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Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

Department of Conservation Status Report for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 4 October 2021

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6792736



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary

- [REDACTED]
- As of 27 September, there are 161 projects in delivery, 43 projects in contract negotiations and two projects complete.
- Written parliamentary question volumes continue to be very high, with over 800 received.

Advisory Group and SLU Minister Updates

- There is an upcoming SLU Ministers meeting on 30 September. One project from the Māori Land Fund is tabled for noting, and the allocation of \$13.4 million to Nga Whenua Rāhui has been tabled for approval.

Other

- We are developing a comms plan to advise project partners and Delivery Managers about changes to project reporting. The Grants Management Tool is being implemented which will enable centralised and more efficient reporting on project milestones. The new tool will come into effect in December.
- We are working with the Secretariat on developing the Benefits Framework and working to improve data quality, for programme reporting. This work is happening across all agencies.
We have met with the Secretariat and other JFN agencies to begin work on developing consistent programme-wide guidance for Project Partners regarding accessing the wage subsidy.

- [REDACTED]

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

RiverLink – Notices of Requirement and Resource Consents

- We have lodged a submission opposing aspects of the bundled notices of requirement and resource consent applications to undertake flood protection within and adjoining the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi; to improve transport access between SH2 and central Lower Hutt and to provide a fit-for-purpose Melling Transport Station. The requiring authorities are Greater Wellington Regional Council, Waka Kotahi, and Hutt City. The same parties are applying for various resource consents. We consider more can be done to restore the biodiversity of Te Awa Kairangi and seek to negotiate improved outcomes prior to the Hearing.

Hearings

New Plymouth District Plan – Council Hearing

- Planning and Ecology Evidence for the Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter of the New Plymouth District Plan was filed on 24 September. The focus of this evidence is strengthening the provisions around identification and management of significant indigenous biodiversity, Biodiversity Offsetting, vegetation management in the Coastal Environment, and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity. The Hearing commences on 4 October.

Appeals

Stevenson Mining Limited – Te Kuha coal mine appeal

- Since 2014, Stevenson Mining Limited has proposed an open cast coal mine over approximately 116ha of land at Te Kuha at the southern extent of the Denniston Plateau, West Coast. The mine would include 12ha of conservation area (note this is stewardship land), and 104ha of water-conservation reserve vested in Buller District Council.
- Resource consents for the mine were granted by Buller District Council and West Coast Regional Council in 2017, and subsequently appealed to the Environment Court by Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. DOC joined the appeal as a party with an interest in this case. The appeal on the resource consents has been on hold while access to the land under other legislation was determined and challenges to access decisions were decided through the Courts.
- The Court has recently taken the appeal off hold and a hearing is set down for mid-April 2022. DOC is currently determining its approach in this appeal process and details of evidence to be provided to the Court. The conservation values affected include significant indigenous vegetation and habitat of indigenous fauna, including intact low stature forest pink/yellow silver pine, two threatened indigenous bird species (great spotted kiwi, NZ falcon), and at-risk lizard and invertebrate species.
- In 2018, the Ministers of Conservation and of Energy and Resources declined to grant access to the conservation land under the Crown Minerals Act. Further applications for access under the Act will be required for the mine to be developed on the conservation land and on the Buller District Council administered reserve land, should the company be successful in gaining resource consents.

Resource Consent Hearing, sand mining applications from Barrytown JV Limited

- The combined West Coast Regional Council / Grey District Council hearing on this resource consent application was held on 23 September.
- DOC presented its submission on the consent applications for proposed sand mining operations on private land at Barrytown Flats, West Coast.
- Our concerns are the potential impacts the proposed mine will likely have on the Westland petrel and the lack of information in the application about potential effects on freshwater values.
- The Applicant proposes to operate the mine during the hours of darkness, including the operation of the processing plant, loading site and mining unit. DOC's avifauna expert evidence is that, with the use of artificial lighting at the site, there is a high risk of petrel 'fall out' resulting in injury and death and negatively affecting the petrel population. The birds fall from the sky because they are distracted/disoriented by ground-based light sources. We seek that the proposed mining operation, if granted, should not be permitted to operate during the hours of darkness.
- The original application stated that there will be discharges to Colins Creek, but the information provided did not include impacts on freshwater values

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and is insufficient to fully assess the effects. As a result of further information provided by the applicant, dated 12 July, our concerns about freshwater values have, to a large extent, been addressed.

- We expect a decision before Christmas and will keep you updated.

Other

NZTA/ Transpower SH1 (Stage 1B1) Improvements – COVID Fast-Track Consent – EPA Phase

- On 24 September, we submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), regarding the COVID Fast-Track Application for the State Highway 1 (listed project) Stage 1B1. Our comments seek conditions to be placed on the consent to manage effects on freshwater values, in particular, fish passage and relocation.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.4 Partnership work with Ngāi Tahu

- Progress chart brought to Status discussion as requested, with briefing to follow by 5 October.

Contact: Michelle Hippolite, Deputy Director-General Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai:

[REDACTED]

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2 Updates

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- Staff in the Auckland region have made the transition to AL3, and the rest of the organisation is operating to the current AL2 regime. No significant issues have arisen.
- The wellbeing of our people in Auckland remains a priority. In order to understand how they are coping with lockdown we emailed a wellbeing survey to all Auckland-based staff last week. We received a 77% response rate which shows good levels of engagement.
 - 60% of the respondents indicate that their wellbeing last week was either 'awesome' or 'all-good'.
 - The majority of respondents agreed with the wellbeing survey statements – indicating that they feel they have balance, purpose and connection.
 - 66% indicated interest in a follow-up wellbeing session – this is being arranged.
- Many small rural settlements are now through the DHB vaccine roll-out process so there are few requests coming through for DOC staff in these small rural settlements to assist local DHBs. Staff are available to respond to these requests should they be made.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Update on the Status of the National Pest Management Plan for Kauri Protection

- Biosecurity New Zealand is progressing work on kauri protection. [REDACTED]
- Since the intention to introduce a NPMP was announced by the Minister for Biosecurity and the Minister of Conservation in 2017, we have been working with our counterparts in Biosecurity NZ to fine tune the NPMP proposal. There was extensive consultation on the proposal in 2019.
- Biosecurity NZ has established a Kauri Protection Team to develop and implement the legislative elements of the kauri programme, the NPMP and the annual Operational Plan.
- A Governance Group is being established to oversee the tracking of performance against objectives of the NPMP, contribute to strategic planning, and advise on opportunities to enhance the collective approach for national operational delivery.
- Governance Group membership is intended to provide a balance of Māori and non-Māori representation and will be co-chaired. DOC's Deputy Director-General Operations will co-chair the group with Hūhana Lyndon

[REDACTED] who has been appointed to this role for an interim period until a permanent appointee has been identified. We understand that the Minister for Biosecurity will formally announce the co-chairs in November.

