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management must assess the request (Refer to Appendix B for circumstances where more sensitive information may be considered for release). Information proposed for release to an external person or organisation also requires review and approval from the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management or the Manager Fisheries Science where information includes any of the following:

- latitudes and longitudes to greater than 1 degree accuracy
- information which could be used to identify a vessel
- information which could be used to identify a person or company
- dates to a greater accuracy than 1 month.

Contacts for assistance

Any external requests/queries should be directed to the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management RDM@mpi.govt.nz

Charges

As specified in the research contract or in accordance with OIA guidelines. More information is available in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Geospatial Position Reporting Information

Introduction	<p>This section covers geospatial position information that is required by the <i>Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting) Regulations 2017</i>. Raw data is stored in MPI's Operational Data Store.</p> <p>This information is not required to be made publicly available under the <i>Fisheries Act 1996</i> ('the Act') and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the <i>Official Information Act 1982</i> ('OIA') and/or the <i>Privacy Act 2020</i> ('PA').</p>
Information available to the public	<p>Each request for information must be assessed against our obligations under the OIA and/or the PA. These obligations include considering the request on its own merits, the public interest in the information, and whether the information may already be in the public domain.</p> <p>For example, information contained in these returns may be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, on the basis that it is considered to be commercially sensitive, and disclosure of the information may be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the vessel operator who supplied it.</p> <p>Information may also be withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA, on the basis that its provision has been required under the authority of an enactment and that disclosure may be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, and it is not in the public interest to disclose it.</p> <p>However, access to some geospatial position information may also be released to an external person or organisation if it is summarised and or anonymised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• location data is truncated to 1 degree of accuracy• date and time data are truncated to month and year• no individual vessel, person, organisation identifying information, nor attribute is released (including vessel key or perorg key)• no month and 1 degree strata has less than 3 vessels or persons, or organisations present.

Where requests for geospatial positioning information are possibly of a sensitive or highly sensitive nature, the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management must assess the request (refer to *Appendix C Release of Sensitive Information*). Information proposed for release to an external person or organisation also requires review and approval from the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management or the Manager Fisheries Science where information includes any of the following:

- latitudes and longitudes to greater than 1 degree accuracy
 - information which could be used to identify a vessel
 - information which could be used to identify a person or company
 - or dates to a greater accuracy than 1 month.
-

Contacts for assistance

Any external requests/queries should be directed to the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management RDM@mpi.govt.nz

Charges

As specified in the research contract or in accordance with OIA guidelines. Further charging information are specified in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Electronic Monitoring Information

Introduction This section covers information collected by on-board cameras installed on vessels capturing fishing activity under the *Fisheries (Electronic Monitoring on Vessels) Regulations 2017*, and any information derived from the information captured by the on-board cameras. This information includes video footage, clips and still images derived from video footage; data and annotations collected from the review of video footage; and meta-data, and associated referrals or event reports. These are held by MPI on several databases.

Not required to be public This information is not required to be made publicly available under the *Fisheries Act 1996* ('the Act') and any release or withholding decisions must be made under the *Official Information Act 1982* ('OIA') and/or the *Privacy Act 2020* ('PA').

Information available to permit holders/vessel operators/vessel masters Permit holders and vessel operators can request access to information about their fishing activities. Each request will be assessed against our obligations under the OIA and the PA. These obligations include determining whether any relevant withholding grounds apply, and the public interest in making the information available.

Where a requestor provides evidence that a vessel master has provided agreement to release information, this will also be considered when assessing a request.

Information available to an individual Individuals can request information held about themselves. This includes:

- footage of the individual captured by the on-board cameras
- annotations about the individual's behaviour or activity

Due to the technical and resourcing implications of extracting footage, MPI will prefer providing written summaries, annotation data, or reports, instead of copies of video footage. Access to video footage may be provided by allowing an individual to view clips at an MPI office.

Information available to the public on request

On-board camera footage is generally considered to be commercially sensitive and important for the validation of report catch data. The release of sensitive footage may reduce the degree of co-operation required for the effective operation of the electronic monitoring system and, as a result, undermine MPI's ability to validate fishing data and regulate fishing activities.

Each request for information must be assessed against our obligations under the OIA. These obligations include considering: the request on its merits, the public interest in making the information available, and whether the information may already be in the public domain. Each request must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested should be released or withheld according to the grounds in the OIA.

Information collected by on-board cameras is likely to be withheld in circumstances where:

- It contains information on individuals, in order to protect the privacy of those individuals [section 9(2)(a)]
- There is an incident or event being investigated, in order to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law [section 6(c)]
- The information would disclose a trade secret or prejudice the commercial position of the person it is about [section 9(2)(b)]
- There are reasons to believe disclosure would prejudice the supply of on-board camera footage [section 9(2)(ba)].

