

Hon Shane Jones  
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Tēnā koe Minister Jones,

In the final few weeks of the previous Parliament, the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill passed its first reading and was referred to Select Committee. We urge the Government to continue to progress this Bill, and take further steps as the evidence and our communities demand.

We call on the Government to:

- Commit to protecting at least 30% of the ocean surrounding Aotearoa by 2030 in a way that upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Pass the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill without delay
- Protect the whole of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi from bottom trawling

Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Hauraki Gulf is a taonga, treasured by over a million recreational users and supporting the wellbeing of many more across Tāmaki Makaurau. But the latest [State of our Gulf report](#) showed an environment on the brink of collapse, with kōura (crayfish) functionally extinct, the collapse of scallop beds, and the arrival of exotic Caulerpa and other invasive pests. Urgent action is needed if we are to protect and restore the mauri of the moana, so it is healthy, vibrant and supports abundant fish, seabirds and other marine life.

We acknowledge the many years of mahi by many, particularly mana whenua, to push for stronger protection of the unique ecosystems in Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi, which has led to this moment.

We are encouraged by the National Party's election commitment to accelerate marine protection of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. This Bill is an excellent opportunity for the incoming Government to start delivering on its promise, and to build on the momentum created by [Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari - Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan](#), and [Revitalising the Gulf](#) work programmes to date.

The extensive involvement of the many hapū and iwi who whakapapa to Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi in creating the Sea Change Plan has led to a robust framework for marine protection in genuine partnership with community. The acknowledgement of mātauranga Māori and the safeguarding of customary practices in this Bill gives effect to kaitiaki rights in accordance with Te Tiriti. These provisions are essential to the purpose of the Bill and must be preserved as it progresses.


This Bill is an important step towards meeting our commitment under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to protect at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030. Much more work will be needed to ensure a thriving, resilient ocean. We look forward to working with the Government on our shared priority.

Ngā mihi nui

Green

The Mussel Reef  
Restoration Trust  
Te Ohu Whakahaumanu  
i ngā Ākau Kūtai

  
Sue Neureuter,  
Custodian of The Noises

  
Kelly Klink, on behalf of Ngāti  
Rehua and a WAI 678 claimant

Forest & Bird  
TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice

WAIHEKE  
MARINE PROJECT  
WAIHEKE KI UTA WAIHEKE KI TAI WAIHEKE KI TUA