- Biosecurity NZ has developed an Operational Plan for this financial year (2021/22), focusing on four pou: building capability and capacity of mana whenua; surveillance and remote sensing; building rapport and leveraging research effort; and on-ground mitigation works. As part of the Operational Plan, DOC will support additional kauri monitoring and work on a joint forest health project with mana whenua, and develop a strategy for pig control.
- The Northland Iwi Colab (funded by Jobs for Nature) iwi leaders consisting of Te Roroa, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kuri and Ngātiwai has requested a meeting with the Ministers for Biosecurity, Conservation and Forestry. Biosecurity NZ's Kauri Protection Team are working on a date for this with Minister O'Connor's office. Engagement with your office to arrange the meeting will occur via Minister O'Connor's office.
- We will provide you with a detailed briefing over developments on the NPMP in the coming months.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Whitebait information gathering update

- In addition to ensuring awareness of and compliance with the new regulations, DOC has begun gathering new data on the whitebait fishery. This includes:
 - basic data about whitebaiter numbers, gear and locations
 - updating research on the composition of catch.
- We are also trialling more intensive data collection methods in four regions to test methods to be used in next year's comprehensive information gathering programme. Data to be collected in these regions includes fishing effort, catch volume and issues for whitebait management. These trials include relatively high-level aerial observations by drone or light aircraft of the following rivers, commencing over the next few weeks, subject to suitable tides and weather conditions:
 - Waikato – Waikato, Marokopa, Waikawau, Awakino, and Mokau
 - Bay of Plenty – Tarawera and Whakatane
 - Marlborough – Wairau
 - West Coast – Mokihinui, Buller, and Hokitika.

- We will provide you with periodic updates as the season progresses and will provide a briefing with aerial footage as soon as possible. We will also update you in early 2022 with our findings from the season.

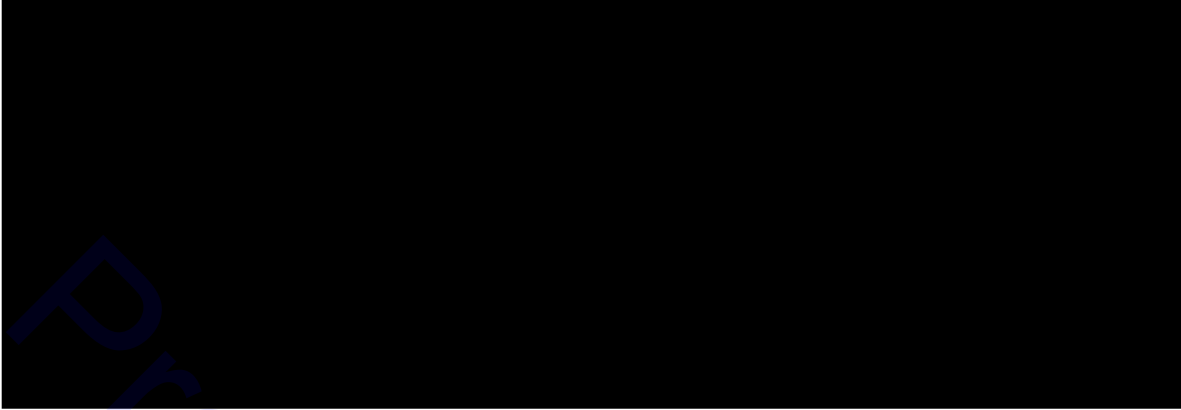
Contact: [REDACTED]

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3 Director-General Engagements

October

- 06 October Environment NGOs, via MS Teams
- 07 October Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Wellington
- 14-15 Oct NZCA meeting, Tauranga

November

- 08 November Lou Sanson – Farewell event, Banquet Hall Parliament
- 18-19 Nov Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
- 24 November Te hāpai hāpori/ Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington
- 25 November DOC Risk and Assurance Committee, Te Papa Atawhai Wellington

December

- 09-10 Dec NZCA Meeting, Wellington

4 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support the Status Report:

Appendix 1. Cabinet Paper Report

Appendix 2. Job for Nature Dashboard

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Week beginning 11 October 2021

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DOCCM - 6799534



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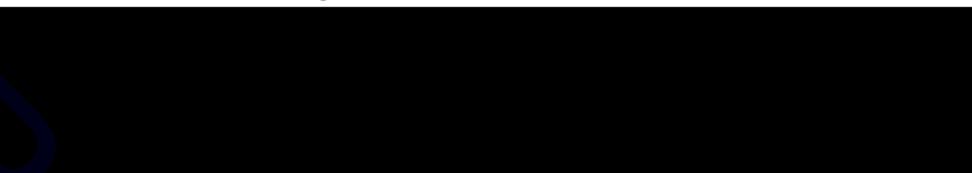
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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary



- DOC's Chief Science Advisor is leading an initial review of the JFN wellbeing survey. A memo will be provided to you with further context and next steps.
- We are continuing to receive a significant amount of WPQ's. Since 20 August, the Unit has received more than 1,400. This volume is having a significant impact on resourcing and wellbeing within the Unit. The Unit has worked closely with your office to develop more efficient ways to respond to these questions, which should be reflected in next week's Status Report entry.

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- The two Myrtle Rust projects (Community Myrtle Rust Surveillance Project and Myrtle Rust Jobs for Resistance) were announced on 4 October by 1News.
- You attended an event on 6 October to announce three Marlborough projects (Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project, Picton Dawn Chorus/Te Atiawa o Te Waka-a-Maui and Restoring, and Protecting Significant Flora Ecosystems at Scale).
- 42 projects are still awaiting announcement. Work is being undertaken internally to prepare media releases and factsheets.
- A Northland JFN project Te Roroa – Te Toa Whenua is finalist in two categories for the 2021 Biosecurity Awards. The winners will be announced in February 2022.

Other

- The first communications about the Funds Management Tool will be sent to project partners and Delivery Managers from 11 October. The tool will enable centralised and more efficient reporting on project milestones.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Hearings

New Zealand King Salmon Limited – Blue Endeavour Offshore Salmon Farm

- New Zealand King Salmon Limited have applied for resource consents to develop two offshore salmon farms within a 1,000-hectare area to the north of the Marlborough Sounds.
- The Director-General submitted on the application and a council hearing is scheduled to begin on 18 October. We are preparing technical evidence on seafloor ecology and natural character, water quality and seafloor deposition modelling.

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- We have engaged with the applicant regarding marine mammals and seabirds and are satisfied the effects on these species are managed appropriately.
- DOC has worked constructively with MPI, who is also submitting, to ensure that Crown agencies are aware of each other's view and approach through this hearing process.

Contact: [REDACTED]



1.4 Partnership work with Ngāi Tahu

No update this week.

2 Updates



2.2 Te Pēwhairangi Marine Mammal Sanctuary

- We are finalising our advice on Te Pēwhairangi marine mammal sanctuary (MMS) proposal, which we will provide to you in the week of 18 October.

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- Our advice addresses key risks, and considers feedback from MBIE, MPI, Ministry of Transport, Te Arawhiti and the Northland Regional Council. Addressing this feedback has slightly delayed our initial timeframes to provide you with our report.
- Consent of the Ministers for Oceans and Fisheries, and Energy and Resources is required, should you decide to proceed with the MMS. We have shared early copies of our advice with these agencies, addressed their feedback, and are currently planning their Ministers' (potential) consenting process.
- We will work with your office on timing for your decision-making, potential associated media and communications (including a potential announcement of the MMS with hapū in Pēwhairangi), and any desire for Cabinet involvement.
- Cabinet is not required to be involved in the MMS decision – it is an independent statutory decision by you with the required consents from the Ministers of Oceans and Fisheries, and Energy and Resources.
- It is our preference, from a conservation, compliance, and communications perspective, to have the MMS in place before the Christmas holidays.
- For the proposed MMS to be in effect before mid-December, Ministerial decision making (including required consents) needs to occur before 12 November 2021. The MMS would then come into effect 28 days following Gazettal.


