



# Summary

## *Using different processes to protect marine environments*

We looked at how the South-East Marine Protection Forum – Te Roopu Manaaki ki te Toka (the South-East Forum) and Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura, the Kaikōura Coastal Marine Guardians (Te Korowai) used two different processes that generated advice to Ministers for establishing marine protection, including marine reserves. Each group used a process that was different in terms of its origin, purpose, scope, and expected outcomes.

Te Korowai used a community-led process that, with support from government agencies, prepared a marine strategy for the Kaikōura coast. Te Korowai met its community's expectations for being inclusive, well informed, and transparent. Although the process took time and commitment, many participants in Te Korowai told us that they are proud of what Te Korowai achieved.

The South-East Forum was established in April 2014 to make recommendations to establish a network of marine protected areas consistent with the Marine Protected Areas Policy. The South-East Forum mostly met our expectations for inclusiveness, being informed by the best information that was available at the time, and achieving a good level of transparency.

However, our work highlighted how some aspects of the guidelines for implementing the Marine Protected Area policy are not supporting the effective achievement of New Zealand's marine biodiversity objectives.

New Zealanders would value an approach that encourages and enables communities to better support marine protection measures. A more flexible way needs to be found to balance the views and values of those with an interest in the marine environment.

We encourage the Department of Conservation and Ministry for Primary Industries, as the stewards of an important natural resource, to consider how any reform to marine biodiversity protection legislation, policy, or planning could support greater collaboration between parties, and ultimately protect New Zealand's unique marine biodiversity in a more effective way.

