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## TRIBE WANTS CAPE FISHING BAN.

By DARREL MAGER.

291 words

16 March 1999

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1999 The New Zealand Herald

Commercial fishers could be banned from 50km of Far North coastal waters - including Cape Reinga and a lost world of marine organisms - under a mataitai reserve application before the Minister of Fisheries.

The Ngati Kuri tribe from the top of the North Island said yesterday that it was concerned by the "ecological damage caused by intensive fishing" and it wanted the minister, John Luxton, to approve a **marine reserve** under new customary rights regulations.

A fisheries spokesman for Ngati Kuri, Andrew Christie, said that while the tribe had yet to properly define just how large the mataitai reserve should be, iwi felt it should cover around 48km of coastline from Ninety Mile Beach, up to Cape Reinga and down the east coast a similar distance.

Mr Christie said recent accusations by scientists and environmentalists that fishing boats trawling Spirits Bay near the cape were destroying a lost world of rare marine species spurred the tribe into action.

Mr Luxton's office said yesterday that the tribe would have to first appoint a kaitiaki (caretaker) to take charge of customary fishing decisions before its mataitai application could be processed.

A mataitai could take several months to set up.

Vaughan Wilkinson, a director of Simunovich Fisheries, said last night that any moves for a mataitai would be opposed as the proposed area was too much for the industry to give up.

He said environmental concerns for the lost world in Spirits Bay were unfounded as the industry had worked specific trawl paths for the past 45 years.

He said commercial fishermen stuck to those trawl lines and did not go into the "sponge beds" which were of scientific interest.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1999.

Document nzhd00020010908dv3g00847

## RESERVE 'PAST LAST HURDLE'.

190 words

15 March 1999

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1999 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A Banks Peninsula **marine reserve** has passed its last hurdle and should be put in place in April, Conservation Minister Nick Smith says.

Dr Smith said Transport Minister Maurice Williamson and Associate Fisheries Minister David Carter had agreed to the reserve going ahead.

He said the reserve would be the first on the east coast of the South Island.

"It is a great pleasure that we have passed the last hurdle in Sea Week," he said. Sea Week runs all this week.

He indicated it was time to look to the sea as well as the land as being in need of protection.

"We have set aside 30 per cent of New Zealand land as areas of conservation and there is less than 0.1 per cent of sea in protection. In other words this reserve is very significant."

The new reserve would have a complete ban on fishing and would be particularly important for species like Hector's dolphins and blue penguins.

The reserve will consist of about 210ha, including Flea Bay on the headlands south of Akaroa Harbour.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1999.

Document thepre0020010912dv3f001n9

## **MARINE RESERVE BATTLE PREDICTED.**

203 words  
5 March 1999  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1999 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, March 5 - Commercial fisherman are likely to fight the setting up of a **marine reserve** on Wellington's south coast.

Prime Minister Jenny Shipley met British environmentalist David Bellamy at Island Bay beach yesterday to discuss environmental issues, including establishing a south coast **marine reserve**.

Dr Bellamy called in on his way to Auckland, where he is launching the New Zealand Trust for Conservation Volunteers Inc, of which he is patron.

Mrs Shipley said she supported the efforts of South Coast Marine Reserve Coalition to find a consensus over reserve boundaries and a south coast management plan.

A draft application for a reserve was expected to be with Conservation Minister Nick Smith by May, coalition spokesman Andrew Cutler said.

He would not disclose boundaries, saying that was still sensitive but he hoped it would be the cornerstone of a marine park.

Rock Lobster Industry Council executive officer Daryl Sykes said the livelihood of owners of smaller fishing boats would be jeopardised.

While the industry supported a small reserve for scientific purposes it could not back this proposal.

"We have suggested alternative sites but we have not had a great response," he said.

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Document nzpa000020010908dv3501c3p

## SHIPLEY LEFT MAROONED WITH MEDIA.

By Alan SAMSON.

297 words

5 March 1999

The Dominion

2

English

(c) 1999 The Dominion, INL .

WHEN a late plane delayed the Island Bay beach meeting of environmentalist David Bellamy and Prime Minister Jenny Shipley yesterday, it left Mrs Shipley with a good 10 minutes during which reporters could not be avoided.

There to discuss moves to include Wellington's south coast in a **marine reserve**, she was peppered with questions about more contentious parliamentary issues.

After refusing on several occasions to talk about anything but the environment, she was asked why she appeared to be suddenly offering numerous photo opportunities for the news media.

"Couldn't this meeting have been at the office?"

"I'll decide where I go," a visibly irritated Mrs Shipley said.

Reminded this was an election year, she added: "If you choose I'm not worth covering, don't come."

When Mr Bellamy arrived, he, Mrs Shipley and Conservation Minister Nick Smith enjoyed a leisurely walk along the beach, at last discussing the rosy future of marine reserves.

"A few years ago fishermen were absolutely agin it (marine reserves); now they're absolutely for it," Mrs Shipley said.

Cleaning up Wellington's sewage disposal had dramatically helped the recovery of the local fishery, she said.

Everyone agreed when Mr Bellamy made the link between environmental and public health.

People had welcomed reserves on land, but were slower to accept them at sea: Mrs Shipley promised more marine reserves "as people gain confidence".

"The good news is that there will be more fish about," Mr Bellamy said.

Even better news may be that Mrs Shipley has offered her backing to the local Marine Reserve Coalition in its attempts to get a community consensus on boundaries for a reserve, and a management plan for the south coast.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1999.

Document domn000020010904dv3500kf0

**SHIPLEY MEETS DAVID BELLAMY.**

64 words

4 March 1999

New Zealand Press Association

English

(c) 1999 New Zealand Press Association

Wellington, March 4 - Prime Minister Jenny Shipley will today meet leading environmentalist David Bellamy at a Wellington beach in Island Bay.

They are to discuss environmental issues including marine conservation and a proposal to establish a **marine reserve** on Wellington's south coast.

Dr Bellamy will also meet Conservation Minister Nick Smith later today.

(C) 1999 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010908dv34018s4

## **COUNCIL SINKS PLANS FOR REEF OFF COROMANDEL.**

By PHILIPPA STEVENSON.

398 words

20 February 1999

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1999 The New Zealand Herald

WHITIANGA - A decision sinking plans for an artificial reef off Coromandel, and the way it was publicly announced, has angered the developer.

An Environment Waikato hearing committee this week turned down the proposal by In Tandem Maritime Enhancement to scuttle up to three ships, possibly including the frigate Waikato and derelict tug Otago, near a **marine reserve** between Cooks and Hahei beaches.

The company's request for exclusive occupation of the site - not sought for any other dive site - would alienate the public, the committee said.

It also said the project would affect the ecology of the marine reserve by drawing fish to the reef, where they could be caught.

A council spokesman, David Pearks, said: "It would be a constant drain on the marine reserve."

A spokesman for the company, Alistair Wait, said the decision appeared to be based on fisheries management issues, which were the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, not the regional council.

The company had not decided whether to appeal to the Environment Court because it might be easier to establish the reef elsewhere.

"I'm trying to buy a frigate. It's not the sort of thing you want to buy unless you have somewhere to put it," Mr Wait said.

The Northland Regional Council, had allowed the Tui, a former Navy vessel, to be sunk off Tutukaka.

"We have a choice. Do we muck around in the Coromandel with this sort of nonsense or do we get up with a community that really wants something good?" he said.

Mr Wait was angry the council announced the decision in a news release, after the company tried for a solution without going to appeal.

In a letter to the council, he said the news release was a self-serving political statement that tried to "rephrase and reprioritise the content of a hearing committee decision which is severely flawed."

The release was a "deceitful and hostile attack intended to prejudice our appeal of the decision and influence the minds of parties likely to become involved in it," he said.

Mr Pearks rejected the criticism, saying the council usually made committee decisions public in news releases.

And he said the decision was based on the health of the marine environment, which was within the council's jurisdiction.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1999.

Document nzhld00020010908dv2k000q8

## FEARS OF ILLEGAL CRAYFISHING.

152 words

27 January 1999

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1999 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

NELSON - Evidence of an increasing crayfish population in the Tonga Island **Marine Reserve** has Department of Conservation officials worried that it might attract illegal fishing there.

The department issued a reminder to visiting boat owners of the area's reserve status. Tonga Island is in Tasman Bay.

Motueka area manager Colin Wishart said illegal fishing in the 1835ha marine reserve was not a big problem but regular visits by conservation staff and reports from commercial operators brought almost daily evidence of people who were not aware fishing was banned in the area.

"I don't believe we have a serious compliance problem but there are on-going breaches at the lower end," he said.

If the recovery of marine life in the reserve was allowed to continue it would benefit the tourism potential of the reserve and fishing all along the coast.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1999.

Document thepre0020010911dv1r006mt

## **BIRDLIFE FEAR OVER HELIPORT PROPOSAL.**

214 words  
22 January 1999  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1999 New Zealand Press Association

Auckland, Jan 21 - The Department of Conservation fears helicopters will kill rare birds if plans for a heliport in Avondale go ahead unchanged.

Officials are negotiating with the backers of the proposal, Oceania Helicopters, about the flight path. The approved path is north over Traherne Island, which, as well as being bisected by the north-western motorway, is surrounded by the Pollen Island **Marine Reserve**.

A department spokesman, Ian Bradley, says the islands and marine reserve are an important habitat for many types of birds, including three threatened species: the New Zealand dotterel, the North Island fern bird and the banded rail.

The department is worried about helicopter bird strike and the potential effects of noise on birds, he says.

An Oceania director, Derek Jolly, says department officials had suggested it might ask for a flight path either side of Traherne Island.

He doubted the existing path would have any adverse effects on the birds - "especially because there's a motorway there" - but his company was happy to comply with the department's wishes.

Oceania has applied to the Auckland City Council for resource consent for up to 30 helicopter arrivals and 30 departures a day at the heliport between 7am and 10pm.

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Document nzpa000020010908dv1m00xqr

## HELIPORT PLANS RUN INTO FLAK.

411 words  
19 January 1999  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1999 New Zealand Press Association

Auckland, Jan 19 - Plans for a commercial heliport overlooking a **marine reserve** in the Auckland suburb of Avondale have upset conservationists and residents.

Opponent and suburban Waterview resident Trina Sellers, said nearly 500 people had signed a petition against the project.

She feared the take-offs and landings by noisy helicopters would disturb her peaceful suburb.

Oceania Helicopters has applied to the Auckland City Council for resource consent for up to 30 departures and 30 arrivals a day at its 1.5 hectare site off. It has already carried out earthworks under a separate consent from the Auckland Regional Council.

The company wants city council approval to operate seven days a week from 7 am to 10 pm and to store up to 30,000 litres of aviation fuel. The site is in a zone in the new district plan which does not specifically allow heliports.

The flight path would take helicopters across Traherne Island and up to their minimum operating level over the city of 300m. That path is 1.1km from Waterview and 1.5km from Pt Chevalier. The edge of Avondale, 600m south of the heliport, is the closest residential area.

Kit Howden, the local branch chairman of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, said it was preparing a submission against the application because of concerns about the potential adverse effects on wildlife and birdlife at the Pollen Island Marine Reserve.

There was insufficient information on that issue in the consent application, he said.

A company director, Derek Jolly, himself a Pt Chevalier resident, questioned the criticisms about noise.

The company's noise adviser, Hegley Acoustic Consultants, intended to begin noise tests tomorrow in potentially affected residential areas, he said. "So how they (the residents) can say that before the tests I don't know; how they can quantify that in health terms I don't know either."

A Hegley report predicts that even at more than 32 return flights a day the heliport would be within the average noise restrictions on which the district plan relies.

Mr Jolly said demand for helicopter services was growing. The existing commercial heliports around the city and at Auckland Airport were insufficient.

Contrary to the application, he said, the Avondale heliport would operate only during daylight hours, except when emergency services needed it.

And only rarely would there be more than eight take-offs and eight landings a day.

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Document nzpa000020010908dv1j010ua

## **NESTING SITE BOUGHT FOR PENGUIN RESERVE.**

195 words

5 January 1999

The Christchurch Press

7

English

(c) 1999 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

An important nesting site for endangered white-flipped penguins on Banks Peninsula has been bought by the Nature Heritage Fund.

