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5 September 2022

Submission on the request for a further temporary closure of Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources (except kina)

Submission: New Zealand Sport Fishing Council – LegaSea support the proposal.

1. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation with over 38,500 affiliated members from 53 clubs nationwide. The Council has initiated LegaSea to generate widespread awareness and support for the need to restore abundance in our inshore marine environment. Also, to broaden NZSFC involvement in marine management advocacy, research, education and alignment on behalf of our members and LegaSea supporters. www.legasea.co.nz.
2. The submitters have supported previous s186A fishing closures 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.

Submission

4. The submitters are pleased to support the application by Te Kupenga o Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti, for a further two-year temporary closure of Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources (except kina). The current closure of Maunganui Bay is due to expire on 13 October 2022. Submissions in response to the current application are due by 5 September 2022.
5. The submitters acknowledge Te Kupenga o Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti for their consistent and generous commitment to delivering on their kaitiakitanga (guardianship) obligations on behalf of not only these taonga kai moana (treasured) resources, but also the efforts they make to educate the wider community. We urge Fisheries New Zealand to assist the applicants by providing the necessary resources to expand this mahi (work).

6. The submitters have supported the earlier applications for a rāhui and temporary closure. In 2009 we worked with the Mid North Iwi Fisheries Forum, the Hokianga Accord, and the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club to support the application for a rāhui. In 2014, 2016 and 2020 we also submitted in support of continuing the s186A closure. It is pleasing to receive reports that schools of migratory fish and overall biodiversity is building in the proposed area.
7. The submitters have also worked with the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club, Spearfishing New Zealand and the Bay of Islands community to support Te Komiti Kaitiaki Whakature o Nga Taonga o Tangaroa to successfully implement a bylaw to apply in Te Puna Mātaitai in the northern Bay of Islands. The bylaw prohibiting the harvest of mussels in Te Puna Mātaitai was approved by the Minister and took effect in March 2020. We are privileged to be able to support Te Komiti to meet their kaitiaki obligations to care for and nurture the marine environment and the people.

