



Quarterly report of swamp kauri activity

1 October 2016 – 30 December 2016

Swamp kauri, also known as ancient kauri, is kauri timber that has been buried and preserved in what used to be swamps for anywhere between 800 and 60,000 years.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for regulating the milling and export of swamp kauri under the Forests Act 1949 (“the Act”). More information on the management of swamp kauri can be found at:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/forest-products/wood-and-wood-products/swamp-kauri>

This report summarises MPI's swamp kauri milling and export regulatory activities in the fourth quarter of 2016 (1 October 2016 – 30 December 2016).



Milling controls

All indigenous timber - including swamp kauri - can only be milled by sawmills registered with MPI. MPI regularly inspects registered sawmills which are required to report their milling activity every quarter. All swamp kauri must also have an approved *milling statement* from MPI before it can be milled at a registered sawmill.

Table 1: Milling statements issued 1 October 2016 – 30 December 2016

Milling statement #	Timber source	Region	volume
7-00-02585	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	7.0 m ³
7-00-02588 ¹	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	100.00 m ³
7-00-02592	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	6.0 m ³
7-00-02593	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	3.0 m ³
7-00-02597	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	7.0 m ³
7-00-02621	Non-indigenous forest land	Northland	20.0 m ³
			143.00 m³

¹. This replaces 7-00-01969 which expired, but is not a renewal as some information has changed. In particular, the volume estimate has been reduced.

Site inspections

Responsibility for managing the extraction of swamp kauri rests with Regional and District Councils, under the Resource Management Act. However, as part of the evidence required when applying for a milling statement or for export approval, MPI inspects all new notified sites before and after extraction activities.

Table 2: Inspections of notified swamp kauri extraction sites, 1 October – 30 December 2016.

Total Sites	1
Total Inspections	1
Pre-extraction	0*
Mid-extraction	1
Post-extraction	0**

* The only currently active site had a pre-extraction inspection conducted prior to this quarter.

** All other extraction sites had post-extraction inspections conducted prior to this quarter.

Export controls

Swamp kauri can only be exported as either a finished product or, if it isn't from indigenous forest land, as whole or sawn stumps or roots. Indigenous timber export controls are set out in Section 67C of the Act.

Table 3: Notified swamp kauri export consignments for 1 October 2016 – 30 December 2016

Destination	Number of exports approved	Number of export inspections	Volume exported
Italy	1	1	8.65 m ³
China	4	5	69.208 m ³
USA	1	1	0.2 m ³
Holland	2	3	1.76 m ³
Totals			79.818 m³

