

Summary of Decisions Requested

Proposed Plan Change 2 (Private) to the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan: Pare Hauraki Kaimoana

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Proposed Plan Change 2 (Private) to the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan: Pare Hauraki Kaimoana

Sub #	Submitter name (s)	Sub point	Regional Coastal Plan Provision	Oppose/ support	Summary of Submission	Decision Requested
SUB 1	The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.	1.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1) and Rule 16.5.6	Oppose	<p>Forest & Bird's particular interest with Proposed Change 2 is in regard to the increased environmental footprint of the proposed activity. Forest & Bird recognises that the proposal continues restriction of subsurface structures within the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone. However, the potential for adverse effects from submerged anchor lines which extend beyond the zone is not appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated by the current proposal. Forest & Bird's key concerns with proposed Plan Change 2 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for adverse effects on marine mammals and birds to be increased. - Disturbance of the seabed and possible effects on reefs and benthic values beyond the zone. - Timing as the operative Regional Coastal Plan (the Plan) 2005 predates the NZCPS 2010 and it is in the process of being reviewed. - While marine farming provisions in the Plan were amended as recently as 2011, changes have not been made to biodiversity provisions. - The current plan provisions are enabling towards marine farming and include direction for consideration of "appropriate" use and occupation where effects are avoided "as far as practicable". Under this framework it is not clear that the NZCPS 2010 directive avoid policies are given effect to. <p>Forest & Bird considers that the private plan change should be declined as this change should be considered as part of the full Plan review to ensure integration across plan provisions and that high order documents are given effect to. Given the scope of this plan change there is no ability to update the biodiversity provisions nor would that be an appropriate solution given the full Plan review which is underway provides the appropriate mechanism.</p>	<p>Forest & Bird seeks that Plan Change 2 be declined.</p> <p>However, if the decision maker is minded to approve Plan Change 2, then Forest & Bird considers that the proposed change provisions be retained.</p>

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					<p>Declining this plan change will ensure that all anchor lines and any other infrastructure related to marine farming activities in the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone will be contained within the zone. This will ensure the risk to marine mammal and bird entanglement is limited. It will also retain the extent of any seafloor disturbance and impact on benthic values to within the zone.</p> <p>The current Plan review would be a more appropriate process to consider these amendments.</p>	
SUB 2	Reihana Robinson	2.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1)	Oppose	<p>I oppose in its entirety the request for a new standalone Rule 16.5.5D(1) to provide for subsurface anchor lines and anchor structures, along with any associated seabed disturbance, to be located outside the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ), where they anchor an aquaculture structure located wholly within the CMFZ, as a discretionary activity.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed changes to the coastal plan will result in substantially increased adverse environmental effects and direct ecosystem degradation in the vicinity of the CMFZ. To stabilise floating fish cages in the CMFZ against tidal, wind, wave, current and storm action, anchor warps will extend horizontally roughly four times the 36m water depth, which in this location means about 150m from the fish pens, according to the applicant. The total surface and subsurface operational area in which fish farm equipment could be placed would be increased by close to 110 ha, from 300 ha to approximately 410 ha (approximately 37 percent). Fish pen blocks could as a result be located right up to the farming zone edges.</p> <p>Significant adverse environmental effects caused by the CMFZ would increase in direct proportion to any increase in the actual operational area wherein fish cages may be located, such as that proposed by the applicant. These effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the extent of seabed “dead zones” • Increase in the extent of direct chemical pollution of the seabed 	No specific relief stated – but the plan change is opposed in its entirety.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the total area of potential entanglements and direct strikes in nets and anchor structures by marine mammals • Increase in the extent of hazards to navigation • Increase in the extent of pollution and damage • Increase in degradation of amenity and natural values in the vicinity of the CMFZ • Decrease in public space and increase in the public recreational exclusionary area <p>This request would provide a solely private operational and financial advantage for the applicant, while providing no wider social benefit, and resulting instead in actual increased damage to the environment, ecosystems, and public amenity.</p> <p>In precisely delineating a 300 ha CMFZ Waikato Regional Council were advised and thoroughly aware of the requirements and effects of caged finfish aquaculture, the nature of hard structures utilised by the industry, and the characteristics of the marine environment of the inner Hauraki Gulf in the vicinity of the CMFZ. Any decision to expand and enlarge the CMFZ by way of the proposed private plan change would be entirely unjustified, irresponsible, and would fly in the face of those decisions.</p> <p>Additional material was attached to this submission, generally about caged fish farm footprints and caged kingfish hearing notes.</p>	
SUB 2	Reihana Robinson	2.2	Rule 16.5.6	Oppose	I oppose the request for amendment to Rule 16.5.6 to make it explicit that such structures are not a prohibited activity. Any decision to expand and enlarge the CMFZ by way of the proposed private plan change would be entirely unjustified, irresponsible, and would fly in the face of those decisions.	No specific relief stated – but opposed to the plan change in its entirety.
SUB 3	Te Patukirikiri Iwi	3.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1)	Support	Te Patukirikiri supports the proposal to change the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan to enable the most efficient means of Pare Hauraki Kaimoana	Approve the plan change.

