



OIA19-0589

25 SEP 2019

Michael Brown
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Dear Michael Brown

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 5/09/2019 relating to:

- *“What process MPI and/or its predecessor agencies have undertaken in finding that Kontiki-type fishing systems are acceptable for recreational use in NZ?”*
- *“All relevant internal discussion papers and similar documents that show the process by which you have assessed Kontikis and deemed them legal as a recreational fishing method”*

The answer to your request can be found below under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Kontiki type fishing systems have been in use in New Zealand fisheries a long time prior to the drafting of the Amateur Fishing Regulations. These regulations were drafted with all fishing methods considered.

There are regulations that restrict what individual recreational fishers can catch, which in turn affect the combined harvest and whether catches are controlled within allowances set. The daily bag limit is probably the most important control, but catch is also limited by the minimum legal size, closed seasons, and fishing method restrictions.

The four most important fishing methods for recreational fishers are handline, setnet, spear and longline (including sea harvesters). These fishing methods have strengths and weaknesses and are allowed so that recreational fishers have flexibility to access a fair share of the resource.

Data from two nationwide panel surveys of over 7,000 recreational fishers who reported their fishing over the fishing years 2011/12 and 2017/18 have been compiled. These data suggest that longline/sea harvesters are the least effective of the four main fishing methods in terms of fish caught per trip and responsible for less than 5% of the total number of fish caught by recreational fishers.

Our focus is to ensure that management measures are in place to maintain sustainability of our fisheries. If new quantitative information becomes available, the adequacy of current rules can be evaluated.

Fisheries Management
Fisheries New Zealand

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Fisheries New Zealand do not hold any internal discussion papers or documents relating to assessing kontikis as being acceptable for use in New Zealand, therefore your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Anderson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stuart Anderson
Director Fisheries Management