



LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING AND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Two mātaimai reserve applications at Whangārei Harbour and Bream Bay, Northland

The Patuharakeke Rohe Moana Committee and Te Rerenga Parāoa Rohe Moana Committee have each applied for a mātaimai reserve under regulation 18 of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998. The applications are made on behalf of Ngāti Kahu, Parawhau, Ngāti Tu and Patuharakeke.

The proposed areas are:

- **Patuharakeke mahinga mātaimai reserve:** Approximately 115km² of fisheries waters along the coastline between the intersection of State Highway 1 and Springfield Road, near Oakleigh, south Whangārei, to the eastern end of Andersons Cove, Bream Tail, and includes Bream Bay, Northland.
- **Poupouwhenua mahinga mātaimai reserve:** Approximately 1km² of offshore fisheries waters near Marsden Point, Whangarei Harbour, adjoining the proposed Patuharakeke mahinga mātaimai reserve.

Copies of the applications and maps of the proposed areas are available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website (www.mpi.govt.nz/fisheries-consultations).

About mātaimai reserves

A mātaimai reserve is an identified traditional fishing ground and is established for the purpose of customary food gathering. Mātaimai reserves are limited to fisheries waters and do not include any land area. Mātaimai reserves do not change any existing arrangements for access to private land.

When a mātaimai reserve is established, the recreational fishing rules do not change. However, the Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki (guardian) for a mātaimai reserve may propose changes to the rules later. Any proposed bylaws will be consulted on separately with the public and relevant stakeholders. They require approval by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries.

Commercial fishing is prohibited in a mātaimai reserve but can be reinstated at the request of the Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki for the mātaimai reserve for specified species, quantity or time period.

Mātaimai reserves do not impact whitebait or trout fishing.

Consultation

Under regulations 19 and 20, notice is given that applications have been received and invites written submissions from the local community on the applications. The local community is defined as people who own land in the proximity of either proposed mātaimai reserve; or have a place of residence in the proximity of either proposed mātaimai reserve and have been in occupation for a cumulative period of no less than three months in three consecutive years immediately prior to June 2026.

A local community meeting will be held to discuss the applications. This meeting will be held at:

- Location: **Marsden Yacht and Boat Club**
- Address: **One Tree Point Boat Ramp, One Tree Point Road, Ruakaka**
- Date: **6pm on Thursday 30 July 2026**

Further consultation

A further notice will be advertised after the local community consultation period has ended inviting written submissions from persons having a fishing interest in the stock or stocks in the proposed areas.

Submissions process

Submissions must be made by **5pm on Friday 21 August 2026**. You can email your submission to FMSubmissions@mpi.govt.nz

Please state in your submission which, or both, of the proposed mātaimai reserves your submissions relates to.

While we prefer email, you can post your submission to:

Spatial Allocations
Fisheries Management
Fisheries New Zealand
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

Submissions are public information

Note that all, part, or a summary of your submission may be published on the MPI website. Most often this happens when we issue a document that reviews the submissions received.

People can also ask for copies of submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we must make the content of submissions available unless we have good reason for withholding it. Those reasons are detailed in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

If you think there are grounds to withhold specific information from publication, make this clear in your submission or contact us. Reasons may include that it discloses commercially sensitive or personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold details can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may direct us to release it.