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NZ Sport Fishing Council – LegaSea submission on the request for a further temporary closure of Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources except kina.

Recommendation

- The Minister for Primary Industries approves a temporary closure of Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources except kina for a further two years, from 1 December 2014.

Submission

1. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and our public outreach LegaSea (the submitters) appreciate the opportunity to submit on the request for a further temporary closure of Maunganui Bay, Bay of Islands, to the take of all fisheries resources, except kina, for a further two years.
2. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) released their advice letter on 10 April 2014 with submissions due by 13 May. The current temporary closure is due to expire on 30 November 2014.
3. Tangata whenua Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti consider that a further 2-year closure will provide statutory support for a customary rahui placed over Maunganui Bay in 2009.
4. The submitters strongly endorse the temporary closure as a means of achieving active, local management of important areas within the Bay and as an expression by tangata whenua of kaitiakitanga [guardianship of the resources].
5. Maunganui Bay includes the popular anchorage of Deep Water Cove. We note there is nothing related to this application that would prevent the continued use of Deep Water Cove for safe anchoring by the community.
6. We reiterate earlier submissions by the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club and Hokianga Accord, that there is a need for a public awareness campaign to educate the public of the potential benefits in implementing local area management tools. Protection of resident fish populations and the marine ecosystem in this area will benefit the Bay of Islands community and wider public interests. The New Zealand Sport Fishing Council and its outreach LegaSea are keen to participate and contribute to such a campaign to raise public awareness.
7. We acknowledge and appreciate tangata whenua for their foresight and effort to enhance the fisheries and marine ecosystem within the Bay of Islands, for current and future generations. Kia kaha.