



# Friday update



## Captain's Blog

May 13, 2016



### Reflagging foreign charter vessels for fair standards for fishing crews

The process of reflagging foreign charter fishing vessels under new legislation is near complete.

Ten vessels originally flagged to Korea, Japan, Ukraine and Dominica have reflagged and two more are close to doing so.

Another nine will no longer fish in New Zealand waters.

The successful reflaggings were a considerable achievement and have produced a change of culture, according to Maritime New Zealand standards general manager Sharyn Forsyth.

From May 1 all FCVs were required to

## In the Media



### New Zealand seafood exports reach record high

FMCG Business (May 9) reported on seafood, one of New Zealand's top export earners, continuing to show strong growth with exports reaching a record high of \$1.713 billion (in the year to end March). The strongest value growth is from exports of frozen fin fish with rock lobster, orange roughy, fish meal and mussels also returning increased prices. Seafood New Zealand Chief Executive Tim Pankhurst said this was an 11.4% increase on the previous year and an \$80 million increase on the previous high of \$1.63 billion for the 2015 calendar year. "Month on month growth of 18% in January over the previous year was even higher at 23% in March," Mr Pankhurst said.

From May 1 all FCVs were required to operate under the New Zealand flag and this country's full legal jurisdiction.

The requirement comes under the Fisheries (Foreign Charter Vessels and Other Matters) Bill which was passed in 2014 with a two-year phase in period.

The introduction of the new rules brings to a close a contentious issue that arose from allegations of widespread foreign crew abuse.

"This is a new era for fishing vessels operating in New Zealand waters and will help ensure fair standards for all fishing crews," Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy said.

"Reflagging gives us full jurisdiction over areas like employment and health and safety conditions.

"This shows we are serious about the fair treatment of fishing crews, the safety of vessels and New Zealand's international reputation for ethical and sustainable fishing practices."

The legislation was part of a range of measures that included compulsory individual New Zealand bank accounts for crew members; observers on all foreign-owned fishing vessels and independent audits to ensure crew visa requirements, including wages, are being adhered to.

The role of observers, who are paid by the fishing industry through cost recovery levies, will be extended to include information about working and living conditions, health and safety, maritime safety and environmental discharge.

Meanwhile the Indonesian Embassy in Wellington has confirmed there are 258 of its nationals employed on FCVs in New Zealand waters.

The embassy acknowledged a claim by Indonesian Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti, reported in the Jakarta Post last November, that 61,000 Indonesian nationals were employed on foreign vessels operating in New Zealand was "obviously inaccurate".

Seafood NZ took issue with this claim and sought a correction.

"New Zealand has been a reliable partner in our efforts to give better protection to migrant workers," Lina Dilliane, first secretary, protocol and consular, said in a May 3 letter to Seafood NZ.

She said Indonesian officials had received a comprehensive explanation about the New Zealand reflagging policy from the New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta.

"They learnt that the reflagging policy is providing greater protection to the crew as they would be employed by a New Zealand-based company under employment agreements based on New Zealand laws. It ensures that any labour law breaches would be investigated and addressed."

- Tim Pankhurst

[Read more](#)

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Karl Warr aboard "Chips". Photo: Dan Henry

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## Better Fishing on Country Calendar

Tomorrow's Country Calendar episode features Napier commercial fisher Karl Warr of Better Fishing. Warr will showcase his innovative fishing net, which is designed to allow undersized fish to swim out. His work is a component of a wider programme trialling several different net configurations that are designed to increase the selectivity of trawl gear and reduce juvenile fish catch. Watch it on Saturday, May 14 on TV One at 7pm.

[Click to watch show preview](#)

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## Have your say about SeaCert changes

Maritime NZ wants to hear from seafarers on proposed changes to the SeaCert framework to make it easier and cheaper for some seafarers with older certificates to continue working. One proposal is to "ring-fence" some older tickets to allow seafarers to continue using them. Other proposed rule changes include removing the need for seafarers with Able Seaman certificates to transition to SeaCert, and no longer requiring ratings to renew certificates every five years. Changes are also proposed to the passenger endorsement requirement.

[Click here for consultation info](#)  
Public consultation meetings (all meetings start at 6pm unless stated):

- Wellington - Monday 16 May, Maritime NZ, 11th Floor, 1 Grey St
- Invercargill - Monday 23 May, Ascot Park Hotel, Tay Street & Racecourse Rd, (midday start)
- Greymouth - Tuesday 24 May, Tai Poutini Polytechnic, 73-87 Tainui St
- Nelson - Wednesday 25 May, Port Nelson Ltd, 10 Low Street
- Auckland - Thursday 26 May, Marine Pollution Response Service (MPRS), 755 Te Atatu Road, Te Atatu

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- (MPKS), 755 Te Atatu Road, Te Atatu, Waitakere
- Whangarei – Monday 30 May, Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue
  - Tauranga – Tuesday 31 May, Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, 90 Keith Allen Drive
  - Gisborne – Wednesday June 1, The Whitehouse, 69 Peel Street
  - Christchurch (Feds Conference) – Friday 3 June 2016, Rydges Latimer Hotel, 30 Latimer Square (8.30am start).

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### NZFCF Conference 2016

This year's New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen Conference will be hosted by the Lyttelton Association and held at the Rydges Latimer, Christchurch. Click buttons below to register for the conference and book your stay at the Rydges at special, discounted rates for conference delegates.

Thursday, June 2, 2016  
30, Latimer Square, Christchurch 8011



**Register now**

**Book stay**

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### Bluff Oyster & Food Festival

This year's Bluff Oyster and Food Festival will not only feature its big star – the sumptuous, meaty Bluff oyster – but also a wide range of other seafood – rock lobster, paua, scallops, salmon and blue cod. There's also a good selection of New Zealand wines and Southern ales. The day long festival includes live music and a host of oyster opening and eating competitions.

[Click to see what's in store this year](#)  
On Saturday, May 21, Lee Street, Bluff.

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