Conservation Minister Nick Smith said the new 30ha reserve was on the north side of Flea Bay adjacent to the 210ha Pohatu **Marine Reserve** announced in December.

The penguin reserve had been bought from a local farmer, and would be administered by the Department of Conservation in conjunction with the marine reserve.

White-flipped penguins are endemic to Canterbury, and are found only on Banks Peninsula and Motunau Island. The total population is about 2200.

Dr Smith described the purchase as "a wonderful coup for conservation and a national first".

He said it was often difficult to acquire additional land for conservation, and even more difficult to get marine reserves.

"To achieve both adjacent to each other is a real coup for the penguins who need protection both on land and sea," he said.

Dr Smith paid tribute to local landowners for their role in looking after penguin nesting sites over the years, and said he hoped they would continue to do so.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1999.

Document thepre0020010911dv15004xa

## WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR MARINE RESERVE.

By Jonathan MILNE.

321 words

4 January 1999

The Dominion

2

English

(c) 1999 The Dominion, INL .

THE first Maori fisheries reserve, just opened on Banks Peninsula is to be accompanied by a new **marine reserve**.

After Ngai Tahu consulted local fishermen and conservation groups to establish the fisheries reserve at Rapaki, they gave their consent to the establishment of the Pohatu **marine reserve** at nearby Flea Bay.

The Rapaki reserve, created under new customary fishing regulations, identifies the area as an important place for customary food gathering.

The marine reserve, which will protect a historic pa site and neighbouring penguin nesting sites, will be the first such reserve to have the endorsement of tribes, commercial and recreational fishing interests and conservation groups.

Ngai Tahu customary fisheries manager Miranda Cassidy said the reserve's creation was "a step forward for indigenous rights and a leap ahead for local communities to manage the fisheries resources".

She said a Rapaki council, representing local Maoris, had appointed two fisheries managers, who would issue customary fishing permits in the area and make bylaws to govern use of the Rapaki reserve.

Those bylaws would apply equally to all local fishermen.

Fisheries Ministry spokesman Neil Cairns said ministry staff had waited with much expectation to see how the Rapaki reserve would proceed, after having to iron out a few initial problems.

"There were a couple of submissions from non-Maori in the consultation process concerned about the scope of the reserve. But once they sat down and heard what the objectives of the applicants for the reserve were, they supported it as well.

"The applicants put in a lot of work behind the scenes, talking with everyone and that's what made the process go so smoothly."

Mr Cairns said the next step in the process would be for the fisheries managers to propose bylaws.

Those bylaws would be available for public perusal before they could be approved by the minister.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1999.

Document domn000020010904dv14003b7

## **DON'T BE TEMPTED TO FISH, IWI TOLD.**

By ANGELA GREGORY.

340 words

24 December 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - A Northland coastal iwi is telling its members not to take advantage of a finding that the Minister of Conservation erred in law by failing to consider Maori customary rights when he banned fishing at the Poor Knights Islands **marine reserve**.

The minister, Nick Smith, closed the reserve, 24km off the Whangarei coast, to all fishing last May. The Ngatiwai Trust Board this September challenged the decision just as the new regulations were about to come into full effect.

After a High Court hearing this month, Justice Smellie said in a reserved decision that Dr Smith's decision had been unlawful "to the extent [and in no other respect] that it related to customary Maori fishing interests" and directed the minister to review that.

Justice Smellie found the iwi had a legitimate expectation that its customary rights should have been considered.

The lawyer for the Ngatiwai Trust Board, Wayne Peters, said because of the illegal aspect of Dr Smith's decision, the previous situation where the iwi had customary rights resumed.

The Department of Conservation has rejected that interpretation, while Dr Smith said on Tuesday that any Maori fishing in the reserve was untenable.

Justice Smellie's decision said it was clear that both sides had agreed that regulations which preserved traditional fishing rights did not apply in marine reserves.

The consequence is the only way in which Ngatiwai's traditional customary fishing rights in respect of the waters around the Poor Knights which are within the reserve can be secured is by the exercise of the minister's discretion pursuant to section 3 (3) of the Marine Reserves Act."

Mr Peters said Ngatiwai nonetheless believed it had existing customary fishing rights in the reserve, and would internally debate what they meant, which is not necessarily something from the 1840s."

He said the iwi members had meanwhile been advised not to attempt to exercise those rights by fishing in the reserve.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhld00020010926duco0098n

## MAORI CLAIM CUSTOMARY FISHING RIGHTS VICTORY.

399 words  
23 December 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Whangarei, Dec 23 - The Ngatiwai Trust Board is claiming victory with legal recognition of customary fishing rights at Poor Knights Islands **Marine Reserve**.

However, the board is urging its 10,000 members not to exercise those rights until after further talks with the Department of Conservation (DOC).

In a High Court decision just released, Justice Smellie ruled that Conservation Minister Nick Smith should have considered Maori customary rights when he decided to ban all fishing at the island group off the Tutukaka coast.

Ngatiwai issued a last-minute challenge to the ban just before it took effect on October 1, arguing that while the iwi supported the ban on commercial and recreational fishing, it did not relinquish customary rights there.

Ngatiwai lawyer Wayne Peters today said the High Court decision recognised the iwi's customary rights, which dated back more than 100 years.

"How this is recognised is yet to be determined by the iwi in discussions with DOC."

The board would meet as soon as possible to discuss its next move, he said.

In the meantime, the board was advising iwi members to refrain from exercising customary rights at the Poor Knights Islands.

"If you believe customary rights are yours, you have an entitlement. However, to exercise them without discussion (with DOC) would be discourteous," Mr Peters said.

He said the High Court judge had ruled the minister's decision to include customary fishing in the Poor Knights ban was illegal and therefore did not apply.

However, DOC believes the High Court ruling does not let Ngatiwai exercise their rights without specific exemptions from the minister.

Northland conservancy lawyer Paul Gorringe said DOC believed the High Court decision had not opened the marine reserve for customary fishers.

He was relieved to hear Ngatiwai was urging members not to test the waters by exercising customary rights.

Meanwhile, the High Court decision changes little for 18 charter boat operators who also challenged the ban.

Scott Rinkin, of the Tutukaka Charter Boats Association, said his group felt vindicated.

"We backed them because they backed us. If Ngatiwai have got what they were after, good on them. We support them."

He said the charter boat operators argued that the minister had failed to properly consult before imposing the ban. Charter boats now had no choice but to observe the ban.

(C) 1998 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010926ducn00b3d

**RESERVE CONFIRMED.**

47 words

23 December 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

The Parininihi **Marine Reserve**, off north Taranaki, will go ahead but be smaller than originally planned. The proposed reserve, the 15th in the country, will bring the total area of marine reserves to 4 per cent of the coastline.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhld00020010926ducn00972

## JUDGE RULES FOR MAORI IN FISHING COMPLAINT.

By ANGELA GREGORY.  
442 words  
23 December 1998  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - A High Court judge has found the Minister of Conservation should have considered Maori customary rights when he decided to ban fishing at the Poor Knights Islands **marine reserve**.

But the Department of Conservation says the decision does not now open up the reserve, 24km off the Whangarei coast, to local Maori fishers for customary purposes.

The Ngatiwai Trust Board argued in the High Court at Auckland this month that the minister, Nick Smith, failed to take account of their customary rights in the marine reserve last May when he decided on a total fishing ban 800m around the island group.

The ban took full effect from October 1.

In a reserved decision released yesterday, Justice Smellie said the iwi had argued that while it always supported a full ban on commercial and recreational fishing in the reserve, its customary rights should not be affected.

Ngatiwai claimed it legitimately expected Dr Smith would take its unique relationship with the islands into account, and consider exercising his discretion to preserve the customary rights.

The minister's argument was that the support of the iwi for a complete fishing ban included a ban on its customary rights, so he did not have to consider such an exemption.

But Justice Smellie agreed the iwi was entitled to expect that Dr Smith would take its assertion of customary fishing rights into account when deciding the new regulations.

Justice Smellie said the iwi's case also suggested that it expected its fishing rights would be preserved.

As the iwi accepted there should be no interference with the commercial and recreational fishing ban, Justice Smellie said all he could properly grant was a declaration that the May 1997 decision was unlawful in relation to customary fishing interests.

He said Dr Smith should be directed to reconsider his decision as it related to customary rights.

The Northland conservancy's lawyer, Paul Gorringe, said the Marine Reserves Act 1971 allowed Dr Smith to grant exceptions to the general fishing ban that could recognise some form of customary rights.

Mr Gorringe said that now needed resolving. In the meantime, the ban remained and Maori could not fish in the reserve as of right.

"We need to ascertain exactly what Ngatiwai are seeking by way of customary fishing rights, if anything, and that will be discussed along with a wide range of issues we are already engaged in."

Dr Smith said he hoped to meet Maori in the new year.

He believed that allowing Maori to fish, while banning commercial and recreational fishing, was untenable.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhd00020010926ducn00971

## **NEW MARINE RESERVE FOR BANKS PENINSULA.**

247 words  
20 December 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Christchurch, Dec 20 - Agreement has been reached between Ngai Tahu, fishers and conservation groups on the establishment of a new **marine reserve** centred on Flea Bay, on Banks Peninsula.

Conservation Minister Nick Smith said today the reserve would be known as the Pohatu **Marine Reserve** in recognition of the ancient pa site on the southern headland of the area to be protected.

This was the first marine reserve to have the endorsement of iwi, commercial and recreational fishing interests, and conservation groups, he said.

It was the first on the east coast of the South Island and the 14th in New Zealand.

The Onuku, Wairewa, and Koukourarata runanga of Ngai Tahu, the Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Canterbury Marine Recreational Fishers Association, and the Akaroa Harbour Commercial Fishers Association have been meeting with the minister since last March to try to reach a compromise agreement on two applications for marine reserves and an application for a taiapure, or controlled local fishery. Agreement was finally reached during the weekend.

The reserve included 6.5km of coastline from the southwest corner of Redcliffe Point to Ounuhau Point Rock, incorporating 210ha of diverse marine life, including that at Nook Island, and the largest blue penguin colony on Banks Peninsula.

The agreement also promoted the acquisition of farmland to protect penguin-nesting sites adjacent to the marine reserve, Mr Smith said.

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Document nzpa000020010926duck008qd

## SHIPS MAY FORM REEF.

By PHILIPPA STEVENSON.

343 words

9 December 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHITIANGA - An artificial reef formed off the Coromandel coast from the controversial tug Otago and the frigate Waikato could generate millions of dollars in business from scuba divers, say its backers.

An Auckland company, In Tandem Maritime Enhancement, says the reef, next to a **marine reserve** between Cooks Beach and Hahei, could inject up to \$15 million a year into the regional economy.

It would more than compensate for the closure of Thames' Toyota car-assembly plant, the company said in a resource consent application.

Company spokesman Alistair Wait said the proposal, which will go before an Environment Waikato hearing committee on December 21, arose from an investigation of employment generation in rural areas.

"We are looking at it from the local economic perspective. I am not a diver," he said.

He has put in a tender to Environment Waikato to dispose of the Otago. Last month, the council won the right to scuttle the tug after the High Court rejected an appeal from owner Phillip Dorn.

The Otago had been moored in the Piako River for five years and there had been plans to use it as a prop for pirate movies. It is now at Pipiroa wharf in the Firth of Thames.

Mr Wait was confident the council would accept his offer but nothing would be finalised until the High Court lifted an earlier preservation order on the tug. The firm was also keen to bid for the Waikato.

The company said its proposal would provide the third artificial reef in New Zealand, which had the highest number of divers per head of population in the world.

Boats would take groups from Whitianga and if the reef attracted one dive trip a year from Auckland divers alone, it would generate nearly \$5 million in direct revenue.

The proposal has attracted 11 submissions, including support from the Mercury Bay Community Board. Objectors included the local iwi, Ngati Hei, and a marine reserve advisory committee to the Department of Conservation.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhd00020010926duc9008xm

## **CRAYFISH IN RESERVE EXPERIMENT.**

122 words

3 December 1998

The Christchurch Press

7

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

NELSON - The Department of Conservation plans to use crayfish to work out the ideal size for marine reserves.

This month researchers plan to catch crayfish in the Tonga **Marine Reserve** off Abel Tasman National Park and fit them with microchip tags to monitor their movements.