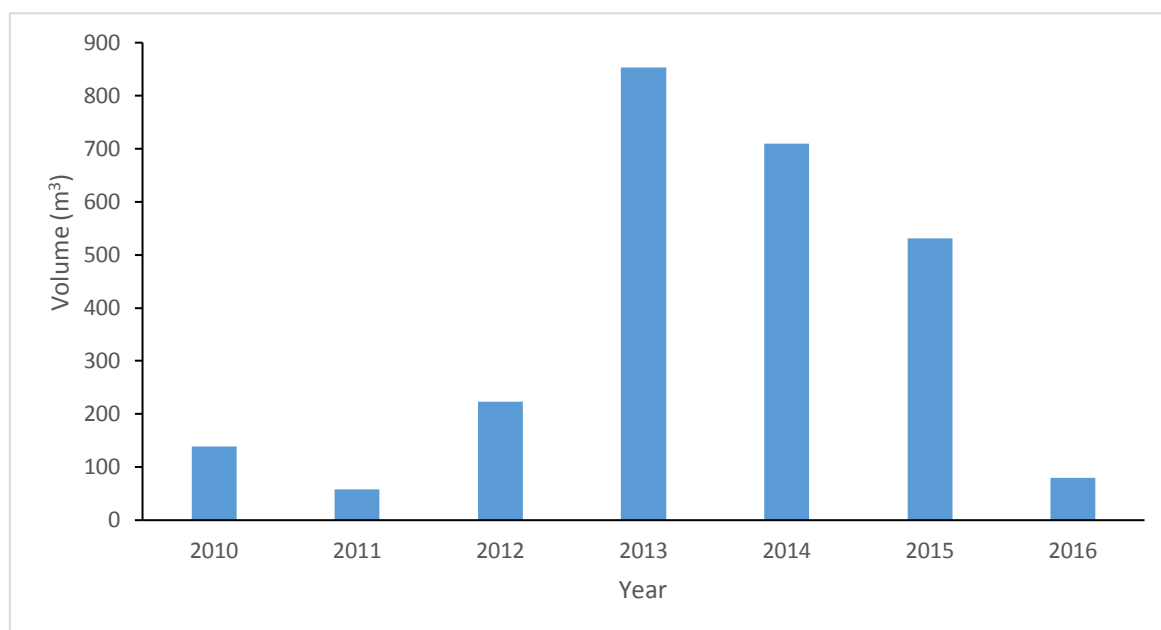


Figure 1: Swamp kauri export volumes for Quarter 4 (1 October – 30 December), 2010 – 2016.



Annual summary of swamp kauri activity

1 January 2016 – 30 December 2016

This section presents summary information on the 2016 year and on historic swamp kauri activities. Two reports were commissioned this year as part of the Auditor-General's recommendations: The volume and distribution of the swamp kauri resource in Northland; understanding the scientific value of swamp kauri; a report on the cultural and heritage values of swamp kauri. These are expected to be completed in January 2017.

MPI appreciates the cooperation of vigilant members of public and of the Industry in helping to ensure that New Zealand law is upheld and our values are protected.

Milling controls

A total of 30 milling statements were issued in 2016, totalling 2583.1m³. Of these, 8 or 1853.1m³ were re-issues of expired milling statements.

A total of 157 sawmills registered for the 2016-17 financial year; 30 of these are in Northland.

This year, MPI was notified of a registered mill milling unapproved indigenous timber. This was investigated and resulted in a written warning being issued to the miller.

MPI also referred two cases to our compliance directorate for investigation into the milling of swamp kauri at unregistered mills. These investigations have not yet concluded.

Site inspections

MPI observed good uptake of our introduced voluntary measures with 19 pre-extraction inspections conducted in 2016 (95% of new extraction sites). One site was not pre-notified and resulted in the requirements for MPI milling or export approval not being satisfied.

A total of 70 inspections were conducted in 2016, across 25 sites.

Export controls

In 2016, the largest total volume of swamp kauri exports went to Taiwan (337m³), followed by China (258m³; see Figure 1.).

While there was a marked decrease in exports to China, down from 2596m³, exports to other countries increased by 253% (Figure 2.). This was due to the increased export volume to Taiwan (Figure 3.).

Overall, the annual total of swamp kauri exports were down 76% to 668m³ (Figure 4.).

