

Hon. Phil Heatley
Minister of Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
Phil.Heatley@parliament.govt.nz

cc. Regional recreational fisheries forums
Chief Executive, Ministry of Fisheries
Local Members of Parliament

3 December 2009

Dear Minister

Full observer coverage on foreign charter vessels

The Northwest regional recreational fisheries forum fully endorses the Northland fisheries forum's letter to you, dated 17 November, supporting full observer coverage on foreign charter vessels (FCVs) operating in New Zealand waters.

We share the Northland forum's concerns that the current level of observer coverage on FCVs is inadequate to effectively monitor the fishing practices and catch reporting on these vessels.

There is increasing concern that sustainability of our fisheries is at risk due to the practices being deployed by FCVs fishing within our waters.

We need to ensure 100 percent, 24/7 coverage on FCVs if we are to both maintain the integrity of our fisheries management system and restore public confidence that our fisheries are being managed sustainably.

Our North-west forum is committed to achieving sustainable utilisation of our marine resources so that all New Zealanders can provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being through fishing.

You have often advocated the health of the fishery is your prime concern so our Northwest forum looks forward to supporting initiatives that will achieve 24 hour, seven-day observer coverage on FCVs operating in our Exclusive Economic Zone.

Yours sincerely,
Members of the Northwest regional recreational fisheries forum
Trish Rea (Chairperson)
Mark Franklin
Greg Edley
Sheryl Hart
Bobby Smith
Peter Sellers
Allan Jones
Colin Read
Richard Benson-Cooper