



12 February 2016

Dear Stakeholder

Request for a temporary closure around Astrolabe Reef, Bay of Plenty, to the take of all fisheries resources

The purpose of this letter is to consult with you on a request by the Motiti Rohe Moana Trust, on behalf of Nga Hapu o te Moutere o Motiti. The request is for a two-year temporary closure to the take of all fisheries resources, in the fisheries waters within three nautical miles (nm) of a point on Astrolabe Reef, Bay of Plenty, at 37°32.420'S and 176°25.730'E. The proposed area is approximately 97 km².

As part of the consultation process, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is also publishing a notice in *The Bay of Plenty Times* on Saturday, 13 February 2016, and placing details on the MPI Website, calling for written submissions on the request.

A 2 nm Exclusion Zone is established by Bay of Plenty Regional Harbour Master around the Astrolabe Reef as a result of the M.V. *Rena* running aground in October 2011. A decision on a Resource Consent Application to leave sections of the wreck and associated debris in place on the Reef is due by late February 2016. As a result, the Harbour Master will be able to review and potentially adjust the Exclusion Zone.

The Trust has requested the Minister for Primary Industries to approve a two-year temporary fishing closure around the Reef to allow for the continued recovery of fish species. The request is made under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996, which provides that the Minister may temporarily close an area, or temporarily restrict or prohibit the use of any fishing method in respect of an area, if satisfied that the closure, restriction, or prohibition will recognise and provide for the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights by:

- improving the availability and/or size of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed; or
- recognising a customary fishing practice.

If you would like to make a submission on the request, please respond in writing by **Monday, 14 March 2016** to Fisheries Management – Spatial Allocations, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, or by email to FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz.

A detailed map of the proposed area attached. The map is also available on the MPI website (www.mpi.govt.nz), or by contacting MPI at the above address.

Note: Any submission you make becomes public information. Anyone can ask for copies of all submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we must make the information available, unless we have a good reason for withholding it. You can find those grounds in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA. Tell us if you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission. Reasons might include, it's commercially sensitive or it's personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may require the information be released.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Stranney', written in a cursive style.

David Stranney
Manager Customary Fisheries and Spatial Allocations

