Port Underwood Association Inc

*By Email*

Dear [name]

**A NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ACT**

On 12 January 2016 the Government released a consultation document on a new Marine Protected Areas Act. A copy of the document can be found [here](http://mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Marine/mpa-consultation-doc.pdf). The Government is proposing a new approach to marine protection in New Zealand and in particular is looking to create a Recreational Fishing Park in the Marlborough Sounds.

The proposed Recreational Fishing Park recognises that the enjoyment of recreational fishermen in the Marlborough Sounds will be enhanced through restricting commercial fishing operations in the area.

The proposed location of a Marlborough Sounds Recreational Fishing Park is based on the Blue Cod Management Area. A map of the proposed area can be found at page 32 of the consultation document.

The area proposed for the fishing park does not currently include Port Underwood. Because of this, a number of Association members have expressed concern that should the proposed fishing park be implemented as it stands, commercial fishing operations will continue in Port Underwood and are likely to intensify.

Therefore, the Committee is of the view that the Association should have input into the consultation process with a view to Port Underwood being included within the Recreational Fishing Park.

These matters were briefly discussed during [meeting](http://www.portunderwoodassoc.org/?page_id=244) of 3 January 2015.

**Proposed engagement**

The Committee is proposing the following courses of action in engaging with the consultation process on this matter:

* Obtain further information from the Ministry for the Environment, the Minister and the Local Member of Parliament Stuart Smith as to whether Port Underwood was considered for inclusion in the Recreational Fishing Park;
* Draft a submission to the Ministry for the Environment responding to the proposal, providing information about the Association and its membership, and making a case for inclusion of Port Underwood in the Recreational Fishing Park; and
* Attempt to separately brief Stuart Smith MP on the Association’s view and obtain support in achieving inclusion.

We welcome any input from members on views that are consistent with or differ from those expressed above. Given submissions on the consultation paper are due on 11 March 2016, we ask that any feedback or input be provided by email before Monday 1 February.

[insert nicety],

/&c