Media release

For immediate use

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Three of New Zealand's biggest seafood companies are stating publicly that they support cameras on fishing vessels. Moana, Sanford and Sealord between them hold just over 40% of New Zealand fishing quota and operate across New Zealand waters in deepwater and inshore fishing.

They have long supported cameras and have all taken part in various trials with on-board cameras.

Sanford CEO Volker Kuntzsch says the 140 year old New Zealand company is a big believer in transparency.

"We have trialled cameras ourselves and are currently part of the Government's camera programme on the West Coast of the North Island. Yes, there are issues that need to be worked through including around the technology, but we take the positive view that this can be done."

Moana CEO Steve Tarrant says all of Moana's full-time contract trawlers have been carrying cameras for the last seven years.

"We want people to know that what we say is happening out there on our vessels is what's happening. However, with these types of paradigm shifts consideration for all stakeholder concerns need to be resolved and addressed before a compulsory roll out is enforced. "

Chief Operations Officer at Sealord Doug Paulin says the company is in full support of measures that provide increased transparency.

"We are proud of our seagoing people and we know that they do the right thing on our fishing vessels. There are a number of complexities that we are working through however we don't see these as insurmountable," Paulin says.

"We're also aware that there are many other fishing operators who share our view and are in full support of cameras on boats."

All three operators believe there needs to be financial support for operators who will not be able to afford the cost of the cameras themselves, nor the cost of monitoring and data storage, which are likely to be the most expensive part of any industry-wide camera programme. But the message from all three is that cameras on fishing vessels have their support.

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Sanford Ltd

Sanford is New Zealand's oldest and largest seafood company - we have been listed on the New Zealand stock market since 1924. We are focused on sustainability and on maximising the value of the resources we gather from our oceans, enabling long term value creation from oceans teeming with life. Sanford sites can be found in eleven locations around New Zealand and we are a team of 1600 staff and sharefishers across the country. We are committed to innovation: we have a team of scientists whose mission is to find new ways to make the most of the life-enhancing properties of seafood, from anti-inflammatory supplements to skin-nurturing collagen.

Sealord

Established in 1961, in Nelson, Sealord is half owned by the Maori people of New Zealand, through Moana New Zealand (Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd), and half owned by global seafood company Nippon Suisan Kaisha, Ltd (Nissui). Sealord is one of the largest quota holders in New Zealand with partners and subsidiaries around the world though Nissui's global links. In Australia, we own Sealord King Reef, a barramundi farm in Queensland, and Petuna Aquaculture, a Salmon and Ocean Trout business in Tasmania. Sealord employs more than 1,100 people in New Zealand and overseas.

About Moana New Zealand

Moana New Zealand has been built through the collective efforts of many and is the country's largest lwi-owned fishing company. Iwi are the true guardians of the world's most pristine and sustainably managed fisheries. Moana New Zealand has a deep sense of responsibility to all people and respect for kaimoana and kia ora, and is dedicated to contributing to the wellbeing of future generations. Established as part of a settlement with the crown, profits are returned to Māori in the form of a dividend for their own initiatives like health and education. Our assets can never be sold.