Coastal ecologist Andrew Baxter said the purpose of the study was to provide new information on the size marine reserves needed to be to ensure they were as effective as possible.

Information from the study could be applied when the department considered future proposals for marine reserves, he said.

"We need to be sure that each reserve is large enough to protect key species," Mr Baxter said.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927duc3007rn

## **MARINE RESERVE PLAN NEAR FRUITION.**

By ANGELA GREGORY.

544 words

10 October 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - A class project has evolved into a full-blown marine-reserves proposal by eight years of Kamo High School seventhform geography students.

The students are close to formally notifying the proposal begun by the 1991 class to set aside three areas of the Whangarei Harbour as fully protected marine reserves.

Samara Sutherland, aged 18, said the students had come up with the idea to liven up their studies.

The class had at first considered the benefits of protecting the waters around Motukaroro Island, and the middle of the harbour entrance.

The steep rock face and sandy bottom support an abundance of wildlife including kahawai, kingfish, snapper, reef fish, crustaceans, sponges and jewel anemones.

The area's proximity to Whangarei is seen as a bonus to allow recreational activity and scientific research.

Samara Sutherland said Dr Bill Ballantine, who initiated the country's first marine reserve at Leigh, had then suggested extending the project to another two areas in the harbour.

"They form an ecological sequence in their relationship within the harbour, providing protection for many more species."

The students added a mangrove site at Waikaraka, near Onerahi, which is a nursery for many harbour fish such as snapper, trevally, kahawai and kingfish.

Crabs, cockles and juvenile fish live in the mud, and the mangroves are accessible for recreational, tourism and educational purposes.

The other proposed reserve is an area named Motumatakohe, around Limestone Island opposite the Onerahi Yacht Club.

The students believe it desperately needs protection to provide secure feeding grounds for species with catchy names such as leather jackets, eagle rays, stalk-eyed mud crabs and snapping shrimps.

"To have three different marine reserves within one area is really unique," said Samara Sutherland, for whom the project has been inspiring. She hopes to broach the subject of a marine reserve at her coastal village of Whananaki, 42km northeast of Whangarei, and plans to study environmental engineering at Unitec in Auckland.

Likewise Emma Jelsma, 17, believes the experience will help her plans to become a lawyer. She has been responsible for presenting the proposal to large businesses in the area, which she has found a useful insight and confidence boost.

"I had to front up, present a case, and debate the merits."

Richard Pepene, 18, who wants to study business at university next year, was also involved with the commercial aspects of the proposal. "Before, I didn't have a clue as to how to negotiate. This has been a pretty awesome project."

Other students are now embarking on a fundraising drive to pay for the advertising and consultation aspects of the proposal, which is likely to be presented to the Minister of Conservation next year.

The Department of Conservation's Northland coastal planner Jenny Edwards, said she was impressed with the students' efforts, particularly as they had included an area which was "one of the most productive areas on Earth."

Jenny Edwards said most areas put aside for reserves were popular diving spots but other types of reserves should be encouraged, including salt marsh and mangrove ecosystems.

It was "sad and incredible" that in Northland there were no mainland marine reserves despite the 1500km of high-value coastline.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhd00020010926duaa0076d

## **IWI BID TO FISH WOULD BE FIRST.**

By ANGELA GREGORY.

361 words

5 October 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - A Northland coastal iwi's attempt to retain customary fishing rights at the Poor Knights Islands **marine reserve** will be a first if successful.

The Ngatiwai Trust Board is making a legal bid to secure iwi fishing rights and shared management of what it considers to be sacred waters around the island group, 24km off the Tutukaka coast.

Last week, fishing was formally banned in the reserve, which extends 800m around the islands and associated rocks and stacks.

The trust board's case to overturn the new regulations by setting aside the fishing ban order will be heard in the High Court at Auckland next month.

The Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith, has vowed to fight vigorously the iwi's "disappointing" move.

Maori elsewhere have mixed views on marine reserves, but some iwi have been active in their establishment and in some cases have shared management with the Department of Conservation.

However, none of the country's 14 established marine reserves have permitted Maori customary fishing within their boundaries.

An Auckland University marine biologist and marine reserve authority, Dr Bill Ballantine, was critical of the Ngatiwai customary fishing move.

"That this route is being taken for their otherwise quite reasonable request to be represented in the management of the reserve is disappointing."

Dr Ballantine said Maori in other parts of the country had got involved with marine reserves without making such demands.

"There might be an impression Maori are against marine reserves but that simply isn't true. I can point to a number of cases where they have been heavily involved and with no intention of retaining customary rights."

A department officer, Clinton Duffy, said a new marine reserve in central Hawkes Bay had tangata whenua support.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Northland Conservation Board, Richard Drake, said it had set up a special subcommittee to establish a management plan for the Poor Knights marine reserve.

The group included representatives of diving, fishing, conservation and tangata whenua interests.

Mr Drake said while the department would manage the reserve, the committee would formulate policy.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhld00020010926dua5006zt

## LURES SNARE POOR KNIGHTS FISH.

By ANGELA GREGORY.

448 words

3 October 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

TUTUKAKA - Anglers are turning to huge \$3500 lures to attract fish near the bountiful Poor Knights **marine reserve** now that it has been closed for fishing.

Two fish aggregation devices have been dropped 400m from the edge of the reserve in the hope that small fish will be attracted to food and shelter around them.

A fishing ban came into force on Thursday in the area 800m around the Poor Knights, 24km from the Tutukaka coast.

The Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers' Club has dropped two of the devices. In about two months the sea growth on the buoys, chain and rope is expected to attract small fish, which will lure gamefish.

The club manager, Hilton Polkinghorne, said resource consents had also been approved for another two devices, which cost about \$3500 each.

Mr Polkinghorne said the devices would help charter-boat skippers and recreational fishers cope with the ban by creating new fishing opportunities at the Poor Knights.

"Huge amounts of livelihood are at stake here ...we are trying to make the best of the situation we are faced with. This will provide at least some sheltered fishing."

The regulations announced last year prohibit fishing within 800m of the Poor Knights Islands and associated stacks, and the Sugarloaf and High Peak rocks.

The waters have been a marine reserve since 1981, with limited fishing allowed until the Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith, decided to close the reserve to fishers in two stages - the southern half from last October, and the remaining area now.

Commercial and recreational fishers largely opposed the move, while divers and conservationists applauded it.

Mr Polkinghorne said only pelagic or open ocean fish, which passed through the area, would be attracted to the devices moored in at least 100m of water.

The reserve would fully protect the resident fish populations that mainly inhabited the underwater cliffs, he said.

Mr Polkinghorne said similar devices had been used off Northland's east coast to attract gamefish, but were lost in big seas.

The new design by a Kerikeri company had been used successfully throughout the Pacific, including by commercial fishers.

However, at the Poor Knights, commercial fishers were prohibited from fishing within one nautical mile of the group, and only long-lining was available for another two nautical miles.

A Tutukaka charter-boat owner, Malcolm Pitt, said the devices were better than nothing but he doubted they would attract popular catches such as snapper because of their deepwater location.

A local marine researcher, Wade Doak, said he did not oppose the devices, which were "another doorway to the delights of the deep ocean."

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhd00020010926dua3006ym

## **IWI BID TO SCUPPER NO-TAKE RULES.**

By ANGELA GREGORY.

421 words

1 October 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - Last-minute legal action by the Ngatiwai Trust board to secure customary fishing rights in the Poor Knights Islands **marine reserve** has angered the Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith.

The waters have suddenly been muddied in what was being touted by the Department of Conservation as an historic day when one of the world's reputed top dive spots would be closed to all fishing.

Dr Smith last year decided the rules allowing a limited take in the reserve were not working, as it was being put under too much fishing pressure.

He ordered the reserve, which extended 800m around the island group and associated stacks and rocks, be closed in two stages to protect marine life.

The southern island of Aorangi was closed to fishing last October. The prohibition was to be extended to the remaining reserve a year later.

But the Ngatiwai Trust Board yesterday made an eleventh-hour application to the High Court at Auckland to set aside the minister's order.

The board's lawyer, Wayne Peters, said that if the application succeeded, the previous rules which allowed limited fishing over 92 per cent of the reserve would resume for all fishers.

He said Ngatiwai would argue the minister had failed to complete proper consultation.

The new regulations to ban fishing would meanwhile stand until the application was heard in November.

An iwi spokesman, Hori Parata, said while Ngatiwai would not necessarily fish in the reserve, it did not want its customary rights extinguished.

Mr Parata said the iwi had made its views known to Dr Smith earlier this year but he had not responded.

Dr Smith said the iwi's move, just 24 hours before his order came into effect, was extremely disappointing.

"I get a bit annoyed when Maori claim customary fishing rights in marine reserves. If marine reserves are to be effective they must be no-take zones for everyone including Maori."

Dr Smith said the iwi had last May informed him in writing it strongly favoured prohibiting all fishing out to 1km from the Poor Knights.

He would instruct officials to fight the court challenge vigorously, and said his decision had followed extensive consultation spanning nearly five years.

Dr Smith said less than 0.1 per cent of New Zealand's marine environment was protected.

It was important in the International Year of Oceans that New Zealand made progress in increasing areas of marine protection.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhd00020010926dua1006vn

**MPS FAILED TO TALK TO US - MAORI LEADER.**

180 words

12 September 1998

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A Banks Peninsula Maori leader says he is disappointed that a group of MPs has become involved in the Akaroa Harbour **marine reserve** debate without talking to Maori interests.

MPs David Carter, Ruth Dyson, and Rod Donald have joined together on the issue, saying that Canterbury people were frustrated by the lack of action.

The MPs said they were concerned that some members of Ngai Tahu and fishing groups were obstructing the wishes of local people who wanted a marine reserve in part of the harbour.

Three Banks Peninsula runangas have applied for a taiapure or customary fishing regulations over the whole harbour.

The head of the Onuku Runanga near Akaroa, George Tikao, said: "It's disappointing for us that this sort of statement has been made.

"Maybe they (the MPs) should have a talk with us so they get two sides of the story." Mr Tikao said the runangas were not opposed to marine reserves, but the area of the proposal conflicted with Maori interests.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du9c00fma

## **MARINE RESERVE UNITES MPS.**

236 words

11 September 1998

The Christchurch Press

3

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

WELLINGTON - Three MPs are casting aside their political differences to lobby for a long-awaited **marine reserve**.

National Banks Peninsula MP David Carter, Labour list MP Ruth Dyson, and Alliance list MP Rod Donald have met Conservation Minister Nick Smith to find out what is happening to an application lodged more than four years ago for an Akaroa **marine reserve**.

The MPs said they had decided to tackle the issue together because Canterbury people were frustrated with the lack of action.

Dr Smith told them objections from some fishermen and Ngai Tahu were holding up the application.

"It concerns us that some members of Ngai Tahu are obstructing the wishes of local people who want to see a marine reserve created within the harbour. At the same time, Ngai Tahu is proposing a taiapure (protected coastal fishing area) to cover the whole of Akaroa Harbour," the MPs said in a joint statement.

"This would give Ngai Tahu the ability to manage the harbour in conjunction with local representatives, in other words significant influence. Why can't they agree to accommodate both?"

The MPs said they wanted to work with Ngai Tahu and the fishermen to resolve the issue and come up with a solution that would protect the unique marine environment around Banks Peninsula.

"Four years of little or no action is unacceptable," they said. - NZPA.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du9b00fk3

## **AKAROA HARBOUR PLAN REMAINS UNRESOLVED.**

By Howard KEENE.

222 words

5 September 1998

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Conservation Minister Nick Smith has again met groups for and against a **marine reserve** in Akaroa Harbour to try to broker a deal.

Dr Smith has convened a series of meetings between conservationists fighting for a reserve in the harbour, and Maori and fishing interests who do not want one.

After yesterday's meeting Dr Smith said the groups had not yet been able to reach a resolution.

"The issues are highly contentious, and reaching a consensus is proving extremely challenging," he said.

Dr Smith would not say what the sticking points were.

Vince Burke, president of the Recreational Marine Fishers' Association, said Dr Smith had made it clear that groups were not to go to the news media.

He thought yesterday's meeting went well.

Alliance MP Rod Donald said he and other MPs from the Banks Peninsula area, David Carter and Ruth Dyson, supported a marine reserve, and hoped to meet Dr Smith about it.