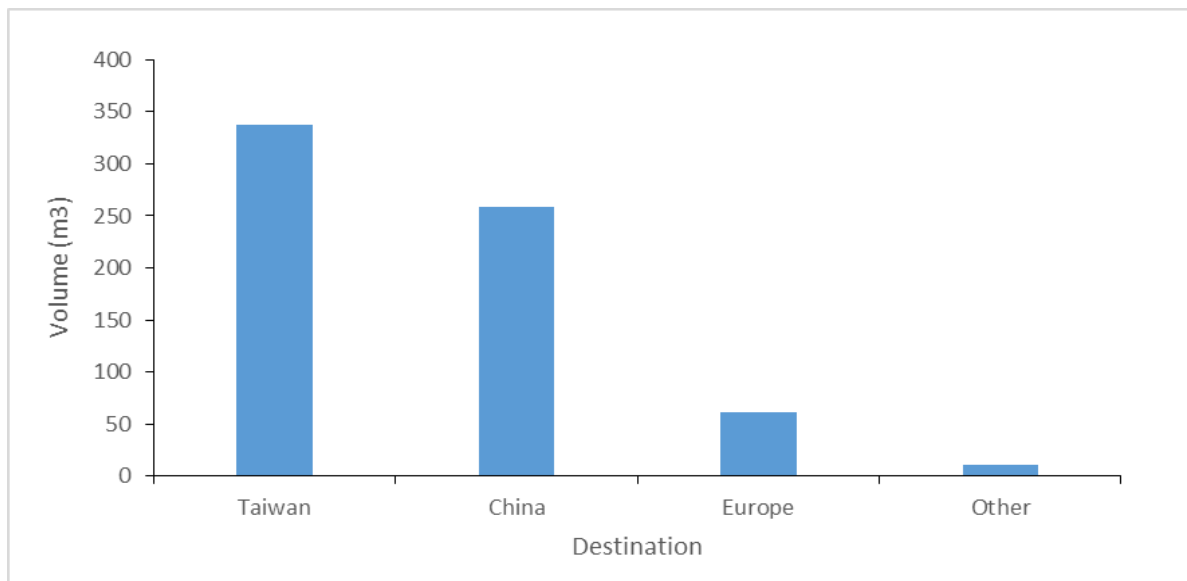


Figure 1: Total export volume by Destination for 2016

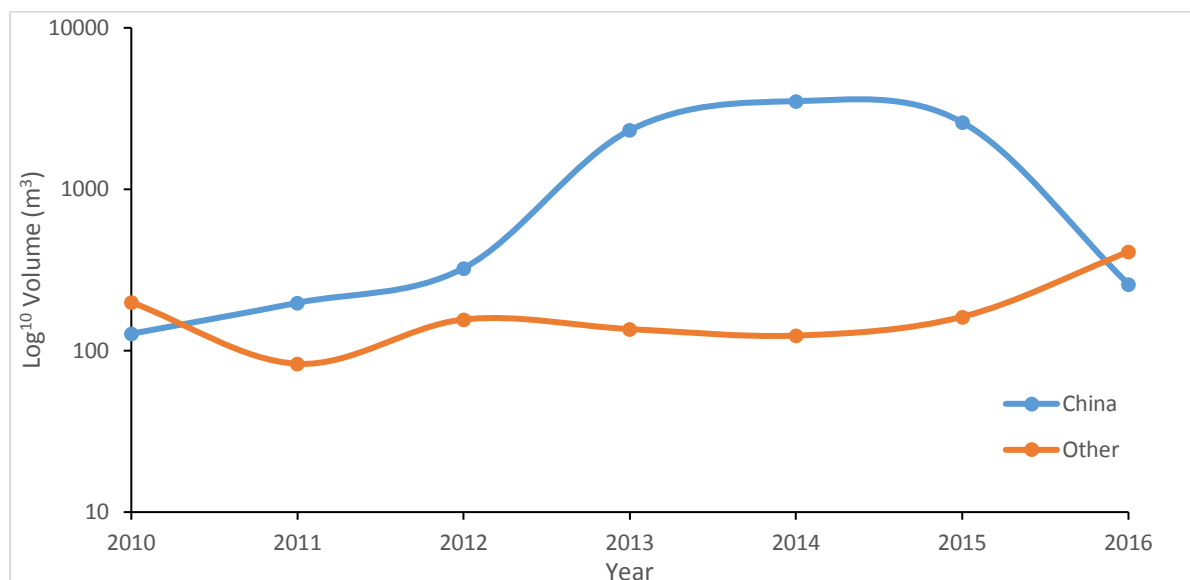


Figure 2: Annual swamp kauri export volumes, China vs. Rest of World 2010 – 2016.

