



16 June 2020

### **COVID-19 Statement for New Zealand Seafood Industry Exporters**

The following is for New Zealand seafood exporters to share with their importers and distributors.

In relation to recent media reports following new cases of COVID-19 in Beijing, there have been some references to findings of the virus on a cutting board used in a wholesale market, and therefore some tenuous links to imported salmon.

The New Zealand Seafood Standards Council would like to reiterate that there has been no official information released regarding the source of these recent cases. Any links to salmon or any other seafood product are premature and speculation should be avoided.

The New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre has and continues to review the latest research and information available. To date there is no evidence of foodborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2. There are no known cases of COVID-19 infection transmitted through contaminated food or water sources. Seafood product from New Zealand is safe to eat.

<https://www.nzfssrc.org.nz/covid19>

New Zealand has responded quickly and proactively implementing protocols to manage COVID-19 and continues to maintain border controls to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19. New Zealand maintains a strong regulatory programme that requires all New Zealand aquaculture farmers (including salmon farmers), fishers and processors to implement strict hygiene and contamination control measures.

The New Zealand Seafood Standards Council would like to reassure New Zealand's commitment to providing safe work environments for staff and to producing safe seafood amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.