A proposal has been made for a marine reserve covering 10 per cent of the harbour.

Ngai Tahu runangas in the area have applied for a taiapure, or customary fishing regulations, over the whole harbour. They do not want a marine reserve.

Recreational and commercial fishing groups support the taiapure proposal.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du9500f8d

## **BOUNDARY CHANGES JEOPARDISE MARINE RESERVE SUPPORT.**

437 words  
15 June 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Auckland, June 15 - Vital support for New Zealand's first **marine reserve** could be jeopardised if the correction of an "administrative oversight" extends the reserve to its legal boundary.

Local landowners and tangata whenua say their support for the reserve at Leigh, 90km north of Auckland, would disappear if valuable fishing grounds were tacked on to the western edge of the reserve.

At present, boundary markers stand to the east of the prized fishing grounds, but Department of Conservation (DOC) staff discovered the gazetted and legal boundary includes the 27ha area.

The discovery was made after work began on a new management plan for the 545ha reserve.

Locals say the current physical boundary was agreed to after consultation in 1982 and it was to be gazetted as the new legal boundary.

The change benefited Maori living at Pakiri, 8km north-west of Leigh, allowing them access to the only rocks suitable for fishing on their side of the reserve. The area is prized for its reef-dwelling fish and crayfish.

The department agrees the change should have been made, but an administrative oversight meant it was never gazetted. The Former Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries administered the reserve.

DOC community relations manager Warwick Murray said the obvious thing to do was gazette the 1982 changes, but the department wanted to consult all concerned.

Some conservationists want to see the original 1975 boundaries retained.

Pakiri kaumatua Laly Haddon said any boundary change would destroy respect for the reserve.

"Any boundary line exists only through respect. If the powers-that-be start tampering with the goodwill of the people then there will be no respect and no reserve."

Mr Haddon said the current physical boundary was agreed on in 1982, after full discussions with tangata whenua and local farmers.

John Matheson, whose family has farmed land overlooking the reserve since 1856, said locals were originally against the reserve.

"Now it is there we respect it, because we are law-abiding people and a lot of us can see it has benefits. But to take that fishing spot now would destroy our support. It would be chaos."

Another key user of the reserve is Auckland University.

Trevor Willis, a PhD student stationed at the university's Goat Island laboratory, said more effort should be put into establishing new marine reserves rather than worrying about moving boundary markers 100m.

Another university student said the area of reef in question had no great scientific value and suggested DOC already had enough trouble policing the reserve it has without adding more.

(C) 1998 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010926du6f00um0

## **SAND-DREDGING PLAN SPARKS FEARS.**

By NICK PERRY.

446 words

4 May 1998

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1998 The New Zealand Herald

Plans to dredge huge amounts of sand from the seabed off Leigh, north of Auckland, have raised fears for the **marine reserve** around Goat Island.

An application by Kaipara Excavators to suction dredge two million cubic metres of sand over 480 sq km is believed to be the largest proposal of its kind in New Zealand.

The proposed dredging area extends as far north as Mangawhai, to within 2km of Little Barrier Island and 1.5km of the marine reserve.

Dr Bob Creese, an Auckland University marine ecology lecturer whose research programme is based at Goat Island, said dredging would kill shellfish beds, starfish and crabs - reducing available food for snapper and crayfish that lived in the reserve.

"This affects the reserve's integrity. You don't want something making a big mess at the edge of it."

The 20 objectors to the application include the Department of Conservation, Auckland University and scallop fishermen.

But the applicants have already overcome one hurdle with coastal Maori at Pakiri Beach, just north of Leigh, who have relaxed their stance about the issue.

The Ngatiwai Trust Board chairman, Laly Haddon, a vocal campaigner for the preservation of Pakiri Beach, said he was taking a pragmatic approach.

The applicants have retained Mr Haddon as a cultural consultant. He said he was receiving "a bit of petrol money and some koha [gifts]" from the company. The sand was inevitably going to be needed for the expansion of Auckland, and taking it from offshore was better than from the beach, Mr Haddon said.

Kaipara Excavators has existing contracts for inshore dredging at Pakiri, to provide sand for Mission Bay and for the construction trade.

It said it needed more for projects such as the Fergusson container terminal and the second runway at Auckland Airport. Most of the sand would be used to make concrete.

Its studies indicated there would be a minimal impact on sealife. Most of the dredging was expected to take place about 2km offshore and at depths of between 25m and 50m. Larger organisms would be filtered out and returned to the sea.

But Dr Creese said as well as killing sealife, the dredging would make the water turbid and cloudy and this would affect sediment deposits and algal productivity.

Another objector, Northland Scallop Enhancement Co Ltd, said it opposed the project because the suction dredge would remove every living thing to a depth of 100mm below the ocean floor.

The proposal allows for the sand to be taken at any time during the next 35 years. A public hearing is expected around next month.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1998.

Document nzhld00020010926du54002jj

## **DOC MAY HAVE INFRINGED FISHERMAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, COURT TOLD.**

399 words  
1 May 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Nelson, May 1 - Conservation officers investigating a commercial fisherman for taking fish from a Nelson **marine reserve** might have contravened the Bill of Rights Act, Nelson District Court was told yesterday.

Peter Nicholas Hetterley, 55, of Napier, has denied a charge of taking marine life from the Tonga Island **marine reserve** without authority on April 13 last year, and another charge of taking marine life from there for commercial purposes.

It is the first prosecution relating to commercial fishing since the Government increased the maximum penalties under the Marine Reserves Act to a maximum \$250,000 fine, loss of the boat, or three months in prison.

The court was told that two boaties saw Hetterley's trawler Frey fishing in the marine reserve, catching up to 300kg of fish. They used global positioning system (GPS) equipment to fix the vessel's position and reported the incident to the Department of Conservation (DOC).

DOC conservation officer Brian Gausel told the court that he and another officer talked to Hetterley about a week after the incident. Hetterley is alleged to have said: "It looks like I have been a naughty boy."

Hetterley told the officers he had trawled off the east coast of Tasman Bay and through the reserve, which he had believed was on the other side of Tasman Bay near Stephens Island.

A chart plotter on the Frey showed Hetterley's nets were pulled up about 500m off Abel Head, inside the reserve.

Defence counsel Mike Sullivan said he objected to the testimony of the conservation officers because it contravened the Bill of Rights Act.

He said the interviews they had with Hetterley were a de facto detention, and raised issues about the failure of the officers to advise him of his rights to silence and to refrain from making a statement.

The officers acknowledged under cross-examination that they did not advise Hetterley that he did not have to answer any questions, or that he could leave the interview at any time.

They told the court Hetterley was cooperative and had freely agreed to discuss the incident.

Mr Sullivan said he would make written submissions on Bill of Rights issues and submitted there was no case to answer.

After a two-day hearing, Judge Pat Grace adjourned the case to June 15.

(C) 1998 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010926du5100keq

**CATCH MAY BE COSTLY.**

209 words  
30 April 1998  
The Christchurch Press  
English  
(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

NELSON - A Napier fisherman working in Tasman Bay faces a maximum \$250,000 fine, loss of his boat, or three months prison for the sake of 300kg of fish caught in the wrong place.

Peter Nicholas Hetterley, 55, has been charged under the Marine Reserves Act 1971 with taking marine life from the Tonga **Marine Reserve** for commercial purposes.

He faces an alternative charge of taking marine life or other natural material without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, in the Nelson District Court.

It is the first such prosecution since the Government increased maximum penalties under the act.

A recreational fisherman and a water taxi operator gave evidence of seeing crew members of the FV Frey emptying out and sorting fish from a trawl net while close to Tonga Island off the Abel Tasman National Park coastline, and using global positioning system equipment to fix its position.

Defence lawyer Mike Sullivan objected to a Crown application to introduce confidential Ministry of Fisheries returns for the FV Frey for the April 12 to 15, 1997, trip.

Judge Grace said he would allow the Ministry of Fisheries' evidence and would give his reasons in writing later. He suppressed catch-return details.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du4u00l5d

## **OLD CHART DID NOT SHOW RESERVE - COURT CLAIM.**

302 words  
30 April 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Nelson, April 30 - A commercial fisherman charged with taking fish from a **marine reserve** in Tasman Bay was using an outdated chart not showing the reserve, Nelson District Court was told yesterday.

Fisherman Peter Nicholas Hetterley, 55, of Napier, denies charges of taking marine life from the Tonga Island **Marine Reserve** on April 13 last year without authority and of taking marine life from there for commercial purposes.

It is believed to be the first such prosecution since the Government increased maximum penalties under the Marine Reserves Act to a \$250,000 fine, loss of the boat, or three months prison.

Recreational fisherman Geoffrey Rowling and water taxi operator Welby Hadfield, boating in the marine reserve on April, testified they saw the trawler Frey at work in the reserve and saw the crew haul in a load of fish which was sorted on the deck.

Mr Hadfield, a former commercial fisherman, estimated the catch at between 200kg to 300kg.

He said he took a fix on a global positioning system device about 25m from the Frey but agreed he did not necessarily understand modern fishing technology and did not know which part of the sea the fish had come from.

Motueka DOC conservation officer Warwick Newman said that when he and another officer spoke to Hetterley on April 21, he indicated he didn't know there was a Tonga Island Marine Reserve.

A visit to the Frey revealed the ship's Tasman Bay maritime chart, from the 1960s, did not show the Tonga Island reserve.

Mr Newman recorded co-ordinates from the Frey's chart plotter, which were similar to those recorded by Mr Rowling and Mr Hadfield.

The case, being heard by Judge Pat Grace, continues today.

(C) 1998 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010926du4u00knw

## **BURIED TREASURE.**

By Warren BARTON.  
1,091 words  
11 April 1998  
The Dominion  
17  
English  
(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

When you're tired of terra firma, there's a whole other world to be explored on our underwater doorstep at Kapiti Island **Marine Reserve**. Warren Barton goes down to the sea to discover the pleasures of the deep

THESE days, whenever something trundles through the Kapiti Island **Marine Reserve** that looks like a fishing boat, the Department of Conservation's phones run hot. The coastline, according to marine officer Bruce Dix, "is blistering with binoculars".

An overstatement, maybe, but the point is well made.

Since the reserve was established in 1992 even those who were opposed to its creation have become protective, many of them without having questioned the benefits or whether any have, in fact, occurred.

It has, for most of them, become a question simply of ownership, of protecting and enhancing what is on their underwater doorstep.

The pity is that few will ever get the chance to find out; to explore the wonderland that is blossoming beneath the sea and, says Mr Dix, that many with the ability to do so don't seem to have the inclination.

Unlike the reserve at Leigh, near Auckland, where visitors are creating problems by feeding the fish in a slice of ocean sectioned off for the benefit of a marine laboratory, the Kapiti reserve is there for the use of all and those involved in its management hope more will use it and explore it. Part of the problem could be the public's perception of the reserve, probably because of the restrictions imposed on others along this stretch of coast on Kapiti Island, which is a nature reserve and on the mainland in the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.

The one which covers a roughly triangular section of the water between Para-paraumu and Kapiti and another area on the seaward side at the northern end of the island is a recreation reserve.

"There was never any thought of excluding the public," says Mr Dix. "In fact their right to use it is protected by law."

So are the fish and anything else which lives within it. But, and here is one of the biggest misconceptions, the reserve was not created because the good old days had gone when you could go out in a clinker dinghy and bring back a boatload of snapper or crayfish and this would help restock the waters around the island.

It was nevertheless this kind of thinking which encouraged many to support the reserve proposal, originally for an area twice the size.

As for those who were opposed: "All of us were concerned about what we saw as the traditional right to fish around Kapiti Island," says Chris Turver who was commodore of the Waikanae Boating Club at the time and is now a ministerial appointee to the reserve board.

"One of my main arguments was if this reserve was about propagating and preserving the species, that sort of stuff, then to a large degree the reserve was nuts because most of the fish around Kapiti are migratory."

He agrees that such reserves can, however, arrest and reverse the depletion of other species.

But this was only one of the reasons for the proposal. Science was another.

At Kapiti there are several habitats within a compact area that are representative of the Wellington and Marlborough areas.

There are also two systems which influence it—the warm and fairly salient D'Urville current and the relatively cold and more fertile Southland current.

