

**THE KIWI ASSOCIATION OF SEA KAYAKERS
(NEW ZEALAND) INCORPORATED**
P.O. Box 11 461, Wellington



PRESS RELEASE 24 AUGUST 2003

For Immediate Release

SEA KAYAKERS URGE GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE FOR CROWN OWNERSHIP OF FORESHORE AND SEABED

Sea kayakers are calling on the Government to legislate for Crown ownership of the foreshore and seabed.

The foreshore and seabed should be attributed the same status as that accorded national parks says Paul Caffyn of the KIWI ASSOCIATION OF SEA KAYAKERS (KASK).

“National parks are vested in crown ownership for recreational use by all New Zealanders.

“These parks were formed to protect in perpetuity the flora, fauna, scenic values and landforms. KASK believe the foreshore carries the same values and should be accorded the same status as our national parks,” says Paul Caffyn.

KASK says it is not against recognising customary rights providing they are viewed only in an historical context such as for shellfish gathering or fishing from a waka.

However, KASK believes that any definition of customary rights must specifically exclude any monetary recompense being derived from activities such as aquaculture, oil and gas revenues and tourist ventures.

Paul Caffyn, who is the only person to have circumnavigated the North and South islands and Stewart Island in a sea kayak, says that efforts by pressure groups to change the status of foreshore ownership has the potential to present a serious safety issue for all sea kayakers in New Zealand.

“KASK strongly supports Government plans to legislate for Crown ownership of 20m strips on privately owned coastal property. New Zealand’s coast is subject to rapid changes in weather and sea kayakers need to be able to land and seek shelter without being told to move on by a landowner,” he says.

Sea kayakers are careful custodians of the shoreline and KASK takes a proactive role in promoting environmental ethics and minimum impact camping. Paul Caffyn says that this close connection with the coastline and kayaking's long history in New Zealand gives KASK grounds to make a customary rights claim on the Marlborough Sounds.

“When we look at the history of sea kayaking in New Zealand, the first club was the Tainui Club in Wellington which was established in 1870. Tainui members made regular club trips to the Marlborough Sounds where they fished and gathered shellfish.

“Surely the Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers is now in a position to claim customary rights given this history and our respect and love of the New Zealand foreshore,” says Paul Caffyn.

ENDS

For further information contact Paul Caffyn on 025 616 3754 or (03) 7311806.
or Vincent Maire on 025 276 6032 or (09) 424-2293

Sea Kayakers and the Foreshore and Seabed Issue

The Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers (KASK) is taking steps to ensure that sea kayakers are represented in the debate over ownership of the foreshore and seabed.

This is a profoundly important issue for all sea kayakers as it impacts on the critical matter of access to coastal areas for recreational purposes. Can you imagine how terrible it would be if sea kayakers were prohibited by law from landing on large areas of our coastline?

KASK committee member Paul Caffyn is preparing a detailed submission on this issue to the Government. **However, the KASK national committee would very much like to see as many clubs, networks and individuals as possible also speaking out on behalf of sea kayaking.**

Feedback must be received by Friday 3 October. Written submissions can be sent to Foreshore and Seabed Submissions, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, PO Box 55, Wellington or made on line at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/foreshore>.

The Government has made it very easy for submissions to be made and appears to be making an honest effort to be inclusive. The above website has extensive information on the issue.

The key points in the KASK submission are as follows.

1. KASK believe the foreshore carries the same values and should be accorded the same status as our national parks

2. KASK says it is not against recognising customary rights providing they are viewed only in an historical context such as for shellfish gathering or fishing from a waka.
3. KASK believes that any definition of customary rights must specifically exclude any monetary recompense being derived from activities such as aquaculture, oil and gas revenues and tourist ventures. Monetary recompense could create a precedent that may lead to a user-pays approach to beach and foreshore usage.
4. KASK is recommending an approach used for several national parks, (Mt Egmont & Mt Cook for example), which were publicly given back to local Iwi with immediate return by Iwi to crown ownership. What Iwi gained was 'mana' or acknowledgement that the land was returned to them and they gave it to the Crown. This is a potential positive suggestion and one that has yet to be mentioned by any of the many parties involved in the debate.
5. KASK believes a change of status to foreshore ownership has the potential to present a serious safety issue for all sea kayakers.
6. Sea kayakers are, by the very nature of their sport, very concerned and often very active environmentalists and sea kayaking is a pastime, which has minimal impact on the marine environment.

KASK requests that your club committee, or you as an individual, take this opportunity to make a submission on an issue that could have an impact on the recreational use of the coastline for generations to come. If speaking on behalf of a club or network, it is important that you identify how many people are represented by your submission.