

23 November 2011

To: All New Zealand Seafood Exporters

**Notification of Significant Changes to Seafood Export Customs and Tariff Export Recording**  
**1 January 2012**

As from 1 January 2012, widespread changes to the international Harmonised System of Customs Classification of seafood products in international trade (HS 2012) will come into force. The changes were agreed to in the World Customs Organisation in 2009, of which New Zealand is a member.

The New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development and the New Zealand Customs Service are responsible for translating the global changes to the much more detailed New Zealand Customs Tariff. The changed to Statistical Keys will have to be used as from 1 January 2012. It is likely that continued use of the current Statistical Keys will lead to the immediate rejection of Customs Export Entries. They have yet to be posted to the Ministry of Economic Development's website, but SeaFIC has obtained a copy of the new Statistical Keys and we are providing them to ahead of time.

In total there are over 800 changes to the Customs Statistical Keys that apply to seafood exports in Chapters 3 and 16 of the Customs Tariff.

Attached is an Xcel spread sheet of three pages that we have prepared that presents the new and old keys in a variety of ways to help to guide you in making the necessary changes to your export documentation systems.

- The first is simply a listing of the current statistical keys that apply to seafood exports and what they will change to on 1 January 2012.
- The second lists a simplified product description for each of the current statistical keys followed by the new statistical keys and a simplified product description for each key that will come into force on 1 January 2012
- The third lists the new simplified product description and statistical keys arranged in line with the new revised Customs Tariff for 2012, with the current statistical keys and simplified product descriptions alongside.

The major changes at a global level that will apply to the recording of seafood exports and imports are:

1. Chilled fish fillets (0304.30 to 0304.49) are replicated in a new category of other fresh or chilled "other fish meat" (0304.51 to 0304.69). This requires the separation of chilled cuts from chilled fillets.
2. In 0302, Fish, fresh or chilled, excluding fillets, there is a new line 0302.85 for seabream at 6 digits. Exports of chilled whole, headed and gutted or other snapper should be recorded here.
3. In frozen fish fillets (0304.71 to 0304.89) trade in frozen fillet blocks will now be required at the species level as well as for frozen fillets. This has meant that minced blocks are separated from fillet blocks and associated with surimi and other fish meat (0304.93 to 0304.99).

4. There is a significant expansion of the freshwater fish species groupings to identify Tilapias, Catfish species, Carp and Nile Perch in all sections.
5. There is an expansion of the flat fish lines to include Atlantic turbot (but not NZ turbot species, which is a right eyed flounder and will continue to be recorded as other flat fish).
6. For the tunas, Atlantic and Pacific Bluefin are grouped together but Southern Bluefin Tuna is separated.
7. The small pelagics group of herrings, sardines and mackerels will now also include jack mackerels and cobia.
8. There is a more detailed grouping of the cod like species – cod, hake, haddock, pollacks, blue whittings which will also include hoki and red cod as specific NZ statistic keys. Species such as ribaldo will need to be recorded in this section as “Other”
9. The addition of skates and rays after sharks and dogfish.
10. In smoked, dried and salted fish, (0305) the explicit identification of sharkfin and offal, including such products as fins, heads and maws will be required. Freshwater fish species are more effectively segregated from marine fish and salmonids.
11. In crustaceans (0306) shrimps and prawns will be split between cold water species and all others and Norway lobster only is separated from Other Crustaceans, while all other scampi species will stay in Other Crustaceans.
12. In molluscs (0307) there is a more detailed grouping of mollusc species groups. Smoked molluscan and other aquatic vertebrae species in now to be included in 0307 rather than 1605 to align with the smoked, dried and salted fin fish grouping at 0305.
13. A new 0308 is established for other aquatic invertebrates that are not crustaceans or molluscs. Sea cucumbers, sea urchins and jelly fish are explicitly identified.

As noted, the changes are extensive. It is regrettable that the responsible Government Departments have been slow to implement the changes in a revised New Zealand Customs Tariff. SeaFIC is providing this information in an effort to enable you be ready for the changes that will be implemented at the end of this year. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely



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