



Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

28 March 2018

Dear Mr Nash

I am writing to you to request information regarding actions your Ministry may be undertaking in response to climate change issues highlighted in the environmental report *Our atmosphere and climate 2017*, published by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand under the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.

This request is made in relation to my role under this Act. As set out in Section 18, I have a broad role to comment on national state of the environment reports, which includes discussing implications of environmental reports and recommending responses to the findings contained within those reports.

Our atmosphere and climate 2017 contained information on current and potential future impacts of climate change on New Zealand's marine ecosystems, and notes that "ocean acidification and warming may cause widespread harm to marine ecosystems, for example, by reducing the survival and growth rates of marine species, extending or reducing the range of species, and modifying habitats. The impacts could occur across New Zealand's entire ocean area, with implications for biodiversity, marine-based industries such as commercial fishing and aquaculture, and Māori customary practice."

These impacts may signal changes in the future abundance and distribution of commercially and culturally important marine species. They may also expose New Zealand's ocean and coastal areas to increased risks from invasive pests and outbreaks of disease, with potential implications for aquaculture, commercial and customary fisheries.

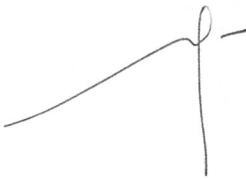
In light of these issues, could you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. *What work has the Ministry undertaken to assess and address the risks posed by ocean acidification to New Zealand's aquaculture and fisheries sectors?*
2. *What work has the Ministry undertaken to assess and address the biosecurity risks that climate change poses to New Zealand's aquaculture and fisheries sectors?*
3. *What work has the Ministry undertaken to assess and address the risks posed by shifts in the abundance and distribution of commercially and culturally valuable marine species?*

4. *What work has the Ministry undertaken to assess and address the risks posed to fisheries and aquacultural infrastructure posed by the changing frequency of severe weather events?*
5. *Has any work been done to estimate the cost of these risks?*
6. *To what extent has the Ministry accounted for the cumulative impacts of climate change in employing information to improve the resilience of the fisheries management system?*
7. *More broadly, what is the Ministry's strategic approach to dealing with adaptation across the aquaculture and fisheries sectors?*
8. *What work has the Ministry done or is planning to do with other government agencies to address collaboration where adaptation measures may require an integrated approach?*

I would also welcome a meeting to discuss these issues with you following the reception of a reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal stroke followed by a vertical line that curves slightly to the right at the top.

Simon Upton
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

CC: Gareth Hughes, MP; Ian McKelvie, MP; David Seymour, MP