



23 March 2021

Request for temporary fishing closure of the scallop fishery along the eastern Coromandel coast.

The purpose of this letter is to consult with you on a request by Ngāti Hei Trust for a two-year long closure of the eastern Coromandel scallop fishery.

As part of the required consultation process, Fisheries New Zealand has published a notice in the *Waikato Times* on **Tuesday 23 March 2021** and will publish a further notice in the *Mercury Bay Informer* on **Tuesday, 30 March 2021**, calling for written submissions on the request from persons who have an interest in the species concerned or the effects of fishing in the area concerned.

The request is made under s186A of the Fisheries Act 1996. Section 186A provides that the Minister of Fisheries may temporarily close an area in respect of any species of fish, aquatic life or seaweed. Before doing so, the Minister must be satisfied that closing the area will recognise and provide for the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights by:

- improving the availability or size (or both) of a species of fish, aquatic life or seaweed; or
- recognising a customary fishing practice in that area.

Temporary closures prohibit customary, recreational, and commercial fishing.

Ngāti Hei consider that a temporary closure will recognise and provide for the customary management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of their non-commercial fishing rights and assist scallop stocks in the area to regenerate.

If you would like to make a submission on the request, please email your submission to FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz. The closing date for submissions is **5pm, Monday, 17 May 2021**

A detailed map of the proposed area is attached. The map is also available on the Fisheries New Zealand website (www.mpi.govt.nz/fisheriesnz), or by contacting Fisheries New Zealand at the above address.

Note, that any submission you make becomes public information. People can ask for copies of submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we have to make submissions available unless we have a good reason for withholding it. That is explained in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

Tell us if you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission. Reasons might include that it's commercially sensitive or it's personal information. However, any decision Fisheries New Zealand makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may tell us to release it.

Yours sincerely

Blake Abernethy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RBA Abernethy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Team Manager, Spatial Planning and Allocations