

# Seafood New Zealand

# COVID-19

## Update 10

### 3 April 2020

Seafood New Zealand is engaging with Fisheries New Zealand and MPI on a very regular basis. We are updating the two organisations on issues within the seafood sector, how the various processes required under alert level 4 are being actioned, and getting feedback from others in the Primary Sector as to their issues and where possible solutions.

MPI director-general Ray Smith convenes a call once a week for the primary sector, and from the latest call (which included Minister O'Connor) the following points were made;

- MPI have carried out over 1,000 visits to those who have registered as essential businesses,
- MPI are very happy with what they have observed, it would seem that people are safe, while there are production losses that are being accepted.
- Over 18,000 registrations have been received

They identify the following challenges:

- Pig meat
- Animal welfare
- Smaller retail outlets not being able to trade
- Transport and Logistics
- Workforce mobility (primarily the horticulture sector, but probably stretching into the wine industry)

Seafood sector issues presented in addition to those shared in the above list were:

- Logistics for fresh and live seafood were a nightmare – particularly domestic and international airfreight (NZTE are trying to consolidate – check their [website](#))

- Smaller fish retailers were really hurting, and would there be a revisit of the definition of essential businesses (under consideration but no promises)
- Supermarkets are still finding their feet in terms of their seafood offerings
- International subsidies will impact on our markets (hadn't really been thought about)
- Prices remain under pressure for the high value seafoods
- Planning will be needed around how the Primary Sector will recover post-lockdown (Mr Smith is clear he wants to see opportunities for value growth as soon as possible)

Seafood New Zealand has also discussed with Fisheries New Zealand head, Dan Bolger, the issues facing the seafood sector. Mr Bolger is also a participant in the sector calls. We have reminded him that we cannot let progress on other issues falter, or be sidelined while there is progress in areas of concern for the seafood sector.

Items raised include:

- SEMPA
- TMP
- National Seabird strategy
- Hauraki Gulf planning
- 28N
- Thinking around the sustainability round for the October year
- Considering waiving or deferring cost recovery levies (as certain services will be unable to be delivered)

Many of these items are unable to be progressed as there currently isn't the capacity to engage in realistic consultation. Others will be delayed due to the current workload on Cabinet and Ministers. Seafood New Zealand has stated it is ready to progress and engage whenever possible and we are awaiting responses to a number of our comments.

If you have issues in addition to these please contact Seafood New Zealand. We will ensure they are brought to the attention of the relevant people and organisations.

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## Market access and trade

MPI are in regular contact with many of the seafood sector's international trading partners and are doing everything they can to help facilitate trade. As part of this, they have set up a dedicated email address to report any market access, export trade or international supply chain issues relating to COVID-19.

If you come across any specific market access or trade issues, please email: [Covid-19.Trade@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Covid-19.Trade@mpi.govt.nz).

Please note, using this email address does not override your legal obligations for reporting export non-conformances. This requires you to notify MPI within 24 hours of becoming aware, if the products you have exported, or are about to export:

- Aren't fit for their intended purpose. This may be due to any event which occurred or could have occurred prior to entry into the destination country (regardless of when it was detected)
- Are refused entry by the government of the destination country
- Do not meet, or no longer meet relevant Overseas Market Access Requirements
- Do not have, or no longer have the required official assurances.

For more information, including access to the ENC reporting form, [visit MPI's site](#).

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## Key contacts

### Subsidies and assistance

The government has implemented a number of support packages for businesses to help get through the COVID-19 crisis, including wage subsidies. Information on support packages for businesses, including wage subsidies can be [found here](#).

The wage subsidy application form can be [found here](#).

### Ministry for Primary Industries

Operators looking to register as an essential service or with essential service-related queries must contact MPI directly:

**Ph:** 0800 00 83 33

**Email:** [info@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpi.govt.nz)

### Maritime New Zealand

For any maritime questions or concerns, please contact the MNZ COVID-19 response team:

**Email:** [MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz)

## **FishServe**

FishServe is operating as normal, with a helpline available for all FishServe-related queries. You can also fill out their [online form](#).

**Ph:** 04 460 9555

**Email:** [helpline@fishserve.co.nz](mailto:helpline@fishserve.co.nz)

## **Seafood New Zealand**

The latest COVID-19 updates and resources can be found on Seafood New Zealand's industry website. For further enquiries contact us on:

**Ph:** 04 385 4005

**Email:** [info@seafood.org.nz](mailto:info@seafood.org.nz)

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