



THE UPDATE

Captain's Blog



Seeking a fresh approach to the Kermadecs

The stalled Kermadecs Ocean Sanctuary proposal was not well handled by the Crown, according to former Attorney-General and Treaty Negotiations Minister Christopher Finlayson.

He says former Environment Minister Nick Smith was so keen on the proposal that he ignored obligations to consult Maori and ensure the proposal was properly “road tested” before it was announced by former Prime Minister John Key at the United Nations in 2015.

Key had been badly let down by Smith, and it is to his great credit that he then backed off when significant issues emerged, Finlayson said.

“Many Crown officials still think consultation with Maori is some kind of box ticking exercise designed to bomb proof a decision.

“That is what happened here where the former Minister made an 11th hour call to an iwi he thought would be interested – without consulting me”.

“It was a very poor effort on his part – good process was the first victim.”

Finlayson signed over 60 deeds of settlement in his nine years as Treaty Negotiations Minister. These were joyful occasions but “always tinged with apprehension that the grand provisions made on the marae by the Crown would be honoured in the future”.

He said settlements will only endure and be successful if the Crown recognises three key points:

- Agreements must be honoured;

- Property rights must be protected;
- Due process must be observed.

This did not happen with the Kermadecs.

Finlayson said he was surprised and disturbed by a lack of understanding by officials of the Maori Fisheries Settlements of 1989 and 1992. They also did not seem to have much of an understanding of the Quota Management system introduced in the 1980s.

It is important, Finlayson says, that decisions about such proposals are based on science not ideology. He said there was no evidence of depletion of fish species in the Kermadec zone. The only fishery of any current scale was migratory tuna and swordfish (around 15 tonnes) which would be harvested to the north or south of the Sanctuary in any case. The huge area out to 200 nautical miles from the five Kermadec islands – Raoul, Macauley, Cheeseman, Curtis and L’Esperance - is already a benthic protected area which prohibits bottom trawling and dredging.

Finlayson did not think the Kermadec issue would be resolved by further consultation, certainly not the kind of consultation methods employed by the Crown.

Smith, now Opposition environment spokesman, is undeterred and has lodged a Private Member’s Bill seeking to both resurrect the Kermadecs proposal and embarrass the Labour/Greens coalition.

Such Bills are drawn by random ballot and there is no telling when they might be brought forward for debate.

Finlayson says a fresh approach is required – one based on science not ideology, and which is respectful of Treaty Settlements and property rights. “Durability of settlements and the honour of the Crown are more important than a sanctuary”.

Finlayson will be the keynote speaker at a panel discussion on Treaty and property rights at the Seafood NZ annual conference in Queenstown on 9 August. He will outline a proposal he thinks could resolve the issue - “one consistent with good science and Treaty obligations”.

Finlayson is also writing a book on the Crown Maori relationship. It will cover his nine years in Cabinet and will be published in February 2020, the 180th anniversary of the signing of The Treaty.

The power of fish

Eating three or more portions of fish each week could help lower the risk of developing bowel cancer.

The 15-year study by the University of Oxford and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) followed Europeans who consumed approximately 360 grams of fish each week and found it reduced their risk of bowel cancer by 12 percent. Consumption of

smaller portions of fish (approx.125g) on a weekly basis also lowered the risk by 10 percent.

Both lean and oily types of fish were associated with a decrease in colorectal cancers, however, shellfish consumption was found to have no significant impact.

It's one of the first studies to examine the link between fish consumption and bowel cancer on such a large scale (476,610 participants).

Anna Diaz, head of the World Cancer Research Fund, said the study adds to scientific evidence that points to the benefits of fish.

“The biological reasons by which fish consumption potentially lowers risks are not fully understood, but one of the theories includes specific fatty acids such as omega-3, found almost exclusively in fish, being responsible for this protective effect via their anti-inflammatory properties,” Diaz said.

The finding adds to a body of research suggesting that oily fish such as mackerel, salmon and herring have anti-inflammatory properties that protect against degenerative diseases and reduce the risk of heart disease.

Further research will be needed to better understand the link and any confounding factors.



New chair for Te Ohu Kaimoana

Rangimarie Hunia (Ngāti Whātua) is the first woman to be appointed as chair of Te Ohu Kaimoana (Māori Fisheries Trust).

Hunia is no stranger to leadership or the Māori Fisheries Settlement. A director on Te Ohu Kaimoana's Board of Directors since 2015, an active member of the Iwi Working Group for the review of Māori Fisheries Settlement entities; she is also the chief executive of Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei's Whai Maia.

"This is an important time in fisheries for iwi," Hunia said.

"I'm committed to advancing Māori interests in the marine environment, ensuring that the commitments of the Māori Fisheries Settlement are upheld. Te Ohu Kaimoana has a unique position, working for iwi in fisheries management and marine environment conservation," she said.

Te Ohu Kaimoana chief executive Dion Tuuta welcomed Hunia's appointment.

"I'm looking forward to continuing our work with Rangimarie in her new role as chair. Her leadership and courage, combined with her understanding of the settlement will be important in ensuring that the Treaty lives in all aspects of fisheries management."

Priorities for iwi include progressing amendments to the Māori Fisheries Act, finding a resolution to the proposed Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary that would strip Māori and ensuring Māori fishing rights are protected in the proposed dolphin Threat Management Plan.

