

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister of Revenue
Associate Minister of Finance



28 October 2022

Ref: CORM - 3597

Andrew Green & Rowan Ashton
Brookfields
green@brookfields.co.nz

Dear Andrew Green and Rowan Ashton

Thank you for your letter of 13 October 2022 on behalf of New Zealand Sport Fishing Council regarding the consultation period for the marine protection proposals and draft Fisheries Plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

We note your request to extend the Department of Conservation's current engagement on marine protection to mid-February 2023 to align with proposed public consultation on the Fisheries Plan that will be led by Fisheries New Zealand.

Whilst we recognise that integration across workstreams is important, we do not consider it necessary that the two consultation periods coincide. A draft Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan has been publicly available as part of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan* since it was published in June 2021, and we consider that this provides sufficient detail to support meaningful submissions on the marine protection proposals.

We are committed to taking action to restore the Hauraki Gulf. Extending the consultation period for the marine protection proposals as requested would delay the introduction of new marine protection legislation. We therefore encourage the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council to provide feedback on the marine protection proposals by 28 October 2022. If meeting this deadline will be difficult, we encourage you to contact officials at the Department of Conservation to discuss a limited extension.

There will also be further opportunities to submit on the marine protection proposals, particularly if a Bill is introduced and then sent to Select Committee for public submissions.

Thank you for raising your concerns, and I hope to receive the views and feedback of the New Zealand Sports Fishing Council on the proposals.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon David Parker
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

cc: Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Conservation