MPI will consider the following factors when considering whether the public interest favours release of requested information:

- **Promoting transparency:** the extent to which release would promote transparency about the fisheries management regulatory systems and the use of natural resources
 - **Promoting access to justice:** the extent to which the information contributes to a person's ability to pursue their legal rights and remedies
 - **Promoting accountability:** the extent to which release would demonstrate accountability of MPI and officials for undertaking their functions, including the monitoring and enforcement of the fishing quota and compliance with fishing practices
 - **Keeping the public informed** of risks and dangers to, or efforts to promote, the environment: the extent to which the release provides the public with information on the impact of
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fishing activities on native, threatened, or endangered marine life and marine environments.

MPI anticipates these factors to be relevant to requests for on-board camera related information. Other public interest factors may be identified when assessing each request on its merits.

MPI reviews footage and generates data about fishing activities. This data provides a summary of the footage. Access to this summary information will generally be able to be provided.

Release of statistical information about fishing activities will be released in a form that does not identify individuals or vessels (see below for further detail). Where statistical information is released to respond to a more particular information request, the statistical response must have considered the public interest factors in favour of releasing the additional information and determined these outweigh the grounds for withholding.

Information available for statistics and research purposes

MPI will make data from the electronic monitoring data available for statistical analysis and research purposes. This will include data derived from the information captured by on-board cameras.

Statistical information is only available in a form where the vessel and individuals are not identifiable. The following statistical methods are used to ensure the information is not identifiable:

- location data is truncated to 1 degree of accuracy
- date and time data are truncated to month and year
- no individual vessel, person, organisation identifying information, nor attribute is released (including vessel key or perorg key)
- no month and 1 degree strata has less than 3 vessels or persons, or organisations present.

Where identifiable information is provided for research purposes, including to external parties, MPI will ensure researchers agree to maintain the confidentiality of the information and will not publish findings or information in a way that identifies individuals or vessels.

MPI will consider requests to access footage for research purposes only where footage is necessary to undertake the research and the researcher has obtained approval for the research and methodology.

Information that may be withheld

Information collected by on-board cameras is likely to be withheld in circumstances where:

- it contains information on individuals, in order to protect the privacy of those individuals [section 9(2)(a)]
- there is an incident or event being investigated, in order to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law [section 6(c)]
- the information would disclose a trade secret or prejudice the commercial position of the person it is about [section 9(2)(b)]
- there are reasons to believe disclosure would prejudice the supply of on-board camera footage [section 9(2)(ba)].

This information is most likely to be contained in video footage or clips.

Access to video footage may be provided by allowing an individual to view clips at an MPI office. If footage or clips are withheld (including access to view footage at MPI), written summaries describing what is observed in footage, annotation data, or reports (rather than copies of video footage) may be released.

Information is also likely to be withheld or the request declined in relation to:

- location data and metadata, to protect a trade secret
- distinctive coastal features, to protect a trade secret
- the identity of other individuals, to maintain their privacy (note: this is likely to be by pixelating identifying features of the person or vessel in footage or images)
- requests for large volumes of video footage or requests requiring MPI to review large volumes of video footage, on the basis it is not readily retrievable
- footage subject to investigation, where it is believed withholding the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law.

Privacy Act consideration

Each request must be assessed against our obligations under the PA. These obligations include considering:

- whether the information is readily retrievable
 - whether the person requesting is identifiable in the images
 - the context for the request
 - whether other individuals are able to be identified.
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Contacts for assistance

Any external requests or queries for footage or information should be directed to the OIA & Privacy Requests team: uia@mpi.govt.nz or privacyrequests@mpi.govt.nz.

Any external requests/queries for statistical data should be directed to the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management RDM@mpi.govt.nz

Charges

As specified in the research contract or in accordance with OIA guidelines. Further charging information are specified in the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines. Refer to: [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Fisheries Observer Information

Introduction This section covers information collected by MPI’s observer program, which was established under section 223 of the *Fisheries Act 1996*. The program was established for the purpose of collecting reliable and accurate information for fisheries research, fisheries management, and fisheries enforcement. This information is held by MPI on several databases.

This information is not required to be made publicly available under the Act and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the OIA and/or PA.

Information available to the public Observer data is considered by MPI to be commercially sensitive and important in the detection of offences under the Act. The release of sensitive observer data may also reduce the degree of co-operation provided to observers and thus reduce the ability of MPI to collect scientific observer data.

OIA and Privacy Act Each request for information must be assessed individually against our obligations under the OIA and/or the Privacy Act. These obligations include considering:

- the request on its own merits
- the public interest in the information
- whether the information may already be in the public domain.

