

Consultation Document for Proposed Te Puna Mātaimai Bylaw

The Tangata Kaitiaki of the Te Puna Mātaimai have significant concern about an observed decline in mussel populations within the mātaimai reserve. They have requested that a new bylaw is made to impose a prohibition on the harvest of various species of mussels in order to restore the mussel beds and ensure the sustainability of the population to support future recreational and customary harvest.

The mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki believe the proposed bylaw will improve fishery outcomes and sustainability within the mātaimai. Within three years the mātaimai Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki intend to re-assess the state of the kūtai populations to determine whether there is a continued need for the closure.

Pursuant to regulation 28(5) of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998, notice is given that the Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki responsible for the Te Puna Mātaimai Reserve in the Bay of Islands have deposited a bylaw under subclause (4) for the sustainable management of fisheries resources in that mātaimai reserve.

Any member of the public may make written submissions in response to the proposed bylaws. Submissions must be made by 13 December 2019 to:

Fisheries New Zealand
Whangarei District Office
Private Bag 9013
Whangarei 0140

Or FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Please note: the wording of the draft bylaw below is intended to show what is proposed. Final wording will be subject to the consultation and drafting processes.

Bylaw	Description
1 – Prohibition on taking certain mussel species	A person must not take any of the following species from the Te Puna Mātaimai Reserve: Green-lipped mussel (<i>Perna canaliculus</i>), blue mussel (<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>), or black mussel (<i>Xenostrobus pulex</i>).