

## **Message to Tourism Industry about the South East Marine Protection Forum**

I am one of the two tourism representatives on the South East Marine Protection Forum. This Forum has been set up by the government to investigate and make recommendations for marine protection for the South Island coastline from Timaru in Canterbury to Waipapa point in Southland. The forum has 14 members who were nominated to represent Ngai Tahu, Commercial fishing, recreational fishing, science, conservation, the community and tourism. You can find out more information about the forum on its website [www.south-eastmarine.org.nz](http://www.south-eastmarine.org.nz). The Forum has approximately two years from when it was convened (mid 2014) to prepare its recommendations.

I am asking you to become involved in this process as it is an important one that will set the course for management of our marine environment for the next 50 years at least. The Forum needs buy-in and information from the whole community if we are to make worthwhile, enforceable and fair management rules for our coast.

You all know that tourism is becoming one of the most important sectors of our Southern economy and that the marine environment is a significant part of that tourism. I have observed that the marine environment is important to tourism for the following reasons:

1. Penguins, sealions, seabirds, wading birds, dolphins and whales make our coast and sea an outstanding wildlife tourism asset.
2. Our varied coast with its estuaries, beaches, cliffs and headlands is a major drawcard for tourists and the community alike.
3. We need to be seen to be protecting our marine environment by the ever more discerning visitors from overseas and other parts of New Zealand.

You may know more reasons to add to this.

You can help the Forum to determine what protection our coast and sea needs by telling us what you value there, providing information about changes you may have seen there, and making suggestions for its management. It is important to note that many other interests will have their say and this needs to be matched by the tourism industry.

Here are the ways you can give the Forum your information:

1. Go to the Forum's [website](http://www.south-eastmarine.org.nz) and fill out the questionnaire.  
(<http://www.south-eastmarine.org.nz>)
2. Go to the Forum's [facebook](http://www.facebook.com/southeastmarine) page, friend it and pass on your comments and pictures.  
(<http://www.facebook.com/southeastmarine>)
3. From the website log in to the Forum's planning tool [SeaSketch](http://southeastmarine.seasketch.org/), investigate the information available there and make suggestions on line.  
(<http://southeastmarine.seasketch.org/>)
4. Come to one of our advertised forum public sessions in 2015: March 14 Owaka, April 18<sup>th</sup> Dunedin, May 28<sup>th</sup> Timaru, June 20<sup>th</sup> Waikawa, July 23<sup>rd</sup> Port Chalmers, August 27<sup>th</sup> Balclutha, September 19<sup>th</sup> Palmerston, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Dunedin, November 26<sup>th</sup> Moeraki.  
(Public sessions are generally from 4.00 p.m.)
5. Contact me directly:

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