



Dr Haydn Read
Te Hēteri - Te Whānau-ā-Apanui
SH35 RD3 Te Kaha
ŌPŌTIKI 6673

18 May 2022

Tēnā koe e Haydn,

Thank you for the Teams hui on 12 May, in which you outlined at a high-level the intentions of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui to apply for 10,000 hectares of marine space within the rohe moana of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui for the purposes of marine farming. This is a really exciting and innovative iwi-led initiative and I look forward to reviewing the resource consent application in more detail. I think your idea of adopting material included in the successful resource consent of Whakatōhea is astute and hopefully puts you in good stead with your own application.

Your application aligns with, and complements, the existing and future aquaculture initiatives in the Bay of Plenty, of which Te Whānau-ā-Apanui are either leading, contributing to, or supporting. This includes:

- *The Waiariki aquaculture project* – a iwi-led project with Government and Research Agencies support, this project has undertaken investigations in the Bay of Plenty for wide-scale multi-specie aquaculture, resulting in investment business cases being developed to attract investment. The project has forecasted around \$1.5 billion in revenue and over 2000 jobs in the region, and your application would contribute significantly to the broader regional aquaculture sector and jobs creation.
- *Te Huata mussel spat hatchery and research facility in Te Kaha* - this project led by Te Whānau-ā-Apanui will play an important role in ensuring sufficient spat for aquaculture development in the Bay of Plenty region. The research function of the hatchery will be increasingly important as the industry adapts to the effects of climate change and will improve biosecurity outcomes. If successful, your application will complement the spat function of the hatchery, while the research functions of the hatchery will be important for the viability of all aquaculture in the Bay of Plenty.
- *Te Whānau-ā-Apanui historical Treaty Settlement* –the Crown has agreed to reserve 5000 hectares of marine space for Te Whānau-ā-Apanui to exclusively apply for a marine farm. This would complement your existing 10,000 hectare application and would potentially make Te Whānau-ā-Apanui one of the largest aquaculture operators in Aotearoa, in terms of marine space.
- *Aquaculture Settlement in the Bay of Plenty* – due to current and future applications and pending historical Treaty settlements, including the settlement of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, the

Crown will have an obligation to provide settlement assets of around 2,200-4,000 hectares of marine space to Bay of Plenty Iwi Aquaculture Organisations under the Aquaculture Settlement. The collective settlement in the Bay of Plenty, will further enhance Iwi in the Bay of Plenty standing as aquaculture leaders in the region and complements your current application.

- *Whakatōhea processing plant* – The recently established Whakatōhea processing plant provides the necessary infrastructure for Te Whānau-ā-Apanui to increase the economic output from their marine farming space.
- *Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project*– the large-scale aquaculture envisaged by Te Whānau-ā-Apanui requires a safe, accessible harbour for boat servicing and harvesting product from offshore marine farms. The Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project development will provide access for larger boats by creating an entrance that is navigable in all but the worst conditions. This is critical for Te Whānau-ā-Apanui marine farms and will reduce costs and improve viability.

All of the initiatives above provide the right ingredients to make the Bay of Plenty a leading aquaculture region, contributing thousands of jobs and improving social and economic outcomes. As mentioned above, Iwi including Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, have been at the forefront of these initiatives. Iwi in the Bay of Plenty are mana whenua of their land and their water, and in these initiatives they are asserting their rangatiratanga to improve the health of their people as a whole.

The Te Whānau-ā-Apanui application and the initiatives above also aligns with the Government's 2019 New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy (the strategy) in numerous ways. The application:

- if successful, has the ability to contribute to the Government's ambitious aim of a \$3 billion dollar industry by 2035;
- aligns with the productivity objectives of the strategy by maximising value of all farmed space and developing frameworks for open ocean aquaculture; and
- aligns with the inclusivity objectives of the strategy by building Māori and community knowledge about aquaculture and input into growth opportunities and recognising Māori values and aspirations across the work programme.

Your application not only aligns with the objectives and outcomes of the strategy but will also align to numerous other Government agencies strategies, outcomes and objectives, as it has the ability to contribute to improved social, economic and cultural outcomes.

In terms of next steps, I look forward to receiving your draft application and discussing any feedback we have on it prior to you lodging it with the regional council. With that in mind, it would be good if the Department of Conservation was part of those discussions to ensure any views they have are considered early in the process. Although, I cannot comment to other parts of the current application such as biosecurity matters, I will reiterate it is an astute move to adopt aspects of the successful Whakatōhea resource consent application and I hope this puts you in good stead for a smooth consenting process. This application clearly aligns with broader regional aquaculture initiatives, the Government's New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy, the aims of historical and aquaculture Treaty settlements and wider Government aims and objectives.

I look forward to considering your application further and providing a more detailed response.

Ngā manaakitanga



Nā Timoti Gallagher

Manager – Aquaculture Settlement and Operational Policy, Fisheries New Zealand, the Ministry of Primary Industries.

