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3 October 2022

## **Submission: Proposed further temporary fishing closure of Waimārama, Hawke's Bay**

### **Submitters**

1. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council is a recognised national sports organisation with over 36,200 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](http://www.legasea.co.nz).
2. The New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (NZACA) is the representative body for its 28 member clubs throughout the country. The Association promotes recreational fishing and the camaraderie of enjoying the activity with fellow fishers. The NZACA is committed to protecting fish stocks and representing its members' right to fish.
3. The submitters have supported the previous temporary closure at Waimārama, Hawkes Bay to the harvest of blackfoot pāua, back in 2020. Our previous submission can be found [here](#).
4. The submitters have supported previous s186A fishing closures where there has been a clear purpose to restore abundance and productivity around the motu where there has been a clear purpose to restore abundance and productivity of the marine environment.
5. 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

6. The submitters support the application by Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama for an extension of a two-year closure of fisheries waters at Waimārama, Hawkes Bay to the harvest of blackfoot pāua under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996. Advice was received on 20 August with submissions due by 3 October 2022.
7. The submitters support for the application is conditional on the basis that –
  - a. A pāua monitoring programme be implemented, led by Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama, supported by LegaSea Hawke’s Bay, alongside the local community.
  - b. A long-term community-backed management programme, such as an Ahu Moana concept, be implemented.
  - c. The submitters support Ahu Moana as a useful tool for localised fisheries management, as per the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council 2022 Ahu Moana Policy [here](#).
  - d. Conditional support is justified by the above statement, point 3.
8. The submitters support a co-management approach between Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama and local stakeholders to achieve abundant pāua numbers.
  - a. Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama and Ngāti Kahungunu are keen to work with local communities and are actively engaging with LegaSea Hawke’s Bay and local NZSFC affiliated fishing clubs.
9. The submitters acknowledge Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama 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.
10. The submitters recommend a blackfoot pāua survey be carried out by Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama.
  - a. We acknowledge pre-survey work by Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāi Hapū o Waimārama involving exploratory diving of potential survey sites has already occurred during the previous s186A closure.
11. 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.
12. The submitters recommend Fisheries New Zealand facilitate discussions with the local community on education around Māori customary fisheries and customary permits.