Examples of when observer information may be withheld Observer information might, for example, be withheld under the following provisions of the OIA:

- section 6(c) - where the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) where the release of the information would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied, or is subject of the information
- section 9(2)(k) where the release of the information could be used for improper gain or improper advantage.

Examples of when observer information may be released

Access to some observer information may also be released to an external person or organisation if it is summarized and anonymised:

- location data is truncated to 1 degree of accuracy (or statistical area)
- date and time data are truncated to month and year
- no individual vessel, person, organisation identifying information, nor attribute is released (including vessel key or perorg key)
- no month and 1 degree (or statistical area) strata has less than 3 vessels or persons, or organisations present.

Sensitive information

Where requests for scientific observer information are possibly of a sensitive or highly sensitive nature, the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management must assess the case. Appendix C lists circumstances where more sensitive information may be considered for release.

Information proposed for external release also requires review and approval from the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management or the Manager Fisheries Science where information includes any of the following:

- latitudes and longitudes to greater than 1 degree accuracy
- information which could be used to identify a vessel
- information which could be used to identify a person or company
- or dates to a greater accuracy than 1 month.

Contacts for assistance

Any external or internal requests/queries should be directed to the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management at RDM@mpi.govt.nz

Charges

Charges will be:

- As specified in the research contract, OR
 - in accordance with OIA guidelines. More information is available in the [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#), OR
 - If the information is held by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric research (NIWA), then NIWA may charge for that information.
-

Research Information

Introduction	This section covers research information that has been collected during research projects that were conducted under contract to MPI. This information is externally managed by NIWA, who are under contract to MPI.
Considerations	This information is not required to be made publicly available under the <i>Fisheries Act 1996</i> ('the Act') and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the <i>Official Information Act 1982</i> ('OIA') or the <i>Privacy Act 2020</i> ('PA') and if required in consultation with the information and data supplier. MPI's confidential contract obligations must be considered before any decision is made to release or withhold information.
Requests assessed individually	<p>Each case must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested may be released or withheld under the OIA and/or PA. Subject to any contractual obligations MPI may have research information may be available for full release to any person or organisation. The primary exceptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research data derived from catch • information about effort and landing • scientific observer information. <p>This data is subject to the same release conditions as previously described for catch, effort, and landing information and scientific observer information. This information will be subject to OIA and/or PA considerations for release or withholding research data.</p>
Sensitive information	<p>Where requests for research information are possibly of a sensitive or highly sensitive nature, the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management must assess the request (Refer to Appendix B for circumstances where more sensitive information may be released). Information proposed for release to an external person or organisation also requires review and approval from the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management or the Manager Fisheries Science where information includes any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latitudes and longitudes to greater than 1 degree accuracy • information which could be used to identify a vessel • information which could be used to identify a person or company • or dates to a greater accuracy than 1 month.

Contacts for assistance

Any external or internal requests/queries should be directed to the Team Manager – Fisheries Data Management RDM@mpi.govt.nz

Charges

The appropriate charge will need to be discussed with the relevant agency. Charges (if any) must be for the provision of information in accordance with OIA guidelines. For further charging information refer to: [Ministry of Justice charging guidelines](#).

Customary Fishing Data

Customary Fishing Data

Regulation 15 of both the *Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998* ('Kaimoana Regulations') and the *Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999* ('South Island Regulations'), as well as the *Waikato-Tainui (Waikato River Fisheries) Regulations 2011* and the *Te Arawa Lakes (Fisheries) Regulations 2006* (together referred to as the 'Customary Regulations') require Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki, or other agreed persons, to provide a summary of information relating to records of authorisations granted, and records of fisheries resources taken to MPI.

The information is obtained for the sole purpose of setting or varying sustainability measures or developing management controls, and is held by MPI.

In addition, regulation 39 of the Kaimoana Regulations and regulation 36 of the South Island Regulations, require Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki to provide copies of every record kept under regulations 35 and 36 of the Kaimoana regulations and regulations 32 and 33 of the South Island Regulations respectively during the proceeding months.

Amateur fishing

MPI does also hold information from regulations 50 and 51 of the *Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013* ('Amateur Regulations'). Those regulations allow for customary permits to be issued for the purpose of hui or tangi in areas outside of the Kaimoana and South Island regulation gazetted areas. There is no requirement under the Amateur Regulations for those issuing permits to provide copies to MPI. However some permits in different areas of the country are often retrieved by Ministry officials. These permits are entered into the same database as the Kaimoana and South Island customary records.

Not released under the Act

This information is not required to be made publicly available under the Act and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the *Official Information Act 1982* ('OIA') and/or the *Privacy Act 2020* ('PA').

