

An MPA network for the South-East Coast of the South Island: Fishing Industry Proposal

The inshore commercial fishing sector is developing a proposed MPA network in response to the consultation currently being undertaken by the South-East Marine Protection Forum. We urge all like-minded parties to reflect this proposal in your own submissions. By putting forward a credible and well-supported alternative MPA network, we hope to implement an MPA network that protects the region's marine biodiversity and sustains our fisheries so that they can continue to be used and valued by the region's communities.

The Proposal

The inshore fishing industry supports a network of five MPAs which, in combination with existing protection, provide clear marine biodiversity protection benefits. The five proposed MPAs are:

MPA (A) Tuhawaiki to Pareroa	Type 2 MPA implemented under the Fisheries Act, with prohibitions on bottom trawling and dredging (Danish seining already prohibited)
MPA (B) Waitaki Coastal (excluding the extension)	Type 1 MPA (marine reserve) in which all fishing is prohibited
MPA (D) Pleasant River to Stony Creek (excluding the estuaries and offshore extension)	Type 1 MPA (marine reserve) in which all fishing is prohibited
MPA (G) Bryozoan bed	Type 2 MPA implemented under the Fisheries Act, with prohibitions on bottom trawling, dredging and Danish seining
MPA (H) Papanui canyon	Type 1 MPA (marine reserve) in which all fishing is prohibited

The proposed MPA network complements the existing marine habitat protection provided by seven mātaītai reserves that are geographically dispersed across the region. Mātaītai reserves are established for customary fisheries management purposes but, because of their restrictions, contribute to habitat protection and are therefore an essential consideration when designing a representative MPA network.

Together the five proposed MPAs represent nine regional habitat types and two sensitive habitats (bryozoans and *Macrocystis* beds). Along with the habitats in existing mātaītai reserves, 23 regional habitat types, two sensitive habitats and one additional habitat would be under some form of protection within the region. All 26 habitat types would be represented in areas in which all commercial fishing was prohibited. The number of habitats that would be protected is actually the same as in the 20 new MPAs proposed in the Forum's consultation document, but with far less impact on marine user groups.

Some of the MPAs are likely to adversely affect commercial, recreational and customary fishing but we have sought to minimise these impacts as far as possible. We encourage submitters to join us in recommending that measures be put in place to address any displaced fishing effort so as to ensure fisheries sustainability. Should you support this proposed network, please make a submission reflecting your own views about why these five areas should be taken forward and the impacts and disadvantages of additional MPAs.

Further information

If you have any questions or feedback or if you would like more details on the analysis that underpins the industry's proposed network, please contact one of the industry representatives below.

Carol Scott 027 4536602	Simon Gilmour 027 4330335	Storm Stanley 027 6531073	Mark Edwards 022 4304347	Nici Gibbs 027 4921273
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------