

14 November 2023

By email: submissions@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan

1. Seafood New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide comment draft Coastal Plan paper issued by the Waikato Regional Council (the Council). Our comments are set out below, and we support other representative organisations, companies and quota-holders and fishers who may make their own submissions.

Who we are

2. Seafood New Zealand is a professional organisation delivering industry-good services for the wider benefit of the seafood industry. Including the development of responses on legislative and regulatory proposals affecting the industry. Our vision at Seafood New Zealand is to lead a thriving seafood industry that creates value for all New Zealanders from a healthy marine environment.
3. Seafood New Zealand works with other industry representative bodies, such as the New Zealand Rock Lobster Industry Council and the Paua Industry Council, and with other organisations engaged in the management of New Zealand's fisheries and oceans. These include, inter alia, Te Ohu Kai Moana, Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ), the Department of Conservation (DOC), the Ministry for the Environment, regional councils and environmental advocacy organisations.
4. Recently, Seafood New Zealand merged with Fisheries Inshore New Zealand and the Deepwater Group to form an umbrella lead agency for the commercial finfish sector while applying sector expertise through our Deepwater and Inshore Councils.

Our Position

5. Seafood New Zealand remains committed to the protection of areas of significant marine biodiversity. Our position supports the approach taken in draft Coastal Plan, in that where fishing is the activity creating the risk to significant indigenous biodiversity, any additional protection required should be managed using the tools under the Fisheries Act 1996 rather than a Resource Management Act based initiative. We simply support the Fisheries Act as the most appropriate mechanism for managing fishing activity.
6. We do not deny the legal powers of the councils to take action under the RMA to protect local marine biodiversity, councils have a pivotal role to play in this regard. We strongly urge councils to take actions to better manage land-based effects from activities that are solely managed under the RMA. Our support for using the Fisheries Act recognises that it provides the most appropriate, integrated, effective and efficient mechanism for managing fishing activity across territorial boundaries within the territorial sea and EEZ.