



OIA14-400

19 MAY 2015

Andrew Caddie
Vice President
Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association Inc.
PO Box 6639
Wellesley St
Auckland 1141

Dear Andrew Caddie

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your request for information on 12 April 2015 about the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) being aware of, and undertaking investigations into, a reported mortality event in farmed fin fish in Waihinau Bay, Marlborough Sounds.

The mandate in regard to such events is to determine whether an exotic, new or emerging pathogen is likely to be present. I have endeavoured to address your questions below in the context of this mandate:

1) *'is MPI aware of these reports?'*

MPI is aware of the mortality event affecting the farm in Waihinau Bay which was reported in the media (Stuff 13/3/15).

2) *'if yes has MPI or related parties had any discussions with NZKS (verbal or written) as to the cause of the mortality spike?'*

MPI has opened an investigation. The aim of the investigation is to determine if the event is caused by an organism of biosecurity interest. Such an investigation does necessitate MPI inspectors liaising with the company and their animal health experts. The cause of the mortality spike is currently not known.

3) *'Where are things at with such investigations?'*

Animal health experts from industry and MPI, including laboratory staff from the MPI Animal Health Laboratory are involved in the investigation. The investigation is still ongoing. At the current time no organisms of biosecurity interest have been confirmed as the cause of the mortality event.

- 4) *'Is there any suggestion that such mortalities are a result of disease, pathogens or viruses?'*

At this time MPI is unaware of a primary pathogen that is the cause of this mortality event.

- 5) *'Is there any legal obligation on New Zealand King Salmon to practice "good and civilised animal husbandry"?'*

Farmed fish are covered by the Animal Welfare Act, which is administered by MPI. This Act requires owners and persons in charge of animals to meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals in their care. If the disease investigation indicates that a breach of the Animal Welfare Act has occurred, this will be referred for further animal welfare investigation.

I trust this information satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely



John Sanson
Acting Director Investigation, Diagnostic Centres and Response