

Deepwater Fisheries Management  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington  
18 May 2015

Dear Vicky

**Removal of Observer Fees for Supervising Return of Fish to Sea**  
**MPI Discussion Paper No:2015/09**

1. You have asked for comments on the proposal "Removal of Observer Fees for Supervising Return of Fish to Sea".

**Fisheries Inshore New Zealand**

2. Fisheries Inshore Limited (FINZ) represents the inshore finfish, pelagic and tuna fisheries of New Zealand. It was formed in November 2012 as part of the restructuring of industry organisations. Its role is to deal with national issues on behalf of the sector and to work directly with and behalf of its quota owners, fishers and affiliated Commercial Stakeholder Organisations (CSOs). As part of that work, it will also work collaboratively with other industry organisations and SREs, Seafood New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Department of Conservation.
3. Its key outputs are the development of, and agreement to appropriate policy frameworks, processes and tools to assist the sector to more effectively manage inshore, pelagic and tuna fishstocks, to minimise their interactions with the associated ecosystems and work positively with other fishers and users of marine space where we carry out our harvesting activities.
4. While this proposal has been circulated in the name of the deepwater team, it has application to the inshore sector.

**Proposal**

5. The proposal is to remove any observer fees for the supervision of returning QMS fish to the sea under section 72(5)(c) of the Fisheries Act. At present, MPI charges a \$28 fee for the service. The fee is invoiced directly to the company requesting the service.
6. MPI considers the fee to be redundant on the basis that:
  - a. The costs are already included in the charges for observer services;
  - b. The costs do not cover the administration costs of the fees;
  - c. The fees are believed to adversely impact on fisher behaviour.
7. We support the proposal.



Tom Clark  
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Fisheries Inshore Limited