

5 June 2009

Tēnā koe

Invitation to comment on the implementation of the MPA Policy in the territorial seas of the subantarctic biogeographic region of New Zealand

In February 2008 the Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation appointed a 14 person Forum to identify sites and potential tools for area-based protection of marine biodiversity around three subantarctic island groups (Antipodes, Campbell and Bounty). The Forum comprises representatives from a range of interests including Māori, commercial fishing, environmental/conservation and scientific interests.

The Forum has considered a range of information including on the occurrence of habitat types and ecosystems, the values of the areas, the existing users and Treaty of Waitangi interests. The Forum has worked through the steps set out in the Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan (MPA Policy) and has identified options for marine protected areas around each of the island groups.

The Forum is now seeking comment from interested stakeholders and the public on the options developed for new marine protected areas (MPAs) in the territorial seas of the three island groups. The options are set out in the attached consultation document along with the rationale behind the options proposed.

Any comments would be gratefully received by the Forum.

How to comment

If you would like to comment as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, it is recommended that you first read the MPA Policy together with the attached consultation document. The MPA Policy and other relevant information and background papers are available at: www.biodiversity.govt.nz.

The Forum process and consultation document address only the options for protection within the territorial seas of the three island groups, and therefore comments should be restricted to options within these areas. MPAs in the exclusive economic zone will be considered by the Forum in future planning processes.

You may find it helpful to use the questionnaire in the form attached or simply follow the headings provided in that form. Background information specific to the Forum process and an electronic copy of the form can be found at: http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/seas/biodiversity/protected/mpa_consultation.html.

Where to send your comments

Your comments can be sent by e-mail or post. Written comments should be posted to:

Subantarctic Marine Protection Planning Forum Consultation
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10 420
Wellington 6143

or faxed to: 04 381 3057

Electronic submissions can be emailed to mpa@biodiversity.govt.nz.

If you require any further information on the consultation document, the options or the process generally please contact:

Danica Devery-Smith: 04 496 1962 or ddeverysmith@doc.govt.nz; or
Jeremy Helson: 04 819 4643 or helsonj@fish.govt.nz.

Any comments received by the Forum may be subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be made available to the public under that legislation. You should therefore take this into account when providing information that may be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

Closing date for comments is 31 July 2009.

Next Steps

After comments have been received, the Forum will take those comments into consideration.

Before final recommendations on options are made to the Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation, the Forum will explore whether it can reach consensus on the areas to be set aside as MPAs in the territorial seas around the island groups. If consensus is not possible, the Forum may present a range of options for the Ministers to consider.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process.

Nāku noa, nā.

Paul Beverley
CHAIRPERSON
SUBANTARCTIC MARINE PROTECTION PLANNING FORUM