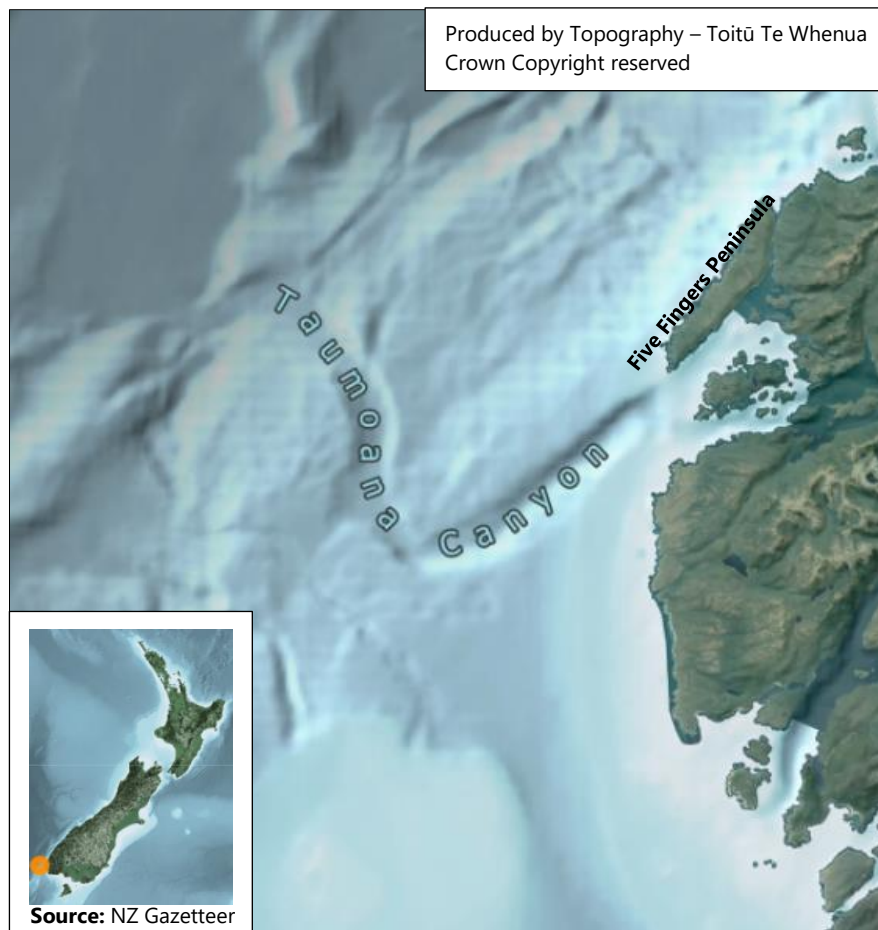


# Submissions for Taumoana Canyon

[altered from Five Fingers Canyon]

[Considered by the Board on 22 July 2021]



## Summary

At its hui on 20 April 2021 the Board accepted a proposal to alter the recorded<sup>1</sup> undersea feature name Five Fingers Canyon to the official undersea feature name Taumoana Canyon.

During the notification period from 27 May 2021 to 28 June 2021 the Board received three submissions supporting and two submissions objecting to the proposal.

Two submitters support the official recognition of Māori place names as a way to acknowledge Māori culture and history of a place and honour Treaty obligations. Southland District Council's GIS<sup>2</sup> team advised that it is not aware of local impacts or effects on the council's geographic processes.

The submitters objecting to the proposal advised:

- a personal connection to the area and its names,
- the proposal is Māori revisionism and a form of tokenism, destroying New Zealand culture for Māori culture, there is nothing in the Treaty about replacing place names.

These reasons are not considered to outweigh the reason that the Board accepted the proposal. The restoration of Māori place names is a tangible reminder of Māori

<sup>1</sup> A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which the Board has resolved to be: NZMS map, LINZ Archived Place Names Database, [Kā Huru Manu](#), and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. A recorded name is not official.

