

APPENDIX 4: RPS RELEVANT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	COMMENT
COASTAL ENVIRONMENT		
<p>Objective 2 Preservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment.</p> <p>Objective 4 Enable use and development of the coastal environment in appropriate locations</p>	<p>Policy CE 2B Managing adverse effects on natural character within the coastal environment Preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by including provisions in regional and district plans, and when making decisions on resource consents to:</p> <p>(a) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the attributes that comprise natural character in areas of the coastal environment with outstanding natural character as identified in the maps and tables in Appendix I and J;</p> <p>(b) Avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the attributes comprising the natural character in all other areas of the coastal environment, recognising that areas identified in maps in Appendix I as having high or very high natural character can be especially sensitive to the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development; and</p> <p>(c) Recognise that open coastal water in the region is of at least high natural character.</p>	<p>The project site is not identified as an area of outstanding natural character.</p> <p>The assessment of environmental effects section of this report has detailed the measures proposed to mitigate any unavoidable effects of the project on natural character values.</p>
	<p>Policy CE 6B: Protecting indigenous biodiversity Use the criteria in Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 to identify and protect areas of indigenous biological diversity in the coastal environment requiring protection under that policy.</p>	<p>The RCEP has applied the criteria in Policy 11 of the NZCPS to identify areas of significant indigenous biological diversity in the coastal environment. These areas have been scheduled as A sites (Policy 11(a) NZCPS) and B sites (Policy 11(b) NZCPS). The project site does not contain any Schedule A or B sites.</p>
	<p>Policy CE 8B: Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environment When assessing the effect of subdivision, use and development on the natural character of the coastal environment, particular regard shall be given to:</p> <p>(a) The level of natural character as shown in Maps in Appendix I, as described in Appendix J, and the level of protection to be afforded by Policy CE 2B;</p> <p>(b) The criteria contained in Set 1 of Appendix F to further refine natural character for resource consents or site-specific mapping;</p> <p>(c) Maintaining coastal margins in a natural state and protecting the natural values of beaches and dune systems, including their ability to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards such as tsunami and storm surge;</p> <p>(d) The appropriateness of the introduction or accumulation of man-made modifications recognising activities that are:</p> <p>(i) planned (consented, zoned or designated);</p> <p>(ii) provided for in reserve management plans; or</p> <p>(iii) identified in Appendix C, D and E; or</p> <p>(iv) lawfully established;</p> <p>(e) The provisions of Customary Marine Title Management Plans;</p> <p>(f) Subject to Policy CE 2B avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating (including, where appropriate, through provision of buffers) other adverse effects on:</p> <p>(i) Visually, ecologically or culturally sensitive landforms, including ridgelines, coastal cliffs, beaches, headlands, and peninsulas and visually prominent public open space;</p> <p>(ii) Estuaries, lagoons, wetlands and their margins (saline and freshwater), dune lands, rocky reef systems and areas of eelgrass and salt marsh;</p> <p>(iii) Terrestrial and marine ecosystems;</p> <p>(iv) Natural patterns of indigenous and exotic vegetation and processes that contribute to the landscape and seascape value of the area; and</p> <p>(v) Regionally significant surf breaks and their swell corridors, including those at Matakana Island and the Whakatāne Heads;</p> <p>(g) Encouraging efficient use of occupied space through intensification and clustering of developments, rather than sprawling, sporadic or unplanned patterns of settlement and urban growth;</p> <p>(h) Setting buildings and structures back from the coastal marine area and other waterbodies where necessary, practicable and appropriate to protect natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment, while recognising some structures may have a functional need to be located in the coastal environment, for which a setback would be inappropriate.</p>	<p>The marine farm site is not identified as an area of high, very high or outstanding natural character.</p> <p>The site is situated well offshore (6km) to minimise the impact on the natural character and amenity values of the coastline and identified areas of significant value. There is a functional requirement for the marine farm to be located within the coastal marine area.</p>
	<p>Policy CE 9B: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems by maintaining or enhancing:</p> <p>(a) Any area within the inter-tidal or sub-tidal zone that contains unique, rare, distinctive or representative marine and avian species or habitats;</p> <p>(b) Areas used by marine mammals as breeding, feeding or haul-out sites;</p>	<p>The benthic survey undertaken by DML has determined that the site does not contain any significant ecosystems or habitat areas. This will be further assessed prior to the development of each stage of the marine farm.</p>