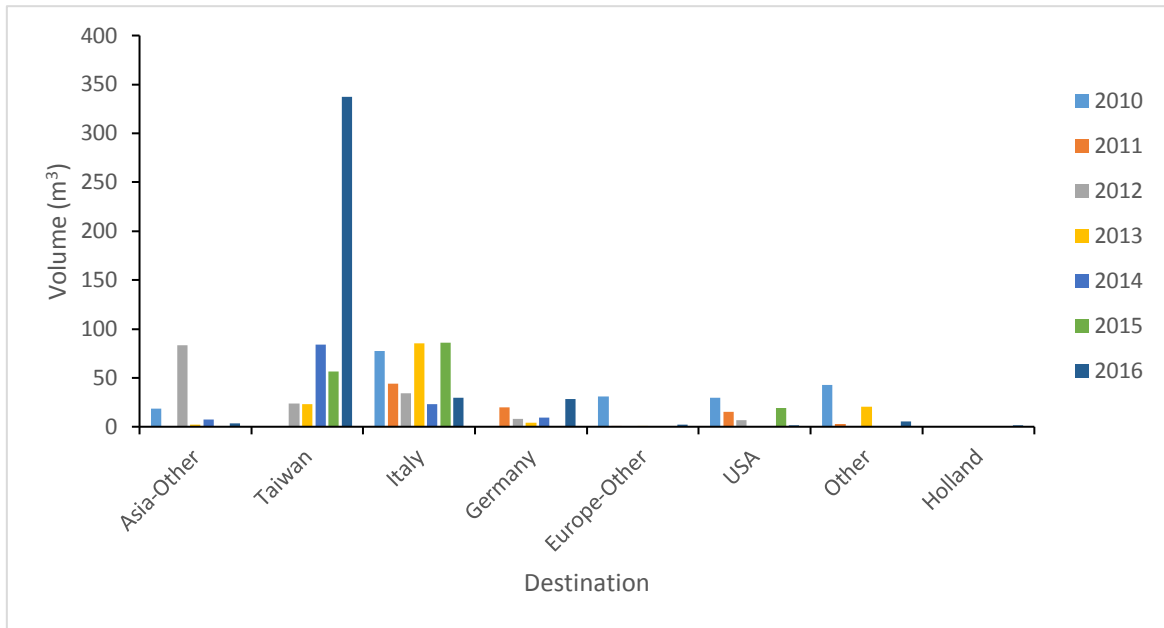


Figure 3: Annual swamp kauri export destinations, 2010 – 2016: excluding China.