Case-by-case

Each request for information provided under the Customary and Amateur Regulations must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Withholding to protect supply of information	Sometimes, subject to the obligation to release in the public interest, the information provided under regulations may be withheld to protect information which a person has been compelled to provide under the Customary Regulations, where disclosure of the information will prejudice the supply of further information and where it is in the public interest that such information continues to be supplied (refer to s 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA).
Consulting	Requests for the disclosure of customary fishing data should be discussed with the relevant Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki and/or reporting officer before a decision is made to disclose or withhold any information is made.
Contact	If you have any queries, contact the Team Manager Customary Fisheries.
Charges	<p>Charges (if any) must be for the provision of information in accordance with OIA guidelines. However, there is no charge for Tangata Whenua or Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki seeking information they have supplied.</p> <p>For further charging information refer to: Ministry of Justice charging guidelines.</p>

Data Combinations

Introduction	<p>This section covers requests where information is taken from a number of data files. Such a request requires MPI to cross-reference or combine data.</p> <p>This information is not required to be made publicly available under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and as such any release or withholding considerations must be made under the <i>Official Information Act 1982</i> ('OIA') and/or <i>Privacy Act 2020</i> ('PA').</p>
Information available to the public	<p>Each request for information must be assessed individually to determine whether any of the information requested should be released or withheld under the OIA.</p>
Consideration of other acts	<p>Consideration can be given as to whether any of the grounds for releasing or withholding information in the OIA or PA apply to the combined data request. In general, if individually, both sets of data can be disclosed in accordance with this guideline, it can also be disclosed when combined. However, if combining data sets means that the receiver will be party to information they would not otherwise have received then consideration should be given to withholding some of this information, especially when taking into consideration previously released information.</p>
Consulting on decision	<p>Staff should consult with legal or privacy teams as appropriate, where the data matched or results of analytics performed on the data include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the contact details of any permit holders who have caught a particular species in the last fishing year for a particular area• any permit holders who have registered fishing vessels capable of using particular methods.
Contacts	<p>Both relevant parties releasing data must be contacted. See appropriate previous sections for contact details.</p>
Charges	<p>Charges (if any) must be for the provision of information under the OIA guidelines (not the PA). More information is available at the Ministry of Justice charging guidelines.</p>

Appendix A Information in Public Registers

The purpose of Appendix A is to detail all the information contained on the public registers within MPI or FishServe. The appendix also details any other QMS information that is held within a fisheries database but is not public.

Quota Register (*Fisheries Act 1996*)

The purpose of the quota register under section 124 of the *Fisheries Act 1996* is to facilitate quota trading by making public the quota held by individuals and their contact details. This register contains information from 1 October 2001 onwards.

For each stock (where applicable) the quota register contains:

Information	Description
Client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quota owners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Legal name – Last known postal address – Email address – Client number • All caveators and mortgagees of the quota: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Last known postal address – Email address – Client number <p>(Note the postal address is derived using the following hierarchy. Business postal address first, if none then registered office postal address, if none then residential postal address, if none then other postal address.)</p>
Caveat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every caveat registered in respect of any quota shares under section 159 of this Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The legal names of the caveator and the quota owner over whose quota shares the caveat is registered – The time and date of the registration of the caveat – The number of quota shares over which the caveat is registered – The type of caveat being imposed (consensual, crown or court) – The date (if any) on which the caveat will lapse – The date on which the caveat is withdrawn – The date a caveat is removed (if applicable) • Settlement quota interests are listed under the Allocation/Holding information section above
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections to the register made under section 165 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The nature of the correction – The time and date of the correction

Information	Description
Allocation/ Holding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual transferable quota (ITQ) allocated to each person • The provisional individual transferable quota (PITQ) allocated to each person • The provisional catch history (PCH) allocated to each person • The aggregate holding of each kind of quota and PCH held by each person (i.e. total ITQ and PITQ) • The amount of PCH that is subject to a transfer dispute under section 38 (removed from register 11/11/04) • Whether or not the PCH allocated to a person is subject to an appeal or the determination of an appeal is yet to be given effect to under section 52 of the Act • Whether or not a person with an allocation of PCH is eligible to receive quota • Whether or not the holder of quota or PCH has an exemption to hold under section 56(2) (overseas person) • Whether or not the holder of quota or PCH has permission to acquire or continue to hold quota under section 57(3) (overseas person) • Whether or not the quota holder has consent under section 60 of the Act to hold quota in excess of the aggregation limits for the stock • The amount of PCH cancelled for each person (if any) • The amount of the Crown's encumbered and unencumbered holdings of quota • Whether or not settlement quota interest has been registered over the quota shares, if it has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The number of quota shares subject to the interest – The time and date of registration – The time and date of withdrawal of interest • (settlement quota added to register from 11/11/04)
Mortgage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every mortgage registered under section 159 of this Act • The legal names of the mortgagor and the mortgagee • The time and date of the registration of the mortgage • The number of quota shares secured by the mortgage • Every variation of the terms of the mortgage • Every assignment of the mortgage • The time and date of discharge of the mortgage
General stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total allowable catch (TAC) • The total allowable commercial catch (TACC) • Whether or not the stock was previously controlled by an individual catch entitlement (ICE) • The current total number of appeals over PCH comprising the appeals that have not been determined and the appeals that have been determined but have not been given effect to under section 52 of the Act • Every memorial registered under this Act, and the reason for the memorial (sections 25 and 186ZL)

