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Letter of Support – Te Whānau-ā-Apanui proposal for a mussel spat hatchery in Te Kaha

Aquaculture is a sector with a very promising future. A future offering the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, producing premium natural products that are revered at home and in export markets. A future where regional economies will thrive with jobs and investment in infrastructure and innovation. A future where Māori are significant participants and can leverage their legacy for following generations. A future with a light touch on the environment that will aid New Zealand's transition to a low emission economy.

Aquaculture New Zealand support the proposal by Te Whānau-ā-Apanui to build a mussel spat hatchery and research facility in Te Kaha. Bay of Plenty Iwi are negotiating 12,000 ha of growing space for aquaculture as part of their settlements and the proposed hatchery will play an important role in ensuring there is sufficient spat supply to develop this space. Not only will these facilities provide a strong base for growth, but an additional hatchery and research hub will afford the industry greater resilience against biosecurity and climate challenges as we focus on growing sustainably into a \$3 billion dollar industry by 2035 (NZ Government Aquaculture Strategy 2019).

Key to the success of this proposal will be a professional and science-based approach to delivering mussel spat on a commercial scale. We are encouraged to see the alignment of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui with Cawthron Institute through a Callaghan Innovation funded project, as this will ensure that capability development and science transfer are embedded in the region as its aquaculture aspirations are realised. We believe the continuation of strong relationships with the best available technical advisors, science providers and the mussel industry will be essential to the long-term success of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Gary Hooper
CEO Aquaculture New Zealand