



14 June 2017

Tēnā koe

Consultation on proposed National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture

The Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for the Environment have initiated consultation with the public and Iwi Authorities on a proposed National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture. This letter is to inform you about the proposed National Environmental Standard and consultation process, and to invite you to make a submission.

The Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for the Environment and Department of Conservation have worked together to develop the proposed National Environmental Standard. A reference group was consulted in developing and testing the draft proposal. The reference group included representatives from the aquaculture industry, Te Ohu Kaimoana, Environmental Defence Society and regional councils (note the regional council representatives were nominated by the regional council CEs who sit on the Aquaculture Forum).

The proposed National Environmental Standard seeks to make the replacement consenting pathway more consistent and efficient while still allowing local decision makers to have discretion in some areas. It provides for best practice on-farm biosecurity management for existing and new farms. The proposed National Environmental Standard will not have any impact on decisions about new marine farms or expansion of existing farms. The full discussion document detailing the proposals and a summary document are attached.

The Ministers consider that the proposed National Environmental Standard is consistent with the purpose of the Resource Management Act in that it would promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The proposed matters of discretion would ensure the adverse effects of aquaculture activities can be appropriately avoided, remedied and mitigated. It provides a nationally consistent rules framework, allowing regional councils to set appropriate consent conditions reflecting best environmental practice for aquaculture, and strengthening biosecurity management. Future planning by councils would still be able to identify areas where aquaculture is inappropriate.

The Ministry for Primary Industries is leading the 8 week consultation process, commencing on Wednesday 14 June 2017 and closing at 5pm Tuesday 8 August 2017. This consultation is an opportunity for you to make a submission on the proposed National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture and its specific subject matter.

We will hold public meetings and hui with Iwi Authorities in the main aquaculture regions in June and July. Details for public meetings will be posted on the MPI website. If you have any questions please contact the Aquaculture Unit on 03 548 1069 or aquaculture@mpi.govt.nz

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke Southorn'.

Luke Southorn
Director Economic Development & Partnerships