



Tēnā koutou

**Proposal to reopen the Kaikōura coastline to pāua and kina fishing**

I write to inform you of decisions I have made on a proposal from the Kaikoura Marine Guardians (the Guardians) to reopen the Kaikōura coastline to pāua fishing, and also to kina fishing.

As a result of the November 2016 Kaikōura earthquakes, the coastline between Marfells Beach/Cape Campbell to Conway River has been closed to commercial and recreational fishing of most shellfish and seaweeds, including pāua and kina. Scientific monitoring shows that pāua biomass has recovered to the point where limited harvesting opportunities can now be considered.

As recommended by the Guardians, I have agreed to reopen the Kaikoura Marine Area, and also the area north to Marfells Beach/Cape Campbell, to commercial and recreational pāua fishing (blackfoot pāua) for an initial three-month period from 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022.

During this period the fishery will be closely monitored through in-water surveys, an independent survey of recreational pāua catch, and fine-scale electronic monitoring of commercial catch. This information will be reviewed by Fisheries New Zealand in collaboration with the Guardians, tangata whenua, and recreational and commercial stakeholders in March-April 2022 to consider a more permanent reopening and any additional management measures required.

In the interim, a daily limit of five pāua per person will apply to recreational fishing, along with the current minimum legal-size limit of 125mm shell length. The five customary management areas (mātaitai reserves and taiāpure) along the Kaikoura coastline will remain closed to both commercial and recreational pāua fishing pending further consideration by tangata whenua and the relevant management committees.

I have also decided to reopen the wider area to kina fishing from 1 December 2021. There is evidence that kina populations can sustain harvesting again and reopening this fishery is supported by both iwi and recreational fishers.

More information on the rationale for my decisions can be found on the consultations section on the Fisheries New Zealand website ([www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)).

Finally, I would like to thank the Guardians for their advice, and for the input and support of tangata whenua and stakeholders in terms of this important shared fishery. Fisheries New Zealand will continue to actively engage with the Guardians, tangata whenua and stakeholders as the pāua fishery continues to rebuild.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker'.

Hon David Parker  
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries