

Hon Rachel Brooking

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister for Food Safety

Associate Minister for the Environment

Associate Minister of Immigration



B23-0548

Tēnā koe,

Changes to commercial kina dredging for Kura Te Au/Tory Channel, Marlborough Sounds

I write to inform you of decisions I have made on commercial kina dredging for Kura Te Au/Tory Channel, Marlborough Sounds.

To protect vulnerable benthic communities (such as sponges, corals, and bryozoans) from adverse effects of fishing, I have decided to prohibit the method of commercial dredging of kina in Tory Channel.

Dredging to target kina is not used elsewhere in New Zealand, however, some commercial dredging for kina has been occurring in or around Ecologically Significant Marine Sites identified by the Marlborough District Council in Tory Channel. These sites contain some of the best examples of biogenic habitat remaining in the Marlborough Sounds. Dredging can damage benthic species and could result in the loss of this habitat.

Commercial hand gathering and diving, which are the common methods used to fish for kina in New Zealand, would still be permitted in Tory Channel, as these methods have less impact on the environment.

In making my decisions I have considered feedback and submissions from tangata whenua and stakeholders on the initial proposal. I also considered final advice from Fisheries New Zealand, relevant legislative provisions, and my obligations under the *Fisheries Act 1996*.

The decision document that informed my decisions is available on the Fisheries New Zealand website here: www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-for-fisheries-2023-april-round/

Naku noa, na,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooking'.

Hon Rachel Brooking
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries