



OIA23-0285

19 June 2023

Shaun Lee  
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun,

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2023, requesting information relating to the commercial landings of billfish. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Please find a response to each of your specific questions.

- *Commercial landings of billfish in the New Zealand exclusive economic zone by species for the last 10 years that records are available.*

You further clarified your request on 31 May 2023 to provide information by fishing year specified as 1 October 2012 to 1 October 2022.

Please note that a fishing year is 1 October to 30 September. The table below provides you with the annual landings of billfish, by greenweight, from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2022.

Fishing Year	Species	Species Name	Greenweight Kg
2012-2013	SWO	Swordfish	785,641
2013-2014	SWO	Swordfish	556,021
2014-2015	SSF	Shortbill spearfish	622
2014-2015	SWO	Swordfish	714,360
2015-2016	SWO	Swordfish	750,396
2016-2017	SWO	Swordfish	488,369
2017-2018	SWO	Swordfish	468,319
2018-2019	SWO	Swordfish	246,066
2019-2020	SWO	Swordfish	211,272
2020-2021	SWO	Swordfish	299,975
2021-2022	SWO	Swordfish	126,470

- *The latest billfish memorandum of understanding (MOU) between representatives of commercial fishers and recreational interests which provides a framework for discussion and agreement on billfish management measures.*

Please find attached as Appendix one the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between representatives of commercial fishers and recreational interests. Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following section of the OIA *Section 9(2)(a)* – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*

MPI is 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.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries 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



Emma Taylor  
**Director of Fisheries Management**