Contact: [REDACTED]





2.4 Capture of juvenile Antipodean albatross in international fisheries

- The population of Antipodean albatross has been declining at 5% per year since 2005 and it is recognised as one of the most threatened albatross populations globally.
- Bycatch in fisheries, particularly high seas tuna longline fisheries, is thought to be the greatest threat to this population. Our research has shown Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu flagged fishing fleets pose most risk.
- A key conservation management response has been the intensive satellite tracking of Antipodean albatross since 2019. This aims to better understand which fishing fleets pose most risk of bycatch.
- The tracking has been funded through collaboration by DOC with MPI, Live Ocean Charitable Trust, and Southern Seabirds (a Trust formed between government, environmental and seafood industry organisations).
- Although DOC called a stop to all subantarctic field research during the 2020-21 season due to safety concerns, independent research continued the tracking study. This was supported by MPI and Live Ocean Charitable Trust. 67 tags were deployed in early 2021.
- In late June 2021 the positions transmitted from one juvenile bird indicated potential bycatch by a Vanuatu-flagged tuna longline vessel in the high seas to the north-east of New Zealand. Officials from MPI contacted colleagues from the flag state to request any further information but none was obtained.
- Southern Seabirds used tuna sustainability NGO contacts to successfully contact the vessel operators. This contact confirmed that the bird was bycaught, and the satellite tag was onboard and will be returned.
- This bycatch event highlights the pressing conservation crisis faced by Antipodean albatross and mirrors a similar incident in 2019 where a tagged bird was bycaught by a Chinese Taipei-flagged tuna longline vessel. In this case further information, and the recovery of the tag, was achieved through liaison by MPI officials with their Chinese Taipei colleagues.
- We understand the story of the 2019 bycaught bird will feature in the first episode of the upcoming Andrea Vance series 'This Is How It Ends', to be featured in the Sunday Star Times on 17 October 2021.
- This is likely to attract attention to the ongoing conservation issue facing Antipodean albatross, and the new bycatch incident. We are developing a media advisory for release early in the week beginning 11 October detailing the most recent capture.

Contact: 





2.6 Otago Conservation Management Strategy (Otago CMS) partial review update

- DOC revised the draft Otago CMS based on submissions and hearings and provided it to the Otago Conservation Board for their consideration on 26 August 2021.
- The review considered whether new cycle and mountain bike trails could be developed on public conservation land in Otago. It was undertaken in consultation with the seven rūnaka who supported the review process and future direction for the Otago CMS, which enables flexibility for future bike track proposals.
- While the Board had a 6-month statutory timeframe to consider the revised draft CMS, they completed their part within the month and on 2 September passed a resolution to recommend the revised draft Otago CMS to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for final approval. The public and submitters have been advised of this.
- The revised draft Otago CMS will be formally presented to the NZCA at their 15 October meeting.
- The NZCA will seek your comment on the revised draft Otago CMS prior to approving the document. We will support you through this process.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Western South Island: Hokitika township seawall

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- Following a recent series of severe weather events and periods of erosion in August and September 2021, the Westland District Council authorised the West Coast Regional Council to undertake emergency works under the Resource Management Act, to protect residential properties from further coastal erosion to the immediate north of Hokitika township.
- The emergency works will extend for 1km from an existing 1km seawall protecting the CBD.
- The decision to use the Emergency Works Provisions of the RMA was made by a joint Westland District and Regional Council Committee.
- The Councils did not seek our comment on the works, so we have not had access to full information and context, including whether the authorisation is consistent with the Emergency Works Provisions under the RMA, or the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- We are currently gathering further information and can provide you with a briefing if necessary.

Contact: [REDACTED]



2.9 Te Pae o Waimihia Trust Partnership with DOC

- We have recently approved, via a management agreement, the use of the former Taupō Native Plant Nursery, located within the Taupō Nursery Conservation Area, as a partnership activity with Te Pae o Waimihia Trust.

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- This Trust represents six hapū from the north and east of Lake Taupō and was established as a result of the Central North Island Forest Settlement Legislation in 2012.
- The Trust's key project 'He Tipu', will provide hapū with nursery services, training and work-ready forces dedicated to local projects, marae, farms and ngahere. The activities are conservation-focused and are not commercial. If commercial activities are sought in the future, a concession would be applied for.

- The Trust plan to have the site opened in 2022. We look forward to working with them and seeing the site used in a positive way.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Tenure Review under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998

- You have a statutory decision-making role in tenure review under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998.
- The Commissioner of Crown Lands has requested we seek your consent to designations contained in the Dunstan Downs Substantive Proposal.
- We will provide you with a briefing with detailed information on the proposal and the decisions sought by 22 October.
- A memo will be provided to you prior to the briefing by 15 October to give you the key background information.
- We believe there is some risk associated with this proposal. The proposal has outstanding conservation gains, and these will be lost if the review does not have a Substantive proposal to the leaseholder before the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill is enacted.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

- Staff in the new Waikato AL3 region have made the transition to AL3 without issue. The Hamilton city office has been closed, as well as the Waikato District operations office at Te Rapa, and one bookable hut on Mt Pirongia.
- Auckland remains at AL3 and the rest of the organisation is operating to the current AL2 regime.
- Supporting the wellbeing of our people in Auckland remains a priority. We have followed up on the Wellbeing Pulse Survey that was recently run for our staff in the Auckland region. The majority of the respondents rated their wellbeing as either 'all-good' or 'awesome'. Immediate support was offered to those who indicated they were struggling. Insight into what could further improve their wellbeing was also gathered and is currently informing our

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Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only. follow-up response. This includes individualised support packages, tailored wellbeing communications, and the offer of additional wellbeing workshops.

- We are continuing to work through the different scenarios in relation to vaccinations, alert levels, and the impact on staff and our facilities.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.12 Status of Sea Lion Population

- The New Zealand sea lion (sea lion) is an endemic species that is a taonga for tāngata whenua. The estimated population of New Zealand sea lions was estimated in 2015 to be around 12,000 individuals. The two main sea lion breeding colonies are located at the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands and Campbell Island. The New Zealand sea lion Threat Management Plan (TMP) 2017-2022, was produced jointly with the Department of Conservation. The Plan aims to halt the decline of the New Zealand sea lion population within five years and ensure the population is stable or increasing within 20 years.
- The Department of Conservation's New Zealand Threat Classification Status for New Zealand sea lion improved in 2019 from 'Threatened - Nationally Critical' to 'Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable' because the overall rate of population decline at the Auckland Islands had slowed, and sea lion numbers were stable or increasing at other breeding locations. The 2019-20 sub-Antarctic field teams estimated 1,740 pups born at the Auckland Islands (in line with the TMP goal for that location), and 595 pups born at Campbell Island (below the TMP target of 696). The Campbell Island population experiences high levels of pup mortality from a number of causes such as, disease and hypothermia. No pup counts were undertaken in the sub-Antarctic last year due to COVID-19. DOC is currently in the process of planning the upcoming 2021-22 sub-Antarctic field season which will focus on sea lion population research.
- In the 2020/2021 fishing year, four New Zealand sea lion captures (two released alive) occurred in the southern blue whiting trawl fishery (SBW6I) (100 kilometres north of Campbell Island). Under the Fisheries New Zealand Operational Plan for SBW6I, all vessels must deploy Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs).
- There is an annual limit on sea lion mortalities of 25 total captures (or 12 females) within the SBW6I fishery. In the last four fishing years a total of seven sea lions have been caught in SBW6I (four dead and three released alive).