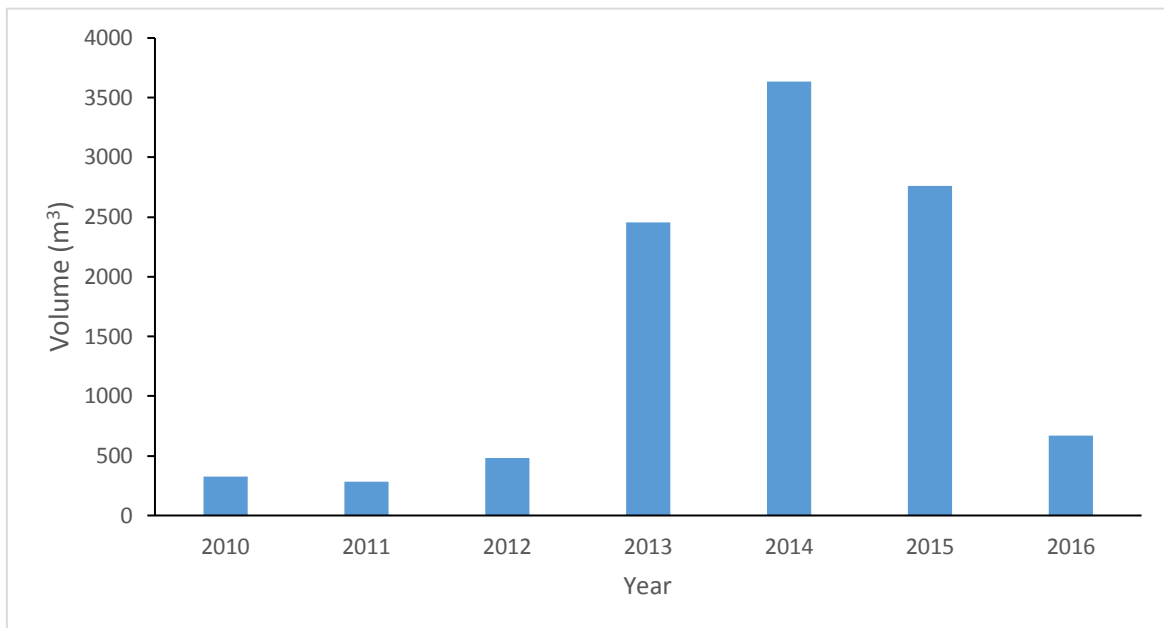


Figure 4: Annual swamp kauri export volumes, 2010 – 2016.

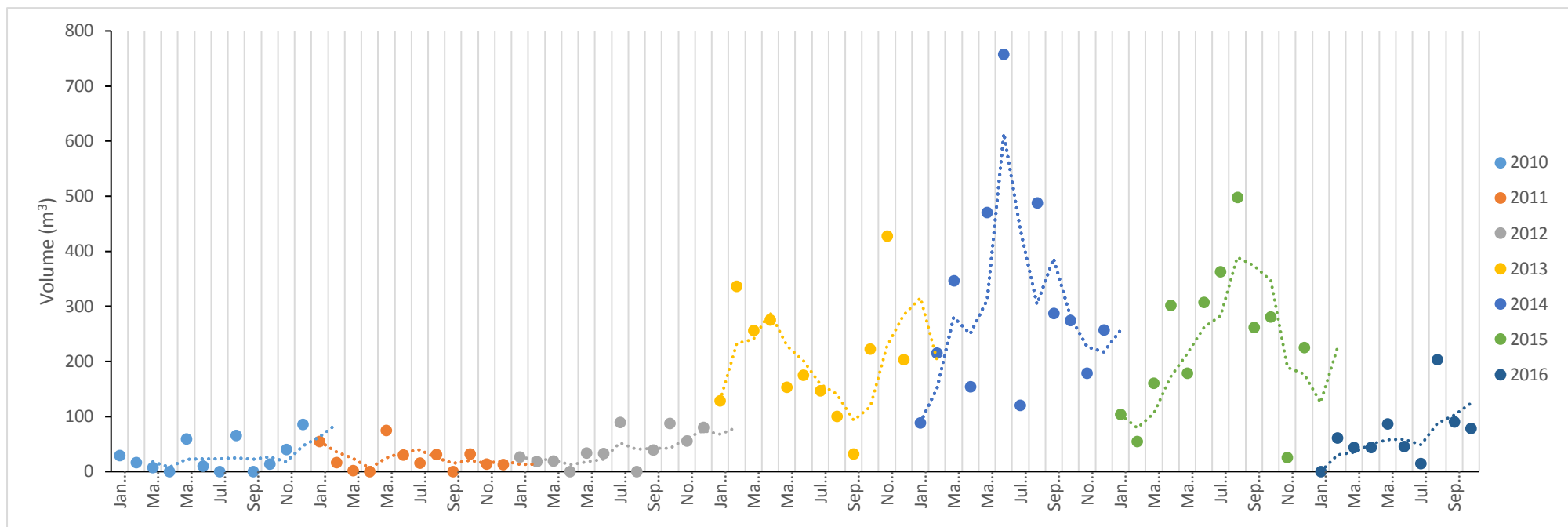


Figure 5: Monthly swamp kauri export volumes, 2010 – 2016 (trend: three point moving average).