



Request for a Temporary Fisheries Closure

(under section 186A or 186B of the Fisheries Act 1996)

Request form		
1	Name of the proposed temporary fisheries closure	Te rāhui kuku ki tua o Kanawa
2	Who is asking for the temporary fishery closure?	Te Runanga o Ngati Awa
3	Contact person and contact details	Charlie Bluett. [REDACTED]
4	What is the location of the proposed temporary fisheries closure? What is the reason for choosing this area? <i>Either describe the area or draw lines on a map. Fisheries New Zealand will create a map and confirm the details with you.</i>	Ohiwa Harbour Whakatane To allow juvenile mussels the opportunity to grow to maturity free of human predation. (Proposed area covers mussel beds)
5	The request can be for a temporary fisheries closure and/or fisheries method prohibition. Are you proposing a species closure, fishing method prohibition, or both?	Temporary fisheries closure. Species closure
6	What is the proposed fisheries method prohibition? <i>(if applicable)</i>	
7	What are the species you wish to include in the temporary fisheries closure? <i>This can be individual species (e.g., pāua) or a group (e.g., All shellfish). Temporary closures only apply to species managed under the Fisheries Act.</i>	mussels
8	How long would you want the temporary fisheries closure or fisheries method prohibition in place for? (This can be seasonally or up to a period of two years)	2 years but may wish to extend the period.
9	Is there a traditional rāhui in place? If not, are you planning to place a traditional rāhui over the proposed area?	no yes
10	If the temporary fisheries closure is approved do Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki plan to issue any Customary Fisheries Authorisations for the requested species?	No
11	What discussions have already been held with the local tangata whenua, local community, and other stakeholders?	<i>Have informed Regional Council, iwi neighbours Whakatohea, Upokorehe, Waimana Kaaku</i>
12	Why are you requesting a temporary fisheries closure and/or fisheries method prohibition? <i>E.g., you could provide details about what you have been noticing to species populations in the area.</i>	<i>Ohiwa Harbour is known locally as the food basket of Tairongo. Kaimoana in abundance was once harvested from its waters. Scallops, oysters, cockles, pipi along with many fish species are still harvested there but not in the numbers of old. Mussels were once prolific with many beds scattered throughout the harbour. Sadly this isn't the case today. 5 years ago, Ngati Awa, alongside neighbouring iwi embarked on a program to</i>



		<p><i>regenerate the mussel in the harbour. We began by engaging research to tell us why we had a decline in the mussel population. We identified that there were a number of reasons, eg, sedimentation (water Quality), human predation, predatory seastars in plague numbers having the greatest impact We then engaged in a program of trapping and physical extraction of the Seastar to see if we could establish a foothold for mussel regeneration in the old known mussel beds. We extracted many hundreds of seastars. We then began spat generation on lines made of native material (Tikouka). We achieved a great deal of success in spat regeneration and once the spat was old enough to attach itself independently to the seafloor, we began reseeding. We will continue with trapping and extraction of the seastar to give the mussel a chance to grow to maturity. We also wish to protect them from human predation. Hence the application for a 186A Closure</i></p>
<p>Supplementary information</p>		
<p>In order for the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries to impose a temporary fishing closure or method prohibition, they must be satisfied that it would recognise and make provision for the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the size or availability (or both) of the requested species in the closure area; or - Recognising a customary fishing practice in the area <p>If the request includes a proposed fishing method prohibition, in addition to the above criteria, the Minister must also be satisfied that the fishing method is having an adverse effect on the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of their non-commercial customary fishing rights.</p>		
1	<p>How would the proposed closure improve the size or availability (or both) of your requested species?</p>	<p><i>The closure would protect the mussel from human predation for a period that will allow for growth in size and population.</i></p>
2	<p>How would the proposed closure recognise a customary fishing practice in the area?</p>	
3	<p>If the request includes a fisheries method prohibition, how is this fishing method having an adverse effect on the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of their non-commercial customary fishing rights?</p>	<p>NA</p>
4	<p>Provide details of any research you know of that has been conducted in the area or is planned.</p>	<p><i>Awhi mai awhi atu was an Iwi led research project recently conducted, looking at why the mussel population in the</i></p>



		<p><i>traditional mussel beds in Ohiwa Harbour has declined. It found there were a number of reasons for the mussel decline eg, sedimentation, Human and Seastar predation being some. As mentioned before Ngati Awa has begun reseeding some of the traditional mussel beds to resurrect them to their former glory. Now we have to protect them.</i></p>
5	Is there any more information you wish to provide to support your request?	
<p>Next steps Please send this form to your local customary fisheries adviser or email to info@mpi.govt.nz</p>		