"We have to work closely with the Crown to ensure that iwi are consulted during the early stages of marine conservation planning," Hunia said.



Te Ohu Kaimoana's new chair Rangimarie Hunia.

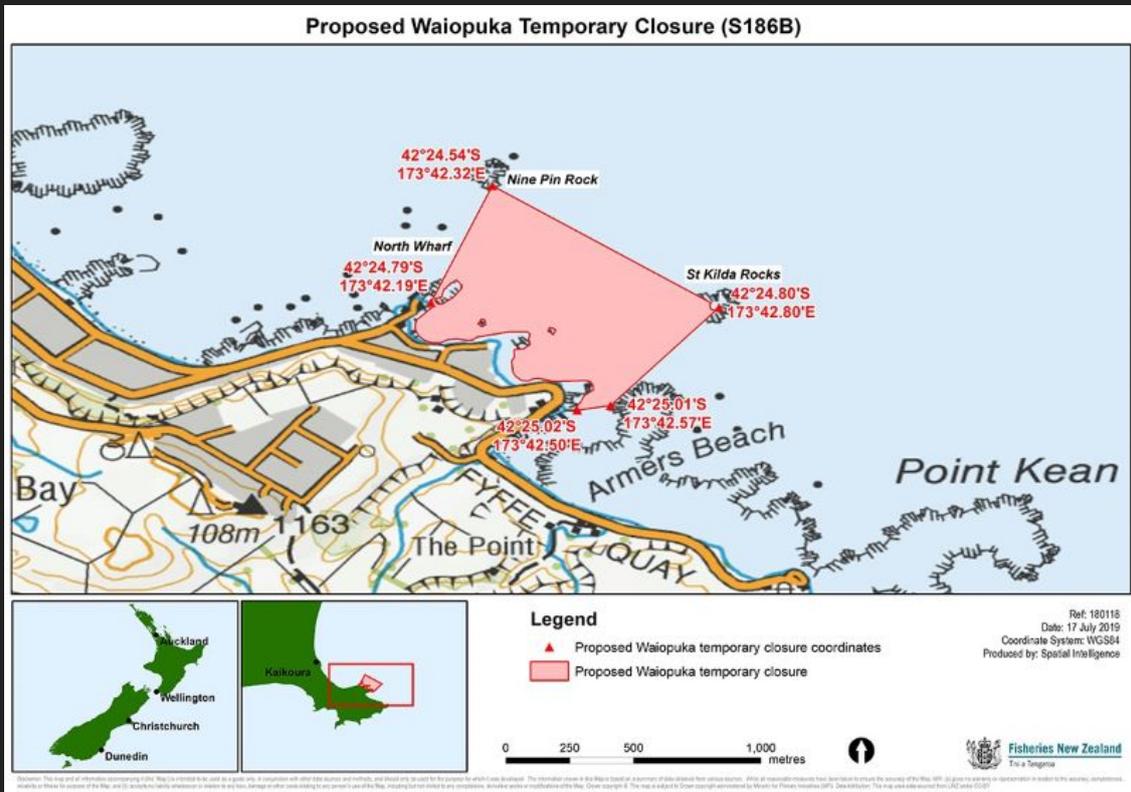
News

The Kaikōura Marine Guardians have requested the temporary closure of an area of South Island fisheries waters at Waiopuka, Kaikōura, to the take of any species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed, for a two-year period. The closure will:

- Help replenish fish stocks, aquatic life, and seaweed in the area
- Assist in recognising and making provision for the use and management practices of tangata whenua in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights (in particular to support Te Taumanu o Te Waka a Māui Taiāpure)
- Provide statutory support for the traditional rāhui (traditional closure) in the area, and
- Provide time for longer-term fisheries management measures to be put in place.

Anyone with an interest in the stock concerned, or affected by the proposed closure, is invited to make a [written submission](#).

Submissions close 26 August 2019.



Northland fishery officers caught a 66-year-old Russell man with 97 flounder and 677 shucked oysters, *Fisheries New Zealand* reported. Ministry for Primary Industries spokesman Steve Rudsdale said officers were alarmed at the scale of the offending. "The haul was commercial in scale. The man had more than three times the daily limit of both flounder and oysters." The man was fishing with a net 178 metres long – 118 metres more than the legal limit. MPI believe the catch was destined for the commercial market. "We'd like to remind people that they should always be motivated by collecting for 'a feed rather than greed'. The man will face charges under the Fisheries Act.

Fisheries New Zealand has extended its deadline for submissions on the [Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan](#). Submissions will now close 10am, 19 August. Responses can be provided via a [short online survey](#), or by emailing dolphintmp@doc.govt.nz. Written submissions are also welcome.



New Zealand Seafood Industry Conference and Technical Day

Conference 2019

Last chance to [register](#) for the 2019 New Zealand Seafood Industry Conference and Technical Day.

Seafood New Zealand has negotiated accommodation rates at the conference venue and neighbouring hotels. Bookings can be made through the [information](#) section on the conference webpage along with [links](#) to Air New Zealand for group flight bookings.

Please note, there are limited spaces available for the conference. The [ANZ cocktail function](#) is now sold out. Be quick to secure your place.

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