	<p>(c) Habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species or any life stage of species listed as threatened or at risk by the Department of Conservation;</p> <p>(d) Any areas that contain indigenous coastal ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification – such as estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, rocky reef systems and salt marshes;</p> <p>(e) The integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes; and</p> <p>(f) Promoting water quality in the coastal marine area that sustains healthy aquatic ecosystems.</p>	<p>The site is not within a significant breeding or feeding area for marine mammals, although it is acknowledged that there are a number of marine mammal species that may pass through the area.</p>
	<p>Policy CE 11B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area</p> <p>For allocation of space within the coastal marine area activities shall demonstrate:</p> <p>(a) A functional or positional need to be located in, or adjacent to, the coastal marine area;</p> <p>(b) Efficient use of the natural resources within the coastal marine area; and In addition to policies MN 2B, MN 3B, MN 5B, MN 6B and MN 8B consideration shall also be given to the effect of the activity in relation to:</p> <p>(c) Whether any benefit to the public of the proposed activity compensates for the loss of public open space; Multiple use of space and/or rationalisation of infrastructure;</p> <p>(d) Recreational use of the coastal marine area;</p> <p>(e) Ecological functioning and natural processes of the coastal marine area;</p> <p>(f) Compatibility with the natural features and landscapes, natural character and amenity values of the coastal environment;</p> <p>(g) Respect for Māori customary practices; and</p> <p>(h) Existing uses and constraints in the coastal marine area.</p>	<p>The marine farm has a functional requirement to be located within the coastal marine area and is considered to be an efficient use of coastal space due to its siting well offshore and outside areas of high public use.</p> <p>Public recreational access will be provided within the marine farm.</p> <p>Ecological and cultural considerations have been addressed in the AEE.</p>
<p>INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</p>		
<p>Objective 10</p> <p>Cumulative effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed</p>	<p>Policy IR 1B: Applying a precautionary approach to managing natural and physical resources</p> <p>Apply a precautionary approach to the management of natural and physical resources, where there is scientific uncertainty and a threat of serious or irreversible adverse effects on the resource and the built environment.</p>	<p>The project has adopted a precautionary approach by adopting an adaptive management approach which involves a staged development with ongoing monitoring and review to ensure that adverse effects are identified and addressed.</p>
<p>Objective 11</p> <p>An integrated approach to resource management issues is adopted by resource users and decision makers</p> <p>Objective 12</p> <p>The timely exchange, consideration of and response to relevant information by all parties with an interest in the resolution of a resource management issue</p>	<p>Policy IR 5B: Assessing cumulative effects</p> <p>Give regard to the cumulative effects of a proposed activity in contributing to:</p> <p>(a) Incremental degradation of values of sites identified as having high natural character (in accordance with Policies CE 2B and CE 8B);</p> <p>(b) Incremental degradation of matters of significance to Māori including cultural effects (in accordance with Policy IW 5B);</p> <p>(c) Incremental degradation of water quality from point source and non-point source discharges including urban stormwater;</p> <p>(d) Inefficient use of space associated with sprawling or sporadic new subdivision, use or development;</p> <p>(e) Incremental degradation of scenic values, amenity, open space, recreation and the general use and enjoyment by the public;</p> <p>(f) Adverse impacts on coastal processes, resource or values, biodiversity and ecological functioning;</p> <p>(g) The availability of freshwater resources;</p> <p>(h) Increased risk from natural hazards;</p> <p>(i) The loss of versatile land for rural production activities;</p> <p>(j) Effects on the function, efficiency and safety of infrastructure; and</p> <p>(k) Social and economic wellbeing.</p>	<p>The potential for the project to generate cumulative effects has been considered. The marine farm site is well separated (around 20km) from other consented marine farm sites which ensures any impact on phytoplankton availability will be minimal.</p> <p>The site is located outside of areas of high public use within the coastal marine area to avoid conflict with other users.</p> <p>The project together with other aquaculture developments in the Eastern Bay of Plenty (land and water based) have the potential to generate a significant positive effect on social and economic wellbeing.</p>
<p>IWI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</p>		
<p>Objective 13</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga is recognised and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) are systematically taken into account in the practice of resource management.</p> <p>Objective 15</p>	<p>Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori</p> <p>Proposals which may affect the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions must:</p> <p>(a) Recognise and provide for:</p> <p>(i) Traditional Māori uses and practices relating to natural and physical resources such as mahinga mātaītai, waahi tapu, papakāinga and taonga raranga;</p> <p>(ii) The role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of the mauri of their resources;</p> <p>(iii) The mana whenua relationship of tangata whenua with, and their role as kaitiaki of, the mauri of natural resources;</p> <p>(iv) Sites of cultural significance identified in iwi and hapū resource management plans; and</p>	<p>The proposal has been developed by tangata whenua to ensure that effects on cultural values and traditions are identified and appropriate measures adopted to ensure effects are avoided or mitigated. This has been discussed in earlier sections of this report.</p>

