



Don't ignore the infringement notice

It won't go away if you ignore it.

Around a month after receiving the infringement notice, you will receive a reminder notice. This is usually pink and includes further details. Again you have the same options as 1, 2 and 3 overleaf.

However, if you still ignore it, the matter is then sent to the District Court and they will start their process to collect the fee you owe.

Once an infringement notice has been referred to Court, ignoring it can add another \$100 to your existing fine if the Court has to enforce payment. Refer to the previous page.



If you believe that this infringement notice is incorrect in any way, please contact the Infringement Processing Centre immediately, either by:

- >> email to infringements@fish.govt.nz
- >> phone (DDI) 04 819 4681
- >> fax (DDI) 04 819 4632
- >> writing to:
Ministry of Fisheries Infringement Processing Centre
PO Box 6413
101-103 The Terrace
Wellington 6141

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Infringement Processing Centre
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infringements@fish.govt.nz
04 819 4681 Ph.
04 819 4632 Fax.

All about your Infringement Notice

You have received an infringement notice after breaching one of the laws surrounding the gathering of fish or shellfish.



You would have received a freepost envelope with your notice. Use it; it ensures your correspondence arrives in time, and it is free.

What do I do now?

Whatever you do depends on you. You can:

1. Pay the infringement notice in full.
2. Write a letter asking us to waive it.
3. Write a letter requesting a defended or non-defended hearing.

1. Pay it.

There are four ways to pay your Ministry of Fisheries Infringement fee. You can:

- >> Pay it over the Internet to 03 0049 0001709 22 (which is a Westpac Bank account). **You must use the 6-digit infringement notice number in the Reference field** (it's at the top right hand corner of your notice).
- >> Pay it by telephone banking. Ministry of Fisheries is a bill payee for all major banks. Again, you will be asked for the 6-digit infringement number as a reference number (it's at the top right hand corner of your notice).
- >> Send a cheque with the deposit slip in the enclosed freepost envelope to: PO Box 6413, Wellington.
- >> Go to any Westpac branch with the notice (or just the deposit slip) and pay it over the counter.

2. Write in requesting the notice be waived.

If you believe you have a good excuse, write in giving an explanation. It only costs your time – we even provide a freepost envelope. We will advise the outcome by letter. If the notice has been waived, we will advise you. If the notice has not been waived, you can either pay the infringement fee (see above) or request a defended or non-defended hearing.

3. Request a defended or non-defended hearing.

Defended hearing: If you believe that there is enough doubt that an offence was committed, you can write in requesting a defended hearing. This is when you dispute part or all of the charge quoted on the notice. This involves attending Court to agree on a hearing date. You will then be asked to put your case to the Court. If the Court finds you guilty, costs will be added to the initial infringement fee (usually \$130.00).

Non-defended hearing: If you wish to admit liability but want the Court to consider some circumstances (e.g. you are facing severe financial hardship), a non-defended hearing should be requested in writing. Neither you nor MFish appear in Court. You write in asking the Court to consider certain things, and MFish does the same (these are called submissions). The Judge looks at the paperwork in their office (called Chambers), and will then determine penalty. You will be advised by the Court of the outcome.



What happens when my fee is referred to the District Court for collection?

Once an infringement fee is referred to Court, a \$30 lodgement fee is added. However, this can now be paid in instalments.

The District Court has very wide powers. It has the right to remove property, to require your employer to take money from your wages, and to stop you leaving the country if you don't pay. Using these methods of enforcing payment usually adds \$100 to the fee. For example, adding the lodgement and enforcement fees, your \$250 Ministry of Fisheries infringement fee can become a \$380 Court fine in a very short time.

The \$100 enforcement fee may be avoided if you start payment or make contact as soon as possible using one of the following methods:

- >> at your local Court
- >> online at www.fines.govt.nz
- >> by email at finesenquiry@courts.govt.nz
- >> by phone on 0800 658 952 or
- >> by post at Collections Call Centre, PO Box 2940, Wellington 6140.

If you are travelling overseas, your best option is to contact:

- >> [0800PAYORSTAY \(0800 729 677\)](tel:0800PAYORSTAY).