The result is an overlap of flora and fauna found in cool, temperate regions, and those found in warmer waters including a bed of algae, about which little is known, and extensive mats of lace coral.

And there is also some of the finest and the most spectacular underwater scenery in the region, especially on the western side of the island where huge house-sized tumbled boulders lie in the often breathtakingly-clear water.

So what has happened beneath the sea in the protected area around Kapiti in the past five years? From all accounts, and most are anecdotal, pretty much what experts such as Mr Dix predicted.

Kevin Lowery of Tawa has dived around Kapiti for 20 years. "A couple of places on the inside of the island where people used to fish and net are unbelievably different in every way-the size of fish, the quantity of fish and even the species," he says. "There are also big crayfish there that are tame.

"Last time I was there I dived down, had a look in a hole and saw six six-pounders. You just can't argue about the difference that it's made."

And this from someone who objected to the reserve being established and still has some reservations about the area affected. But only because it has reduced the number of safe diving areas.

Other divers tell similar stories, of banks of blooming sea anenomes and other flowers of the sea, and of fish so friendly they will take food from divers' hands.

Mr Dix compares fish with birds, which are pretty quick on the uptake. "They become more friendly when they haven't been shot at for a while.

"But from a scientific point of view the question now is, are we seeing more fish within a protected area because they are not in hiding or are we seeing more because they are not being taken? You've got to be pretty careful in your thinking. You've got to prove it."

And that is not as simple as it sounds, given the amount of money being put these days into science.

Hopefully, however, science will make more use of the reserve.

That is certainly one of the thrusts of the management plan, which has just undergone public consultation.

It focuses on monitoring, research, habitat manipulation, and recognises that some science can even have adverse effects.

It is a document which enables people to visit the reserve but controls activities that may do harm. Admiring the view is not one of them.

"A lot of people are under the impression they can't dive in the reserve so they go elsewhere. And that's a pity," says veteran diver Mr Lowery.

"You can get in the water, drift with the current and in the space of 100-150 metres see just about everything.

"If a tourist operator had some way of showing off this place to people they'd be amazed.

"And thanks to the reserve it's getting better year by year."

Document domn000020010923du4b00hx2

**MORE TALKS PLANNED ON HARBOUR - SMITH.**

117 words

21 March 1998

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Progress has been made on sorting out future marine protection for Akaroa Harbour, but further meetings are needed, Conservation Minister Nick Smith says.

Representatives of groups with an interest in the harbour met Dr Smith in Christchurch yesterday. Ngai Tahu's Onuku runanga has applied to the Ministry of Fisheries for a taiapure, or customary fishing regulations, over the whole harbour. The runanga is supported by recreational and commercial fishing groups, who oppose a no-take **marine reserve**. A **marine reserve** is proposed over 10 per cent of the harbour. The proposal has gone through all its statutory stages, and awaits the Government's approval.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du3l00pvx

## GROUPS TOLD TO COMPROMISE.

By Howard KEENE.

415 words

11 March 1998

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Conservation Minister Nick Smith has told groups arguing over future marine protection for Akaroa Harbour to forge a compromise, or Government Ministers will decide for them.

The local Ngai Tahu runanga applied to the Minister of Fisheries for a taiapure, or customary fishing regulations, over the whole harbour this year, while a long-standing proposal for a **marine reserve** over about 10 per cent of the harbour has been sitting on Dr Smith's desk for more than a year.

Recreational and commercial fishing groups, long opposed to a no-take marine reserve in the harbour, have supported the taiapure application.

Dr Smith met the opposing groups at Onuku Marae near Akaroa on Saturday. He will chair a meeting with representatives of the groups on March 20.

The marine reserve proposal, at a stage where it only requires Dr Smith's and the Cabinet's approval, is over the Dan Rogers area, 7km along the eastern side of the harbour as far as the Akaroa Heads.

"Neither the taiapure nor Dan Rogers in my view is a runner, simply because of the level of opposition," Dr Smith said yesterday.

"In my view a combination of both together can provide an exciting future ... to ensure in a generation's time people can still enjoy recreational fishing, and the resource will still be there."

If a compromise was not reached the decision would be made in Wellington.

"I would feel far more comfortable if a decision was made by key stakeholders in Akaroa Harbour," Dr Smith said.

The head of the Onuku Runanga, Waitai Tikao, said his people felt a taiapure would conserve fish stocks as well as a marine reserve. Under a taiapure the runanga would nominate a management committee.

It would advise the Minister of Fisheries, John Luxton, on measures to conserve fish stocks.

Mr Tikao said all groups would be represented in taiapure management, even those supporting a marine reserve.

He said Dan Rogers was the only place the runanga felt comfortable taking shellfish for special marae functions because of pollution in the inner harbour.

Vince Burke, the president of the Recreational Marine Fishers Association, said he was "a bit disappointed" with Dr Smith.

"I think he's trying to force it. He wants a marine reserve in Akaroa Harbour regardless. I've got the feeling he's overriding Onuku in what he wants, I think that's a bit poor."

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du3b00oxt

## **RESERVE PLANS `COMPLEMENTARY`.**

207 words

9 February 1998

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A **marine reserve** and a taiapure area in Akaroa harbour were complementary and should not be seen as mutually exclusive, says the Royal New Zealand Forest and Bird Society.

Field officer Eugenie Sage said yesterday that research had shown the advantages of marine reserves in increasing fish sizes and numbers. "This has flow-on benefits for marine life and fisheries outside the reserve," she said.

Ms Sage was commenting on an announcement by Ngai Tahu of its plans for a taiapure, or controlled local fishery, over the entire harbour.

Commercial and recreational fishing groups, strongly opposed to a no-take marine reserve covering 10 per cent of the harbour, have sided with local Maoris in the proposal to manage the fishery.

The long-standing marine reserve proposal is now with Conservation Minister Nick Smith for a decision.

The Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society lodged an application for the reserve two years ago.

This week the society said it would not withdraw the application.

Ms Sage said it was disappointing Ngai Tahu were putting their desire for a close relationship with a handful of recreational and commercial fishermen ahead of the "strong and widespread support" for a marine reserve.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du2900uhd

## **AKAROA PROPOSAL THREATENED.**

By Kevin TAYLOR.  
400 words  
4 February 1998  
The Christchurch Press  
1  
English  
(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Proposals for a controlled local fishery for Akaroa Harbour could mean the end of a **marine reserve** proposal in the area.

Commercial and recreational fishing groups, strongly opposed to a no-take **marine reserve** covering 10 per cent of the harbour, have sided with local Maoris in a proposal to manage the fishery.

The longstanding marine reserve proposal is now with Conservation Minister Nick Smith to make a decision. A spokeswoman for Mr Smith said he was "working to try to make progress on complex iwi and fisheries issues".

Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society secretary Kath Reid said last night that the taiapure proposal was a surprise because there had been "extensive consultation" with Ngai Tahu before the marine reserve application was lodged two years ago.

At that time the marine reserve plan did not conflict with the tribe's own proposed taiapure areas. Ngai Tahu now wanted a taiapure over the whole harbour.

She was "surprised and disappointed" Ngai Tahu did not reach a decision a long time ago about how much of the harbour it wanted. The society would not be withdrawing the marine reserve application, and Mrs Reid said she believed any difficulties could be worked through with the tribe.

Ngai Tahu customary fisheries manager Miranda Cassidy said the taiapure would:

Allow the local community to manage and conserve fishery resources with the approval of the Minister of Fisheries.

Recognise and provide for customary, recreational, and commercial fisheries through sustainable management and enhancing fish stocks.

Expand fisheries regulations by introducing traditional Maori conservation practices to conserve and manage the fishery.

She said the taiapure committee would be nominated by local Maoris. It was planned to involve all groups with interests in the fishery.

The committee would advise the Minister of Fisheries on measures to conserve fish stock.

Ms Cassidy said Akaroa Maoris had expressed alarm that the harmonious relationship they have with recreational and commercial fishers could be disrupted by the imposition of a marine reserve.

"As well as conserving and enhancing the area's natural resources, the taiapure-local management plan will also significantly increase public awareness and support for local community action."

She said a taiapure would mean development of a strict plan to monitor, manage, and enhance fish stocks. It would be developed by local groups representing various interests in the fishery.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

Document thepre0020010927du2400ttu

**PLAN OFF FO FIVE YEARS:**

64 words  
1 February 1998  
Sunday Star-Times  
2  
English  
(c) 1998

PLAN OFF: A proposed **marine reserve** at French Pass in the Marlborough Sounds has been shelved by the French Pass **Marine Reserve** Committee worked on the plan for five years. Chairman John Webber said there was lack of support from iwi and a lack of consensus on a specific option from commercial fishermen.

(c) Sunday Star Times, INL 1998.

Document sunstt0020010927du21007a3

## RIGHTS OF 'ELITE' TO CAMP SITE.

343 words  
26 January 1998  
The Dominion  
10

English  
(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

SIR - I refer to your feature article headlined At the Bay (January 14).

Pourerere is indeed a wonderful beach and for many families who have had holidays there in the past it is a treasure. Unfortunately they can no longer enjoy it or the new **marine reserve**. The beach has become the seaside playground of a small, very elite group.

The motor camp, though owned by a territorial local authority, is permanently booked by this small elite group. Ordinary mortals can no longer stay there.

This is obviously administratively easy for the local council who also maintain the "property rights" of the "permanent" residents of the camp by banning camping elsewhere along the foreshore. The lack of facilities, outside of those at the camp, and the distance, make day trips to this now private paradise difficult.

The actions of this elite, few of whom maintain permanent sites at the camp, have destroyed this wonderful place for the rest, many of whom have had a long family association with the area.

I do not believe the council acts in the best interests of the public.

JANIE BURTON

MICHAEL BURTON

Palmerston North

\* The general manager of the Central Hawke's Bay District Council, T V Plunkett, replies: "Dick Grenfell leases the camp from the council which owns many of the assets and infrastructure. He is free to operate the camp however he wishes, providing he complies with the laws which affect his business, especially the Camping Ground Regulations 1985. For at least the past 40 years, there has probably been a greater demand for camping at Pourerere Beach than the camp has had the capacity to provide. The council has recently set aside areas for free camping on Kairakau and Pourerere beaches. These stays are restricted to less than seven days and no facilities are provided. This enables those who wish to camp "rough" to do so, providing they respect the environment. Pourerere Beach is far from being private and closed to the public."

(c) The Dominion, INL 1998.

Document domn000020010923du1q00o4l

## LETTING FRIENDLY SNAPPER OFF THE HOOK.

By Yvonne MARTIN.

1,305 words

12 January 1998

The Dominion

9

English

(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

Dumb fish, made tame after being fed by visitors to a **marine reserve**, have taken the bait so well that they are more like dogs than fish. Yvonne Martin reports

THERE was a hotbed of controversy when New Zealand's first "no fishing" **marine reserve** was set up at Leigh, 100 kilometres north of Auckland, in 1977.

The radical proposal from the Auckland University split landowners, commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen, who worried that whopper snappers and crayfish would be lost to them forever.

Others feared land values would plummet or thought it simply wouldn't work to bar fishing from a 5km strip between Cape Rodney and Okakari Point for scientific purposes.

How would dumb fish know whether they were swimming in a safe zone or had inadvertently strayed over the dividing line, with all the hooks attached?

It took 12 years of lobbying by the university and supporters, plus an Act of Parliament for the reserve to become a reality. (New Zealand now has 13 more marine reserves).

But 21 years and many scientific fish counts later, the evidence is clear that the reserve has worked.

In fact, it's worked too well. And that is causing problems for the administering Conservation Department and scientists at the university's Leigh laboratory which overlooks the reserve.

The protected stretch of water which was to be a scientist's paradise for studying fish and their behaviour in the wilderness is in science terms, past the point of no return.

That's because the fish no longer act like fish.

According to one doctorate student, Trevor Willis, who studies snapper, they act more like dogs ... "only they're dumber".

The hordes of day trippers who swarm to the beach on hot summer days for a close encounter with fish have completely changed their natural behaviour.

Or in scientist's terms the fish have "habituated" to people. They have grown attached, not so much to the white feet and legs and hoisted-up skirts/shorts that have invaded their water space, but the treats they bring with them.

