



To: Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment
Cc: Hon Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industries; Hon Maggie Barry, Minister of Conservation

Date: 11 Dec
2015
Tracking #: 15-
B-01970

Marine Protected Areas reform consultation plan - 2015/16

Purpose

1. This briefing note sets out the plan and timeframes for the release and public consultation on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) reforms.

Situation analysis and background

2. On 9 December 2015 the Economic Growth and Infrastructure Cabinet Committee (EGI) authorised you, the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister of Conservation (Marine Ministers) to undertake public consultation in early 2016, on the Government's proposed approach to marine protection reform in New Zealand [EGI-15-Min-0198 refers]. This includes the proposal to establish recreational fishing parks in the Hauraki Gulf and the Marlborough Sounds.
3. Marine Ministers will now undertake pre-consultation with key stakeholders and iwi on the two recreational fishing park proposals in Marlborough Sounds and the Hauraki Gulf regions. This pre-consultation is scheduled to take place in Blenheim on 15 December 2015 and in Auckland/Hauraki on 22 December 2015 (still to be confirmed).
4. You have provided some direction on the approach to public consultation on the MPA reforms, which is:
 - public release of the MPA consultation document (attached) to occur by 30 December 2015
 - public engagement led by Ministers
 - hui with iwi/Māori
 - consultation to consist of targeted engagement in the Hauraki and Marlborough regions on the recreational fishing park proposals
 - final policy decisions on the MPA reforms sought by mid-2016 and MPA legislation in place by December 2016.
5. The logistics of engagement will be organised by officials in consultation with Ministers offices.

Consultation on the MPA reforms

Current status of the consultation document

6. MPI is developing material for Ministerial pre-consultation discussions with key stakeholders and iwi on the establishment of recreational fishing parks in the Hauraki Gulf and the Marlborough Sounds.

7. MPI is currently developing further content on the recreational fishing chapter of the consultation document. This includes information on the amount of commercial fishing in the Hauraki Gulf and Marlborough Sounds.
8. The intention is that once this content has been finalised, with agreement from the Minister for Primary Industries, an updated version of the consultation document will be provided to all Marine Ministers for their review.

Timing to release

s 9(2)(g)(i)

10. Due to likely limited public availability and engagement over the Christmas holiday period, we recommend that public consultation occurs over a longer timeframe, with it ending on 11 March 2016. This will provide sufficient time for the public, key stakeholders and iwi/Maori to be involved in the process and provide feedback on proposals.

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Consultation approach

12. Following your direction we are proposing a consultation approach that allows for streamlined engagement directly with key stakeholders, iwi and the public, and also provides for online engagement.
13. The key elements of the consultation approach, are as follows:
 - targeted Ministerial meetings with key stakeholders (officials to organise these meetings with Marine Ministers' offices)
 - facilitated hui with iwi/Māori
 - public drop in sessions (likely to be in Auckland, Wellington, Blenheim and Christchurch) to allow the public to discuss the content of the MPA proposals
 - three separate engagements on the recreational fishing park proposals (likely to be in Auckland, Hamilton, Blenheim).
14. Officials will organise the logistics and dates for the public engagement sessions, which will occur during the following periods.

Engagement meeting	Time period
Release of consultation document	30 December 2015
Close of consultation period	11 March 2016
Ministerial meetings with key stakeholders	25 January - 5 February 2016
Public drop in sessions	18 January - 12 February 2016
Targeted recreational fishing park meetings	18 January - 12 February 2016

(Auckland, Hamilton, Blenheim)	
Hui with iwi/Maori	18 January - 12 February 2016

Next Steps

15. MfE recommends that you contact Sir Mark Solomon (as Chair of Conservation – Iwi Leaders) on the proposed timeframe to release the MPA consultation document.
16. We also advise that you discuss and reach agreement on the timeframe for public release of the MPA consultation document with the Minister for Primary Industries, and the Minister of Conservation, as soon as possible. This is to allow officials to set up engagements.
17. MfE aims to have an updated final version of the MPA consultation document for you to consider by mid-December 2016. The MPA consultation document will need to be finalised soon, to allow sufficient time for the document to be prepared for release, by 30 December 2015.

Signed: Justin Strang, Manager, Marine and Environmental Governance

Contents noted.

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment

Date

Minister's feedback on quality of briefing note:	1	2	3	4	5
1 = Was not satisfactory	2 = Fell short of my expectations in some respects			3 = Met my expectations	
4 = Met and sometimes exceeded my expectations	5 = Greatly exceeded my expectations				

Appendix One: Overall milestones and timeframes for the MPA reforms

Milestone	Timeframe
Pre-engagement with Hauraki and Marlborough iwi and stakeholders on two recreational fishing parks	December 2015
Consultation document released	30 December 2015
Public consultation	11 January 2016 - 11 March 2016
Final policy decisions sought from Cabinet	May 2016
MPA Bill introduced to Parliament	August 2016
MPA legislation passed (including consequential amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996)	December 2016