Information	Description
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every registered transfer of ITQ (whether by operation of law or otherwise): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The legal names of the transferor and the transferee – The number of quota shares transferred – The time and date of the registration of the transfer • Every registered transfer of PITQ by operation of law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The legal names of the transferor and the transferee – The number of quota shares transferred – The time and date of the registration of the transfer • Every registered transfer of PCH (whether by operation of law or otherwise): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The legal names of the transferor and the transferee – The amount in kilogrammes of provisional catch history transferred – The time and date of the registration of the transfer • Every forfeiture of quota or PCH under this Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – time and date of the registration of the resulting transfer to the Crown of the quota or PCH – number of quota shares or kilogrammes of PCH transferred to the Crown • Every increase and every decrease in the number of quota shares held by any person that results from the transfer by the Crown of any quota by virtue of the operation of section 22 (TACC decrease) or section 23 (TACC increase) or section 52 (appeal decision quota increase or decrease) of this Act.

Quota Register (*Fisheries Act 1983*)

The purpose of the quota register under section 28P the *Fisheries Act 1983* was to facilitate quota trading by making public the quota held by individuals and their contact details. This register contains information from 1 August 1986 to 30 September 2001. From 1 October 2001 the register was called the Transitional Register and only contained individual transferable quota transfers that took effect on or after 1 October 2001 and leases that began or ended on or after 1 October 2001 (section 345, *Fisheries Act 1996*).

For each stock (where applicable) the quota register contains:

Information	Description
Allocation/ Holding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual transferable quota (ITQ) allocated to each person • The transferable term quota (TTQ) allocated to each person
Transfer	<p>Every registered transfer of ITQ by operation of law or otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the transferor and the transferee • The tonnage or other amount of quota transferred • The date on which the transfer occurred or is to occur <p>Every registered transfer of TTQ by operation of law or otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the transferor and the transferee • The tonnage or other amount of quota transferred • The date on which the transfer occurred or is to occur <p>For every lease under section 28Q of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the lessor and lessee • The tonnage or other amount of quota leased • The date on which the lease commences and terminates
General stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total allowable commercial catch (TACC)

Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) Register

The purpose of the ACE register under section 124 of the *Fisheries Act 1996* is to facilitate ACE trading by making public the ACE held by individuals and their contact details. This register contains information from 1 October 2001 onwards.

An Annual Catch Entitlement Register is held separately for each fishing year and stock, the following particulars are held on each register:

Information	Description
Client Information	<p>The ACE holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal name • Last known postal address • Email address • Client number <p>All caveators of the ACE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last known postal address • Email address • Client number <p>(Note the postal address is derived using the following hierarchy. Business postal address first, if none then registered office postal address, if none then residential postal address, if none then other postal address.)</p>
Holding information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All annual catch entitlement held by any person at any time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The total amount of annual catch entitlement that is allocated under section 67 (normal ACE) or section 67A (underfishing ACE), – The total amount of annual catch entitlement that is allocated under section 68 (in-season TAC ACE), • Every forfeiture of annual catch entitlement under this Act, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – time and date of the registration of the resulting transfer to the Crown of the annual catch entitlement – amount (in kgs) of annual catch entitlement transferred to the Crown • In respect of the Crown's holdings, the total annual catch entitlement available for trading(unencumbered), the total annual catch entitlement unavailable for trading(encumbered), and the total annual catch entitlement available under section 369G(bycatch trade off) • Whether or not the ACE holder has an exemption to hold under section 56(2) (overseas person) • Whether or not the ACE holder has permission to acquire or continue to hold under section 57(3) (overseas person) • The amount of allocations of annual catch entitlement made on 1 October 2001 under sections 340 and 340A of the Act (initial allocation 90%, withheld ACE 10%, remaining allocation up to 10% and transitional underfishing)

