

Talking Points for Meeting with Minister of Fisheries re South-East Marine Protection Forum Recommendations

- The South-East Marine Protection Forum provided us with its final Recommendations Report in February this year. As the Forum could not reach consensus at the later stages of the process it delivered two alternative MPA networks for our consideration.
- DOC and FNZ have provided joint agency advice on the Forums recommendations.
- Both agencies agree that Network 1 is the preferred network as it better aligns with the MPA Policy.
- Agencies differ on the extent of boundaries of some of the proposed sites in Network 1. Agencies' view also differ in regard to some of the restrictions recommended for the Type 2 MPAs.
- DOC acknowledges the work undertaken by the Forum in reaching their recommendations and considers it appropriate to respect the integrity of the processes and its findings.
- DOC acknowledges gaps in the proposed Network 1 and that the Forum has compromised in many instances in order to minimise impacts on existing users. DOC considers that any MPA network inherently entails some costs to users.
- Kai Tahu's support for Network 1 is conditional on a generational review and co-management of MPAs by the Crown and Kāi Tahu.
- The Site O1 marine reserve, was recommended by Network 1 proponents, but not formally included in Network 1 due to the lack of support of Kāi Tahu. Site O1 would contribute towards closing some of the gaps in Network 1.
- The joint briefing has highlighted some areas of difference between DOC and FNZ, in particular around the application of the protection standard to MPA planning and implementation which would be worth exploring further in the context of the MPA legislative reform work.