<p><i>Water, land, coastal and geothermal resource management decisions have regard to iwi and hapū resource management planning documents</i></p> <p>Objective 17</p> <p><i>The mauri of water, land, air and geothermal resources is safeguarded and where it is degraded, where appropriate, it is enhanced over time</i></p>	<p><i>(b) Recognise that only tangata whenua can identify and evidentially substantiate their relationship and that of their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.</i></p> <p>Policy IW 3B: Recognising the Treaty in the exercise of functions and powers under the Act</p> <p><i>Exercise the functions and powers of local authorities in a manner that:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Takes into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Recognises that the principles of the Treaty will continue to evolve and be defined;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Promotes awareness and understanding of councils' obligations under the Act regarding the principles of the Treaty, tikanga Māori and kaupapa Māori, among council decision makers, staff and the community;</i></p> <p><i>(d) Recognises that tangata whenua, as indigenous peoples, have rights protected by the Treaty and that consequently the Act accords iwi a status distinct from that of interest groups and members of the public; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) Recognises the right of each iwi to define their own preferences for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, where this is not inconsistent with the Act.</i></p> <p>Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori</p> <p><i>When considering proposals that may adversely affect any matter of significance to Māori recognise and provide for avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects on:</i></p> <p><i>(a) The exercise of kaitiakitanga;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Mauri, particularly in relation to fresh, geothermal and coastal waters, land and air;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes;</i></p> <p><i>(d) Places sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) Existing and zoned marae or papakāinga land.</i></p> <p>Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects</p> <p><i>Encourage tangata whenua to recommend appropriate measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects on cultural values, resources or sites, from the use and development activities as part of consultation for resource consent applications and in their own resource management plans.</i></p>	<p>The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi have been considered in other sections of this report and it is considered that they have been taken into account in the development of the project.</p> <p>The site does not contain any particular areas of identified cultural significance.</p> <p>The proposed adaptive management approach has been designed to ensure that tangata whenua are involved in the development and monitoring of the marine farm to ensure appropriate measures to address any environmental effects on cultural values or resources are identified and implemented.</p>
<p>MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE</p>		
<p>Objective 18</p> <p><i>The protection of historic heritage and outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i></p> <p>Objective 19</p> <p><i>The preservation of the natural character of the region's coastal environment (including coastal marine areas) wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins.</i></p> <p>Objective 21</p> <p><i>Recognition of and provision for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga</i></p>	<p>Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance</p> <p><i>(a) Identify which natural and physical resources warrant recognition and provision for as matters of national importance under section 6 of the Act using criteria consistent with those contained in Appendix F of this Statement;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Recognise and provide for the protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development of those areas, places, features or values identified in accordance with (a) in terms of natural character, outstanding natural features and landscapes, and historic heritage;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Recognise and provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna identified in accordance with (a);</i></p> <p><i>(d) Recognise and provide for enhancing and maintaining public access to and along those areas identified in accordance with (a);</i></p> <p><i>(e) Recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions identified in accordance with (a) and Policy IW 2B; and</i></p> <p><i>(f) Recognise and provide for protection to recognised customary activities.