



Office of Hon Nathan Guy

MP for Otaki

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Racing

B14-054

28 MAY 2015

Dear Stakeholder

Decisions on proposed West Coast South Island marine protected areas

This letter outlines the Government's decisions on a proposal to establish three areas on the West Coast South Island as marine protected areas. The proposal arose out of the recommendations of the West Coast Marine Protection Forum and decisions of the then Ministers of Conservation, and Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2011.

The Government has decided to amend the Fisheries (Challenger Area Commercial Fishing) Regulations 1986 to prohibit Danish seining, bottom trawling and dredging in the areas which border the Hautai and Punakaiki Marine Reserves (see attached maps). The regulations will establish the areas as marine protected areas.

Prohibiting these mobile, bottom-impacting commercial fishing methods will provide protection for benthic (sea bed) habitats in the areas. The Government considers that this will help ensure the long-term maintenance of biodiversity in the areas without significant impact or cost for fishers or other users.

The Government would like to thank the West Coast Marine Protection Forum for its hard work consulting with the local community, assessing and developing options for marine protection on the West Coast. These regulations and the establishment of the three new marine protected areas are a significant milestone for the Forum's work.

The Government is committed to fostering a collaborative approach to ensure the effective protection of New Zealand's marine environment. The new marine protected areas will add 9557 hectares of the Territorial Sea to New Zealand's marine protected area network and help to meet our commitments to protect biodiversity.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries