

SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN

Submitter No.	S332
Submitter Name	Lake Māhinapua Aquatic Club Inc. (LMAC)
Person making submission	Robert John Daniel
Date and time	21 February 2024 at 9.30 a.m.
Location	Hokitika RSA

1. INTRODUCTION

I have the authority of the LMAC committee to make this submission on behalf of the club.

The submission opposes parts of the proposed plan relating to Activities on the Surface of Water and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori. It relates specifically to Lake Māhinapua.

I joined the LMAC in 1996, having been a competitive sailor and member of Wellington and Christchurch yacht clubs since the 1960's. I have been a committee member of the club for over 25 years, holding various positions including Commodore. I am currently responsible for safety, operation of the club rescue boat and assistance with sail training. I have a current Yachting New Zealand Coaching certificate and Coast Guard Boat Master qualification. I have been awarded Life membership of the LMAC.

2. HISTORY OF THE LAKE MAHINAPUA AQUATIC CLUB

The Club was established in 1943, with members instrumental in improving road access to the lake shore and providing various facilities including clubhouses, boat storage sheds and launching ramps and jetty. The current LMAC clubhouse, storage shed and concrete access driveway occupy land covered by a lease agreement with the Department of Conservation. The concrete launching ramp and jetty are maintained by the Department of Conservation for the benefit of the public, as well as the club.

The purpose of the club is to promote the sport of sailing for all ages – 8 to 80 plus. It has done this continuously for over eighty years by conducting yacht racing and sail training, and providing the resources required for these activities to take place.

Other activities of the club over its life have included removal of whitebait stands and huts from Māhinapua Creek, major repairs to the jetty after uplift of piles, weed and pest control around the clubhouse, pickup and removal of rubbish along the lake shore, connection of the clubhouse to DOC wastewater treatment plant at the camping ground to avoid possibility of contaminating lake water etc. Club members value and respect the unique environment we are privileged to occupy and use for recreation.

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES OF THE CLUB

The Club operates from October to April each sailing season. Activities include Opening and Closing days, racing on most Sunday afternoons, an annual regatta around late January, training most Sunday mornings and occasional special training sessions, plus Yachting New Zealand "Have a Go" introduction to sailing for schools. South Island championship series have been held on the Lake for various yacht classes. The nearby DOC camping ground is often utilized by visiting sailors.

To carry out the above activities the club has a clubhouse and boat storage shed, a fleet of training dinghies, a safety/rescue boat - (currently a 4 metre long RIB with a 15 HP outboard motor capable of 25 knots), around 20 buoyancy aids in various sizes, plus 2 way radios, starting lights and siren on clubhouse etc. We use the launching ramp and jetty as part of sailing activities.

The club rescue boat is operated by approved trained persons only under a safety plan, which includes Yachting New Zealand and Maritime NZ requirements. The boat is primarily for sail training, rescue and assistance of sailors who may have capsized, had gear failure, or suffered injury on the water. It is also available for rescue of swimmers in the lake when we are operating and is registered with the Hokitika Police for general Search and Rescue use. Additional motorised craft are sometimes used for regattas, training, and championship events.

The club maintains several buoys on the lake to provide markers for yacht racing. Different courses are set depending on wind strength and direction, speed of boats, experience of sailors etc.

4. GENERAL SUBMISSION OF THE CLUB

The LMAC is a small club with limited physical, human and financial resources. It has substantial liabilities in maintaining its buildings, rescue boat, fleet of training boats etc., plus rates and lease payments, insurance and Yachting New Zealand levies.

We wish to continue our eighty years plus of sailing and associated activities at Lake Māhinapua without the need for planning consents for our established activities, or requirement for Rūnanga approval of our temporary events. Even if consents and approvals were to be granted, the proposed Rules would still impose significant additional administration effort. There would be a risk that consents and approvals would not be granted, or unreasonable conditions imposed which could impact on the future of the club.

In summary we submit that the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan be amended to make all of our sailing activities and operation of associated resources permitted activities under the Plan.

5. SPECIFIC SUBMISSION POINTS

ASW – P2 We submit that the Lake Māhinapua Aquatic Club motorised rescue boat or boats be permitted to continue to operate on Lake Māhinapua, under the search and rescue boat provision or by specific exemption for the Club.

ASW – R4 We submit that the Club be permitted to maintain marker buoys on Lake Māhinapua.

SASM – R5 We submit that the activities of the Lake Māhinapua Aquatic Club be allowed to continue without a rule requiring approval by the two Rūnanga of temporary sailing events on the Lake.

6. LAKE MAHINAPUA MANAGEMENT PLAN - November 2018

Club members were involved in the early stages of preparation of the Lake Māhinapua Management Plan and support the plan in its above form. The LMAC had an expectation that The Management Plan would form the basis of provisions in the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan relating to the recreational use of Lake Māhinapua.

The following are relevant extracts from the Lake Māhinapua Management Plan – November 2018:

Section 2.4

“The Lake Māhinapua Aquatic Club is located within buildings in Shanghai Bay and utilises the jetty and boat ramp located there. Small buoys are permanently located in the lake and larger buoys are put out for regattas.....”

This plan seeks to provide for the on-going enjoyment of the lake by existing users but with increased education and awareness of the cultural values of the lake, including wāhi tapu status.”

Section 3.4.6

“Investigate the creation of by-laws to limit the speed of or ban the use of motorised craft on the lake to maintain the peaceful ambience associated with the lake, to respect its wāhi tapu status and enhance user safety (except for the use of motor craft for emergencies or for regattas run by the Lake Māhinapua Aquatic Club).”

Rob Daniel
Life member
Lake Mahinapua Aquatic Club Inc.
20 February 2024