</i></p> <p>Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act</p> <p><i>Include in any assessment required under Policy MN 1B, an assessment of:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Natural character, in relation to section 6(a) of the Act, on the extent to which criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 1: Natural character are met;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Whether natural features and landscapes are outstanding, in relation to section 6(b) of the Act, on the extent to which criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 2: Natural features and landscapes are met;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Whether areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are significant, in relation to section 6(c) of the Act, on the extent to which criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 3: Indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are met;</i></p> <p><i>(d) Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers in relation to section 6(d) of the Act, on the extent to which the criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 6: Public access are met;</i></p>	<p>The site itself is not identified as an outstanding natural feature or landscape, or an area of high, very high or outstanding natural character (section 6(b)).</p> <p>The appropriateness of the project in this location has been discussed in the supporting AEE.</p> <p>The project will maintain public access to the parts of the coastal marine area within the marine farm (section 6(d)).</p> <p>The proposal has been developed by tangata whenua with a specific focus on ensuring that effects on cultural values and traditions are recognised and provided for (section 6(e)).</p> <p>The assessment of the project against the relevant matters in section 6 of the Act has been undertaken based on the identification of sites of significance identified in the RPS and RCEP which have been developed using criteria consistent with those in Appendix F of the RPS.</p>

<p>Objective 22 The coastal marine area, lakes and rivers are generally accessible to the public</p>	<p>(e) The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga, in relation to section 6(e) of the Act, on the extent to which criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 4: Māori culture and traditions are met; and</p> <p>(f) Historic heritage, in relation to section 6(f) of the Act, on the extent to which criteria consistent with those in Appendix F set 5: Historic heritage are met.</p>	
	<p>Policy MN 5B: Encouraging public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers Retain or establish public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers, giving priority to public access rights where:</p> <p>(a) Connections between existing public areas can be provided;</p> <p>(b) Improving access would promote outdoor recreation;</p> <p>(c) Physical access for people with disabilities is desirable;</p> <p>(d) The long-term availability of public access is threatened by erosion or sea level rise;</p> <p>(e) Walking access to the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers can be provided;</p> <p>(f) Access to areas or sites of cultural significance is important to tangata whenua; and</p> <p>(g) Subdivision, use, or development of land adjacent to the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers has reduced public access, or has the potential to do so.</p>	<p>The project has a functional need to be located within the coastal marine area and will make specific provision for public recreational access within the marine farm.</p>
	<p>Policy MN 6B: Restricting public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers Restrict public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers only where necessary to:</p> <p>(a) Protect public health or safety, including a consideration of existing or reasonably foreseeable conflict between uses; or</p> <p>(b) Protect dunes, estuaries, areas of sensitive indigenous vegetation and/or habitats of indigenous fauna; or</p> <p>(c) Protect threatened indigenous species in the coastal environment; or</p> <p>(d) Protect historic heritage and Māori cultural values and activities; or</p> <p>(e) Provide for temporary activities, activities for defence purposes or special events within the coastal environment; or</p> <p>(f) Provide a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; or</p> <p>(g) Achieve one or more of the objectives of this Policy Statement; or</p> <p>(h) Recognise other exceptional circumstances that are sufficient to justify a restriction. Before imposing a restriction on public access consider:</p> <p>(i) The potential adverse effects of uncontrolled access; and</p> <p>(ii) Where practicable, the provision of alternative access to the public free of charge at all times.</p>	
	<p>Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development Assess, whether subdivision, use and development is inappropriate using criteria consistent with those in Appendix G, for areas considered to warrant protection under section 6 of the Act due to:</p> <p>(a) Natural character;</p> <p>(b) Outstanding natural features and landscapes;</p> <p>(c) Significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna;</p> <p>(d) Public access;</p> <p>(e) Māori culture and traditions; and</p> <p>(f) Historic heritage.</p>	<p>The marine farm site does not include any areas which have been identified as warranting protection under section 6 of the Act. Any effects on sites of significance in the wider environment will be avoided or mitigated as detailed in the AEE.</p>
	<p>Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development Avoid and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on matters of national importance assessed in accordance with Policy MN 1B as warranting protection under section 6 of the Act.</p>	