Information	Description
Transfer Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every registered transfer of annual catch entitlement (whether by operation of law or otherwise), the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – legal names of the transferor and the transferee – amount (in kilogrammes) of annual catch entitlement transferred – time and date of registration • Every transfer of annual catch entitlement received for registration under section 133 of this Act that is to be effective on and from the first day of the next fishing year (forward transfer), the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – legal names of the transferor and the transferee – amount (in kilogrammes) of annual catch entitlement to be transferred – time and date of the [Chief Executive's] receipt of the transfer document – date of cancellation of forward transfers of annual catch entitlement • Whether or not annual catch entitlement has been transferred in accordance with section 369G (Chatham Island BNS3 bycatch trade off, no trades after 1/10/03 due to section expiring)
Miscellaneous information	<p>Corrections to the register made under section 165:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the correction • The time and date of the correction
Caveat Information	<p>Every caveat registered in respect of the annual catch entitlement under section 159 of this Act, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal names of the caveator and the annual catch entitlement owner over whose annual catch entitlement the caveat is registered • time and date of the registration of the caveat • amount (in kilogrammes) of annual catch entitlement over which the caveat is registered • type of caveat being imposed • date (if any) on which the caveat will lapse • date on which the caveat is withdrawn • date a caveat is removed (if applicable)
Catch information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total catch: Reported to date for the fishing year by the commercial fisher or annual catch entitlement holder on a monthly harvest return or monthly harvest return amendment (within the meaning of the <i>Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017</i>) In any case where there is a conviction, relating to a failure to furnish returns or the furnishing of false or misleading returns, as assessed by the Chief Executive for the relevant period: for the first quarter of the fishing year, the second quarter of the fishing year, the third quarter of the fishing year, and monthly for each of the remaining 3 months of the fishing year. Section 128(1) (g) of the Act further reported catch to be listed on the register, this does not occur, the registers regulation requirement is heeded instead. • Any change to a commercial fisher's reported catch as a result of a monthly balance review under section 80.

Permit Register

The permit register under section 98 the *Fisheries Act 1996* is an official record of entities that can fish in the New Zealand EEZ and was established 1 October 2001.

The Permit Register contains:

Information	Description
Client Information	<p>For each permit holder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal name • Postal address • Email address • Client number • The name of each eel agent and FOTFAV person authorised under section 89(5) <p>(Note the postal address is derived using the following hierarchy. Business postal address first, if none then registered office postal address, if none then residential postal address, if none then other postal address.)</p>
Permit Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period for which each permit is valid • Whether or not a permit is current or suspended • If a permit is suspended, the date on which the suspension took effect • Whether or not the permit authorises the taking of stocks subject to the quota management system and non QMS stocks not listed in schedule 4C, • The 4C stocks that may be taken under the authority of the permit • The fishing methods authorised to be used • All conditions imposed on a permit and whether any exemptions have been granted • The name of each person who has breached overfishing thresholds, and whether they have approval to continue despite a prohibition under section 78(2) • The name of each person whose permit is subject to a permit prohibition under section 78(2) or section 78A(1). <p>Note: the 4C additions came into force 11/11/04 prior to that date non quota stocks were listed on the permit.</p>

Fishing Vessel Register

The fishing vessel register under section 98 the Fisheries Act 1996 is an official record of vessels that can fish in the New Zealand EEZ. This register was established 1 October 2001.

The Fishing Vessel Register contains:

Information	Description
Client information	<p>For each vessel owner and operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal name • Postal address • Email address • Client number <p>For each notified user (section 104) and authorised agent (section 103(2)(c) or 105(2)(c)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal name • Postal address • Email address <p>(Note the postal address is derived using the following hierarchy. Business postal address first, if none then registered office postal address, if none then residential postal address, if none then other postal address.)</p>
Vessel information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of each vessel • Each vessel's registration number • Each vessel's base port and port of registry (if any) • The status of each vessel (e.g. a New Zealand fishing vessel, a foreign-owned New Zealand fishing vessel, a fish carrier, or foreign vessel licensed under section 83 to fish in EEZ) • The period for which each vessel is registered • If a vessel's registration has been cancelled, the date the cancellation took effect <p>For foreign-owned New Zealand fishing vessels and fish carriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag state • Port of registry <p>For foreign vessels licensed under section 83:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag state • Port of registry • Whether the licence is suspended and the date it took effect • If the licence has been revoked, the date the revocation took effect

High Seas Permit Register

The high seas permit register under section 98 of the *Fisheries Act 1996* is an official record of vessels and entities that can fish outside the New Zealand EEZ. This register was established 1 October 2002. The High Seas Permit Register contains:

Information	Description
Client information	For each permit holder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal name • Postal address • Email address • Client number (Note the postal address is derived using the following hierarchy. Business postal address first, if none then registered office postal address, if none then residential postal address, if none then other postal address.)
Vessel information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and registration number of each vessel • The international radio call sign of each vessel
Permit information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each permit holder's permit number (the actual permit ID not the client number) • The period for which each permit is valid • Whether or not a permit is current, suspended, or revoked • If a permit is suspended or has been revoked, the date the suspension or revocation took effect • All conditions imposed on a permit and whether any exemptions, approvals, or amendments have been granted.

