

26 August 2014

Tena koe

I am writing to you on behalf of the Minister of Conservation to advise that he has completed his consideration of the five proposed marine reserves on the South Island's West Coast, Te Tai o Poutini, and the objections and submissions received concerning them.

In response to the public notification of an application for the five reserves (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/all-consultations/2012/establish-marine-reserves-on-west-coast/>), 166 submissions were received (including your own): 4 objections, 7 in support and 155 in conditional support.

The application was assessed against the criteria set out in section 5(6)(a) – (e) and also section 5(9) of the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

The Minister has decided that the impacts on any estate or interest in or adjoining the reserves, on navigation and on commercial fishers, would not amount to undue interference; that the impacts on recreational users would not be undue or adverse; and that declaring the marine reserves would not otherwise be contrary to the public interest. Accordingly he has decided not to uphold objections made.

The Minister has also decided, in terms of section 5(9) that to declare the marine reserves will be in the best interests of scientific study, will be for the benefit of the public and that it is expedient that the areas be declared marine reserves.

The Minister has decided that it is appropriate to allow a number of activities to continue within the marine reserves. In summary, these activities are: the non-commercial hand-gathering of driftwood, shells and stones; the removal of pounamu by Ngai Tahu; existing blacksand goldmining activities; the use of quadbikes and horses; emergency responses to maritime incidents; and (for part of the Punakaiki Marine Reserve only) some farming-related stock and vehicle movements along the beach and the opening of Hibernia Creek.

As required by the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Minister has obtained the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister of Transport, and the marine reserves will come into effect on 7th September 2014.

The reserves are to be named Kahurangi, Punakaiki, Waiau Glacier Coast, Tauparikākā and Hautai Marine Reserves.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to contribute to the public process leading up to the formation of the marine reserves.

Nāku noa, nā

Lou Sanson
Director-General of Conservation