

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## WORKING PARTY ON TRADE IN CERTAIN NATURAL RESOURCE PRODUCTS

### Fish and Fisheries Products

#### Information Submitted by New Zealand

##### Addendum

#### New Zealand

##### (a) Quantitative restrictions

The following fish and fisheries products only are now subject to import licensing:

<u>Item code</u>	<u>Tariff item</u>	<u>Description</u>
03.005	03.02.000	Fish, dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish whether or not cooked during the smoking process
16.005	16.04.041 16.04.049	Other fish preserved in air-tight containers
16.010	16.04.001 16.05.001	Pastes of prepared or preserved fish, crustaceans and molluscs

Quotas (basic licences) exist for the above products and requests for additional licence (non-basic special licences) are considered according to the availability of domestic substitutes. It is, however, the Government's intention to reduce protection by increasing import licence allocations through a global tender scheme. In November 1984 licences were tendered to increase the level of access available to 10 per cent of the domestic market. Allocations are also to be increased annually by 5 per cent of the domestic market commencing in 1985.

Exceptions to the above régime are the products of Australia and the Forum Island nations of the South Pacific which receive preferential treatment under specific trade agreements. Most products from these sources, and all products other than those listed above, are exempt from import licensing.

Consideration is also being given at the present time to the means by which the import licensing system may eventually be removed, and tariff rates lowered across the board.

(b) Government financial assistance

There are no specific production subsidies for the fishing industry. The Government provides an annual grant to New Zealand Fishing Industry Board which undertakes market development and other advisory activities. A modest contribution is made towards experimental fisheries and fishing methods through the Fishing Industry Development Grant Fund. A bounty scheme also exists to encourage the construction of fishing (and other) vessels in New Zealand shipyards. The fishing industry may in certain individual cases be eligible for regional development assistance.

New Zealand's current export assistance measures also apply to fish and fisheries products. These are however being gradually phased out in accordance with a programme notified to the GATT Subsidies Committee (L/5603/Add.22 refers).