Marine Farm Act 1971 Register

This register was a record of leases and licences held under section 15 of the Marine Farm Act 1971. The register was held on HAKU and every field entered was considered as being on the register and released. This register was replaced by the Fish Farmer Register on 1 January 2005. The Marine Farm Act 1971 Register contained:

Information	Description
Client information	For each licensee and lessees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client number • Primary owner • Service address • Phone number • Sublease size • Mortgage
Farm information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and registration number of each vessel • The international radio call sign of each vessel

Marine Farming and Spat Catching Permit Registers

These registers are official records of marine farming and spat catching permits registered under section 67J and 67Q of the *Fisheries Act 1983* (replaced by the Fish Farmer Register) All this information was held on the HAKU database and was treated as the register even though the Act did not specify all the information below.

Information	Description
Client information	For each permit holder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client number • Service address • Primary owner • Phone number
Permit information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm number • Effective and expiry date • Farm size • Location • Coastal permit number • The fish, aquatic life or seaweed that may be farmed in that area

Freshwater Fish Farms

This information was not a public register but was required to be kept under the *Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983*, refer to Appendix B “Information not in the public registers”.

Fish Farmer Register

This register is an official record of fish farmers registered under section 186V of the *Fisheries Act 1996*.

Information	Description
Client information	For each registered fish farmer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Address • Email address • Client number
Farm information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique identifier for each fish farm • Location and boundaries of fish farm • Size in hectares of each fish farm • The species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that may be farmed • Conditions imposed under section 186S
Miscellaneous information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date the application was granted • Date fish farm registration varied and date on which it takes place • If varied details of variation • Date registration suspended, or revoked, when applicable

Register of Aquaculture Agreements

This register holds aquaculture agreements lodged with the Chief Executive under section 186ZH of the *Fisheries Act 1996*.

Information	Description
Client information	For each person whose aquaculture agreement has been registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Address • Email address • Client number Regional council agreement related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Address
Farm information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and registration number of each vessel • The international radio call sign of each vessel

Southern Scallop Fishery Register

This register held quota, transfer and lease information for the SCA7 fishery. The register was established for a short time from 1 October 1992 until 30 September 1995 under section 28ZR of the *Fisheries Act 1983*.

Information	Description
Allocation/ Holding information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual transferable quota (ITQ) allocated to each person
Transfer information	Every registered transfer of ITQ by operation of law or otherwise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the transferor and the transferee • The tonnage of quota transferred • The date on which the transfer occurred or is to occur For every lease under section 28ZS of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the lessor and lessee • The tonnage of quota leased • The date on which the lease commences and terminates
General stock information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual allowable catch

Appendix B Information not in public registers

Some information in the database is not contained on the public registers, and some of these are listed below. If you are not sure if certain information is available contact the Fisheries Data Management team for help. Note some of this information is available publicly in a summarised form or is available in legislation.

Quota (under the 1996 Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferential rights • Transaction price
ACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transaction price • Minimum holding entitlement information (MHE)
Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing points • Deceased fisher permit application details • Eel and FOTFAV agreement details includes stock codes and Eel statistical areas (ESA) • Wharf sale indication (YES/NO) • Permit information relating to the <i>Fisheries Act 1983</i> is basically the same as that collected under the 1996 Act.
Fishing Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew members names and contact details • ALC registration details • Lloyds/IMO number • Callsign • MNZ number • Processing and storage capacity • Navigation and communication equipment • Vessel information collected under the <i>Fisheries Act 1983</i> is basically the same as that collected under the 1996 Act except operator details were not collected (the owner was thought of as being the operator)
High Seas Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed fishing activity, for example, RFMO area, species and method
Client (under the 1996 Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trading and preferred name • Client type e.g. individual, company, trust • Client nationality • Physical residential and business address • Contact person name, address, phone number and contact type • Signing authority person name, phone number and authority dates • Date of birth/commencement date

