

# Seafood New Zealand

# COVID-19

## Update

25 March 2020

## Guidance for New Zealand's seafood industry

Monday's announcement that New Zealand will move to level 4 status is unprecedented and will have far-reaching impacts on the country.

What is clear is that New Zealand is working quickly and decisively to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Moving to COVID level 4 effectively shuts down most businesses with the exception of those deemed to be *Essential Services*. **Those involved in food production, including the seafood sector, fall under that category.**

While this means you can continue to run your business (subject to some requirements), **it does not mean business as usual.**

Individual companies will need to provide assurance to the Government that they can operate in a manner that mitigates risk to staff. This includes at work, on breaks, travelling to and from work and demonstrating that staff are observing self-isolation protocols when not at work.

Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor and Ministry for Primary Industries director-general Ray Smith were very clear. As an essential service, you are in a privileged position by being able to continue operating. Non-compliance with risk mitigation protocols **will not be tolerated.**

Seafood New Zealand will keep you updated on any material developments and will endeavour to respond to any queries you have.

Please be mindful that this is a significant undertaking and officials are working very hard to provide you with the opportunity to continue operating. Because this situation is novel and evolving quickly, there may not yet be answers to some questions.

Please be patient.

## Seafood New Zealand

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### Registering as an essential service

Below includes important information regarding the Ministry for Primary Industries' requirements for operating as an essential service.

Information on registering as an essential service can be [viewed here](#). Registration can be [completed here](#).

Registration must be completed by **5pm, Friday 27 March 2020**.

Please refer to the [correspondence](#) from MPI director-general Ray Smith and [MPI's media release](#) for more details.

### Do you need to register?

There are a couple of simple questions operators can ask themselves before registering:

- Do you have **5 or fewer people** (including the owner) working at each business site?
- **Can you achieve social distancing measures** between staff in your workplace, including travelling to and from work?

If you answer **yes to both of those questions**, then you **do not** need to register and do not need to complete the form.

If you have filled out a form, you may continue to operate pursuant to your risk mitigation processes. **You do not need to wait for approval.**

More information is available on [MPI's website](#).

### Guidance

Seafood New Zealand is providing general guidance ([attached](#)) on how you might meet MPI's requirements.

We emphasise that this is **guidance only**. You will need to meet MPI's requirements and pay careful consideration to how, **or whether**, you can meet them.

This is not a box ticking exercise.

Both the Minister and MPI have made it clear this is about **adapting our behaviour** to combat COVID-19.

**If you cannot meet MPI's requirements, you cannot operate.** MPI will undertake verification and non-compliance will not be tolerated.

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## Related announcements:

[Beehive](#): Government statement on commercial cooperation during COVID-19

[Beehive](#): Government working to keep air freight moving

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