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			and Rule 16.5.6		<p>establishing, operating and maintaining a finfish farm in the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ).</p> <p>The current rules of the regional plan effectively sterilises about 110 hectares of the CMFZ for the intended purpose of fin fish farming etc.</p> <p>This plan change, and the associated development of the CMFZ, will recognise and provide for the traditional relationship of Pare Hauraki with Tikapa Moana and enable Pare Hauraki to continue their kaitiaki responsibilities with respect to the moana.</p> <p>This plan change, and associated development of the CMFZ, will further strengthen the economic foundations of Pare Hauraki Kaimoana to continue the support it provides to the Hauraki Māori Trust Board / Pare Hauraki. It will provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of Pare Hauraki.</p> <p>The CMFZ is an appropriate location for finfish farming based on the numerous investigations undertaken over the last ten years, and the specific environmental assessments prepared by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana. This plan change will enable the most efficient use of the CMFZ, and the environmental effects of activities within the CMFZ can be addressed through the resource consent process (and then through consent conditions).</p> <p>This plan change (and associated development of the CMFZ) is also important as the CMFZ includes Pare Hauraki Treaty settlement space in settlement of the Crown's breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi against Pare Hauraki under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004</p>	
SUB 4	Thames Coromandel District Council	4.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1)	Support	<p>The new rule will provide for more efficient and effective utilisation of marine farming activities within the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ).</p> <p>The new rule will ensure that the marine farming structures remain stable within the CMFZ.</p>	Approve the new standalone rule, including the standards and terms, to Chapter 16 (16.5 Marine

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					<p>The new rule will provide greater flexibility for the layout of marine farming activities in the CMFZ.</p> <p>The new rule meets the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991.</p>	Farming) of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.
SUB 4	Thames Coromandel District Council	4.2	Rule 16.5.6	Support	<p>The Discretionary Activity status will require a resource consent application to be made for the activity. This application will enable any proposals to be assessed under the provisions of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan and ensure that any adverse effects from proposals are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>The Discretionary Activity status supports the Government's commitment to develop the aquaculture industry in New Zealand, and particularly in the Coromandel area and wider Waikato and Auckland region.</p> <p>The Discretionary Activity status provides for greater economic benefits for the district and wider Waikato region.</p> <p>The activity will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the objectives and policies of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.</p>	Approve the change sought to the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.
SUB 5	Whitianga & Coromandel Peninsula Commercial Fishers Association	5.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1)	Oppose	<p>Areas outside of the CMFZ are public property so everything associated with a permitted marine farm needs to reside within the boundaries of the actual marine farm.</p> <p>The inner Hauraki Gulf/ Firth of Thames is a minefield for the commercial/ recreational vessel operators. In poor visibility or darkness, vessel operators find navigation lights associated with marine farms extinguished. This can be dangerous in bad weather.</p> <p>With marine farms anchors being laid outside a permitted farms area, loss of fishing equipment and fouled anchors are to be expected.</p> <p>To stay on top of additional information on farm anchors outside of the CMFZ is unnecessary workload for those people who are not marine farmers but work in the same waters.</p>	No specific relief stated – but the plan change is opposed in its entirety.