Breadcrumbs, leftovers from the picnic hamper, frozen peas by the kilogram - sometimes pebbles that look like them - anything that will entice the fish to feed from their hands. The fish need little encouragement.

"It's like a dinner gong going off when people walk into the water," says Mr Willis.

Schools of tropical blue maomao await in ankle-deep water, presumably working to the principle of first in, first fed.

These fish usually cluster in deeper water where the current flows and feast on plankton.

"I doubt you will see any other maomao doing this anywhere else," said Mr Willis, who is also an honorary ranger.

Beyond ankle depth dozens of young snapper mill around for titbits. And past thigh depth the snapper only get bigger - some a metre long - the kind that make fishermen's trophies.

WHILE juvenile fish are naturally curious creatures and readily approach divers, adults in the wild are rarely seen. They are off at the first rush of a diver's air bubbles.

Also tuning in to Leigh's all-day dinner gong is the blue cod, which is known, among scientists anyway, for its aggression.

"They will turn up for food and if they don't get it, they will have a go at you. You sometimes hear people coming out of the water saying, 'It bit me! It bit me!' But what do they expect when they wave their fingers in front of their mouths?"

The fish gorge on the "specials of the day", the day trippers go home happy that they have connected with nature. The next day, different day trippers, same fish with whetted appetites.

Mr Willis said that on busy, fine holidays such as Waitangi Day up to 1500 people can pack the small beach.

"It is shoulder to shoulder. You really have to wait for someone to move their beach towel before you can get in there."

"From a PR perspective it is a very positive thing and it has done great things for the profile of conservation. But from a science point of view, it's a big nuisance. It depends on your point of view," Mr Willis says.

His work has established that there are nine times more snapper in the reserve than outside. They are also bigger and heavier, because they are making it to old age.

Fish are even more dense in the centre, a strip measuring 500 metres to 600m where people flock, but their tameness makes them nearly impossible for divers to count.

"In the centre, the fish are in your face the whole time you are counting. It is not uncommon to have 30 or 40 snapper around you."

So scientists have had to adapt too. Mr Willis has devised a method of using an underwater camera to film fish swimming in a set zone, attracted by bait, so he can count them.

Mr Willis also got permission for a controversial catch, tag and release project as an alternative method of counting.

There was no shortage of volunteer recreational fishers to help him out. They caught 935 snapper over four days, 200 blue cod and about 100 fish of other species.

One volunteer said that he was catching a fish every eight to 12 seconds and dutifully letting them go. It ruined his fishing career for life.

The fish were caught away from the public view, so as not to give anyone any ideas, but Mr Willis still got a phone call "bordering on harassment" from someone opposed to the project.

THIS WEEK the Conservation Department is also stepping into the picture, with a public plea for people to stop feeding the fish.

"It's not illegal for people to feed the fish," said Auckland spokesman Ian Bradley.

"But the whole idea of a marine reserve is to let it flourish in a completely natural state.

"I tend to feed ducks bread and I know I shouldn't really do it.

"The thing with the fish is that people will attract them anyway. They don't need to feed them. The fish are so friendly and they have always been friendly.

"Feeding the fish is spoiling the experience in the long run and it's spoiling the scientific research."

The Leigh General Store, which does a brisk trade in frozen peas, took down its sign encouraging customers to buy and "feed the fish" when it realised how sensitive the issue had become.

Manager Ted Melton says he isn't sure what the answer is.

"People will always feed the fish something. They have fed them dog roll and heavy breads. Some fish have died and others have blown up with eating too much bread," he says.

"I understand peas are not their natural food but it is less harmful and the fish love it. It's all a question of degrees."

Mr Melton says if it is shown that feeding the fish is damaging them, then the practice should be banned.

"But it doesn't seem to be."

Overcrowding in the area surrounding the beach is also causing problems for day trippers and DoC.

"There's a limit to how many people can be accommodated at the beach and in the car parks," Mr Bradley says.

"When the reserve was set up, people didn't realise how popular it was going to be. It is easy to be wise after the event. There might have been debate when it was first set up, but overall, it has been a huge success."

Not all scientists may agree with that. About the only thing they have left to study is how fish have been changed by their human encounter.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1998.

Document domn000020010923du1c00qnf

**PLAN SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT.**

118 words  
28 November 1997  
The Dominion  
12  
English  
(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

THE Conservation Department is seeking submissions on the draft management plan for Kapiti **Marine Reserve**.

The plan sets out the management direction of the reserve for the next 10 years.

The public has till February 13 to make written submissions.

Coastal marine officer Bruce Dix said the plan provided comprehensive information on the natural values of the marine environment. Information on research and monitoring, historic and cultural heritage, public safety and law enforcement was also presented in the plan.

"Anyone who has anything to do with the sea as a recreational resource and conservationists alike, will be interested in this plan," he said. - NZPA

Supplied by New Zealand Press Association.

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Document domn000020011001dtbs004gn

## **FISHERMAN IGNORANT OF MARINE RESERVE, COURT TOLD.**

285 words  
10 September 1997  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Nelson, Sept 10 - A Nelson man caught fishing in a **marine reserve** did not realise he was doing anything wrong, Nelson District Court was told.

David Bentley, 48, beneficiary, on Monday admitted a charge of taking fish from a **marine reserve**.

Judge John Dalmer convicted Bentley and fined him \$150.

Department of Conservation solicitor Philippa Rutledge said that on February 22 a conservation officer saw a boat anchored inside the Long Island Marine Reserve. Bentley and an associate were on the vessel, which was about 200m from a marine reserve sign.

They were untangling a hand-line from the boat's propeller when the officer approached them.

Of the 31 blue cod and one tarakihi on the boat, 14 had been freshly caught. Bentley admitted catching some of the 13 fish in the reserve, in which the pair had been fishing for between 10 and 20 minutes.

The officer released two blue cod which were still alive.

Although the marine reserve was established in 1993, Bentley said he was not aware of it.

Defence counsel Brett Daniell-Smith said Bentley was a first offender not used to having scrapes with the law, and the whole thing had caused him considerable stress.

"He had a sincere belief he was not in the wrong," said Mr Daniell-Smith.

Judge Dalmer said there was a case to be made for Bentley having a lesser degree of culpability than his associate, because he did not own the boat and did not have responsibility for navigation.

Judge Dalmer said, however, that it was every fisherman's responsibility to make sure they were fishing in the correct place.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dt9a00h3t

**PAIR FINED \$500 FOR FISHING IN RESERVE.**

189 words  
2 September 1997  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Whangarei, Sept 2 - Two men who were caught fishing in the Poor Knights Island reserve area off Northland's east coast were each fined \$500 when they appeared in court yesterday.

Richard Potter, 31, an Auckland builder, and Gene Aukett, 30, a floor layer of Ngunguru, 32km northeast of Whangarei, both pleaded guilty to breaching the **Marine Reserve Act 1977**.

Whangarei District Court heard that the two were rod fishing in the reserve on January 1 when they were approached by two Department of Conservation (DOC) officers.

Both said they were unaware they were in the reserve and Potter later suggested their boat may have drifted into the area. They surrendered their fishing gear to the officers.

Defence lawyer Dave Sayes said the men cooperated with the DOC officers and DOC was not seeking to have the fishing gear destroyed.

Judge Thomas Everitt noted the men's cooperation and noted there was not a set precedent for fines for breaching the act.

He fined each of them \$500 and ordered the return of their fishing gear.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dt9200jvx

## 16 YEARS LATER, HAWKE'S BAY GETS 446HA MARINE RESERVE.

By Philip KITCHIN.

228 words

9 July 1997

The Dominion

9

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

THE creation of New Zealand's 14th **marine reserve**, Te Angiangi, in Central Hawke's Bay, was gazetted yesterday.

The move to create a **marine reserve** on a piece of coastline considered typical of Central Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa, began in 1981 when a group of Pourere beach bach owners and landowners mooted the reserve idea for the area between Aramoana and Blackhead beaches.

Yesterday, after 16 years, Governor-General Sir Michael Hardie Boys signed an order-in-council for the reserve which takes effect from August 7.

Napier-based Conservation Department senior conservation officer Clinton Duffy said yesterday that the department looked at and sought submissions on seven sites for a marine reserve in Hawke's Bay before Te Angiangi was chosen.

Access and being typical of the area's coastline influenced the choice of the 446-hectare reserve which supports more than 200 types of seaweed, invertebrates and fish and many kinds of coastal birds.

Penalties for infringing on marine reserve status include imprisonment and fines of up to \$250,000.

Conservation Minister Nick Smith said yesterday that marine conservation was "miles behind initiatives on land" with less than 1 per cent of New Zealand's marine environment protected compared with 30 per cent of land area.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dt7900c9b

**IN BRIEF - FISH BAN.**

38 words  
1 June 1997  
Sunday Star-Times  
4  
English  
(c) 1997

Conservation Minister Nick Smith has decided all fishing in the Poor Knights **Marine reserve** off the Whangarei coast will stop. The ban takes full effect by October, 1998.

(c) Sunday Star Times, INL 1997.

Document sunstt0020011004dt61000cr

## SMITH TESTS WATER ON FISHING DEBATE.

By DARREL MAGER.

473 words

26 May 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

WHANGAREI - The Minister of Conservation, Dr Nick Smith, slipped into scuba gear for the first time yesterday to get to the bottom of a contentious fishing issue.

Dr Smith met residents, fishermen, conservationists and local iwi to discuss if parts of the Poor Knights Islands **marine reserve** should remain open to fishing.

And, to test a claim that the area must be protected because it is one of the best dive spots in the world, he donned scuba gear near the rugged islands, 24km off the Northland east coast, and went below.

"It was quite a cosmic experience going underwater and being amazed by the beauty and range of fish life down there," he said. "It's a whole different world."

But he said the unique opportunity would not prejudice the difficult decision he must make on the reserve: whether to keep it open to fishing, but with restrictions, or make it off limits altogether.

Dr Smith was later lauded by the Underwater Association - which wants all fishing in the reserve banned - for going underwater to study the marine life.

"Until now, successive ministers have viewed marine reserves from land or boats, which is akin to studying a national park by flying over it on a cloudy day," said the president, David Graham.

"In one day Dr Smith has done more to really see what is going on than anyone before him."

Fishing is restricted at present to 800m off the Poor Knights and around the Sugar Loaf and High Peak Rocks, and there are prohibited areas around part of the southern Aorangi Island.

Only certain species of fish may be caught by approved methods in the restricted areas, and weighted lines are banned.

It is the only national marine reserve that allows restricted fishing.

Some people, like Tutukaka diving operator Jeroen Jongejans, want a no-fishing zone throughout the reserve.

"It is of international significance because it has a reputation as a world-class dive spot. And we feel that the fish are not sustainable, that the pressures on them from fishermen are too great. It is a marine reserve and should be treated as such."

But others, including Ngunguru charter fisherman Scott Rinkin, one of 70 locals who held placards in support of the status quo as the minister returned to dry land yesterday, said: "There is no evidence that the sea life is not sustainable and the loss of fishing in the Poor Knights, our only offshore island, would be devastating for the tourist trade. People come here to fish."

Dr Smith hopes to announce the future of the reserve within a fortnight.

"I have to weigh everything up, but it's a highly contentious issue, and there will be unhappy people whatever the outcome."

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt5q006o8

## **LEIGH PLAN.**

91 words

1 April 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

Two public meetings have been scheduled to encourage debate on the Department of Conservation Leigh Reserve draft management plan, which is designed to ensure longterm protection of the **marine reserve**, about 80 minutes drive north of Auckland.

The first meeting, on April 8, is at the Auckland University Leigh marine laboratory starting at 7 pm.

The second meeting, the next night, will take place at the department's office in Auckland on the corner of Liverpool St and Karangahape Rd at 7 pm.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhd00020011002dt41005cg

## PROPOSAL MAY BACKFIRE ON FISHING CLUB.

By Mike CREAN.  
323 words  
14 March 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
4  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A group opposed to the establishment of a **marine reserve** in Akaroa Harbour fears two reserves may now be declared in the area.

The Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishing Club had proposed Flea Bay as an alternative site for the Banks Peninsula **marine reserve**, president Bob Meikle said. The club was concerned to hear Conservation Minister Nick Smith had declined to consider Flea Bay as an alternative.