<sup>2</sup> Geographic Information System

history in New Zealand and a function of the Board. The cultural redress part of Treaty settlement legislation often includes place names, whether restored or corrected. In keeping with its [Standard for undersea feature names](#), the Board agreed that it was appropriate that the canyon be given the original collected Māori name<sup>3</sup> for Five Fingers Peninsula, Taumoana, because of the strong geographical association between the canyon and the peninsula.

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## Secretariat recommendation

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board resolved this recommendation

**Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter the recorded undersea feature name Five Fingers Canyon to the official undersea feature name **Taumoana Canyon** and their reasons,

**and**

**Reject** the two objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reason that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being that the canyon is associated with Five Fingers Peninsula, which has the original Māori name Taumoana,

**and**

**Confirm** the Board's earlier decision to alter the existing recorded undersea feature name Five Fingers Canyon to the official undersea feature name **Taumoana Canyon**,

**and**

**Report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

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## Background

**Draft Board minutes 20 April 2021**  
[abridged]

The canyon is associated with Five Fingers Peninsula (and Taumoana (Five Finger Peninsula) Marine Reserve), which has the original Māori name, Taumoana. Because the canyon is partly within 12NM of territorial New Zealand the proposal is required to be publicly notified for submissions.

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## Notification

Advice to mana whenua of public notification

On 29 April 2021, the Secretariat advised Te Rūnunga o Ngāi Tahu that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for submissions between 27 May 2021 and 28 June 2021.

Advice to MPs

On 1 June 2021, the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Te Tai Tonga and Southland, and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 28 June 2021.

Public notification

The Board advertised the proposal:  
- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),

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<sup>3</sup> Collected from Kā Huru Manu, which the Board accepts as an authoritative document

including social media

- in the *Sunday Star Times* and *Southland Express*,
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ<sup>4</sup> [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)™ pages, and
- on the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

An advertisement was submitted to Te Puni Kōkiri's [events calendar Rauika](#) on 27 May 2021 but was not published.

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**Media** The Board released a media advisory in English on 28 May 2021 and te reo Māori on 31 May 2021, which was also [posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#), [scoop.co.nz](#) and [voxy.co.nz](#) syndicated the English version on 28 May 2021.

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## Summary of the submissions

### Reason given in submission

**Support** Wāhi ingoa Māori (Māori place names) go some way towards honouring Treaty obligations. Not aware of local impacts or effects on the council's geographic processes. Where iwi and hapū have a significant connection to a place, official recognition of the Māori name is an important step to recognise Māori culture and full history of the place.

**Object** Supports retaining Five Fingers Canyon. The proposal is Māori revisionism and renaming is a form of tokenism. Iwi leaders gain financially. Nothing in Treaty about replacing place names. Destroying New Zealand culture for Māori culture. Māori didn't have underwater sonar technology. Bending over backwards for a minority. The area and its names have significant personal meaning.

## Secretariat's assessment

The Board considers the merits of a proposal in terms of its statutory functions and policies, which include honouring its Treaty obligations<sup>5</sup>. The cultural redress part of Treaty settlement legislation often includes place names, whether restored or corrected. The restoration of Māori place names is a tangible reminder of Māori history in New Zealand. The Board's [Standard for undersea feature names](#) states that 'Where appropriate, the specific term should be named after the geographically connected and already named land based geographic feature, with consideration given to the original Māori name'. This is similarly prescribed in the [international undersea feature naming guidelines](#). The undersea canyon has a strong geographical association with Five Fingers Peninsula, which has the original collected Māori name, Taumoana.

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## Supporting information

1. Board report – Undersea Feature Names Committee recommendations – 2021-04-20
2. Online submissions spreadsheet (two supporting, two objecting)
3. Submission not received through the online platform (one)

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<sup>4</sup> Land Information New Zealand

<sup>5</sup> [Section 6 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) refers