

s 9(2)(a)

Hon Tama Potaka  
Minister of Conservation

Cc: Hon Shane Jones  
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Dear Minister

#### **ADJUSTMENTS TO PROPOSED HAURAKI GULF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

We are commercial ring-net fishers who has been fishing within the Hauraki Gulf for the last 30 years. We have significant concerns about the extent of the proposed High Protection Areas at Kawau, Motukawao, Motutapu, Rotoroa and the Ōtata (Noises) Islands that are included in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill and the impact these will have on our businesses.

Ours are one-person operations fishing in small discrete locations where fish school at particular times of the year. Most of our fishing happens at night.

The fish that we catch (kahawai, mullet and parore) is sold fresh in local markets feeding Auckland Maori and the Polynesian community, for which they are highly prized and affordable.

Our fishing method - ring netting, is perhaps the most environmentally friendly fishing method with no impact on the seafloor or rocky reef communities and has little to no bycatch. The fish are alive and in premium condition when brought onboard our small six metre dories. A complete fishing event takes approximately 40 minutes.

If the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill goes ahead as introduced, we will lose access to our winter fishing grounds (May-Sept) and most likely our businesses will no longer be viable.

There are no alternative fishing grounds that we can go to in the winter for the fish that we catch. The fish school in the same discrete shallow areas year after year, the same areas we and previous generations of fishers have been fishing for decades. Any alternative fishing grounds that existed in the Hauraki Gulf have previously been closed to fishing or lost through sedimentation and coastal development.

We believe ring net fishing and biodiversity protection can co-exist with minor changes to the current proposals. Those options include either minor amendments to the boundaries of the Kawau, Motukawao, Rotoroa, Motutapu and the Ōtata (Noises) High Protection Areas to exclude small key fishing areas or re zoning the proposed High Protection Areas as Seafloor Protection Areas. The latter would provide benthic protection from mobile bottom contact fishing methods whilst allowing ring netting and other non-mobile bottom contact fishing methods as currently proposed for Seafloor Protection Areas.

We request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns and potential solutions.

Yours Sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

# Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti  
Minister for Māori Development  
Minister for Whānau Ora  
Associate Minister of Housing (Social Housing)



Ref: CORM-1359

COR-1254

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[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 28 May 2024 regarding your concerns about the impact the proposed marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill (the Bill) may have on your fisheries operations.

Throughout the development of the Bill, careful consideration has been given to how best balance use and protection in the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana, and feedback from fishers has been fundamental to this process.

I note that the concerns raised in your letter reflect those in your submission to the Environment Select Committee on this matter. Your feedback, and that from other submitters, has been carefully considered by the Committee.

Thank you for your offer of a meeting to discuss your concerns on the potential impact of the proposed marine protection on your fisheries operations. Unfortunately, at this stage I am unable to accept.

I appreciate your concern and thank you for taking the time to write.

Mauriora

Hon Tama Potaka  
**Minister of Conservation**

cc Hon Shane Jones