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0800 4 POACHER

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Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to advise you that the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) wishes to consult on a range of measures for the management of foreign charter vessels (FCVs) operating in New Zealand's EEZ.

Government policy allows quota owners and fishers to choose the most efficient means to maximise the value from their quota and ACE. Chartering foreign vessels is considered a legitimate method for New Zealand seafood companies to reduce their operating costs, particularly their capital investment costs. The measures proposed in this initial position paper (IPP) continue to support this policy.

However, the current operation of some FCVs pose a risk to the health and safety of MFish staff and contractors and to the integrity of our fisheries management regime. To address these risks, MFish recently convened a joint review group with FCV operators to identify solutions that will lead to the better management of these vessels. The focus of these measures will be to ensure there is tighter management of how these vessels, and the entities behind them, conduct their business while fishing in New Zealand waters.

Some of the measures proposed will have implications for the domestic fleet, particularly the proposal to require all vessels, greater than 46 m in length, to meet an approved standard for observer food, accommodation and amenities.

I welcome stakeholder's views on the matters discussed in this IPP. The consultation period is open until Thursday 20 March. Please provide submissions to Tracey Steel to either tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz or Tracey Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wayne McNee'.

Wayne McNee
Chief Executive