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Chatham Islands Stakeholder Forum at Parliament – 4 November 2021

- The Chatham Islands Stakeholder Forum is being held at Parliament, in the Grand Hall, on Thursday 4 November from 9:00am-4:00pm, followed by sponsored after-event from 5.30pm-7.30pm.
- The Forum is for Island leaders to meet with senior government officials. It provides an opportunity for government agencies to provide an update on their Chatham Islands work programme and for the group to discuss strategic issues relating to the Islands.
- An after-event (sponsored by ANZ Bank) will be hosted by Paul Eagle, MP for Rongotai, presenting an opportunity for political leaders, Island leaders, and senior government officials to mingle informally.
- If your calendar allows, we recommend you consider attending the after-event as an opportunity to meet Imi, Iwi, and community leaders.
- DOC's Lower North Island Operations Director, Jack Mace and the Chatham Island Operations Manager, Typhena Cracknell will be attending the forum and after-event.
- There are a number of Conservation and Culture and Heritage projects underway on the island, including the museum redevelopment and Jobs for Nature projects: Te Ara Manu, Pitt Island Habitat Restoration and Protection, and Miriam's Reserve
- If you wish to attend, we will work with your office to arrange logistics and provide briefing material.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

October

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 14-15 Oct | NZCA meeting, Tauranga |
| 19 Oct | Te Hui Mā Te Pae Turiki Public Service Leaders Group Event |

November

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 01 Nov | Pōwhiri for Penny Nelson, Te Papa Atawhai Wellington |
| 08 Nov | Lou Sanson – Farewell event, Banquet Hall Parliament |
| 18-19 Nov | Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough |
| 24 Nov | Te hāpai hāpori Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington |
| 25 Nov | DOC Risk and Assurance Committee, Te Papa Atawhai, Wellington |

December

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 07 Dec | DOC Christmas Party, TBA, Wellington |
| 09-10 Dec | NZCA Meeting, Wellington |

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support the Status Report:

Appendix 1. Cabinet Paper Report

Appendix 2. Job for Nature Dashboard

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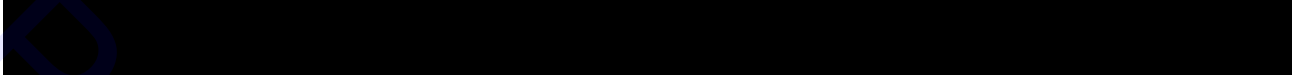

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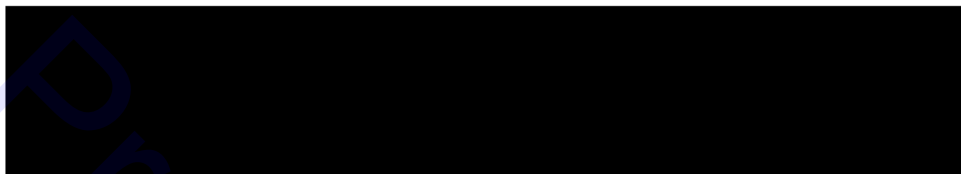
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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary:



- We are working on transitioning the lead of the monthly Delivery Assurance meetings from the Chief Advisor to Operations Directors. Further work will commence to fully embed this process including evidence of Level 1 Assurance.
- As of 12 October, the total number of WPQs received with a due date of 30 August 2021 or later, was 1416. While daily numbers have recently gone down, background work to refine the systems and processes remains a priority.

RG and SLU Minister Updates:


- The next Advisory Group Hui is scheduled for 29 November, followed by a SLU Ministers meeting on the same day.
- We expect to send a briefing on further recommended projects for the Māori Land Fund to the Ministers office the week commencing 15 November, in order to receive feedback prior to the deadline for SLU Minister meeting papers.

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- There will be an event to mark the graduation of the Downer pathways training and the official launch of the pilot which is being delivered in conjunction with AL04.9 Puketi Forest project. More details will be provided to your office shortly.
- The Kea Conservation Trust JFN project was featured on 1News on 11 October.

Other

- The first communications about a new project reporting tool have been sent to project partners and Delivery Managers from 11 October. The tool will enable centralised and more efficient reporting on project milestones.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature 

1.2 RMA Advocacy

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

Tatua Dairy Factory discharge to the Waitoa River

- Tatua Dairy Co-operative have applied for resource consent to discharge up to 10,500m³ per day of treated wastewater to the Waitoa River from their dairy factory in Waitoa, Waikato. They will discharge to the river only when high levels of soil moisture limit their ability to discharge to land, likely during winter months.

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- The Director-General submitted on the application, seeking the consent be declined because there was insufficient information to determine adverse effects on at-risk freshwater fish species, freshwater values and the internationally significant Ramsar wetland sites downstream. These sites include the Kopuatai Wetland Management Reserve and Firth of Thames.
- We are seeking to work with the applicant, consent authority and other submitters to resolve outstanding matters and apply appropriate conditions.

Hearings

New Plymouth District Plan

- Expert evidence in resource management planning, terrestrial ecology and legal submissions was presented to the hearings panel for the Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter of the New Plymouth District Plan on Wednesday 6 October.
- The key focus of the submissions was on strengthening provisions for identifying and managing significant indigenous biodiversity, biodiversity offsetting, managing indigenous vegetation in the coastal environment, and maintaining indigenous biodiversity. The evidence was well received, particularly with regards to biodiversity offsetting.

New Zealand King Salmon Limited – Blue Endeavour Offshore Salmon Farm Resource Consents

- New Zealand King Salmon Limited (NZKS) have applied for resource consents required for development of two offshore salmon farms within a 1,000-hectare area to the north of the Marlborough Sounds.
- The Director-General submitted in opposition to the proposal, and a council hearing is scheduled to begin on 18 October in Blenheim.
- Technical experts presenting evidence on behalf of the Director-General filed evidence for the hearing on 8 October, covering the areas of seabed natural character, seabed ecological values, water quality and benthic depositional modelling and effects, and resource management planning. These experts will next present evidence along with legal submissions at the hearing on 20 October.
- MPI submitted in support of the application. We have been engaging with MPI to understand each other's views.

Appeals

Aupōuri Aquifer Consents, Northland

- The Director-General has appealed consents for 24 water takes from the Aupōuri Aquifer.
- An invitation has been sent to attend a virtual meeting on the 13 October between DOC and the three iwi (Te Aupōuri, Ngāi Takato, and Te Rarawa) whose commercial entities are consent applicants. The aim of the meeting is to share information regarding the appeal. The three entities are Te Aupōuri Commercial Development Ltd, Te Make Farms Ltd, and Te Rarawa Farming Ltd.
- Feedback so far from Ngāi Takato and Te Rarawa is that, whilst disappointed an appeal has been made, both parties respect that DOC is carrying out its advocacy role. They are yet to confirm attendance to the virtual meeting.
- Te Aupōuri have indicated that, although they may have different views at times to DOC in these matters, it should not stop both parties from continuing in a working relationship.
- Mrs W Thomas has joined the case as a party to the proceedings, under section 274 of the Resource Management Act, and Mr A R Burgoyne has

sought the Court's permission to lodge a late appeal. Both of these parties oppose the proposed takes.

Stevenson Mining Limited – Te Kuha coal mine appeal

- Resource consents for this mine were granted by Buller District Council and West Coast Regional Council in 2017, and subsequently appealed to the Environment Court by Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. The Director-General joined the appeal as a party with an interest in this case and was neither in support nor opposed to the appeal.
- The appeal on the resource consents has been on hold while access arrangements to the land were sought, and challenges to access decisions were decided through the Courts. The company has been unsuccessful in gaining access to mine the land.
- The Environment Court has recently taken the appeal on the resource consents off hold, and a hearing is set down for mid-April 2022. We are currently determining our approach in this appeal process and details of evidence to be provided to the Court.
- In our original submission, made jointly with MBIE, the Director-General was neither in support nor opposed to the resource consent applications.
- The conservation values potentially affected include significant indigenous vegetation and habitat of indigenous fauna including intact low stature forest pink/yellow silver pine, two threatened indigenous bird species (great spotted kiwi, NZ Falcon), and at-risk lizard and invertebrate species.
- It is now proposed that the Director-General will oppose the grant of resource consents to the company, to protect significant biodiversity values at this location. This approach will be consistent with 2018 decision by the then Minister of Conservation and Minister of Energy and Resources to decline the access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act, due to the proposed loss of significant ecological values at the site.

