



NEW PLYMOUTH SPORTFISHING & UNDERWATER CLUB (INC.)

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Submission in Response to Trans-Tasman Resources application to extract iron sand for export in the south Taranaki bight.

New Plymouth Sport Fishing and underwater Club Inc (NPSUC) oppose this application based on the grounds that the applicant has not provided and factual information on the environmental impacts of such a huge extraction project.

The New Plymouth Sportfishing and underwater club was established in the Late 60s and built there base at the Lee breakwater as Port Taranaki in the Mid 70s and was then call the Taranaki Cruising Club. Its membership was around 60 persons. In the 70s and early 80s Game Fishing became established with several Striped Marlin setting the club up for a new and exciting future. The club quickly took up the challenge and was admitted to the N.Z Big Game Fish Council in 1984 at the AGM in Russell, the home of NZ Sportfishing.

Since that time the club has grown in building size and the membership currently stands at over 1000 persons. Technology has also changed, especially boat design and size and many of our members have boats capable of travelling to the outer shelf and beyond. No longer are our boats able to be confined to the close proximately to the launch base which makes this threatening application to disrupt the normal habitat of the seabed so concerning.

The recreational Marine area off Taranaki has many manmade restrictions placed on it by the existing marine reserves and the Oil & Gas industry. Only last summer a huge seismic survey cut across lucrative Sportfishing grounds reducing the available area to be fished extremely tight. Existing marine reserves White cliffs, Pukearuhe and Tapuae Hem restrict area for marine recreation.

The area left for recreational to fish is also an area of high interest to the applicant as the North Taranaki Bight also holds significant areas of iron sand in the form of natural seabed. Any industrial disturbance upon this natural environment can only be severely disturbing.

NPSUC Submission

1. The New Plymouth Sportfishing Club submits the EPA **deny the application.**

The enormous scale of the proposal for a process that has not been used or understood in the context of the New Zealand continental shelf.

The unknown consequences of releasing sediments taken from depths of up to 15 metres or more below the sea floor.

The precedents set in relation to any granting of a licence to mine the seabed, particularly in respect of environmental standards that apply to any such licence.

2. The scale of the application is staggering. Removing 50 million cubic metres of seabed and bringing it to the surface, screening and washing and then dumping the overburden in a highly mobile state close to the sea floor is an enormous engineering challenge.
3. There are no proposals for a small-scale operation to discover what chemicals are in fact released, what the final deposition footprint is, and a measured effect on benthic marine life.

The NPSUC recommends the EPA deny approval to any mining in the absence of any trials that test the proposed process and enables real data to be gathered.