

16 June 2014



Tēnā koe

Proposed Sustainability Measures within PPI 1A at Mair Bank and Marsden Bank (Whangarei)

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is seeking feedback from tangata whenua and stakeholders on proposed sustainability measures to address the decline of pipi populations at Mair Bank and Marsden Bank located at the entrance to the Whangarei Harbour (PPI 1A). MPI proposes three options for sustainability measures on harvesting pipi from Mair Bank and Marsden Bank:

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| Option 1 (<i>Status quo</i>) | <p>Mair Bank: Fishery is open for customary, recreational and commercial harvest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes a daily bag limit of 150 pipi for recreational fishers (per person per day) <p>Marsden Bank: Fishery is temporarily closed under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996 to recreational and commercial harvest (ends 16 February 2015) supported by a customary rahui.</p> |
| Option 2 (<i>Mair Bank closure, Marsden Bank status quo</i>) | <p>Mair Bank: Pipi fishery is closed to recreational and commercial harvest under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996, supported by a customary rahui.</p> <p>Marsden Bank: Fishery is temporarily closed under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996 to recreational and commercial harvest (ends 16 February 2015), supported by a customary rahui.</p> |
| Option 3 (<i>Mair Bank and Marsden Bank closed using a consistent approach, MPI preferred option</i>) | <p>Mair Bank and Marsden Bank: Pipi fishery is closed to recreational and commercial harvest under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996, supported by a customary rahui.</p> |

The proposals are in response to new information that shows a substantial decline in the Mair Bank pipi population over the last nine years. In response to this decline, Northland Regional Council, Northport, New Zealand Refining Company (from Marsden Point Refinery), and iwi representatives have requested a closure of the area to pipi harvesting to assist in recovery of the population.

Best available information also indicates that the adjacent pipi populations at Marsden Bank have not recovered since a temporary closure was put in place in 2011. Because Mair Bank and Marsden Bank are adjacent, the cause of decline (while unknown) is likely to be the same. MPI considers it would be pragmatic to manage both banks using a consistent approach within available sustainability measures.

MPI considers the proposed closures are necessary to support the recovery of pipi populations at both Mair Bank and Marsden Bank.

The proposed sustainability measures are now released for public consultation. The proposal is outline in detail in the consultation document that is available on the MPI website at: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm>.

Making a Submission

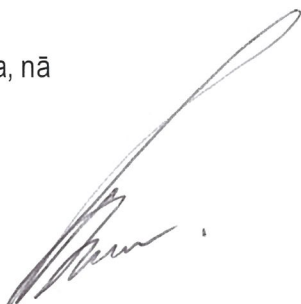
Please ensure that MPI receives your submission on the proposals no later than **5pm on Tuesday 1st July 2014**.

Written submissions should be sent to:

Email: FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz
Post: Shellfish Submissions
Fisheries Management – Inshore Fisheries
Ministry for Primary Industries
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6140

If you have difficulties accessing the documents or would like a hard copy of the papers, please phone 04 894 0076 or email FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā



Dave Turner
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