

interests, both as business operators and as concerned New Zealanders, to do so. But any new measures must be taken with full consultation with all affected stakeholders.

The Kermadecs proposal would make a vast area twice the size of New Zealand's land mass a total no-take zone.

That would deny the surface longlining currently taking place and any future development.

There are already significant marine protections in place. Bottom trawling was banned in the 620,000 square kilometre zone at the industry's behest a decade ago. The Kermadec islands are fully protected marine reserves in the 20-kilometre territorial sea radius.

The biodiversity is not at risk. There is no threat.

Everyone feels good about protecting the environment, particularly pristine marine space in an increasingly crowded and polluted world. The Kermadecs sanctuary is a good thing in principle and there is no reason why it cannot accommodate the various interests. But the argument that we do not need to worry about process and existing rights is wrong-headed.

The Quota Management System, which has served us well for 30 years and is internationally recognised, is based on perpetual property rights.

That provides a powerful incentive for quota holders to conserve the resource and manage it sustainably.

Anything that threatens those rights will naturally be resisted.

Similarly, the Maori Fisheries Settlement Act (the Sealord deal) gave legal recognition to indigenous rights 152 years after they were supposedly guaranteed in the Treaty. Again, anything that dismisses those hard won rights will be fought. It is akin to snatching vacant land on the grounds that it is not being used, as happened in the 19th century.

Are those concerns so hard to understand?

A phone call to those parties directly affected the night before the announcement does not constitute consultation.

The Cabinet paper proposing the sanctuary is so inadequate it deserves wider dissemination in textbooks and law and government studies as the epitome of shoddy drafting.

It contains large chunks of irrelevant descriptive material more appropriate to a promotional campaign than government advice papers, significant omissions and repeated errors of fact and interpretation.

It has the gall to trivialise the value and significance of fisheries in the area (known as Fisheries Management Area 10) and dismiss these as "essentially an administrative quirk".

And it does not even address whether the sanctuary can be lawfully established



Watch video of the course's offering

Online ocean conservation course

The International Ocean Institute has launched a free online ocean conservation course.

The Ocean Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "One Planet - One Ocean: From Science to Solutions" will showcase the science and fascination of the ocean through a series of lectures until July 3, 2016. The course will be subtitled in Chinese, Portuguese and German.

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Our Sea Your Say

The South-East Marine Protection Forum is consulting on what's important to you in our marine environment from Timaru Breakwater to Waipapa Point.

The map shows what areas are under

under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

There is a wider issue at play here.

The Government has also issued a discussion document on a proposed Marine Protected Areas Bill. That, too, includes measures that impact on property rights in the form of recreational fishing parks. And, again, they were proposed without consultation. The Government is making policy on the hoof with a disturbing disregard for those affected.

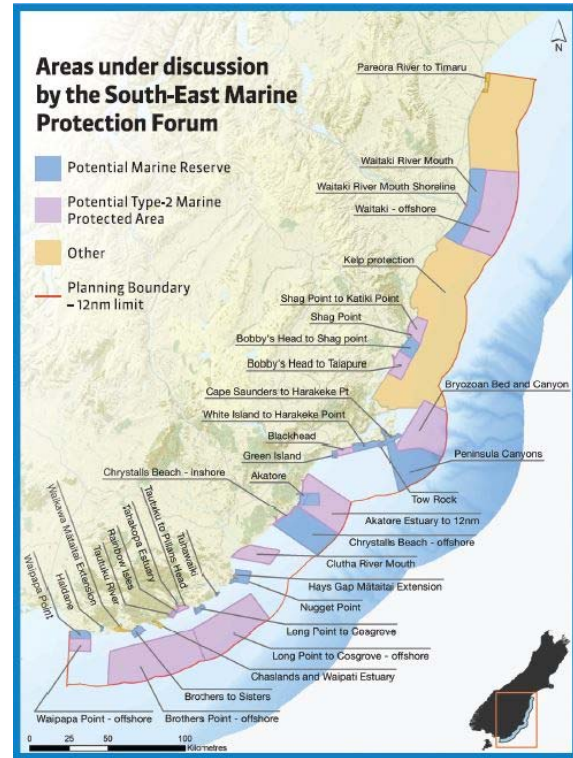
It is also wasting the opportunity to engage in discussion with all parties, from fishers to environmental NGOs, on a science-based network of marine protected areas throughout not only the 12-mile territorial sea but the entire Exclusive Economic Zone. It is not too late to do so.

- Tim Pankhurst

The seafood industry mourns the sudden death of Mark Janis, the Manager for Ocean Ranch, Wellington. Mark was a highly respected member of the Aotearoa Fisheries team. He will be missed by many people across the industry. His funeral is in Wellington on Monday.

The map shows what areas are under discussion as potential marine protected areas (MPAs). Not all areas will be MPAs, but the forum needs your help, especially in identifying options that will minimise impact on Treaty settlements and existing users. For all commercial fishing activity related responses, contact Southern Inshore Fisheries Management Ltd's Carol Scott, who is a forum member.

Tel: 03 548 0711 or email cscott@southerninshore.co.nz.



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