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2 December 2020

## **Submission in support for a temporary closure at Waimarama, Hawkes Bay to the harvest of blackfoot pāua**

### **NZ Sport Fishing Council - LEGASEA**

1. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) is a national sports organisation with over 36,200 affiliated members from 55 clubs nationwide. The Council has initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support for the need to restore access to abundant fishstocks in our inshore marine environment. Also, to broaden NZSFC involvement in marine management advocacy, research, education and alignment. LegaSea Hawkes Bay actively participates in a range of forums in an effort to reduce human impacts on the marine environment and enhance fish stocks for the benefit of current and future generations. On behalf of our members and LegaSea supporters, we are “the submitters”. [www.legasea.co.nz](http://www.legasea.co.nz)
2. The submitters have previously supported s186A Fisheries Act (1996) fishing closure applications around the motu where there has been a clear purpose to restore abundance and productivity of the marine environment.
3. Our representatives are available to discuss this submission in more detail if required. We look forward to positive outcomes from this process. We would like to be kept informed of future developments. Our contact is Helen Pastor [secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzsportfishing.org.nz).

### **Submission**

4. The submitters support the application by Ngāi Hapū o Waimarama for a two-year closure of fisheries waters at Waimarama, Hawkes Bay to the harvest of blackfoot pāua under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996. Advice was received on 5 November with submissions due by 2 December 2020.
5. The submitters acknowledge Ngāi Hapū o Waimarama in their efforts to replenish the pāua stock in the area so they can increase in number and size. A healthy pāua population contributes to the resilience of the marine ecosystem. We also acknowledge advice from people familiar with the area that there are reasonable numbers of pāua in some areas.
6. The submitters acknowledge local concerns that the displacement of effort may mean an increase in pāua gathering in areas adjacent to the temporarily closed area. This is a valid

concern that needs to be addressed. We recommend Fisheries New Zealand facilitate conversations between mana whenua and the wider community to ensure that people understand the importance of the temporary closure and the potential need to reduce overall harvest levels in the Pāua 2 fish stock.