



Accurate Reporting

This fact sheet is intended to inform permit holders about considerations that they, along with licensed fish receivers, need to be aware of to ensure reporting and recordkeeping obligations are undertaken accurately.

Background

With the introduction of mandatory position reporting and electronic catch reporting for all fishers, a considerable amount of additional information will be available to Fisheries New Zealand. This fact sheet is intended to raise awareness of how permit holders can ensure that the information reported to Fisheries New Zealand is accurate.

Area misreporting

This term refers to the situation where fish taken in one management area is reported as having been taken in a different area. If fishing takes place in more than one quota management area (QMA) or other type of management area during a trip, permit holders must have processes in place to ensure fish is reported from the correct QMA or management area that it was taken in. For example:

- those doing the fishing should have clear instructions about what to do if catch of a species is taken in more than one QMA or other type of management area during a trip (e.g. storing fish from the different areas separately) or during an event (how to apportion catch).
- Vessel performance should be carefully monitored if it fishes in more than one QMA or other type of management area. Frequent movement across area boundaries during a trip should be a trigger for even more vigilant monitoring.

Use of conversion factors

Fisheries legislation generally requires weights of fish to be reported as greenweight (the weight prior to any processing or removal of any part of the fish). Where processed fish has been provided to a licensed fish receiver (LFR), the LFR is required to determine the greenweight of that fish irrespective of the product state it has been provided to them in.

Conversion factors are used to convert the weight of processed fish to greenweight for reporting purposes. They apply to a specific species that has been processed to a defined product state.

Product states are defined in Conversion Factor Notices, which are available for download on the Fisheries New Zealand website. The definitions set out the parts of a fish that can be removed and those

that must remain for processed fish to comply with a particular product state. Fish is not required to be processed to the exact specifications set out in the relevant Notice. The general principle that applies is that where any fish is processed beyond one product state but less than another, the numerically larger of the conversion factors for the two states must be applied.

The collective responsibility of LFRs and permit holders is to ensure accurate reporting of species, product state and greenweight. Within the context of conversion factors, permit holders can contribute to this by:

- ensuring crew are well briefed on product state definitions;
- vessel's product specifications are not inconsistent with product state definitions;
- procedures are in place to monitor adherence to product state definitions;
- where relevant, ensuring factory vessels have robust, auditable procedures to ensure accurate determination of product weight e.g. block weight and glaze testing.

The role played by LFRs can include:

- accurate determination of product weight;
- ensuring the correct conversion factor is used for a particular species/product state;
- verifying that the product state reported by the permit holder is appropriate.

Reporting and catch balancing obligations

The electronic catch and effort reporting system requires that all catch is reported on either disposal reports or landing reports. Reporting includes corresponding codes that describe the fate of the fish i.e. what the fisher did with it (these were referred to as destination type codes under paper-based reporting).

The three primary components of disposal and landing reports are fishstock, greenweight, and disposal/landing code. Landing reports have the additional component of product state. All catch reported on disposal or landing reports should be reported as accurately as possible depending on the specific circumstances.

Disclaimer

Nothing in this fact sheet should be read to preclude obligations for all current requirements. The purpose of this fact sheet is to achieve informed and assisted compliance.

This means:

Fishstock (species/area)

Fishstock is a combination of species and geographic area. Species should be correctly identified and reporting must reflect the area where the fish was taken (refer to the area misreporting section earlier in this fact sheet).

Product state (landing reports only)

As outlined in the conversion factors section, correct product state must be reported.

Greenweight

Fisheries New Zealand expects accurate reporting of greenweight. The process by which greenweight is determined should reflect the specific circumstances. For example:

- Robust, auditable procedures should be used in situations including:
 - where there is any deduction in weight for components such as glaze, packaging or ice;
 - determining product weight of catch landed by factory vessels;
 - determining the weight of whole fish to meal;
 - determining the weight of fish returned to the water;
- Determining the weight of live fish returned to the water should not compromise fish survival.

Disposal/landing code

Under electronic reporting, the number of landing and disposal codes has increased to incorporate a wider range of scenarios describing the fate of fish. This is something that fishers and permit holders need to be aware of.

Each code describes a specific scenario and should only be used when that scenario applies. The rationale for increasing the number of codes was to provide for all catch to be reported and remove ambiguity about which code that should be used in specific circumstances. Use of the correct disposal/landing code will increase the quality of information available for research and management purposes.

Monthly Harvest Returns (MHR)

MHRs collate and summarise all catch that has been reported on disposal or landing reports under a defined subset of disposal or landing codes during a month. The primary purpose of MHRs is to provide the information required for the catch balancing process: catch of a species managed under the Quota Management System (QMS) that is reported on MHRs must be balanced with annual catch entitlement (ACE). The catch balancing process is a fundamental component of the QMS.

As noted, the number of landing and disposal codes has increased under electronic reporting. However, there is no ambiguity about whether a code is required to be reported on an MHR or not. This means that it is possible for FishServe to automatically generate MHRs based on what a fisher has reported on landing and disposal reports during a month (refer to FishServe's website for more details (www.fishserve.co.nz)).

Fisheries New Zealand's website contains reference material and guidance on electronic reporting requirements, including disposal and landing codes and whether those codes are required to be reported on a fisher's MHR. The website is located here:

<https://www.fisheries.govt.nz/protection-and-response/sustainable-fisheries/strengthening-fisheries-management/fisheries-change-programme/electronic-catch-and-position-reporting/>