



Minister/Maker Statement of Reasons: Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2026

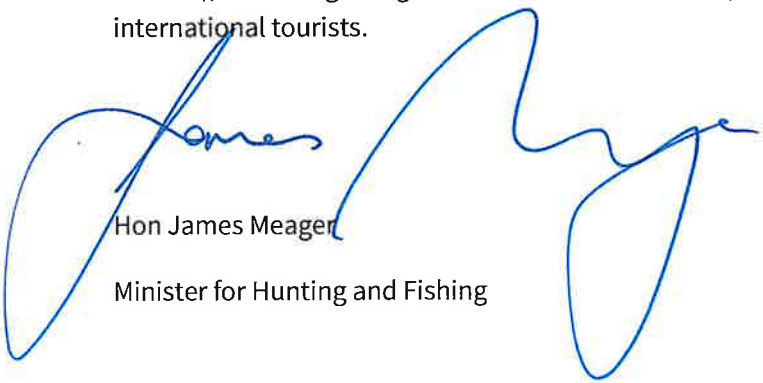
This document fulfils the requirements of section 14(1)(b) of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 to briefly explain the Government's reasons for any inconsistency with the principles of responsible regulation identified in the Department of Conservation's Consistency Accountability Statement.

Minister/maker name and title	Hon James Meager, Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Portfolio	Hunting and Fishing
Date finalised	26 August 2026

Statement of Reasons

The Notice allows every natural person to purchase a fishing licence but distinguishes between certain classes of licence holder for the purposes of licence eligibility and pricing. The Notice is therefore inconsistent with section 9(a)(iii) of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025.

Distinctions are based on age, family composition, and residency status. The distinctions reflect sensible longstanding Fish and Game policy objectives such as encouraging youth participation in sports fishing and supporting intergenerational participation, encouraging participation among people with lower incomes (such as young people and senior citizens), and recognising the value of New Zealand sports fishing experiences for international tourists.



Hon James Meager

Minister for Hunting and Fishing