

20-D-00119

20 February 2020

s 9(2)(a)

Solicitor

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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 28 January 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. We request any official information held in relation to assessments of the financial value of the foreshore and seabed/common marine and coastal area, including Crown and other minerals, ironsands, and including the use of that area, including for marine farming.*
- 2. We request any official information held in relation to money generated by Regional or other Councils which comes as a result of any part of their role in assessing resource consent applications, including application fees, license fees, and administration costs. Where possible we ask for information which shows that detail in relation to the coastal area from the high tide mark out into the marine area.*

On 3 February 2020, Matt Adams, Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry for the Environment, called and discussed your request given its wide scope. An email was sent the same day that contained links to known publicly available information, identified agencies that will be more closely connected with parts of your request, and sought confirmation of the refined scope. Confirmation was received on 4 February 2020 as being the following:

We request any reports held, or advice provided to Ministers, on assessments of the financial value of the foreshore and seabed/common marine area in the last 20 years.

A search of electronic and paper records found no documents within the scope of your request. The Ministry for the Environment has identified one document that has similarities to the information you have requested and may be of use to you. This document is entitled *Ecosystems goods and services in marine protected areas (MPAs)*, and was published by the Department of Conservation in 2014 (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/sfc326entire.pdf>).

Although this document does not contain a financial valuation of the entire foreshore and seabed/common marine area, it estimates the ecosystem goods and services value per year for New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (which includes the foreshore and seabed/common marine area), a marine mammal sanctuary, and five marine reserves. The "provisioning services" aspect of the valuation may serve as a useful proxy of financial value for these defined areas.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Wigley
Director, Natural and Built System (Marine)

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982