



OIA22-0821

15 November 2022

Shaun Lee
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun

Thank you for your two emails received by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on 10 and 12 October 2022 requesting information relating to revitalising the Hauraki Gulf. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 19 October 2022 your request was transferred in full to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) pursuant to section 14 of the OIA as the subject of your request is more closely aligned with the functions of our agency.

Responses to your requests are set out below.

In Revitalising the Gulf you have some figures on % of the HGMP: "The areas can be broken down as follows: 0.3 percent in marine reserves, 6.3 percent in cable protection zone, 5.6 percent in High Protection Areas and 5.4 percent in Seafloor Protection Areas." Can you please update these to include the Noises HPA?

HPAs will come to 5.7 percent of the HGMP with the Noises HPA included.

Are you using the 14,000 km² figure or the 12,000km² figure for the size of the HGMP?

The HGMP boundary MPI uses has a marine area of 14,038 km².

I didn't want to know about fishing intensity, I wanted to know the area that "can currently be fished" by those methods? It will be 14,000km² minus the areas where the fishing methods are restricted.

Areas of the HGMP open to each method:

HGMP open to bottom trawl: 9,665 km² (68.8% of the HGMP)
HGMP open to Danish seine: 10,280 km² (73.2% of the HGMP)

Note that areas classified as open include regions with seasonal closures.

Are you able to supply how much customary fishing (including commercial customary) was undertaken in the proposed HPAs in previous years?

Appendix One shows customary fishing quantity approved and the actual quantity taken by legislation type, year, species, and unit of measure from 2010 to the present. A notes tab explaining the parameters applied to the data, and context to be aware of, is included.

Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) has prepared the data based on information provided to it via customary permits issued under the *Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013* (Amateur Regs) or returns received under the *Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998* (Kaimoana Regs).

Under the Amateur Regs, it is not compulsory for authorised representatives of the tangata whenua of the area to submit copies of the permits they have issued to FNZ. Regulation 51(3)(d) only requires copies of permits to be kept by the authorised representative and produced to a fishery officer if required to do so, as such the data held by FNZ will not be complete. As such, FNZ does not accept responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of the information on which this report is based.

For more information on the Amateur Regs, please refer to the following:

https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2013/0482/latest/DLM3629901.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_fisheries+amateur_resel_25_a&p=1#DLM3630156

Any customary catch taken by commercial vessels is included in the data we receive via the Amateur Regs and the Kaimoana Regs. Consequently, a separate extract of this data is not supplied.

Appendix Two shows the HPA areas and any rohe moana in the area is outlined in red, and the HPA areas are the shaded boxes. The catch data provided covers the entire Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel Peninsula, and part of Bay of Plenty to encompass all of the HPA areas. Refer to Appendix One notes to see the fisheries statistical areas that were selected as encompassing all of the HPA areas.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Lawrence', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Lawrence
Director Science and Information