Dr Smith said yesterday he would consider Flea Bay separately. The law required him to judge the merits of each proposal according to criteria relating to the site and community and scientific values. He could not judge the comparative values of alternative sites. Both sites could be declared reserves.

Mr Meikle said club members would be "very disappointed" if both sites were declared reserves. It would show that the Department of Conservation was not prepared to consider fully the positions of interest groups and would lead to increasing distrust of DOC.

The club had opposed any reserve when the idea was mooted in 1990. However, as members had learned more about reserves, they had changed their view and would happily accept one in an appropriate place. Akaroa Harbour was not an appropriate place as it had the best fishing on the peninsula. Commercial fishermen also opposed it.

Environmental groups had been "hell bent" on having a reserve in the harbour, Mr Meikle said.

His club had proposed Flea Bay in an effort to be helpful. It did not want to be seen as just another negative group opposing a suggestion and never coming up with an alternative. The proposal had cost the club \$2200 in advertising for submissions, as required by law.

"We have been crucified. We genuinely put forward an alternative which we honestly believe is far more suitable," Mr Meikle said.

Submissions on the Flea Bay proposal close next Tuesday.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt3e00c41

## **CAPITAL CURRENTS - OUT OF ALL PROPORTION.**

By RICHARD INDER.

167 words

14 March 1997

National Business Review

English

(c) 1997 The National Business Review

What qualifications a talkback host has to endorse the integrity of a survey is a mystery. However, Newstalk ZB host Mike Yardley has taken it upon himself to commend the "professionalism and integrity" of a survey conducted by the Wellington Marine Fishers' Association. The association is opposed to the creation of a **marine reserve** on the south coast of Wellington. It printed survey forms in community newspapers and then collated their responses. After an analysis of the 200 forms - under the scrutiny of Mr Yardley - the group was convinced that the greater Wellington region's 300,000 plus population was opposed to the creation of the reserve. Mr Yardley said he "wasn't the auditor-general" when he was looking at the forms. But he was convinced about the veracity of the statistics. When asked what qualifications he had to make that judgment he replied, "Well, I've got sixth form statistics".

(c) The National Business Review, 1997.

Document natbr00020011002dt3e005o1

**MARINE RESERVE PLAN OPPOSED SAY FISHERS.**

108 words  
13 March 1997  
The Dominion

14

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

THE Wellington Marine Fishers Association has published the results of a survey it says confirms public opposition to a proposed **marine reserve** on the south coast of Wellington.

The reserve, where fishing would be forbidden, is being promoted by a coalition to extend from the gates of the Owhiro Bay quarry to Palmer Head, past Moa Point.

The proposal is to be submitted to Conservation Minister Nick Smith in April.

The fishing association produced a survey yesterday showing that more than 80 per cent of the public and its own members think the reserve should be elsewhere.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dt3d00f64

## **KAPITI ISLAND CLAIM.**

266 words

22 February 1997

The Dominion

18

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

SIR, - Kapiti Island tourist lodge promoter John Barrett reportedly tells the public to come to terms with the possibility that a current Waitangi Tribunal claim could be successful for the island.

Local iwi are claiming not only the whole of Kapiti Island and the sanctuary and all the wildlife therein, but also all the waters around the island, and all the fish within the waters, including the recently created **marine reserve**.

Commercial exploitation of the sanctuary is the first planned move, with the proposal to build a tourist lodge on Crown land next to the sanctuary.

The sanctuary land was bought and paid for by the Crown in 1897, and declared to be a wildlife sanctuary to be held by the Crown on behalf of all New Zealanders. A further 500 acres was bought and paid for in 1963.

Now that all the hard work has been done, and a priceless rat-free, possum-free national treasure exists for everyone, local iwi are claiming exclusive private ownership.

Contrary to what Mr Barrett says publicly about the benefit to "middle and lower New Zealand", his concept plan submitted to the Commissioner of Crown Lands states that "specialised international tour groups will become the dominant market".

How can a sanctuary be a sanctuary when it is invaded day and night by increasing numbers of "specialised international tour groups"?

The proposed lodge carries with it the risk of pollution, fire, and the reintroduction of predators and so forth. Our sanctuary is fragile, and cannot survive this impact.

M. MALONE

Raumati

(Abridged).

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dt2m00eek

## MINISTER PADDLES TO HARBOUR SITES.

By Martin VAN BEYNEN.

298 words

1 February 1997

The Christchurch Press

1

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A four-hour paddle around Akaroa Harbour to check a proposed **marine reserve** is all in a day's work if you are Conservation Minister Nick Smith.

Dr Smith, who shared his kayak with Banks Peninsula MP David Carter, paddled his way to Dan Rogers yesterday to view the site of the **marine reserve** proposed by the Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society.

The Minister, who began his trip from Onuku, near Akaroa township at 9am, was accompanied by Department of Conservation staff and Brian Reid, a proponent of the reserve.

Their four-hour paddle took them as far as Flea Bay where an alternative proposed marine reserve is sited.

Dr Smith, an experienced sea kayaker and a former Coast to Coast competitor, described the area as magnificent and the trip as a "good paddle". Hector's dolphins, blue penguins, and shags, were all part of the scenery.

His visit to the area should not be taken as an endorsement of the proposed marine reserve, he said.

He also met representatives of commercial and recreational fishing interests who are the main opponents of the reserve.

"Protecting land-based ecosystems is mainstream politics today, but our attitude and approach to the ocean environment is miles behind the pace," he said.

Less than 1 per cent of the country's marine environment had been set aside for conservation purposes compared with 30 per cent of the land area.

The proposed Dan Rogers reserve had attracted 2383 letters of support and 709 objections. He hoped to make a decision by March.

"I am confident that whatever decision is taken the local Akaroa community will embrace it, utilising the many positive attributes marine reserves provide," Dr Smith said.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt2100eix

## **BAY MOOTED AS OPTIONAL RESERVE SITE.**

283 words

16 January 1997

The Christchurch Press

4

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Recreational fishing interests have filed an application for a **marine reserve** at Flea Bay on Banks Peninsula, as an alternative to the Akaroa Harbour reserve proposed by conservationists.

Flea Bay is a small bay on the south-east coast of the peninsula about 4km east of the eastern Akaroa head.

Canterbury has no marine reserves.

The proposal, from the Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishing Club and the Canterbury Recreational Marine Fishers Association, would result in about 100ha within Flea Bay, including the sea around Flea Bay Island, being made a non-fishing area. A year ago a proposal was lodged by the Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society for a reserve along 7km of coastline on the eastern side of Akaroa Harbour. That proposal is with the Minister of Conservation for a decision.

The wrangle between the two groups has continued since 1990 when a reserve inside the harbour was first mooted.

Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishing Club president Bob Meikle said that while there were no known species unique to the bay, it was populated by a large variety of fish and other marine life including butterfish, moki, blue and red cod, wrasse, Hector's dolphin, and shellfish.

Flea Bay was an area that was ideally suited to retention in as near pristine condition as possible for research, and comparison with other areas more affected by human influences.

Mr Meikle said Flea Bay was very popular with recreational fishermen and divers, but most were willing to forgo use of the bay in preference to losing an area within Akaroa Harbour - a preference echoed by two commercial cray fishermen who fished in the bay.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt1g00b31

## **LARGER MARINE RESERVE SOUGHT.**

120 words  
20 November 1996  
The Dominion

3

English

(c) 1996 The Dominion, INL .

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group wants an extension to its proposed **marine reserve** on Wellington's south coast.

The original proposal of the Wellington South Coast **Marine Reserve** Coalition in 1994 was for a reserve between Sinclair Head and the western edge of Lyall Bay.

After feedback from the public and scientists the group now wants the reserve to extend further east, starting at the gates of the Owhiro Bay quarry and continuing to Palmer Head, past Moa Pt.

Spokesman Colin Ryder said it would be a unique opportunity to create a marine reserve on the doorstep of Wellington City.

It is hoped to submit the proposal to the conservation minister in April.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1996.

Document domn000020011017dsbk002sz

**GLOBAL AWARD FOR MARINE BIOLOGIST.**

112 words

26 April 1996

Independent Business Weekly

English

(c) 1996 The Independent Business Weekly

Kiwi marine biologist and activist Bill Ballantine has won the conservation equivalent of a Nobel prize a Goldman Environmental Prize - for his work on marine reserves. Each year six people world-wide receive the "no strings attached" award of \$US75,000 from the Goldman Environmental Foundation of San Francisco. Ballantine (59), an Auckland University senior lecturer, fought for six years in the late sixties for the enactment of the **Marine Reserve** Act 1971 and campaigned to create the first **marine reserve** at Leigh Marine Laboratory in 1977. He has also worked on the creation of marine reserves in Canada and Florida.

(c) The Independent Business Weekly, 1996.

Document indbuw0020011018ds4q0032i

## **SHORTAGE OF MONEY STALLS MARINE RESERVE.**

417 words  
29 March 1996  
New Zealand Herald  
English  
(c) 1996 The New Zealand Herald

\_F By PHILIP ENGLISH.

The Department of Conservation's lack of funds has put a stop to the creation of a long-awaited **marine reserve** in the Auckland region.

Members of the Auckland Conservation Board-learned yesterday that the department had put the proposal for a marine reserve surrounding Rakitu Island off the north-eastern coast of Great Barrier Island on hold because of a lack of resources.

The department started work on the project in 1988 and during 1994 and 1995 consulted widely on its establishment. It was hoped to be New Zealand's second largest marine reserve covering about 40 sq km of largely unspoiled distinctive geological features and clear waters.

Members of the board, Auckland's statutory public watchdog on conservation issues, wrote to the Minister of Conservation, Mr Marshall, expressing their dismay that the reserve application was not being pursued.

Nine members of the board present at its meeting signed the letter which also referred to reports of opposition within cabinet to increasing the department's funding.

"I think most New Zealanders believed that the Government was aware of the problem and was resolved to correct it in the forthcoming budget," the chairman of the board, Mr Jim Holdaway, said in the letter.

The letter congratulated Mr Marshall for his efforts in lobbying for extra funds for the department "to enable it to meet its responsibilities under the Conservation Act."

The board has frequently spoken out about the inability of the Auckland conservancy to do much-needed work in the region.

The department has no money to spend on several Hauraki Gulf island wharves which are either closed or in need of repair or replacement. The need for this work affects access to the islands which are becoming increasingly popular as destinations for Aucklanders and tourists. It cannot afford to enforce a fishing ban at one of its newest marine reserves at Long Bay.

The Auckland conservancy has also been faced an exodus of staff. Up to one-third have left for better-paid jobs. The office library has been closed and the public awareness section, which carries out public education, department advocacy, summer programmes and school education visits, has been almost shut down through a lack of money.

Mr Holdaway said he was disappointed the Rakitu marine reserve proposal was not being pursued because "we had got to the point where there was a lot of public enthusiasm for it".

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1996.

Document nzhld00020011019ds3t000rl

## **MOORING Charges "a slap in the face."**

304 words  
20 November 1991  
New Zealand Herald  
13  
English  
(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The **marine reserve** at the Poor Knights Islands could soon be beyond the financial reach of many New Zealanders and overseas visitors, says the manager of the Northland marina closest to the islands.

Mr Guy Bowden, who manages the Tutukaka marina north-east of Whangarei, said yesterday that Tutukaka's already-depressed charter boat industry could not sustain higher mooring fees which he described as "a slap in the face."

He said the increased fees due to come into force next June as a consequence of the Resource Management Act were an "unfair revenue gathering exercise" threatening Tutukaka and the "delicate" tourist and boating industry there.

Mr Bowden believes berth holders at Tutukaka may in future have to pay a \$1000 annual service fee because of added charges produced by the new act.

"Many users of this marina will suffer through this action."

"The boatbuilding and associated service industries are already in a parious state. The tax will no doubt hasten their demise."

Users of swing moorings from next June will pay an additional \$84 a year, while pile moorers will pay an extra \$12 for each metre of berth.

Mr Bowden said charter boats at Tutukaka were operating in a price-sensitive market, and considerable effort had been made to reduce charter fees and increase marketing.

"The tax is effectively a slap in the face for these hard-pressed operators and it will put the Poor Knights marine reserve, a national treasure, beyond the reach of many New Zealanders and overseas visitors."

Mr Bowden said the 160 berth holders at Tutukaka felt betrayed and now wanted ministerial intervention.