Kuku Holdings Limited – Pelorus Sound, Marlborough

- Resource consent applications for expansion of mussel farming in Tawhitinui Bay, Pelorus Sound, were declined by the independent commissioner acting for Marlborough District Council in September 2021.
- The applicant, Kuku Holdings Limited, has now filed notice of appeal to the Environment Court, opposing the Council's decision seeking that it be overturned.
- The Director-General's submission and technical evidence sought that the applications be declined due to adverse effects on high natural values, including the adjacent DOC-managed scenic reserve, and due to inconsistency with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- The Director-General has decided to join in opposition to the applicant's appeal. A joining notice will be filed with the Court by 26 October.

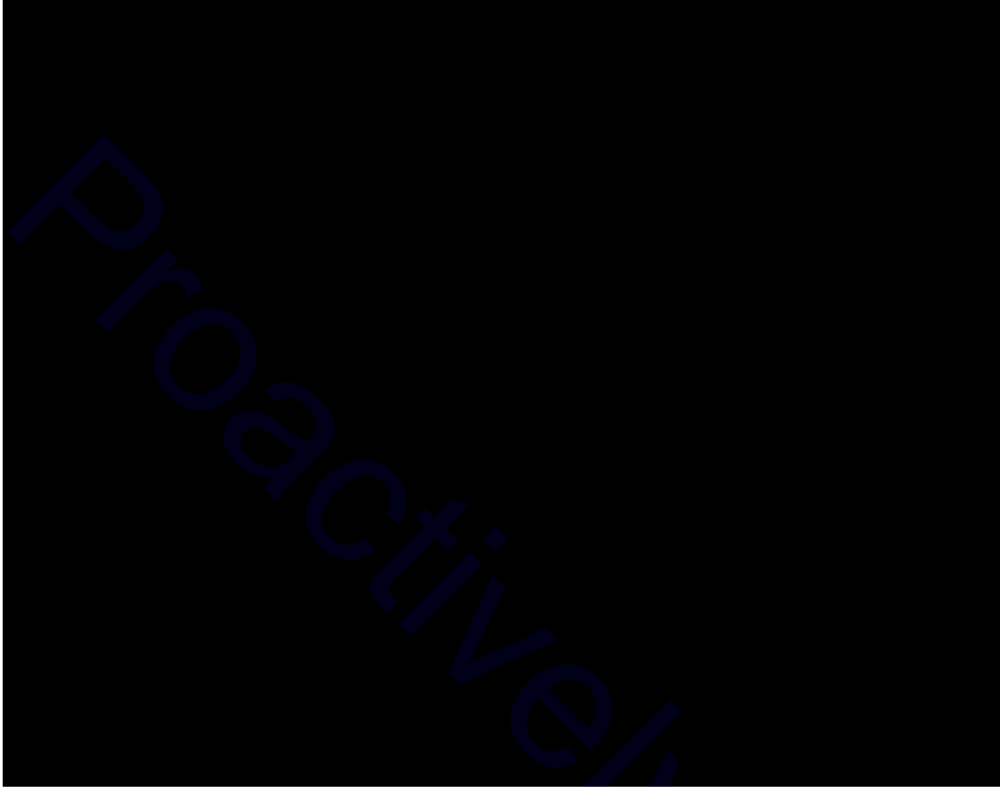
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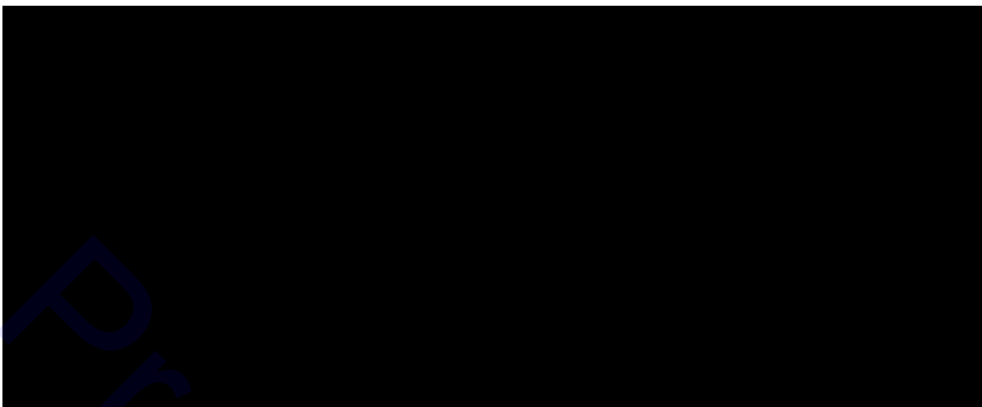
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2 Updates





Waitangi Potential World Heritage nomination update

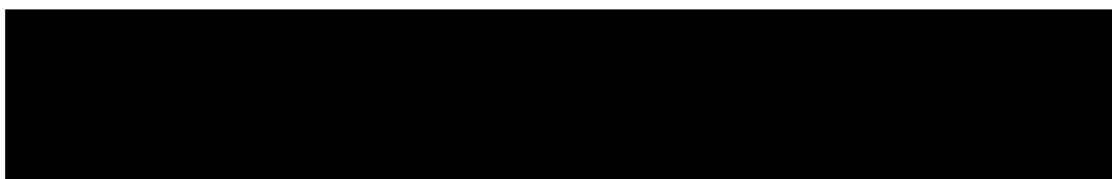
- In the Status Report for the week beginning 16 August 2021 we updated you on discussions between the Waitangi National Trust, local hapū and agencies regarding a potential World Heritage nomination for Waitangi.
- We are still awaiting confirmation of dates for a local hapū hui and a hui for wider northland iwi, as the next steps in the process.
- A Cabinet decision to proceed with the nomination process would be informed by the hui.
- At this point it is unlikely that both of the hui will take place in time for Cabinet to consider the proposal in advance of any formal Waitangi Day 2022 announcement.

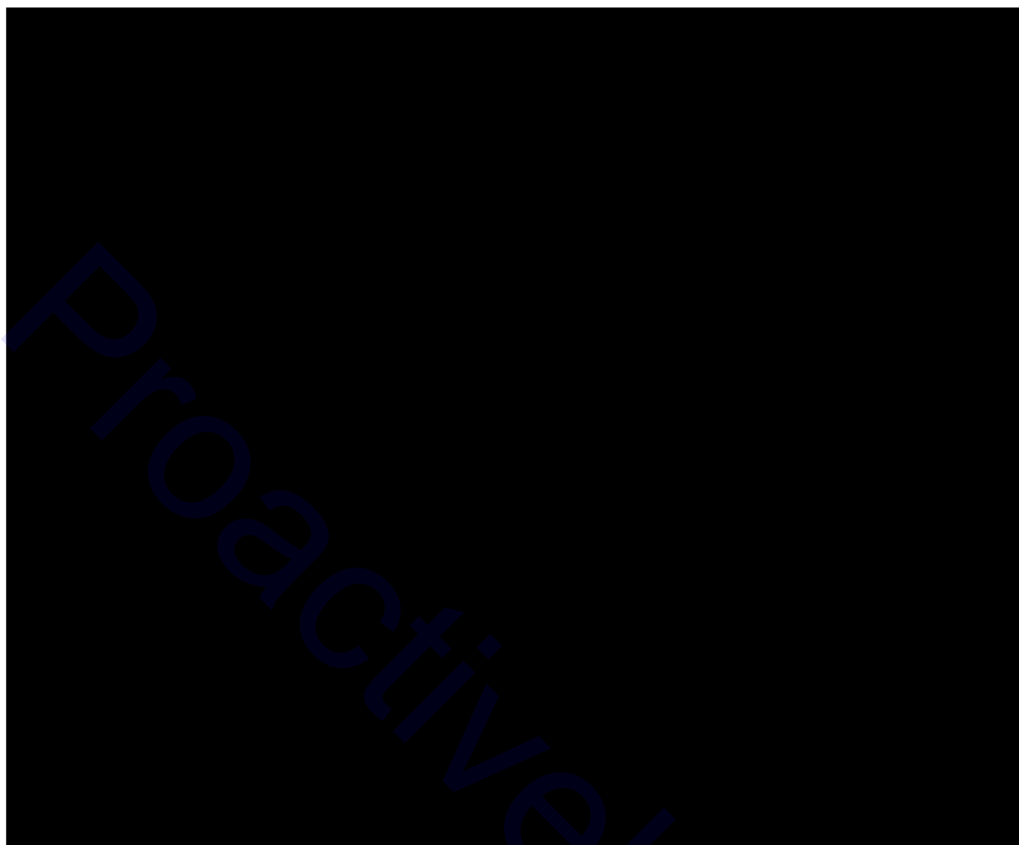
Contact: [REDACTED]

