



Ministry of  
**Fisheries**  
Te Tauriaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

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Dear stakeholder

This letter serves as a formal invitation, pursuant to s12 of the Fisheries Act 1996, to participate in consultation over proposals for the introduction of regulatory measures to manage the incidental catch of seabirds in trawl and longline fisheries.

Following the recently reported seabird mortality incident by a vessel fishing using the method of bottom longline, the Minister of Fisheries signalled his strong concern that some vessels were still fishing without the use of effective mitigation measures.

The Minister has therefore directed the Ministry of Fisheries to develop proposals for the implementation of best practice seabird mitigation measures by Gazette Notice across all fisheries that may pose a risk to seabirds.

Stakeholders should note that MFish will also shortly be releasing for consultation proposals for a comprehensive framework, based around a seabird standard, for managing the effects of fishing-related mortality on seabirds. The measures proposed in this paper are therefore designed to mitigate against the immediate and ongoing risk of vessels that are not currently using minimum best practice mitigation measures.

I strongly encourage you to engage in this consultation process. Submissions on the Gazette Notice proposals that accompany this document close on Friday 23 November.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Halley', written over a printed name and title.

Steve Halley  
Manger National Environmental Team