<p>Licensed Fish Receiver (LFR) (under the 1996 Act)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LFR principle and additional premises includes physical and postal address and vehicle details • Premises store capacity • LFR suspensions • Business record location • Inventory held at date of application • Port prices
<p>Monthly Harvest Returns (MHRs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual MHR return catch – stock and quantity • Vessels used to take catch • Reason for amendment • MHRs which have been returned for correction and the reported catch • (Note summary MHR information is available via the ACE register)
<p>Licensed Fish Receiver Returns (LFRRs) (under the 1996 Act)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LFRR returns submitted by LFRs, includes permit holder, species and quantity • LFRR amendments with reason for change
<p>Quota Management Reports (QMRs) (under the 1983 Act)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quota Holder name and client number • Report month and year • Fishstock landed • Greenweight • Vessel name and registration number (for those vessels used to catch the fish)
<p>Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deemed value transactions and penalties • Cost recovery transactions and penalties • Levy rates • Deemed value rates • Marine farm charges
<p>Freshwater Fish Farms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client number and name • Service address • Phone number • Farm number • Effective and expiry date • Land title • Survey district • Water catchment (where water comes from) • Water right expiry date • Fish pack house number (FPH number)
<p>Marine Farming and Spat Catching Permits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit conditions

<p>New Zealand Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Vessel Register</p>	<p>The NZ Western Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Vessel Register is an official record of vessels which can fish in the Western Central Pacific area. This register was established under the <i>Fisheries (Western and Central Pacific Ocean Highly Migratory Fish Stocks) Regulations 2003</i>.</p> <p>The International group within MPI holds this register.</p> <p>This register contains:</p> <p><i>Client information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vessel owner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Legal name – Company name – Postal address – Date of birth/commencement date – Email address <p><i>Vessel information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vessel’s current and previous names • NZ Ship Register of Ships number • call sign • whether the vessel has an NZ high seas fishing permit • IMO and Forum fisheries numbers • port of registry • vessel specifications, for example, length, beam, configuration, freezer type • vessel communication equipment • masters’ name and contact details • vessel photo <p>Note: the following information is publicly available on the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission website WCPFC fishing vessel database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vessel name</u> • <u>Flag</u> • <u>Registration number</u> • <u>Vessel type IRCS</u> • <u>WIN</u> • <u>VID</u>
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Appendix C – Release of Sensitive Information

The following table identifies the circumstances in which more sensitive information may be released and to whom.

Sensitive Information that might be released	Requester			
	Authorised MPI staff and authorised law enforcement agencies	All MPI staff	Researchers conducting an approved project ¹ who have a confidentiality agreement with MPI	Person or organisation that initially provided the data ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased accuracy location data (1/10th degree). Full accuracy date & time data. Data in which any month and 1 degree (or statistical area) strata has < 3 vessels or persons, or organisations present. 	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data that includes vessel key³ or perorg key⁴. 	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full accuracy location data. Vessel attributes. Vessel, person, or organisation name or ID data. 	Yes	Yes	Requires authorisation (see procedure below)	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any vessel key or perorg key decryption data. 	Yes	No	Requires authorisation (see procedure below)	No

¹ An approved project is a project conducted on behalf of MPI (e.g. a MPI research contract), or an independent project for which the public interest in releasing information outweighs the grounds which exist for non-disclosure of information. In general, for an independent project to be approved, it is likely that such a project will need to advance the sustainability of New Zealand's fisheries and be consistent with the primary reasons for collecting the catch effort and observer data. The Team Manager – Fisheries Data, in conjunction with the Science Manager, will determine on a case by case basis, whether an independent project is to be considered as being an approved project. Sensitive data is only provided to approved projects when the project has a specific need for such data.

² In the case of catch effort data, this is the Permit holder (or a person authorised by the Permit holder) who was required to submit the catch return(s). In the case of observer data, this is the person or organisation who had an observer(s) on their vessel.

³ Vessel key is a unique identification given to all vessels

⁴ Perorg key is a unique identification for people or companies

Releasing sensitive information to researchers procedure

The following steps must be completed before sensitive information is released to researchers:

1. If the request is for an MPI project (MPI projects are considered approved), the researcher provides the project number with their request.

If the request is for an independent project (i.e. non MPI), the Team Manager Fisheries Data Management determines whether to approve the project, in consultation with the Manager Fisheries Science, considering whether the public interest in releasing information outweighs the grounds which exist for non-disclosure of information. For example, a project that advanced the sustainability of New Zealand's fisheries and was consistent with the primary reasons for collecting the catch effort and observer data, is likely to be approved.

2. Authorisation must be given by the Team Manager Fisheries Data Management.
3. The researcher must be advised that the information has been classified as 'Sensitive'.
4. The researcher must be provided with a copy of MPI standard clauses regarding the release of sensitive or highly sensitive catch effort, geospatial vessel position, and observer information.