



Office of Hon Nathan Guy

MP for Otaki

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

B14-620

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Tēnā koutou

Decision on Customary Regulations for the Tītī/Muttonbird Islands

This letter outlines the Government's decision on a proposal to make regulations providing for customary non-commercial fishing by restricting commercial fishing in 31 areas around the Tītī/Muttonbird Islands. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu requested the regulations on behalf of the islands' birding community.

The Government has decided to amend the Fisheries (Southland and Sub-Antarctic Areas Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986 to:

- prohibit the commercial harvest of kina and paua in 25 areas;
- prohibit the commercial harvest of kina, alone, in 5 areas; and
- prohibit the commercial harvest of paua, kina and rock lobster in 1 area.

Members of the birding community are tangata whenua of the islands. The community traditionally gathers kaimoana, particularly shellfish, while on the islands for the tītī harvest. The Government has decided to make these regulations to recognise and provide for this customary food gathering and the special relationship between the Titi Islands birding community and the areas.

The Government noted that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu developed its proposal in consultation with commercial fishing industry to minimise impacts on commercial fishing. The Government is satisfied that significant impacts on commercial fishers are unlikely.

The Government is satisfied that existing regulations do not adequately provide for the birding community's customary fishing needs. Additionally, the large number of isolated small scale areas mean that management using other tools is not appropriate.

The Ministry for Primary Industries will make available copies of the final advice and details of the location of the new closed areas.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries