



PUBLIC MEETING AND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Application for a mātaimai reserve surrounding Moutohorā Island and the Rūrīma Island Group, Bay of Plenty

In 2011, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa applied for a mātaimai reserve surrounding Moutohorā Island (Whale Island), and the Rurima Island Group, in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The application is pursuant to Regulation 18 of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998.

Fisheries New Zealand are calling for updated views on the application.

The proposed area

The proposed area includes the New Zealand fisheries waters around Moutohorā Island (Whale Island), and the Rurima Island Group (Rurima, Moutoki, and Tokata), with the offshore boundaries extending to approximately 500 m. The total proposed area is approximately 7.6 km².

A map of the proposed area is available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website (www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations), or by contacting Fisheries New Zealand at the below address or FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz.

Mātaimai reserves

A mātaimai reserve is an identified traditional fishing ground and is established for the purpose of customary food gathering.

Mātaimai reserves are limited to fisheries waters and do not include any land area. Mātaimai reserves do not change any existing arrangements for access to private land. Mātaimai reserves also do not affect private landowners' land titles, or their ability to exercise resource consents for such things as taking water or extracting gravel or sand. Resource consents are managed under the Resource Management Act 1991.

When a mātaimai reserve is established, the recreational fishing rules do not change. However, the Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki for a mātaimai reserve may propose changes to the rules at a later date. Commercial fishing is banned in a mātaimai reserve.

Consultation

This notice invites written or electronic submissions from the local community on the application, pursuant to Regulation 19. The local community is defined as those persons who own land in the proximity of the proposed mātaimai reserve, or have a place of residence in the proximity of the proposed mātaimai reserve, and have been in occupation for a cumulative period of no less than three months in the three consecutive years immediately prior to June 2024.

If you have previously made a submission on the application, Fisheries New Zealand invites you to provide a new submission.

A public meeting will be held with the local community to discuss the application, pursuant to Regulation 20. This meeting will be held at **Te Whare o Toroa (Wairaka) Marae, 97 Muriwai Drive, Whakatāne at 5.30pm, Wednesday 21 August 2024.**

Further consultation

A further notice will be advertised after the local community consultation period inviting written submissions from persons having a fishing interest in the stock or stocks in the area specified in the application. This consultation will be undertaken pursuant to Regulation 21(1).

Submissions process

Submissions can be made up to **5pm on Monday, 16 September 2024.**

You can email your submission to FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz.

While we prefer email, you can post your submission to:

Spatial Allocations
Fisheries Management
Fisheries New Zealand
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

Submissions are public information

Note that all, part, or a summary of your submission may be published on the MPI website. Most often this happens when we issue a document that reviews the submissions received.

People can also ask for copies of submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we must make the content of submissions available unless we have good reason for withholding it. Those reasons are detailed in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

If you think there are grounds to withhold specific information from publication, make this clear in your submission or contact us. Reasons may include that it discloses commercially sensitive or personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold details can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may direct us to release it.