

SUBMISSION BY OHAWE BOAT AND ANGLING CLUB

We are writing this submission on behalf of the Ohawe Boat and Angling Club, in objection to the proposed seabed mining application for the South Taranaki Bight.

We, as club members past and present have been privileged to be able to fish and dive off the South Taranaki coast for over 50 years, as part of a club and years before as individuals

In this time we have been able to collect fish and crayfish from the area with ease, and have interacted with the fish and animals that are here.

We have seen Orca, Blue penguins, Wright Whales, Dolphins and sharks frequently while fishing and had amazing experiences with all the fish and animals under the water.

From seeing Crayfish marching, divers swimming with mass shoals of juvenile fish, kingfish circling while ascending and descending to dive sites, Blue cod following divers, close enough to be able to touch the fish, carpet sharks, Conger eels, sting ray and eagle rays.

We have heard whales singing in the distance , and pods of dolphins chirping close by , and Orca on rare occasions gliding above divers.

We have a very special area known as the 4 mile reef which although not charted is close to 1NM in length that we have over 40 dive sites.

We have seen fields of eel weed and chalk kelp cover the rocks and outcrops , masses of sponges, which are animals not Flora and many different nudibrach

We have named many of our sites so we know what to expect when we are diving them

“The islands “ loads of individual shell rock formations 2- 3M high filled with holes and swim throughs and crevices rising from the sandy floor

“Linda” is a mass of over hanging rocks dropping into shell rock ledges covered in thick layers of chalk kelp that you need to push through that hide fish and crayfish

“The Cave “ is 3 large holes with over hangs above. And dropping 4 meters to the sea floor on a near sheer face. The caves are too deep and the openings not wide enough to get to the back of, maybe 3 meters deep but always have crayfish large and small present, knowing they have clean areas to stay and breed

“ The Plates “ which are 20 shell rock ledges like a large pancake stack that has been pushed over, with deep crevices that hold crayfish, and many juvenile fish.

“Mark Oz” is similar with long thin ledges that lead into small caves, that we always find eels sitting near where the crayfish hide out during the day

“Boulders” is a collection of large rocks, sitting in a pile like dumped by a truck, where we can see fish and crayfish deep in the gaps often just out of reach that provide safe locations to hide and stay .

One of the very special observations when diving this structure is the lack of tidal effect so the water is generally clean and we can dive most times of the day. This is very different to other dive locations, like the North and South trap which is a matter of 15 Miles away but can only be dived at slack tide

We have had occasional days with flat sea, that we go to fishing spots within proximity of the proposed mining site, passed down from previous fisherman, and that have no specific formations we can see on the sounders, but where we target large blue cod.

We do catch good size fish, but there is also masses of small juvenile cod, which shows these areas hold large populations and must have good food sources to hold the fish there.

There are many assumptions from TTR that have little supporting evidence as to the major effects this will have the areas we fish and dive in.

The comments under their submission under heading “Spawning and Feeding”

“For the fish that spawn inshore, any effects are likely to be within the range of background levels of suspended sediment concentrations that the fish populations presently encounter due to the high energy environment of the STB”

This will not be the case on the 4 mile reef due to far less tidal movements and any additional sediment will smother and suffocate everything for extended periods of time to a far greater extent than currently occurs. This lack of tidal movement as observed and noted above is testament to this fact

We as club representatives feel very strongly in opposition to the proposal to mine the sea bed

Club Commodore [REDACTED]

Treasurer [REDACTED]

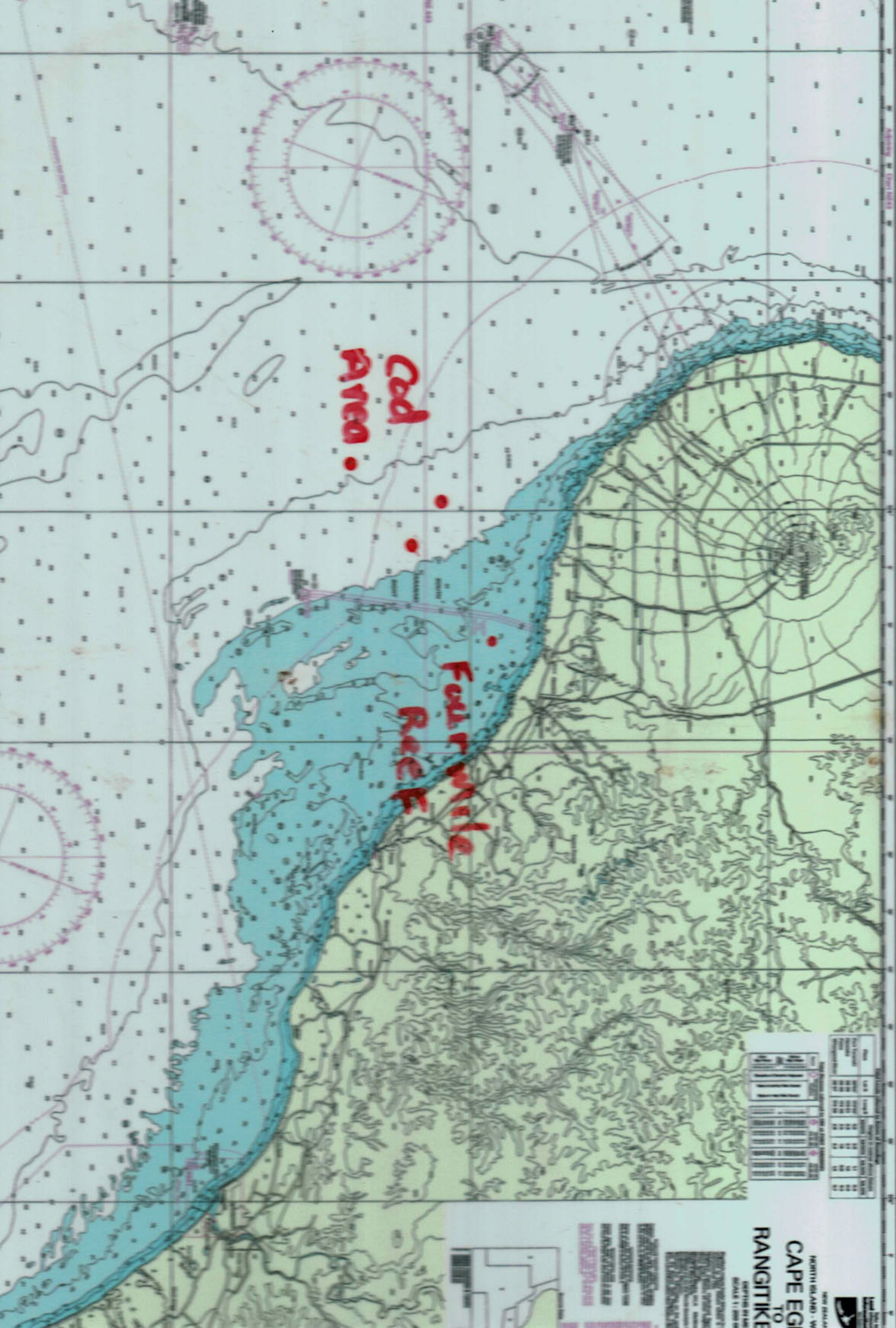


Table with 4 columns: Name, Sounding, Depth, and other navigational data. The table lists various soundings and depths in the area.

Name	Sounding	Depth	Other
1	10	10	
2	20	20	
3	30	30	
4	40	40	
5	50	50	
6	60	60	
7	70	70	
8	80	80	
9	90	90	
10	100	100	

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