Treasury Investor Confidence Rating OIA request

- Treasury has received an OIA request, the response for which will include releasing DOC's Investor Confidence Rating (ICR) score. The ICR score has been publicly available on the Treasury site since 15 July 2021. The exact document in scope of the request has been shared with your office on 13 October.
- DOC's latest ICR score was B (72/100), lifting from C (61/100) in the 2016 assessment. DOC's scorecard can be found here: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-07/icr-scorecards.pdf>
- The Department is continuing to make improvements to address the recommendations in the 2020 score through the Te Tātai Atawhai project to update our Financial Management Information System (21-B-0367 refers).
- Further information on the ICR can be provided if requested.

Contact: [REDACTED]





2.6 Update on the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Scientific Committee meeting and bottom fishing

Note that this entry was largely drafted by MPI and has also been provided to Minister Parker.

- The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) sets the governance for fisheries in the South Pacific Ocean. MPI is the lead agency and represents Aotearoa New Zealand at SPRFMO meetings. DOC contributes to Aotearoa New Zealand's position.
- The SPRFMO Scientific Committee met from 27 September to 2 October 2021 and agreed the scientific recommendations that will inform decisions at the SPRFMO Commission meeting in January 2022.
- Key issues for New Zealand included the science underpinning the SPRFMO bottom fishing measure. There were differing views between some Members and industry and environmental nongovernmental organisation observers about the ongoing appropriateness of the conservation management measures to achieve its objective, and whether stronger measures should be considered at the Commission (particularly regarding encounter thresholds, move-on distance and spatial management).
- MPI will provide the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries with an aide memoire soon with detail on this issue and how it will be managed in the lead up to the Commission, in advance of seeking his agreement to New Zealand's approach to the Commission meeting itself.
- SPRFMO Heads of Delegation also met on 23 September. It was agreed that the Commission meeting will be held virtually from 22-27 January 2022, and priority issues were identified for the agenda. It is positive that the

SPRFMO processes, while hampered by the virtual format, are continuing and Members are generally engaging constructively.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee inquiry into illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing

- An interagency group coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and including MPI and the New Zealand Defence Force, presented an oral introductory briefing on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee Inquiry on the issue. This supplemented a written submission from these agencies that DOC had contributed to.
- Questions asked by the Committee in follow up to the oral briefing included cooperation within the Pacific region to tackle IUU fishing, the complicated interface between a State's political will and their operational reality, the accountability of States in implementing their international obligations, and the environmental and ecological impacts of IUU fishing.
- The Inquiry will now focus its requests for further evidence and may make requests of Ministers to appoint advisors to the Inquiry.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) update

- The purpose of the NHF is to permanently protect indigenous ecosystems of national significance (based on NHF criteria), on private land.
- We recently provided you with the NHF Committee's recommendations for a previous funding round, which was focused on West Coast wetlands.
- The NHF is currently open for applications and scheduled to close for applications on 29 October 2021 (see Status Reports 34 and 37).
- This is an open round using the established NHF criteria. It is non-specific in terms of indigenous ecosystem type and location.
- We propose to pause the current round and seek your direction for the NHF.
- The NHF Committee Chair, Jan Riddell, is available to discuss the direction for the NHF with you.
- We will contact your office to assess your availability for you to meet with the NHF Committee Chair and will provide you with a briefing prior to the meeting.

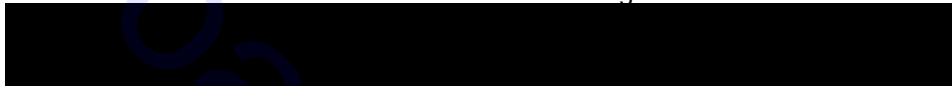
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2.9 Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

- Staff in Northland made the transition to AL3 over the weekend without issue.

- The DOC camp at Uretiti became a ‘location of interest’ and local staff followed MOH advice. Some campers were released but most were kept in camp. The contractor campground manager and two DOC staff who visited the camp are self-isolating while they get tested.
- The Senior Leadership Team held a drop-in Q&A session with Auckland staff on 13 October to support the ongoing wellbeing initiative.
- Local DOC staff throughout the country are contacting DHB and iwi vaccine providers to offer support to local vaccination efforts.
- West Coast DOC staff are assisting at a Greymouth vaccination clinic this weekend (15-17 October).
- Two DOC staff have self-isolated and tested after coming into close contact with a COVID household during a ‘food parcel drop’ with Waikato Tainui in the Waikato. Their first tests have come back negative.



Contact:

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

None this week.

4 Director-General Engagements

October

14–15 Oct NZCA meeting, Tauranga

November

1 Nov Pōwhiri for Penny Nelson, DOC Wellington

8 Nov Lou Sanson - Farewell event, Banquet Hall, Parliament

18-19 Nov Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough

24 Nov Te hāpai hāpori | Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington

25 Nov DOC Risk and Assurance Committee, DOC Wellington

December

7 Dec DOC Christmas Party, TBA Wellington

9 Dec Annual Review Environment Select Committee, Parliament

9–10 Dec NZCA meeting, Wellington

1 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support the Status Report:

Appendix 1. Cabinet Paper Report

Appendix 2. Job for Nature Dashboard

Proactively Released

Status Report 45 – week beginning 18 October 2021 – Confidential items

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Department of Conservation Status Report for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 25 October 2021

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6810935



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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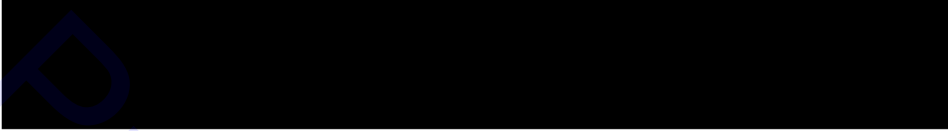

