



OIA25-0542

22 August 2025

Shaun Lee  
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun Lee

Thank you for your email of 26 July 2025 requesting information relating to customary fishing in the Hauraki Gulf. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

- 1. All additional fishing data you hold (authorisations, catch returns, or summaries) in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park from 2022 to the present.*
- 2. Any internal or external reports, briefings, or analyses produced since 2022 that use this data, or any other information you hold, to assess or quantify the potential biodiversity impacts of customary fishing within those HPAs.*

As you are aware, in the Hauraki Gulf customary non-commercial fishing is mostly undertaken under sections 50-52 of the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013.

These regulations provide authorised representatives the authority to issue customary permits to take fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for the purposes of tangi or hui. These regulations do not require authorised representatives to report what they have approved or what has been caught under an authorisation they have granted.

Some authorised representatives do provide Fisheries New Zealand with copies of the authorisations they have granted. This information often includes information on preferred customary fishing grounds and is supplied in confidence for the purposes of fisheries management.

Consequently, your request for customary fishing data is declined pursuant to section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA – *to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.*

MPI acknowledges that some customary fisheries data has been released to you in the past, however on further consideration we are satisfied that, in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

With reference to point two of your request, MPI has not produced any reports or briefings in scope of your request. Your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist*

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with MPI at [Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EE Taylor'.

Emma Taylor  
**Director Fisheries Management**