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SUB 5	Whitianga & Coromandel Peninsula Commercial Fishers Association	5.2	Rule 16.5.6	Oppose	This should remain a prohibited activity for the reason of safety involving vessel owners. This is because of the number of marine farms now evident in the Firth of Thames/ Hauraki Gulf waters.	No specific relief stated – but the plan change is opposed in its entirety.
SUB 6	Ngati Maru Rūnanga	6.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1) and Rule 16.5.6	Support	<p>Ngati Maru Rūnanga supports the proposal to change the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan to enable the most efficient means of establishing, operating and maintaining a finfish farm in the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ).</p> <p>The proposed plan change only introduces a new rule to provide for subsurface anchor lines and anchor structures, and any associated seabed disturbance, to be located outside of the CMFZ where they are required to anchor an aquaculture structure that is located wholly within the surface of the CMFZ.</p> <p>The current rules of the regional plan result in around 110 hectares of the CMFZ not being able to be utilised for the intended purpose of fin fish farming and multi-trophic aquaculture.</p> <p>This plan change and the associated development of the CMFZ, will recognise and provide for the traditional relationship of Pare Hauraki with Tikapa Moana and enable Pare Hauraki to continue their kaitiaki responsibilities with respect to the moana.</p> <p>This plan change, and associated development of the CMFZ, will further strengthen the economic foundations of Pare Hauraki to continue the support it provides to the Hauraki Maori Trust Board/ Pare Hauraki. It will provide for the social, economic and cultural well-being of Pare Hauraki.</p> <p>The CMFZ is an appropriate location for fishfin farming based on the numerous investigations undertaken over the past 10 years, and the specific environmental assessments prepared by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana. This plan change will enable the most efficient use of the CMFZ, and the environmental effects of activities within the CMFZ can be assessed</p>	Approve the plan change.

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					<p>through the resource consent process (and then through consent conditions).</p> <p>This plan change (and associated development of the CMFZ) is also important as the CMFZ includes Pare Hauraki Treaty Settlement space in settlement of the Crown's breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi against Pare Hauraki under the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.</p>	
SUB 7	Hauraki Maori Trust Board / Pare Hauraki Fishing Trust	7.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1) and Rule 16.5.6	Support	<p>Hauraki Maori Trust Board / Pare Hauraki Fishing Trust supports the proposal to change the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan to enable the most efficient means of establishing, operating and maintaining a finfish farm in the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ).</p> <p>The proposed plan change introduces a new rule to provide for subsurface anchor lines and anchor structures, and any associated seabed disturbance, to be located outside of the CMFZ where they are required to anchor an aquaculture structure that is all located within the surface of the CMFZ.</p> <p>The current rules of the regional plan result in around 110 hectares of the CMFZ not being able to be utilised for the intended purpose of fin fish farming and multi-trophic aquaculture.</p> <p>This plan change, and the associated development of the CMFZ, will recognise and provide for the traditional relationship of Pare Hauraki with Tikapa Moana and enable Pare Hauraki to continue their kaitiaki responsibilities with respect to the moana.</p> <p>This plan change, and associated development of the CMFZ, will further strengthen the economic foundations of Pare Hauraki Kaimoana to continue the support it provides to the Hauraki Māori Trust Board / Pare Hauraki. It will provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of Pare Hauraki.</p> <p>The CMFZ is an appropriate location for finfish farming based on the numerous investigations undertake over the last ten years, and the specific</p>	Approve the plan change.

