



Ministry of
Fisheries
te lautiaki i nga tini a langarua

New Zealand Government

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29 August 2008

Tena koutou

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST: FISHERIES ACT 1996
AMENDMENT BILL (No.2) 240-1 (2008)**

This letter and enclosed material is an initial response to your request for information. In consideration of your need for urgency and the broad scope of the request, I am sending you a set of documents that we are able to clear for release immediately.

The large amount of material relevant to your request requiring review before release means that there will be some delay before this work can be completed. I will keep you informed of progress with this task and, once an assessment has been completed, notify you if the amount of time and any costs that may be involved.

I enclose the following documents with this letter:

1. Cabinet papers relating to the Fisheries Act 1996 Amendment Bill
 - a. CAB 446 Proposed Amendment to the Fisheries Act (considered by Cabinet Policy Committee of 19 March 2008)
 - b. CAB454 Amendment of the Fisheries Act: TAC Setting (considered by Cabinet Policy Committee of 2 July 2008)
 - c. CAB456 Fisheries Amendment Bill (Section 13): Approval for Introduction (considered by Cabinet Business Committee of 14 July 2008)

We are unable to release one sentence in the CAB446 paper pursuant to s9(2)(h) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.

I am satisfied that in terms of s9(1) of the Act, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

You have the right under s28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my refusal to release some of the information requested.

2. Advice and reports provided to the Primary Production Select Committee
 - a. Preliminary briefing on the Fisheries Amendment Bill
 - b. Response to a question from the Committee on 31 July 2008 on the potential for the amendment to increase the information burden on the Minister when making TAC decisions
 - c. Briefing on managing stocks above a level that can produce the maximum sustainable yield
 - d. Briefing on the management of orange roughy and the decisions taken in respect of the Orange Roughy 1 stock.
 - e. Final departmental report to the Select Committee

3. Notifications to interested parties of the problem and progress in development of a solution
 - a. Briefing Note: process for urgent amendment of the Fisheries Act – 20 March 2008
 - b. Email cover notes to government departments – Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Te Puni Kokiri
 - c. Letter to stakeholders: Urgent Amendment of the Fisheries Act 1996: TAC Setting – dated 15 July 2008
 - d. Email cover letter to Bruce Galloway
 - e. Letter to tangata whenua: Urgent Amendment of the Fisheries Act 1996: TAC Setting – dated 31 July 2008
 - f. Copy of the introduction version of the Bill with cover email to amateur sector interest groups

Once you have considered these documents, please confirm any requirements for further information and, if possible, specify your priorities.

Naku noa, na



Terry Lynch
for Chief Executive