

Marlborough Salmon Farm Relocations Advisory Panel

Dear Panel members,

My name is Bruce Hearn and I am the Manager of Apex Marine Farm Ltd a company owned 90% by my wife and myself. I entered aquaculture on a part time basis in 1973 and have been full time since 1980. We are the neighbour and near neighbour of NZ King Salmon in Forsyth Bay and in Tory Channel.

I strongly support this proposed relocation for a number of reasons and because it is only recently that the best practice requirements for salmon farming have been quantified. Historical salmon farm failures in the Marlborough Sounds in Hallam Cove, Wet Inlet, Port Underwood (2) and even the Kenepuru Sound attest to the rocky road that has been traversed to get viable salmon farming in this area.

We should be encouraging salmon farming and this relocation in more suitable sites in the Marlborough Sounds is important because:

- Aquaculture including sea cage salmon farming is the most environmentally sustainable method of producing protein this world knows. I attach a report October 2016 comparing the environmental footprint of British Columbia farm raised salmon to other food protein sources. The report demonstrates the “cost” of environmental impacts of B.C. farm raised salmon is \$0.59/kg. At \$0.73/kg, the environmental “cost” of chicken is 24% higher than B.C. farm raised salmon. Pork (\$1.04/kg) is 76% higher and beef (\$3.45/kg) is 486% higher. Sure it’s not a New Zealand study and a different species (Atlantic) but it is indicative of aquaculture environmental impacts as a whole.

- There is support for aquaculture. Also attached is a summary of a Colmar Brunton Survey commissioned by MPI in 2014 soon after the EPA hearings for new water space by NZ King Salmon. Two thousand and twenty eight New Zealanders aged 18 and over were surveyed including 300 from Marlborough. Only 6% of Marlborough residents feel negatively about the sector.
- Similar countries produce sea cage salmon successfully. Australia, Chile, Scotland, Canada and Norway have progressive salmon industries. Norway with a 5.3 million population and 366,000 square km compares in size and population with NZ at 268,000 square km and a population of 4.79 million. They have oil revenues and we have dairy. They produce 1.39 million tonnes of Atlantic salmon. In NZ we produce 12,000 tonnes but with less problems such as disease and sea lice and produce a superior product. The relocation will allow NZ King Salmon to continue to demonstrate the environmental sustainability of salmon farming.
- The relocation will improve benthic effects in an already much adversely modified environment. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment tells us that each year 200 million tonnes of sediment flow from our rivers into our seas and harbours and the Marlborough Sounds is no exception. Fish health will improve with the relocation and where avoidable I believe we should avoid adverse benthic effects. To listen to some opponents we would think that we are dealing with a pristine benthos. It would be interesting if we could restock the Marlborough Sounds with historic levels of Cod and Snapper and see what objections we had to fish poo. In any event I understand fish poo to be relatively benign.

I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 4.0 of our original submission.

We have four oyster and mussel farms in Oyster Bay, Tory Channel close to the proposed Tio Point salmon farm.

We are concerned with any downstream effects and ask that the condition requested is acceded to.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to appear.