Ministry of
Fisheries
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

New Zealand Government

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OIA11-130

3 October 2011

Karen Baird
Kermadec and Global Seabird Programme Advocate
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society
K.Baird@forestandbird.org.nz

Dear Karen

This letter is a response to your emails to the Ministry of Fisheries of 21 and 23 September 2011 requesting information relating to foreign charter vessels (FCVs).

In your email you refer to the appendix of the background paper on the use of FCVs that the Ministry has placed on its website as material for the Ministerial Inquiry into FCVs. You ask whether there are any other fisheries not listed in that appendix that have an FCV component. I can confirm that the nine species listed in Table 1.3 of the appendix are the species most commonly targeted by the FCV trawl fleet. Targeted tows for other species comprise only a small proportion of total effort by the FCV trawl fleet.

The only other fisheries that have an FCV component are the surface longline southern bluefin tuna fishery (that you have already identified) and the hagfish potting fishery. The percentage of those species taken by FCVs is summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Catch of southern bluefin tuna and hagfish and proportion of catch taken by FCVs for the 2005/06 – 2009/10 fishing years

		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Southern bluefin tuna	Total catch (t)	238	379	318	417	500
	% taken by FCVs	44%	56%	63%	52%	42%
Hagfish	Total catch (t)	3	979	790	252	1,275
	% taken by FCVs	0	99%	99%	81%	94%

The remainder of your request relates to observer coverage and capture of seabirds and marine mammals. Summary information for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 fishing years is

provided in the appendix to this letter. For each of the nine major species targeted by FCVs, the total number of target tows and the number of observed target tows is listed. This information is split into tows made by FCVs and tows made by domestic vessels greater than 28m in overall length.

Non-fish capture information is then provided for each of the nine target species. This information comes from Ministry observers and relates to trawl vessels only. Capture information is broken down into three categories depending on whether the observer reported an animal as being dead, released alive or whether the life status was unknown.

Finally, summary information of aggregated seabird and marine mammal captures by area and target species is provided.

The information above has been released under the Official Information Act 1982.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Aoife Martin
Fisheries Manager Deepwater
Ministry of Fisheries