The marina manager has written to the Minister for the Environment, Mr Storey, expressing the "extreme" concern of Tutukaka berth holders at the new level of mooring fees.

Document nzhld00020011124dnbk00lgj

**ARC stuck in mud OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARINE RESERVE AT Pollen Island.**

294 words

5 August 1991

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The Auckland Regional Council supports the establishment of a **marine reserve** at Pollen Island in the Waitemata Harbour but cannot give its consent under the **Marine Reserve Act**.

The Minister of Conservation, Mr Marshall, has requested the consent of the ARC for the creation of a **marine reserve** on 800 hectares of saltmarsh, mangroves and mudflats surrounding Pollen Island and Tranhene Island.

A complicating factor, however, is the Auckland regional planning scheme, which identifies Pollen Island as a possible site for future port expansion.

A further complication arises out of obligations and agreements inherited by the ARC from the former Auckland Harbour Board concerning the port company plan.

Should the ARC grant approval to the marine reserve proposal it could be faced with claims for compensation or substantial damages from Ports of Auckland Ltd for loss of its rights under the port company plan.

The plan also identifies Pollen Island as a potential site for a bulk shipping port and the island is owned by Ports of Auckland Ltd.

The chief executive of the company, Mr Robert Cooper, has asked the council not to give its consent to the marine reserve proposal until the company makes a final decision that it does not require the island.

At its meeting last week the ARC resource management committee reluctantly agreed there was little it could do.

It resolved that it would reconsider the issue when the Minister of Transport, Mr Storey, determined several matters including the legality of the agreement to lease.

However, the ARC member for North Shore and a former member of the Auckland Harbour Board, Mr Paul Titchener, spoke out against the ports company's attitude to the island.

Document nzhd00020011124dn8500ctf

**minister of conservation continues to prove labour is green at heart.**

86 words

25 October 1990

New Zealand Herald

4

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Election 1990.

The Minister of Conservation Mr Woollaston who is standing down, has continued to do his bit to prove Labour is green at heart. Yesterday he announced that he would not uphold objections to the proposed Pollen Island **marine reserve** in Auckland; formally initiated an investigation which could see north-wets Nelson area becoming a national park and applied for a national conservation order for the Kawarau River and its tributaries in Central Otago.

Document nzhd00020011128dmap00h6k

## Check on Poor Knights fish loss.

316 words

16 October 1990

New Zealand Herald

1

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Conservation Department staff are on the Poor Knight Islands checking the **marine reserve** after a claim that important species are being fished out.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** Mr Wade Doak, who was one of the first to advocate protection of the marine environment at the Poor Knights, said he feared for the future of the reserve, which was taking a "real hiding" from fisherman.

Mr Doak has dived intensively at the Poor Knights in the past few months, documenting for the television programme *Wild South* the social lives of the fish there.

Fishermen were using metal jigs and burley to bait a school and to foul hook the fish, he said.

"The beautiful golden snapper, which are on the banned list, are almost gone. Pink maomao are diminishing. Trevally still have not recovered from the giant purse seine nets used at the Poor Knights in the 1970s."

Mr Doak said the ban on sinkers in the reserve was a farce, considering the methods now being employed to catch fish in the protected area.

"It is a Claytons' reserve. I have seen tiny boats galore out there all through the winter. I really fear for the summer assault."

The head of the Conservation Department in Whangarei, Mr John Halkett, said the marine biologist on his staff was now at the Poor Knights investigating Mr Doak's claims.

The actions complained of appeared to be permissible under the bylaws governing the Poor Knights marine reserve, he said.

Fishermen seemed to be successfully employing creative fishing techniques to get around the bylaws.

Mr Halkett said that if Mr Doak's claims proved correct, some tightening of the bylaws might be required.

The reserve was set up 10 years ago and was managed until recently by the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board and the Poor Knights marine reserve management committee, which was chaired by Mr Halkett.

Document nzhld00020011128dmag00fnl

## Woollaston examines proposed reserve site.

294 words

20 September 1990

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

It was all in a day's work for the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston, when he tucked his suit trouser cuffs into a pair of gumboots and braved the mud of Pollen Island yesterday.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The island, which lies off the North-western Motorway between Te Atatu and Waterview in the Waitemata Harbour, is at the centre of a Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society proposal for a **marine reserve**.

Mr Woollaston could decide on the proposal within the next few weeks before he retires from politics, but visited the island yesterday for a closer look.

The society applied to the Department of Conservation to have the island and the tidal waters around it and nearby Traherene Island declared a marine reserve, which would protect the area as a wildlife habitat of national importance.

The proposed area of about 800ha of intertidal mudflats, tidal channels, mangrove swamp, salt marsh and shell banks was teeming with marine life, the society said.

Another concern for the society was that the ownership of the island passed from the old Auckland Harbour Board to the new Auckland port company when the board was disestablished last year.

This left Pollen Island more vulnerable to development, such as the alternative port option.

The society's proposal attracted about 400 submissions, and only seven opposed it.

Objectors included Ports of Auckland Ltd, the Auckland City Council and the Auckland Regional Council.

The society found an unexpected ally when a submission supporting the proposal came from Transit New Zealand, which administers the nearby motorway.

But the minister would not comment yesterday on the likelihood of the proposal's succeeding.

"I'm not here to debate the merits, I'm here to inform myself," he said.

Document nzhd00020011128dm9k00e6m

## Marine reserve plan stirs strong feelings. (1 of 2)

618 words

12 September 1990

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

A proposal to establish a **marine reserve** at Cathedral Cove on the Coromandel Peninsula continues to stir strong public feelings both for and against.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The plan, first floated early last year by the Department of Conservation, is to create a nine square kilometre reserve along the coastline from Hahei to Cooks Bluff, incorporating several islands off the mainland.

It is the first such plan in what the department hopes will eventually be a string of similar reserves around the Coromandel Peninsula.

But while the concept of establishing marine reserves around the popular tourist and holiday region is widely acceptable to residents and visitors, some - particularly holiday homeowners - are not keen to have it in their back yard.

Others are all for it, and the people of the Ngati Hei, who are the tangata whenua of the Hahei area, are keen to see an even larger reserve than that proposed by the department.

Today, after 18 months of tentative proposals, modifications, meetings, polls and public submissions, the Department of Conservation will formally propose that a marine reserve be established in the Hahei area.

It will consist of a strip of ocean about 2km wide, running from Cooks Bluff in the west to Hahei Beach in the east, and including Cathedral Cove.

It will take in Mussel Rock, off Cooks Bluff, Motukorure (or Centre) Island, Moturoa, Motueka and Waikaranga Islands, and the northern half of Mahurangi, the large island of Hahei Beach.

But in a late variation, the department has excluded almost 75 per cent of Hahei Beach, the southern half of Mahurangi Island and the Wigmore Passage, proposing that this area be left for fishing and scuba diving as at present.

Mr Tony Roxburgh, senior conservation officer with the coast and waters unit of the Department of Conservation in the Waikato, said the Mercury Bay region, was "one of the most preferred areas on the Coromandel Peninsula for a marine reserve."

"If we are to have a marine reserve it has to be in the best location, with the best habitats for the fish species, and it must also have a good public access so it can be enjoyed by the public," he said.

The department has held a large number of public meetings and discussed the proposal widely and as well has sought submissions and comments.

Mr Roxburgh said 513 such submissions were received, with 61.8 per cent in favour of establishing a reserve off Hahei and Cathedral Cove.

"The advantage of this area as a marine reserve is that it has a large area of shoreline which is protected in some way and to which the public has access," he said.

"Cathedral Cove itself is one of the most visited recreation sites on the whole of the peninsula, and it has a good walkway system to it. The whole proposal complements the existing use of the area.

"Marine biologists have surveyed the sea floor and have confirmed that the habitat is very good, but that it is extremely depleted of shellfish, crayfish and fin fish."

Mr Roxburgh said the only restriction which will be placed on people using the marine reserve will be the harming in any way of the fish or marine life.

"They can swim, boat, ski, drive, sunbathe - just don't hurt the fish," he said.

"But because there will be an increase in fish within the marine reserve over the next decade, there will

be an obvious spillover effect into the areas outside the reserve, to the benefit of people fishing outside the boundaries."

Fish species in the area include mussels, scallops and paua, crayfish, red moki, snapper and blue maumau.

Document nzhd00020011128dm9c00co9

## Marine reserve plan stirs strong feelings. (2 of 2)

466 words

12 September 1990

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Mr Roxburgh said that with the notification of the department's proposal this week, the public will have two months in which to make formal written objections or to offer support for the scheme.

\*\*FULL\_TEXT The detailed proposal will be available for study at department offices around the region, including Auckland and Hamilton, and a summary will be available on request.

Commenting on the proposal, the chairman of the Ngati Hei Trust, Mr Peter Johnston, said in Whitianga, it was his personal belief that the whole of the Hahei area should be declared a marine reserve.

"When we first met with the department we felt it should all be in the reserve, but the department has now modified the plan because of pressure," he said.

"The Iwi is to have another meeting about it soon, but for us, spiritually, it is the right area for the reserve because it is the place of Hei, our ancestor.

"If it becomes a reserve, it will be of benefit to everybody, not just the people who fish there."

But to the Hahei Beach Users Action Group, the proposal is anathema.

Mr Charlie Tennent, spokesman for the group, said 80 per cent of the Hahei residents objected to the scheme, and the department had "hijacked a holiday resort for a marine reserve."

The group, made up largely of people who owned holiday homes at Hahei but who lived elsewhere, might now consider taking legal action against the department, Mr Tennent said.

"We will go back to the people and ask them what they want us to do," he said.

"The department is obviously not interested in negotiating, and the Ngati Hei have never worried about it in the past. Why the sudden interest?"

He said members of the group were happy to support the idea of marine reserves "so long as they don't interfere with people who have spent a long time and a lot of money developing their holiday homes."

The Thames-Commander District Mayor, Mr Allasdair Thompson, said that while his council had discussed the concept of a marine reserve in the Mercury Bay region, no formal decision had yet been made.

But he indicated there was a strong inclination towards the proposal, provided it did not impinge heavily on the recreational fishing in the area.

"I have had a heap of letters from the Hahei Beach Users Action Group protesting at the proposal, almost all of them from people who live in either Auckland or Hamilton," he said.

"There is a good deal of support for the idea of a marine reserve among local people, but there is also concern that it may interfere too much with recreational fishing - and that is our prime concern."

Document nzhd00020011128dm9c00co8

## **Marine reserve challenge.**

375 words

2 July 1990

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

A wrangle is developing over conflicting proposals to create a **marine reserve** and restricted fishing in the Mercury Bay region of the eastern Coromandel Peninsula.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** More than a year ago the Department of Conservation floated a proposal for discussion of making an area from the eastern end of Hahei Beach to the eastern end of Cooks Beach a **marine reserve**, extending between 1 km and 2 km out to sea.

But in recent weeks a group calling itself the Hahei Beach Users Waikato Action Group has come up with an alternative proposal.

Their scheme is to have the whole of the greater Mercury Bay area turned into a "restricted take" area, with a smaller section within its boundaries declared a marine reserve.

That reserve is proposed for the Waitaia Bay area, where, the group says, the Department of Conservation controls at least some of the land.

Mr Charlie Tennent, of Hamilton, a spokesman for the beach users' group, says a survey by his organisation shows strong support for the restricted take and Waitaia Bay reserve proposal, but so far only 10 per cent of the survey papers have been returned.

The department's chief conservator for the region, Mr Gerry Rowan, declined to discuss the issue, but it is known that the department has held meetings with the public and Maori landowners on the Coromandel.

In a circular sent out to about 3000 property owners in the area from Hahei to north of Whitianga, the group said it had valid grounds to contest the department proposal because it would interfere unduly with use of the area for recreation.

As well, the group said the department plan would endanger small craft which would have to go well out to sea to fish beyond the marine reserve.

Instead, the group has proposed the reserve be on the north-western shore of Mercury Bay, where there is almost no development.

The group suggested that the whole of Mercury Bay, from Motukoranga Island to Hereheretaura Pt, be a restricted take area with no commercial fishing, nets or long-lines, and with catch limits on recreational fishing.

The group was to meet the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston, on July 13 to outline its proposals.

Document nzhd00020011128dm7200743