

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
AT AUCKLAND**

**I MUA I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU ROHE**

UNDER the Resource Management Act 1991
IN THE MATTER of appeals under Clause 14 of Schedule 1 of the Act

BETWEEN **BAY OF ISLANDS MARITIME PARK
INCORPORATED**

(ENV-2019-AKL-000117)

**ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION
SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED**

(ENV-2019-AKL-000127)

Appellants

AND **NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**
Respondent

**STATEMENT OF REBUTTAL EVIDENCE of CRAIG RONALD
JOHNSTON FOR BAY OF ISLANDS MARITIME PARK INC AND
ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW
ZEALAND INC (DIVE TOURISM)**

TOPIC 14 – MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

22 June 2021

Royal Forest and Bird Protection
Society of NZ Inc
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Bay of Islands Maritime Park / Ngāti Kuta
ki te Rāwhiti
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MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

1. My Name is Craig Ronald Johnston.
2. I provided a statement of primary evidence dated 19 March 2021 on behalf of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc (“Forest & Bird”) and Bay of Islands Maritime Park Inc (“BOIMP”).
3. My evidence was in relation to my experience diving inside and outside the Maunganui Bay Rāhui Tapu and how my business and other local businesses benefit if visitors having a range of healthy diving and snorkelling sites to visit, and benefit to my business from proposed extension of fishing controls.
4. I have not read the evidence of other parties, but I have been advised that one witness, Mr Holdsworth, has suggested that ongoing removal of urchins by divers to feed snapper may be a reason for the relative lack of kina barrens within Maunganui Bay compared to areas where fishing occurs (at 11.4). I have marked the two sites that we dive in Maunganui Bay in Figure 1 below. These two small areas are the only reef sites we dive with any regularity. They are the South Eastern end of Putahataha Island, and the Eastern end of White Reef. These are the only sites that we feed urchins to the fish. We normally feed just a few a dive. We have a small impact on urchin numbers in the cove.



Figure 1 Dive sites in Maunganui Bay

Craig Johnston

22 June 2021