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Submission: Support the request to establish Te Rāhui o Moremore

Submitters

1. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (**NZSFC**) is a recognised national sports organisation with over 36,000 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 New Zealand Angling and Casting Association (**NZACA**) is the representative body for its 24 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 New Zealand Underwater Association comprises three distinct user groups including Spearfishing NZ, affiliated scuba clubs throughout the country and Underwater Hockey NZ. Through our membership we are acutely aware that the depletion of inshore fish stocks has impacted on the marine environment and the wellbeing of many of our members.
4. LegaSea Hawkes Bay (**LHB**) is a volunteer group established in 2015 to address declining fisheries in the Bay. LHB has built strong relationships with organisations and mana whenua that have an interest in the marine environment. LHB has representatives on several

working parties including the Hawkes Bay Regional Council's Marine and Coastal Group and Napier Port's Fishing Liaison Group. They actively participate in a range of forums to reduce human impacts on the marine environment and enhance fish stocks for the benefit of current and future generations. LegaSea Hawkes Bay is supported by LegaSea, the Hawkes Bay Sports Fishing Club and the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

5. The submitters have supported previous s186A fishing closures where there has been a clear purpose to restore abundance and productivity of the marine environment.
6. 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.

Discussion

1. The submitters support the application by Mana Whenua Hapū Trust for a two-year temporary closure of fisheries waters at a new artificial reef, located 6km northeast of Napier Port, to the harvest of all marine species under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996. Advice was received on 25 January with submissions due by 27 February 2023.
2. Over the past few years LegaSea Hawkes Bay (LHB) has been actively involved in the establishment of the reef. Since its establishment, LHB has been collaborating with Mana Whenua Hapū Trust and others to ensure added protection and ongoing monitoring and enhancement of the new reef.
3. Hawke's Bay has two new artificial reefs because of negotiations between Mana Whenua Hapū Trust, LegaSea Hawkes Bay and Napier Port. These reefs are set to enhance the existing habitat and health of the region's marine life and provide for recreational fishing.
4. The reef undergoing a closure request is located in 22 metres of water and was previously a muddy seafloor devoid of any structure or high value habitat. Now, it is a developing reef with a footprint of approximately 300 x 300 metres and ranges in height up to 4 metres above the seafloor.
5. A recent dive survey shows that this new reef is already attracting a range of fish species and new growth. Everyone involved in this project are pleased with the positive results so far, and that their collaboration will produce long-term benefits for the community.
6. The closure application is not in isolation – because of their Ahu Moana approach to the inception of the reefs, a variety of stakeholders involved in the reefs project are invested and secured in support of local mana whenua.

7. Mana Whenua Hapū Trust are collaborating with stakeholders on the new Te Kōhanga project aimed at monitoring and enhancing the reef habitat. The habitat enhancement component of the project will be supported by LegaSea Hawkes Bay in addition to grant funding.

Ahu Moana

8. In late 2022, the NZSFC approved an Ahu Moana policy for our clubs and constituents. The policy recognises Ahu Moana as a form of localised, fine-scale spatial adaptive management that is based on building positive working relationships between local fishing clubs, communities and mana whenua.
9. As submitters, we are supportive of collaborative, localised spatial management. Earlier projects have shown that collaboration in addressing a small-scale issue often means the needs of most stakeholders are met. And, relationships flourish to enable collaboration on wider issues. Local engagement means more people are invested in taking care of our fish and marine environment.
10. Mana Whenua Hapū Trust are considering future management options of the new reef. One of the options in discussion is a mātaimai. The submitters have a history of supporting mātaimai applications and await the application with interest.