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					<p>environmental assessments prepared by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana. This plan change will enable the most efficient use of the CMFZ, and the environmental effects of activities within the CMFZ can be addressed through the resource consent process (and then through consent conditions).</p> <p>This plan change (and associated development of the CMFZ) is also important as the CMFZ includes Pare Hauraki Treaty settlement space in settlement of the Crown's breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi against Pare Hauraki under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.</p>	
SUB 8	Geoffrey Robinson	8.1	Rule 16.5.5D(1)	Oppose	<p>I oppose in its entirety the request for a new standalone Rule 16.5.5D(1). to provide for subsurface anchor lines and anchor structures, along with any associated seabed disturbance, to be located outside the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone (CMFZ), where they anchor an aquaculture structure located wholly within the CMFZ, as a discretionary activity.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed changes to the coastal plan will result in substantially increased adverse environmental effects and direct ecosystem degradation in the vicinity of the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone.</p> <p>To stabilise floating fish cages in the CMFZ against tidal, wind, wave, current and storm action, anchor warps will extend horizontally roughly four times the 36m water depth, which in this location means about 150m from the fish pens, according to the applicant. The total surface and subsurface operational area in which fish farm equipment could be placed would be increased by close to 110 ha, from 300 ha to approximately 410 ha (approximately 37 percent). Fish pen blocks could as a result be located right up to the farming zone edges.</p> <p>Significant adverse environmental effects caused by the CMFZ would increase in direct proportion to any increase in the actual operational area wherein fish cages may be located, such as that proposed by the applicant. These effects include:</p>	No specific relief stated – but the plan change is opposed in its entirety.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the extent of seabed “dead zones” due to direct deposition and build-up of faeces and uneaten food. • Increase in the extent of direct chemical pollution of the seabed. • Increase in the total area of potential entanglements and direct strikes in nets and anchor structures by marine mammals. • Increase in the extent of hazards to navigation. • Increase in the extent of pollution and damage. • Increase in degradation of amenity and natural values in the vicinity of the CMFZ. • Decrease in public space and increase in the public recreational exclusionary area. <p>This request would provide a solely private operational and financial advantage for the applicant, while providing no wider social benefit, and resulting instead in actual increased damage to the environment, ecosystems, and public amenity.</p> <p>In precisely delineating a 300 ha CMFZ, the Waikato Regional Council were advised and thoroughly aware of the requirements and effects of caged finfish aquaculture, the nature of hard structures utilised by the industry, and the characteristics of the marine environment of the inner Hauraki Gulf in the vicinity of the CMFZ.</p> <p>Extensive volumes of technical material supported their considered intent and decisions to create a 300-hectare marine farming zone, in which to strictly locate all caged aquaculture activity and structures. Any decision to expand and enlarge the CMFZ by way of the proposed private plan change would be entirely unjustified, irresponsible, and would fly in the face of those decisions.</p>	

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SUB 8	Geoffrey Robinson	8.2	Rule 16.5.6	Oppose	I oppose the request for amendment to Rule 16.5.6 to make it explicit that such structures are not a prohibited activity. Any decision to expand and enlarge the CMFZ by way of the proposed private plan change would be entirely unjustified, irresponsible, and would fly in the face of those decisions.	No specific relief stated – but the plan change is opposed in its entirety.
Late Submissions						
LATE 9	Protect our Gulf	L9.1	Chapter 16	Oppose	<p>It is our view that further fish farming will present significant environmental issues, specifically nitrate loading, damage to the benthic floor, and potential contamination of natural fish stocks. The effects of that will be felt throughout the Hauraki Gulf. There are already issues of significant concern and the Hauraki Gulf, which, while beautiful is suffering from the effects of reduced habitat, overfishing and sedimentation. We feel it would be premature to allow for an expansion of an untested project across larger swathes of the Gulf. Equivalent to opening a 'pandora's box' of environmental degradation which will be difficult to manage into the future.</p> <p>Concerned that the socialised environmental costs of damage and loss of habitat and reduction of habitat have not been accounted for. Will have the consequence that profits will be privatised, while losses socialised so that communities of the Gulf bear the brunt of the loss of their recreational space, water quality and ability to fish while potentially contaminating the wild fish stocks.</p> <p>Should delay any consideration of a plan change until there is a review of the plan and any fish farm in place. This issue is of concern across the Gulf and has proved extremely difficult to find any information on it.</p>	Delay any consideration of the plan change until the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan review has been completed and any fish farm has already been in place.