



Quarterly report of swamp kauri activity

1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017

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 first quarter of 2017 (1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017).



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 January – 31 March 2017

Milling statement #	Timber source	Region	Volume
7-00-02595 ¹	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	3,600 m ³
7-00-02626 ²	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	200 m ³
7-00-02638	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	48 m ³
7-00-02652	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	40 m ³
7-00-02654	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	20 m ³
7-00-02663 ³	Not indigenous forest land	Northland	7 m ³
			3,915 m³

¹. This approval is for timber extracted historically.

². This is a renewal of 7-00-00916; no timber was milled under the previous milling statement.

³. This approval is for timber extracted from the same property and as part of the same operation as that approved under 7-00-02652.

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.

All sites active this quarter were inspected by MPI.

Table 2: Inspections of notified swamp kauri extraction sites, 1 January – 31 March 2017.

Total Sites	3
Total Inspections	6
Pre-extraction	2
Mid-extraction	3
Post-extraction	1

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 January – 31 March 2017

Destination	Number of exports approved	Number of export inspections	Volume exported
China	2	2	58.497 m ³
Total			58.497 m³

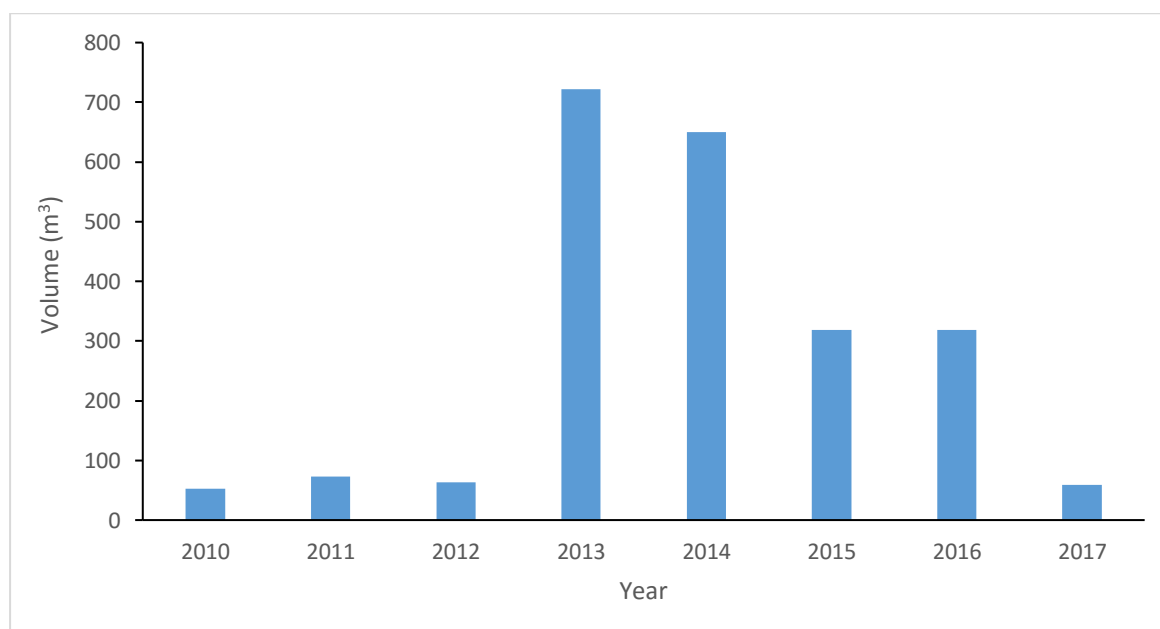


Figure 1: Swamp kauri export volumes for Quarter 1 (1 January – 31 March), 2010 – 2016.



