

Summary of Proposal to Open More North Island Areas to Commercial Beach Cast Seaweed Harvesting

Why consider modifying the current harvesting areas?

Commercial harvesters and some hapu/whanau have expressed an interest in having more coastal areas open to the commercial harvest of brown and green beach cast seaweeds.

At this time the potential risks to the sustainability of beach cast seaweed or harvest by other stakeholders (if harvesting areas are expanded) are considered low given the abundance and renewable nature of the resource, the current rate of growth in harvesting levels, and the harvesting practices of commercial operators.

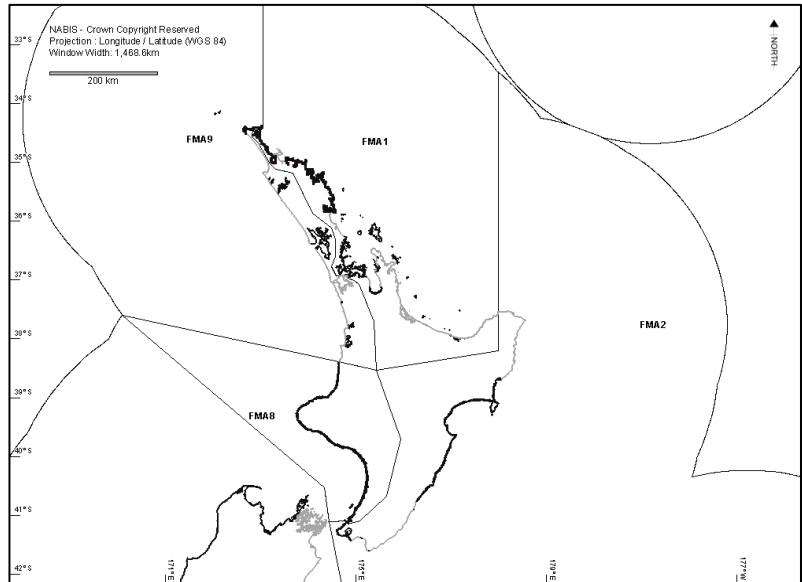


Figure 1. Location of coastal areas in the North Island currently closed to commercial harvest of green and brown beach cast seaweeds (denoted by heavy black lines).

What are the three options proposed in the IPP?

Three options are presented for consideration by customary, recreational and commercial fishers and environmental stakeholders. The three options are:

Option	Description
Option A	<i>Status quo.</i> *
Option B	Expand the areas open to commercial harvesting of brown and green beach cast seaweeds to include coastal areas currently of interest to commercial operators (except where already prohibited by regulation). *
Option C	Expand the areas open to commercial harvesting of brown and green beach cast seaweeds to include all coastal areas in the North Island (except where already prohibited by regulation). *

* Descriptions of the **current** and **proposed** coastal areas open to commercial harvest of brown and green beach cast seaweeds are in the **Initial Position Paper**, which can be found under the 'Consultations' link on the Ministry of Fisheries website www.fish.govt.nz.

How long do I have to make a submission?

Your submission must be received before 5.00pm on **Friday the 7th August 2009**. Send your submission to Tracey Steel, c/- Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020 Wellington.

Where can I find more information?

This is an information summary only. The **full** versions of the consultation documents (*Initial Position Papers*) and more information on where to send your submissions can be found on the Ministry of Fisheries website www.fish.govt.nz by clicking on the 'Consultations' link.