



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS for commercial freshwater eel fishers

This factsheet provides some general guidance about the reporting requirements for commercial freshwater eel fishers under the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001 ('the Regulations') and, where relevant, voluntary industry initiatives. This factsheet is intended to provide guidance on how to complete Freshwater Eel Catch Effort Returns (ECERs) and/or Freshwater Eel Catch Landing Returns (ECLRs) under the Regulations.

GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

You should only report eels which you are legally allowed to take on your statutory catch returns (ECERs and ECLRs), that is, generally only eels between 220 g and 4 kg.

In general, eels below 220 g should be returned to the water as soon as possible and not reported anywhere on your statutory catch returns.

Eels over 4 kg should be returned to the water as soon as possible and not reported anywhere on your statutory catch returns, but do report them on the logbook forms described below, if available.

You should report all eels between 220 g and 4 kg in your statutory catch returns, including eels in this size range that you choose to return to the water.

Please note that, for part of the year, a different size limit applies in part of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

REPORTING OF EELS GREATER THAN 4 KG

Information on the number of eels greater than 4 kg (which are not allowed to be taken under the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001) is important to assess the reproductive potential of the fishery. The South Island Eel Industry Association and the North Island's Eel Enhancement Company Ltd are using logbooks (paper or electronic), separate to your statutory catch returns, to voluntarily report eels greater than 4 kg. If you have not received a logbook to report eels greater than 4 kg, please contact your respective eel industry representative, or your licensed fish receiver.



This factsheet does not cover all the relevant reporting requirements for commercial freshwater eel fishers. It is intended as a guide only. Reporting requirements are outlined in the Regulations and explanatory notes, exemptions, waivers, authorisations and directions issued under the Regulations, where applicable. For more information about your reporting requirements please refer to the Regulations, contact FishServe or a Fishery Officer.

PLEASE NOTE:

- » Eels of less than 220 g and of more than 4 kg should generally not be reported anywhere on your ECERs or ECLRs (although eels of more than 4 kg should be reported on your logbook forms, where available).
- » Any eels of between 220 g and 4 kg returned to the water alive should be reported as part of the total estimated catch on your ECER and on your ECLR as destination code "X". These eels do not need to be reported on your Monthly Harvest Returns and therefore are not balanced with Annual Catch Entitlement.
- » All fish reported in the ECLR should correspond to fish reported in the ECER.

FOR EXAMPLE:

John Smith fished for freshwater eels and:

- » On the 1st of the month he lifted 25 fyke nets in statistical area AA (Northland) and caught:
 - about 5 kg of shortfin eels and longfin eels of less than 220 g;
 - about 90 kg of shortfin eels between 220 g and 4 kg (he chose to return about 10 kg of these to the water);
 - about 45 kg of longfin eels between 220 g and 4 kg (he chose to return about 15 kg of these to the water);
 - about 10 kg of longfin eels greater than 4 kg (which were returned to the water as required);
- » He placed all the retained catch in a holding net in the water on the 1st of the month. When he landed the retained catch to a licensed fish receiver on the 2nd of the month, it turns out he actually had 85 kg of shortfin eels and 32 kg of longfin eels.

The section of John Smith's ECER corresponding to this catch should look as follows:

Date gear was lifted	Eel statistical area	Number of fyke nets, eel pots, or fish traps lifted*	Estimate (by fisher) of catch of eels	
			SFE	LFE
01	AA	25	90 .0 kg	45 .0 kg

All eels between 220 g and 4 kg, including those which John later chose to return to the water.

And the section of his ECLR corresponding to this catch should look as follows:

Date of landing	Fish stock		Estimate (by permit holder or fisher) of greenweight	Destination type	Complete these 3 columns only for fish that were disposed of to a licensed fish receiver		
	Species code	Area			Licensed fish receiver's client number	Greenweight when advised by the LFR	Tax invoice number when advised by the LFR
01	SFE	20	10 .0 kg	X			
01	LFE	20	15 .0 kg	X			
01	SFE	20	80 .0 kg	P			
01	LFE	20	30 .0 kg	P			
02	SFE	20	80 .0 kg	L	1234567	85 .0 kg	12345
02	LFE	20	30 .0 kg	L	1234567	32 .0 kg	12345

Eels between 220 g and 4 kg that John chose to return to the water.