

## SUBANTARCTIC MARINE PROTECTION PLANNING FORUM CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Type your answers into an electronic version of this form, or hand write you answers in the boxes provided. Make your answers as short or as long as you wish using additional sheets of paper if you need to. Please ensure the questions are numbered as they are on this form.

Name Alison MacDiarmid, Secretary, New Zealand Marine Sciences Society

Address c/o NIWA, Private Bag 14-901, Kilbirnie, Wellington

1. What is your interest in these areas (e.g., iwi, tourism, fishing, scientific study, member of public)?

The New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) is a scientific society affiliated to the Royal Society of New Zealand. It comprises over 260 scientists, managers, policy makers, and students working in all aspects of marine science in New Zealand and overseas. Society members work for universities, Crown Research Institutes, and other research providers, as well as for various central and local government departments, agencies and non-governmental organizations. Our members, therefore, have a wide range of views and experiences on most issues confronting the management of New Zealand's marine environment. Our elected Council has the task of providing comments on marine science issues in the public realm, including government policy and marine conservation. This submission represents a consensus view of the NZMSS Council concerning the protection of marine environments around New Zealand's subantarctic Islands.

The New Zealand Marine Science Society welcomes the opportunity to be involved in this process and congratulates the MPA forum's commitment to the MPA planning process and in part fulfilling New Zealand's international obligations to maintain our natural marine heritage as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Implementation of the Marine Protected Areas Policy will be a critical means for delivering on our international commitment and our commitment to future generations of New Zealanders

2. Do you consider that the Forum process and options comply with the MPA Policy and the terms of reference for the Forum?<sup>1</sup> If not, please explain.

2.1 Compliance with the terms of reference

Yes

2.2 Application of the tasks in each stage of the MPA Policy

Yes

<sup>1</sup> Documents available at [www.biodiversity.govt.nz](http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz)

2.3 Consideration of the design and planning principles in the MPA Policy

Yes

3. Which option do you prefer for each island group and why?

3.1 Antipodes Island – **A2**

Antipodes Island marine fauna and flora contains a number of species endemic to this Island. Protection of this unique ecosystem, with high degrees of endemism and rare or threatened species is desirable. The benefits of protection far outweigh the minimal impacts on existing users and customary rights. The NZMSS therefore supports option A2, where the entire territorial sea is designated a Marine Reserve.

3.2 Bounty Islands – **B2**

The Bounty Islands marine fauna and flora contains a number of species endemic to these Islands. Protection of this unique ecosystem, with high degrees of endemism and rare or threatened species is desirable. The benefits of protection far outweigh the minimal impacts on existing users and customary rights. The NZMSS therefore supports option B2, where the entire territorial sea is designated a Marine Reserve.

3.3 Campbell Island – **C2**

Campbell Island marine fauna and flora contains a number of species endemic to this Island. Protection of this unique ecosystem, with high degrees of endemism and rare or threatened species is desirable. The benefits of protection far outweigh the minimal impacts on existing users and customary rights. The NZMSS therefore supports option A2, where the entire territorial sea is designated a Marine Reserve.

4. Are there any alternative options you prefer that are consistent with the MPA Policy? Why are they preferable? A simple map of your proposal would be helpful.

4.1 Antipodes Island

4.2 Bounty Islands

4.3 Campbell Island

5. Do you have information that has not been used in the consultation document which you consider relevant to the application of the MPA Policy? If so, please provide details. See the list of resources that were used by the Forum on the biodiversity.govt.nz website. If you are happy for us to contact you, please provide contact information.

No.

6. Do you have information on existing users or Treaty interests that you would like the Forum to consider?

No.

7. Are there any further comments you wish to make?

The natural value of New Zealand's subantarctic Islands has been acknowledged in their designation as World Heritage Sites. Consequently it is important that the islands including their flora and fauna both terrestrial and marine are protected.

The islands contain the most diverse community of seabirds in the world including ten albatross species (42% of the world's species), four penguin species (including the world's rarest, the yellow-eyed penguin), the world's rarest cormorant (the Bounty Island shag), the vulnerable Campbell Island shag (just 1000 breeding pairs remaining), the critically threatened Campbell Island teal, and 30% of the world's petrels (21 species or subspecies). Many species of bird (e.g., penguins, albatrosses, mollymawks) and marine mammals have feeding grounds hundreds or thousands of kilometres from the island to which they return to breed, raise their young, and moult. These islands are also home to the world's only breeding populations of southern royal albatross, and to the world's largest populations of wandering albatross, white-capped mollymawk and Salvin's mollymawk. The islands are home to the rare and threatened endemic New Zealand sea lion (once found around New Zealand, but are now mainly restricted to the subantarctic islands), contain a significant breeding population of southern right whales (formerly endangered) as well as breeding populations of southern elephant seals and New Zealand fur seals. The islands coastal waters also contain many marine plant and animal species that are found nowhere else. Each island group has its own unique assemblage of seaweeds, invertebrates and fish. Each assemblage has a reasonable level of endemism and is as distinctive as the terrestrial flora and fauna.

These islands are among some of the least human-modified environments anywhere on the globe. Protection of these oceanic island and marine ecosystems in their natural state is of immense value to global conservation and science. Each island group has its own unique assemblage of seaweeds, invertebrates and fish. Each assemblage has a reasonable level of endemism and is as distinctive as the terrestrial flora and fauna. In recognition of their rich assemblage of landforms, flora and wildlife, and the vulnerability of these ecosystems, the islands have been given the highest form of protection available in New Zealand law - the status of National Nature Reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 - the same should be accorded to the seas around these islands.

World Heritage listing signifies recognition of the islands as having outstanding conservation and scientific significance. The listing conveys the highest possible international conservation status for an island group, which contains some of the least

modified oceanic island habitats anywhere in the world. Protection of these oceanic islands and marine ecosystems in their natural state is of immense value to global conservation and science because they are among some of the least human-modified environments anywhere. Designation of the entire territorial seas of all three islands as Marine Reserves in addition to their current designation as National Nature Reserves would ensure that both terrestrial and marine ecosystems are protected.

The research conducted in New Zealand's marine reserves to date has provided valuable information about the functioning of temperate marine ecosystems. Future study carried out in what will hopefully be New Zealand's subantarctic marine reserves will likely prove just as fruitful providing a wealth of knowledge about the dynamics of subantarctic marine communities. Access to these waters for scientific research is desirable and we hope the designation of these islands as Marine Reserves will not limit the scientific research carried out here.

If you would like to be kept informed of developments in regards to this process, please provide contact details here.

Name: Alison MacDiarmid, Secretary, NZ Marine Sciences Society	Email: a.macdiarmid@niwa.co.nz
Postal address: c/o NIWA, Private Bag 14-901, Kilbirnie, Wellington	