



TE RUNANGA O TE RARAWA
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Introduction

Te Runanga O Te Rarawa (the Runanga) is the iwi authority for the region from North Hokianga through to Kaitaia, up to Hukatere and bound by Te Oneroa a Tohe (Ninety Mile Beach) to the West.

We represent twenty-three marae in eighteen communities, which in turn service more than 15,000 descendants. Our neighbouring iwi are Ngapuhi to the south, Ngati Kahu to the east and Ngaitakoto, Te Aupouri and Ngati Kuri to the north.

Classification and Protection Standards

The *MPA Draft Classification* document explains the process to give effect to the MPA Policy.

There are two parts to the *MPA Draft Classification*:

- Explaining the process to identify and classify different marine regions; and
- Setting out the implementation process to achieve the MPA Policy objective:

“Protect marine diversity by establishing a network of MPAs that is comprehensive and representative of New Zealand’s marine habitats and ecosystems.”

The intention of MFish and DoC is that the proposed classification will be science-based. Notwithstanding the statutory obligations on MFish and DoC to

have particular regard to kaitiakitanga (guardianship), there is no mention or description of kaitiakitanga throughout the *MPA Draft Classification*.

The main features of the *MPA Draft Classification* are:

- The marine environment is classified as either coastal or deepwater;
- There are 13 coastal regions around the country including the Kermadec and Three Kings Islands. The boundary between the nearshore and offshore boundary is defined as the 12- nautical mile (nm) line – the Territorial Sea limit. Maps and sub-strate types of these coastal regions are described in the draft document;
- The intention of MFish and DoC is to have a consistent approach to classifying areas, devise an inventory of marine protected areas and to determine ‘gaps’ in the network;
- Identification of representative as well as ‘outstanding and rare’ areas;
- At least one marine reserve covering each habitat or ecosystem in each region; with discussion of the benefits of having fewer, larger MPAs.

MPA Draft Classification tools

A range of tools and mechanisms will be used including:

- Marine reserves (Marine Reserves Act 1971);
- Customary tools such as taiapure, mataitai, rahui (Fisheries Act 1996 and the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998);
- Resource Management Act 1991 tools such as coastal plans.

The intention of MFish and DoC is that regional MPA fora (MPA Forum) will decide which tools are appropriate for each area identified for protection.

An MPA Forum has been established for the South Island’s west coast while the Otago/Southland, Sub-Antartica Islands and Hauraki Gulf fora are still in the planning phase.

The intention of MFish and DoC is to have 10 percent of the marine environment in coastal waters protected by 2010.

Implementation of the MPA Policy from the 200m-depth limit to 200nm from the coast – the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – will not begin until 2013.

This submission:

Is in response to the MPA Draft Classification and Protection Standard document (MPA Draft Classification) issued by the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) and Department of Conservation (DoC) in June 2007.

We have contributed to and are in support of the joint submission provided by the Hokianga Accord (the mid north regional iwi fisheries forum), option4 and the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council.

We agree with the joint submission that a much broader approach to environmental management incorporating the Maori principles of Kaitiakitanga is required. The lack of acknowledgement of the potential of Kaitiakitanga seems to suggest that the MPA policy proposals are predetermined. More so it appears that MFish and DoC have given little regard for our respected Kaitiaki who have been appointed by Te Rarawa, in the MPA development or implementation plan.

We acknowledge your efforts, our efforts and the efforts of many others to enhance Marine Protected Areas, we look forward to further participating in future management and policy development processes.

Piki te ora,

Abraham Witana,
Environmental Coordinator,
Te Runanga o Te Rarawa

Chairperson,
Te Hiku o Te Ika Cultural Fisheries Forum,
Nga Iwi o Te Hiku o Te Ika

Facilitator,
Te Kotahitanga o Hokianga,
Hokianga a Kupe Taonga Tuku Iho