Recent swamp kauri news

Swamp Kauri Judicial Review Findings

The Judge's findings in the judicial review of MPI's decision making under the Forests Act 1949 have been released. The Judge found in favour of the processes and interpretations used by MPI in making export decisions under the Forests Act, and did not make the declaratory statements being sought. The findings can be found here:

http://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/cases/northland-environmental-protection-society-inc-v-ministry-of-primary-industries/@_@images/fileDecision

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.

MPI- commissioned swamp kauri reports

Based on suggestions made by the Auditor-General in 2015, MPI commissioned the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to map the volume and distribution of swamp kauri across Northland. MPI also commissioned a report from NIWA on the scientific value of swamp kauri, and a separate report from Extent Heritage Ltd to explore the cultural and heritage value of swamp kauri.

The first report provides a comprehensive assessment of Northland's swamp kauri resource, concluding that between 50% and 70% of Northland's swamp kauri remains unearthed. The other reports have found that swamp kauri holds significant value for New Zealanders, due to its age, appearance, and its cultural properties. They also highlight swamp kauri's scientific value, particularly in the field of climate change research. The reports can be found here:

<https://mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-producing/forestry/indigenous-forestry/swamp-kauri/>

MPI will continue to maintain a high level of regulatory oversight of swamp kauri, including voluntary measures for industry.

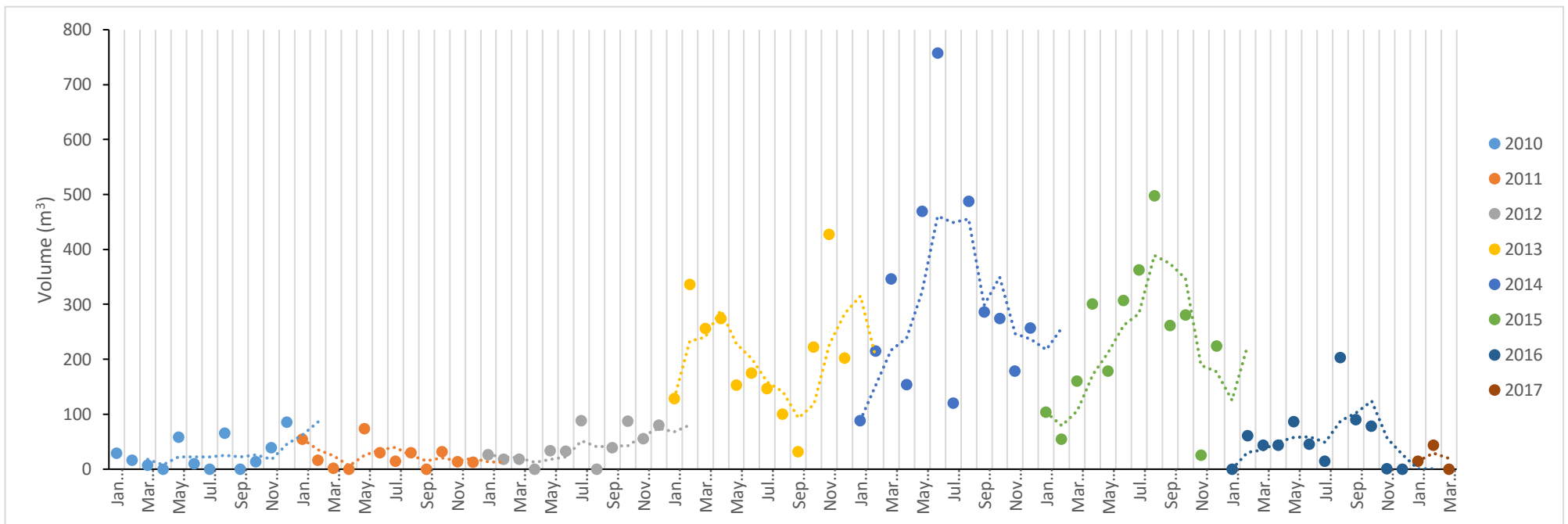


Figure 2: Monthly swamp kauri export volumes, 2010 – 2017 (trend: three point moving average).