

Submission on Resource Consent Application

By the Tairawhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association Inc.

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Submission on - The upgrade and extension of Gisborne Port.

Applicant – Eastland Port.

Application numbers – CP-2022-111365-00/ CD-2022-111366-00/ CC-2022-111367-00/ CR-2022-111368-00/ CO-2022-111369-00/ NC-2022-111370-00/ LU-2022-111371-00.

The Tairawhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association (TRLIA) supports the applications.

In particular the TRLIA supports the reclamation next to the southern log yard, rebuilding the breakwater and upgrading the storm water treatment infrastructure in the southern log yard.

The TRLIA agrees with the applicant, that the proposed work should have minimal effect on the local rock lobster stocks. TRLIA members fishing out of the port have offered to translocate as many lobsters as possible from the immediate site just prior to work commencing on the reclamation.

The reclamation and breakwater rebuild offer the opportunity to enhance the rock lobster habitat and foraging ground available within and outside the harbour. The Port company has had discussions with the TRLIA on the subject of habitat enhancement and has committed to resourcing work inside the harbour. The TRLIA is very interested in being involved in the design, testing and ongoing monitoring of suitable structures and devices. The fishing members of our Association are well aware of the ability of adult rock lobsters to inhabit and/or forage on reefs that are periodically exposed to high energy sea conditions. In the past, discussion has focused on the immediate post larval lobsters but the Association believes that structures suitable for a wide size range of lobsters is a worthwhile objective.

The TRLIA has been engaged with the Eastland Port on various resource consents over the past 10 years, mostly involving storm water discharges. We have developed a good level of trust in the Ports commitment to working towards good solutions when ecological issues are identified by the community.

Gordon Halley  
TRLIA Chairman