

Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee

Dee Wallace
Fisheries New Zealand
Pastoral House
25 The Terrace
PO Box 2526
WELLINGTON 6140

18 May 2018

Tēnā koe Dee,

Extension of the 186B Temporary Closure 'rāhui' – Waiopuka, Kaikōura

Due to the expiry of the existing 186B temporary closure for Waiopuka (refer to the yellow area in Map 1 below) timed for July this year, this letter, on behalf of Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee, is to request a rollover of the s186B until July 2019, in order to:

- (a) Replenishing the stocks of the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed in the area concerned; and
- (b) Assist in recognising and making provision for the use and management practices of tāngata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights (in particular to support Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure).

As the Ministry is aware, Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Committee has only recently recommended a section 297 regulatory management measure for this area. As it will take a number of months to get this new s297 taiāpure regulations in place, we need to ensure that the rāhui area has some form of legal protection in place in the interim to make sure its productive capacity is not undermined by opening it up for harvesting to the general public, hence this request to again roll-over the rāhui.

As you are aware, this area is a kōhanga/nursery ground. Surveys conducted by Te Tiaki Mahinga Kai in May 2017 indicate that the densities of pāua in the rāhui were relatively low. It was noted that for species with a free-spawning reproductive strategy, like pāua, low densities can result in limited fertilisation success – known as a population allee effect. For pāua, densities of less than 1 per m² may be sufficient to cause this allee effect. The densities of pāua in the rāhui were significantly below 1 per m². Other important mahinga kai species are present in low densities also.

Recent MPI-funded monitoring by the University of Canterbury and the Cawthron Institute has documented the importance of this area for the post-earthquake replenishment of seaweed and shellfish stocks representative of the species assemblages of the north side of Kaikōura Peninsula. As such, a s186B 'rāhui' over this kōhanga area will serve as an earthquake recovery tool – operating as a refuge for ecosystem and species recovery.



Further, the use of such tools to support the implementation of Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure, will recognise and make provision for the use and management practices of tāngata whenua (i.e. rāhui) in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights.

The rāhui can also serve as a 'customary management' education area to support better understanding of customary approaches and practices for building resilient marine ecosystems. Such a use will support the desire of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (Te Korowai) to make Kaikōura a focal area for oceanic research.

The extension of a rāhui at Waiopuka, will also support the commitment from Ngāti Kuri, supported by Te Korowai's Strategy, that the peninsula Taiāpure will contain one or more generational, no-take rāhui.

I hope I have explained things clearly, let me know if you need anything further.

Nāhaku noa, nā



Sir Mark Solomon
Chairman, Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee

Map 1 – Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure with the s186B rāhui

