

TIMELINE FOR THE AKAROA MARINE RESERVE

1994

The Akaroa Underwater Divers' Club and the Friends of Banks Peninsula began investigating options for marine reserves in Akaroa Harbour.

1996

A formal application for the Dan Rogers Reserve was made by the Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society Inc., with formal consultation resulting in 2334 submissions in support and 709 objections being received.

1997

A taiapure (local fishery established in coastal waters that have special significance to iwi or hapū, either as a source of food or for spiritual or cultural reasons) was proposed by Ngai Tahu for all of the Akaroa Harbour. Following lodgement of the taiapure application, consideration of the marine reserve application was deferred pending the outcome of the taiapure application.

2005

The Taiāpure Tribunal in its final report and recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries made the comment that a marine reserve and taiapure both operating within the harbour would be complementary.

2006

The Minister of Fisheries approved and gazetted the taiapure for 88% of Akaroa Harbour but excluded the area of the proposed reserve.

A further round of public submissions around the proposed reserve saw 48 submissions in support; 25 objections; and two with conditional support if the reserve was modified.

2010

Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson upheld objections under section 5(6)(d) of the Marine Reserves Act 1971 that declaring a marine reserve in Akaroa Harbour would interfere unduly with or adversely affect any existing use of the area for recreational purposes. She did not uphold objections under any of the remaining criteria. This resulted in the Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society Inc. seeking judicial review of the Minister's decision.

2012

The High Court quashed the decision by Kate Wilkinson and directed her to reconsider the assessment under that provision in light of the countervailing benefits of the proposed reserve.

2013

The Minister of Conservation – Hon Dr Nick Smith met with the applicant, Ngāi Tahu and recreational fishers on 3 March 2013.