



13 FEB 2020

OIA20-0008

Trish Rea  
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Dear Trish Rea

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 8 January 2020 relating to advice provided to the Minister of Fisheries Hon. Stuart Nash on the temporary fishing closure at Te Mata and Waipatukahu.

Under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) Fisheries New Zealand is releasing the requested advice: B19-0718: Proposed Te Mata and Waipatukahu Temporary Closure – 19 December 2019.

As mentioned to you on 8 January 2020, the Minister of Fisheries was given the option of a six month or two year closure to the harvesting of pipi, cockles and mussels. A six-month closure will provide time for Fisheries New Zealand and Ngāti Tamaterā, to progress work on longer term measures to provide for the sustainable utilisation of these fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries decided on a six month closure, effective from 10 January 2020 to 9 July 2020.

Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) – *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – *to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty*

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to withhold some information.

Yours sincerely

Shelton Harley  
**Acting Director Fisheries Management**

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