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

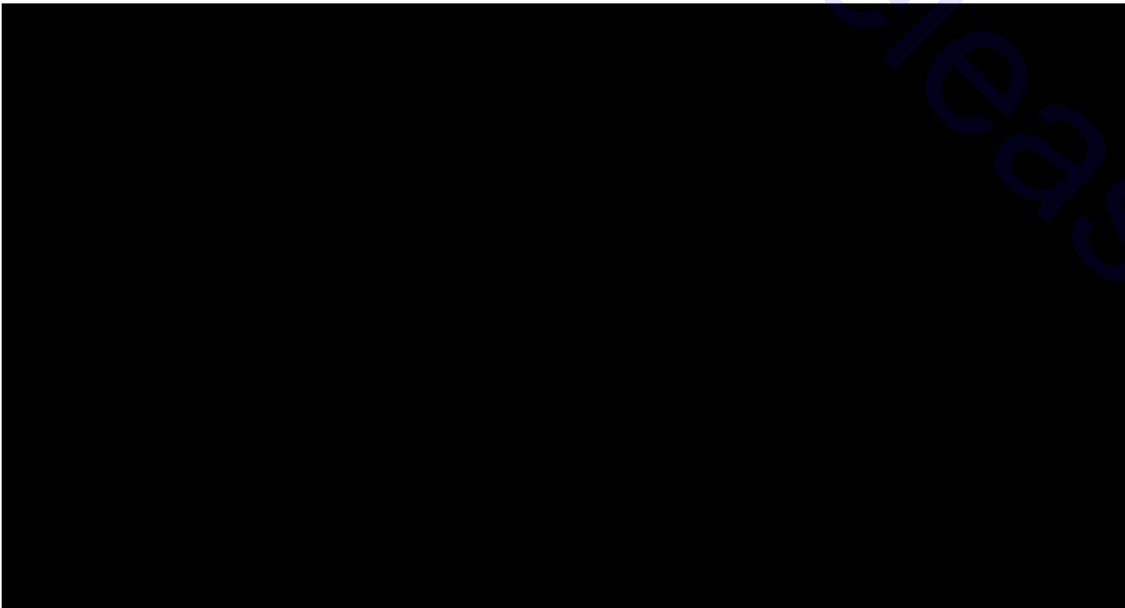
Jobs for Nature Summary:

- 
- We are currently working on several OIA requests from Hon Jacqui Dean, including a large request for detailed project information. Two additional staff have been employed to undertake this work and support further work on Written Parliamentary Questions (WPQs). We have identified all reporting data, funding agreements, applications and dashboards in scope of the request (OIAD-1455) and we aim to release the majority of the information in advance of the December Annual Review Select Committee hearing.
 - We have not received any more WPQs in the last week. As of 19 October 2021, the total number with a due date of 30 August or later is 1,417.
- 

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature | 

1.2 RMA Advocacy


No items this week





1.4 Stewardship Land Reclassification

- On 15 October, a joint memo was lodged with the High Court to adjourn the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu judicial review proceedings for an additional two weeks, until 5 November. This further adjournment was sought by Ngāi Tahu.
- We are working with your office on a media release to announce the mana whenua and national panels being convened, and that the stewardship land reclassification work is commencing. This will happen once Ngāi Tahu has co-signed the Stewardship Land Reclassification Agreement.
- Ngāi Tahu and DOC officials are jointly designing an induction for the mana whenua and national panels and will keep you informed of dates for the induction and delivery of the reclassification work.
- We are working with Te Tau Ihu iwi to arrange a hui on 2 November to discuss Te Tau Ihu iwi involvement in the stewardship land reclassification project within their rohe.
- You are seeking approval from the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee on 28 October to release the stewardship land discussion document

Contact: 

2 Updates

Chatham Islands – Kākāruia/kārure/black robin population

- We are investigating species management options for the kākāruia/kārure/black robin, after a decline in one of the only two populations.
- The populations total just 290 adult birds on the two reserve islands in the Chatham Islands. We have seen a 40% decline in the smaller population on Mangere/Maung' Re Island in the last two years, with a drop from around 50 to 30 adult birds.
- This puts the Mangere population at risk of being completely lost. This would make Rangatira/Hokoreoreo/Southeast Island the sole population, increasing the risk to the species. Rangatira currently has a stable population of approximately 260 adult birds.
- In August, DOC staff, technical experts, and representatives from Hokotehi Moriori Trust, Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi and the local community were invited to hui to discuss conservation management.
- A decision was made to focus on increasing the number of breeding pairs on Mangere, starting with monitoring this population over summer. We are carrying out consultation on further management actions, including disease screening and a potential translocation from Rangatira to Mangere next year.
- Currently we don't know the reason for the population decline. The information from monitoring will build our knowledge and inform future conservation work.
- We will continue to engage with our two Treaty partners, and with the local community. Black robins are iconic and have special meaning to these groups.
- There is media interest in this story. The Guardian is working on an article, which is likely to go out in the next two weeks. We anticipate issuing our own media release around this time and will keep your office updated of developments.

Contact: [REDACTED]



Whitebait information gathering update

- DOC compliance teams across the country are continuing to take an educational and advocacy led approach to implementing the new regulations. They are also taking the opportunity to clarify advice given to whitebaiters on contentious issues (e.g., stands) to ensure consistency.
- In the Bay of Plenty, a common thread of concern raised during community hui to introduce the new regulations has led to a research project to build local engagement and identify and describe whitebait species composition collected in accordance with Maramataka on three rivers in the Whakatane district.
- The whitebait season and DOC's related field work continue to be negatively impacted by weather conditions and COVID restrictions. This means that the data we have been able to collect this season cannot be considered representative of a normal fishing season and will not be robust enough to inform long-term management options.

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- Both ground and aerial work have been affected. Aerial observations/imaging flights in particular require several factors to be present, including correct tides, appropriate river and fishing conditions, fair weather, necessary flight approvals, specialist equipment and an available pilot/operator. Despite best efforts, to date these factors have not yet coincided for the nominated rivers. Efforts to capture footage of whitebaiting activity by drone on other rivers for compliance purposes have also been unsuccessful due to factors outside our control, including being unable to receive required flight clearances.
- As a result of the data gathering difficulties we have had this season, we are re-considering our approach to improving whitebait management and will provide you with a briefing on this prior to Christmas.
- We have followed up with Te Wai Māori after your meeting on 7 September and will continue to work with them on next steps for customary whitebait fishing, which may involve future policy development.

Update of intensive data collection trials (pilots)

Waikato

- Part of this region, including the mouth of the Waikato River, is within the COVID-related Auckland boundary meaning access to, and staffing of, this pilot has been significantly impacted.
- Patrols on the ground and light aircraft observations have not been possible during Covid restrictions.
- We are hopeful that some field work will be possible under Alert Level 2.

Bay of Plenty

- Whitebait samples for the catch composition study are being collected and community engagement is progressing well.
- Discussions with iwi regarding aerial observations are almost complete with three of four rivers approved. Flight paths have been mapped but the initial operator for the light aircraft observations operated out of Northland and could not fly because of COVID restrictions. Arrangements are now being made to engage another operator.

Marlborough

- Conditions on the Wairau River have meant a poor season to date, with little whitebait work to be done, other than compliance work.

West Coast

- As with Marlborough, bad weather has impacted planned whitebait work, but we are still hopeful that data can be gathered, and aerial footage captured.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Central North Island: Update, Marine Park Recreation Reserve (Tauranga City Council)

- In 2020, the Tauranga City Council (TCC) applied to revoke the reserve status for part of the Marine Park Recreation Reserve in Tauranga (administered by TCC), to enable it to lease the land to Waikato University for a marine research/education facility.
- The then Minister of Conservation declined the application due to concerns about the effects on amenity and recreation values, objections raised

regarding the Council's process, and a lack of assessment of alternative sites.

