

Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee

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Tēnā koe Christine,

Application for a s186B temporary closure for Te Rae o Tawhiti (Mudstone Bay)

This letter, on behalf of Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee, is to request a s186B temporary closure for Te Rae o Tawhiti (Mudstone Bay – please refer to Map 1 below), in order to:

- (a) Replenishing the stocks of the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed in the area concerned; and
- (b) Assist in recognising and making provision for the use and management practices of tāngata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights ().

This area is a kōhanga/nursery ground. Surveys conducted by Te Tiaki Mahinga Kai in May 2017 indicate that the densities of pāua in Mudstone Bay were relatively low. It was noted that for species with a free-spawning reproductive strategy, like pāua, low densities can result in limited fertilisation success – known as a population allee effect. For pāua, densities of less than 1 per m² may be sufficient to cause this allee effect. The densities of pāua in Mudstone Bay were significantly below 1 per m². Other important mahinga kai species are present in low densities also.

Recent MPI-funded monitoring by the University of Canterbury and the Cawthron Institute has documented the importance of this area for the post-earthquake replenishment of seaweed and shellfish stocks representative of the species assemblages of the south side of Kaikōura Peninsula. As such, a s186B 'rāhui' over this kōhanga area will serve as an earthquake recovery tool – operating as a refuge for ecosystem and species recovery.

Further, the use of such tools to support the implementation of Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure, will recognise and make provision for the use and management practices of tāngata whenua (i.e. rāhui) in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights.

The rāhui can also serve as a 'customary management' education area (alongside the Waiopuka Reef/Wakatu rāhui – please refer to Map 2 below) to support better



understanding of customary approaches and practices for building resilient marine ecosystems. Such a use will support the desire of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (Te Korowai) to make Kaikōura a focal area for oceanic research.

The establishment of a rāhui in Mudstone Bay, will also support the commitment from Ngāti Kuri, supported by Te Korowai's Strategy, that the peninsula Taiāpure will contain one or more generational, no-take rāhui.

Nāhaku noa, nā



Sir Mark Solomon
Chairman, Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure Management Committee

Map 1 – Proposed Te Rae o Tawhiti (Mudstone Bay) s186B rāhui



Map 2 – Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure with the s186B rāhui

