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## Brief description of orange roughy fishing fleet and New Zealand reporting requirements

### Fleet

The assessed orange roughy stocks are fished by NZ-flagged trawl vessels using demersal trawl gear. From the 2008-09 fishing year to 2012-13, 18 vessels have caught orange roughy from the Units of Certification. These vessels range in size from 26 metres to 62 metres registered length. Vessel tonnage ranges from 113 tonnes to 2483 tonnes and hold capacity ranges from 112 m<sup>3</sup> to 1000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Six of the vessels are 'freshers', meaning that they do not have onboard freezers and store catch on ice until landing. These vessels generally do not process catch at sea and land whole fish which may be processed on land or exported whole.

The remaining 12 vessels are factory-freezers, which freeze product onboard and generally remain at sea for longer periods. These vessels either process to the 'dressed' (head, guts and pectoral fins removed) or 'gutted' state at-sea, or land the fish whole. Of the factory vessels, nine of them also have onboard fishmeal plants and will process most offal and bycatch species into fishmeal.

**Table 1: The number of vessels by length in the three orange roughy fisheries being assessed over the past 5 years (registered length in metres). Note that the same vessels fish in all three fisheries but not all vessels fish in all fisheries in all years.**

Fishery	2008-09			2009-10			2010-11			2011-12			2012-13		
	<30	30-40	>40	<30	30-40	>40	<30	30-40	>40	<30	30-40	>40	<30	30-40	>40
Northwest Rise	0	4	2	1	5	6	1	3	4	0	2	5	0	1	6
E & S Rise	0	3	2	0	3	4	1	2	5	0	3	4	0	2	5
ORH 7A	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	4	1	0	4	2

### Reporting

All vessels fishing in New Zealand are required to report all fish caught except those fish under a set Minimum Legal Size (MLS). There are no retained or bycatch species caught in orange roughy fisheries that have an MLS in place.

Reporting requirements are set out in the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001, most notably in section 5 and section 6. Note also, that it is illegal under the Fisheries Act 1996 to discard any species in the Quota Management System (QMS) at-sea unless the species is listed on Schedule 6, the return to the sea is recorded, and the specified conditions are met, or an MPI observer on the vessel authorises the discard.

The majority of vessels involved in the three orange roughy fisheries are trawlers greater than 28m. These vessels are required to record fishing effort and estimated catch on *Trawl Catch Effort and Processing Returns* (TCEPR) form. Some orange roughy fishing is also carried out by trawlers under 28m. These smaller vessels are required to record fishing effort on *Trawl Catch Effort Returns* (TCER) forms. These forms require reporting of effort statistics as well as estimates of catch for either the top five or the top eight species in the catch.

In all of the above cases, fishers are required to report landings for a trip on *Catch Landing Return* (CLR) form regardless of the type of return (TCEPR or TCER) upon which effort information was reported. These forms require all fish taken on a trip to be reported, including non-QMS species that were returned to the sea (discarded bycatch).

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