- TCC then approached DOC for a 'reconsideration' of the decision. Crown Law advised that the Reserves Act does not provide for this, and that the only option was to restart the process.
- TCC has now approached us for "consultation with the Commissioner", as required by section 24 of the Reserves Act, on a proposal to reclassify the same area of recreation reserve to a "Local Purpose (marine research and education facility) Reserve".
- Following consultation, TCC plans to call for public tenders to lease the land to construct and run a marine research facility.
- The Commissioner's role (in this case, the local Operations Manager) is merely to provide guidance on the Reserves Act procedures and matters which may need to be considered in the decision-making process. This is done in the form of a letter from the Commissioner to the Council.
- The delegation of your consenting role to Territorial Authorities in 2013 means TCC is able to complete the reclassification process without any further involvement from DOC.
- While the legislation still requires that the Commissioner be sent a copy of any objections, we have no authority to intervene; and would only provide comment if requested.
- TCC has been informed that we are updating you, and we will advise the Council of due process through our Commissioner role.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve: name change process

- Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve was created through an Order in Council in 1992, with its name formalised by the New Zealand Geographic Board in 2009.
- In April 2020 Joe Davis, the mangai/spokesman for Ngāti Hei O Hauraki, contacted our Whitianga office to request the name be changed to Te Whanganui-o-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. The reason being that changing the "a" to "o" gives expression to the ancestor rather than a geographic reference and is more appropriate to Ngāti Hei O Hauraki.
- A formal process has commenced to have this name change approved by the New Zealand Geographic Board. This process includes public notification and iwi consultation.
- This process is seeking only to change the name of the marine reserve.
- Once the process is completed, and if the New Zealand Geographic Board concur with the change, you will receive a briefing about submitting a variation to the Order in Council for the Governor-General to approve the name change.
- A Gazette Notice will be published once the Order in Council variation has been approved.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Western South Island Region: Pike River Recovery Agency (PRRA) withdrawal from the Pike River Mine site

- In June, Cabinet approved a revised timeline for the criminal investigation (led by the NZ Police) into the explosion at Pike River Mine, from 30 June to 31 October 2021. This extension was to enable six additional boreholes to be drilled into the mine, to provide vital evidence for the investigation.
- Further delays caused by the recent COVID lockdown, disruptive protest activity, weather, imaging equipment failure, and additional evidence in respect of the location of the first explosion, have led portfolio Ministers to approve a further extension to complete the borehole drilling by 17 December.
- These delays have a flow-on effect for the Pike River Recovery Agency (PRRA) completion of operations, handover of the Pike River Mine site and disestablishment of PRRA.
- PRRA has advised DOC that it has extended its planned withdrawal from the Pike River Mine site, handover of infrastructure and the surrender of the Access Arrangements to the end of February 2022. The withdrawal date was previously scheduled for late November 2021.
- The process for withdrawing, sealing the mine and rehabilitation is well advanced.
- The PRRA (supported by its own independent technical experts) has confirmed it has sufficient funding remaining to meet its current obligations to rehabilitate the Pike River Mine site.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the PRRA.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Funding for Samoan Conservation Society – “Save the Manumea” Campaign

- DOC's International Team has successfully secured \$99,000 (over two years) from MFAT's "Pacific Enabling Fund" (PEF) to support the work of the Samoa Conservation Society. MFAT agreed to provide this funding to help implement a project to save Samoa's national bird – the manumea, and to restore rainforests and increase climate resilience in Samoa's villages.
- The "Save the Manumea" campaign was launched by Prime Minister Ardern and the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (then Deputy PM and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment) at the New Zealand High Commission in Apia (July 2019).
- This campaign is designed to raise awareness and help Samoan people work together to save the manumea. The bird is threatened by loss of natural habitat and hunting; is IUCN listed as critically endangered; provides significant value for natural ecosystems; and is culturally significant as an esteemed source of food.
- The MFAT administered funding is only accessible to government agencies and is intended to support the Pacific Reset/Pacific Resilience. The Samoa Conservation Society was considered to be a suitable fit for the PEF and its work is well aligned with DOC's Pacific Strategy which aims to extend New Zealand's conservation reach to the Pacific and build capacity to manage natural and cultural heritage.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- DOC staff deployed to 14 vaccine clinic locations around the country to support the Super Saturday event. They were involved in transport, traffic management, food preparation and general support duties.
- After Super Saturday we will be communicating again with DHB and other vaccine providers to reiterate our availability to support ongoing vaccination activities
- Internal communications for the week beginning 18 October focused on asking staff to voluntarily advise their vaccination status so we can better inform our internal messaging.
- We are commissioning policy work to prepare ourselves to operate efficiently and effectively under new COVID management frameworks, looking at policies around unvaccinated staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Govtech Accelerator Demo Day

Inviting you to be a keynote speaker

- On 11 October, you received an invitation from Jonnie Haddon, the Head of Govtech at Creative HQ, to be the keynote speaker at a Creative HQ showcase event on 16 November at Parliament.
- Three projects in the broader programme may be of interest across your portfolios, while two of them directly involve Te Papa Atawhai. They are:
 - Climate Change: Looking at how we can best engage with tourism concessionaires to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, while increasing the resilience of biodiversity, recreation, and heritage values.
 - Conservation Education: Reimagining capability development for conservation in a way that is grounded in mātauranga Māori and meets the current and future needs of conservation in te ao hurihuri, our changing world.
- Should you require further details we would be happy to provide them to your office.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

November

1 Nov	Pōwhiri for Penny Nelson, DOC Wellington
8 Nov	Lou Sanson - Farewell event, Banquet Hall, Parliament
18-19 Nov	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
24 Nov	Te hāpai hāpori Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington
25 Nov	DOC Risk and Assurance Committee, DOC Wellington
30 Nov	SLT 'Team Day', Wellington

December

7 Dec	DOC Christmas Party, TBA Wellington
9 Dec	Annual Review Environment Select Committee, Parliament
9-10 Dec	NZCA meeting, Wellington

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support the Status Report:

Appendix 1. Cabinet Paper Report

Appendix 2. Job for Nature Dashboard

Proactively Released

Status Report 46 – week beginning 25 October 2021 – Confidential items

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3. Antipodean albatross bycatch in high seas fisheries

- As reported to you on 11 October 2021, a satellite-tracked juvenile Antipodean albatross was bycaught by a foreign tuna longline fishing vessel in the high seas in late June 2021.
- This bycatch event highlighted the wider risk to the population of this Nationally Critical seabird from high seas tuna longline fisheries and prompted a proactive press release by DOC on 19 October.
- Media pick-up on this press release included a story on Stuff as part of the series, "This is how it ends", a DOC official being interviewed for radio by Newstalk ZB and Magic Talk and the release being reprinted by Voxy.
- As part of the wider "This is how it ends" series, Stuff featured an article and podcast focussing on a previous bycatch event of a satellite-tracked Antipodean albatross by a foreign tuna longline vessel on the high seas in 2019. This included an interview with Minister Parker in early September.
- These media features were high profile in the national press and have acted to raise awareness of seabird bycatch in fisheries, particularly the risks faced by the Antipodean albatross from high seas tuna longline fisheries.
- New Zealand's actions to reduce fisheries bycatch of Antipodean albatrosses have focussed on implementing the National Plan of Action – Seabirds 2020, including the introduction of best practice Mitigation Standards domestically, and a range of international cooperation and advocacy work, including that outlined in the Concerted Action for the species adopted by the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals in 2019.
- Further international collaborative actions being pursued include a proposed

which you will be briefed in the week of 25 October

and raising awareness of the risk to

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Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

Antipodean albatross as part of an upcoming economic consultation with



- Officials will provide further advice on the role of Ministers in this international work.

Contact: Elizabeth Heeg, Director Aquatic: 027 801 8956

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