

Marine Protected Areas Consultation Document

Protect Our Oceans - Improve Our Marine Protected Areas

The long-awaited proposed new Marine Protected Areas legislation [public consultation document](#) has been released by the Ministry for the Environment. Public submissions are due 11 March 2016.

Have your say. New Zealand's oceans and marine wildlife need your help.

This may be the one chance in our lifetimes to create legislation that allows meaningful protection of our oceans. Let's make sure the Government gets it right. Together, we have the opportunity to turn the Marine Protected Areas Act proposal into a bill that genuinely protects our marine ecosystems and wildlife.

Key Messages

- Current legislation is 45 years old and only allows Marine Reserves to be established for *scientific* purposes. It also gives extremely high weight to the objections of *all* other users of an area. So **we need new legislation that supports the creation of Marine Reserves for conservation values.**
- Support the proposed legislation's commitment to **delivering a meaningful network of representative Marine Reserves** (fully protected, no-take areas) and other Marine Protected Areas. These areas must contain representative examples of the full range of marine communities and ecosystems, and also outstanding, rare, distinctive or important marine habitats. Marine protected areas need to meet their objectives and achieve conservation outcomes.
- The proposed legislation **EXCLUDES ALL OF THE EEZ** which is 96% of our marine environment. So say you want to **include the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Extended Continental Shelf in the new MPA legislation.** We want to have a say in how our marine environment should be fairly and equitably used. **If we can fish, mine and drill in the EEZ, it is essential that we protect parts of it too.**
- The proposed legislation puts a strong emphasis on the economy. We believe that **protection of the marine environment should not be constrained by short-term economic interests**, and that no-take Marine Reserves provide significant opportunities for *sustainable* business ventures in underwater tourism and eco-tourism.
- It is proven that Recreational Fishing Parks do not protect, restore or enhance biodiversity. Recreational fishing parks are not biodiversity conservation tools. This fisheries management tool is *already available* in the Fisheries Act and should remain there along with similar tools. We suggest the category of **recreational fishing parks be removed from the proposed legislation.**
- **If you love diving and snorkeling let them know** you are sick of looking at an empty ocean and want more accessible, fully protected marine reserves so you can see marine life in all its diverse and bountiful nature.

Take Action

Marine Protected Areas Consultation Document Submissions close 5pm, 11 March 2016

EASY Submission - online

- Use the Fish Forever online submission: <http://fishforever.org.nz/mpa>
- You can send it as is or you can edit it
- Just make sure you add your name and other details at the top

EASY Submission – by post

- Post the Fish Forever printed submission – it's free
- Just make sure you add your name and other details at the top
- Post it to: **New MPA Act, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143**

Detailed Submission – Online

- Use the detailed online questionnaire style submission form setup by Ministry for the Environment
- Go to <https://submissions.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/marine-protected-areas-act/make-a-submission>
- Visit www.fishforever.org.nz for some suggestions on responses to the important questions

EASY send the Fish Forever Postcards

- Post (no stamp required) our preprinted postcards to Winston Peters and Cabinet Ministers
- Remember to add your name and address before you send them

Tell Winston Peters your views

- Write a letter (freepost) or send an email to Winston Peters (Northland MP, Winston.peters@parliament.govt.nz) or your local MP

Tell the Ministers your views

- Write a letter (freepost) or send an email to John Key, Steven Joyce, Nick Smith, Nathan Guy, Simon Bridges, Maggie Barry, Te Ururoa Flavell, David Seymour, Peter Dunne - or all of them.
- Email addresses for Members of Parliament are: `firstname.lastname@parliament.govt.nz`
- Postal address (no stamp required) for all MPs is:
Freepost Parliament Private Bag 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Get your friends to do the same.

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