

From: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 11:20 am
To: Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz
Cc: Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz; Celia.Richardson@mfe.govt.nz; David.Falconer@mfe.govt.nz; Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz; Pierre.Tellier@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** Summer Reading: 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal + **Out of scope**

Attachment provided as Document 1

Kia ora Matt – thanks this makes a lot more sense now I’ve seen the AM. This is a really interesting area and I’m keen to keep in the loop as it develops. I’m particularly interested in how our regulatory framework is supporting novel technologies to address climate change, while still enabling consideration of the environmental trade offs between mitigating climate change and protecting the marine eco system. I’m keen to stay informed at this stage, but would want to lean in more if the conversation starts to circle around potential changes to the EEZ or regs.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne (she/her)*

General Manager

RM Operations

Ministry for the Environment – Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Mob: 027 531 7202 Email: jo.gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz

PA: Viv McKevitt viv.mckevitt@mfe.govt.nz

*If you are wondering about the inclusion of my pronouns on this signature, [read this article from SSC](#) about how sharing pronouns in this way can help create an inclusive and safe environment for transgender and nonbinary colleagues.



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From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 10:19 am
To: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Celia Richardson <Celia.Richardson@mfe.govt.nz>; David Falconer <David.Falconer@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Pierre Tellier <Pierre.Tellier@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** Summer Reading: 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal + **Out of scope**

Kia ora Jo,

Hope you had nice holiday break. Yes, there is a lack of clarity in our regulatory framework with these types of technologies. Apologies, it looks like I didn’t send the relevant AM (now attached) that went with that IMO paper on marine carbon dioxide removal activities that was appended to the AM. The AM explores your questions further. A lot of complexity as a result of slowly developing international law and how this is taken account for in our domestic framework when it comes to permitting research activity

and consenting commercial application of such technologies. Any regulatory gaps/fixes could be made through the EEZ Act, which implements our obligations under the London Protocol.

CCUS is also regulated under the London Protocol, but is a better understood technology, and more accepted as method for sequestering carbon compared to marine geoengineering activities. As a result, it is better enabled under the London Protocol.

Cheers,

Matt

From: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 January 2026 9:38 am
To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Celia Richardson <Celia.Richardson@mfe.govt.nz>; David Falconer <David.Falconer@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Pierre Tellier <Pierre.Tellier@mfe.govt.nz>; Rebecca Martel <Rebecca.Martel@mfe.govt.nz>; Kate Brooking <Kate.Brooking@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** Summer Reading: 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal + **Out of scope**

Kia ora Matt

Thanks very much for sharing this with me (the slide deck on digitisation was also a good read). By the sounds of it, there are a lot of questions and uncertainty about this new technology – it feels a bit wild west. Does the EPA have an appropriate regulatory framework for this – i.e. would it be covered by the current consent requirements, or is there a regulatory gap that we may need to address? And if so, would this be in relation to activities in the EEZ, or more focused on the carbon sequestration (CCUS) side of things?

Cheers

Jo

Jo Gascoigne (she/her)*

General Manager

RM Operations

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Mob: 027 531 7202 Email: jo.gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz

PA: Viv McKevitt viv.mckevitt@mfe.govt.nz

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From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 19 December 2025 1:30 pm
To: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Celia Richardson <Celia.Richardson@mfe.govt.nz>; David Falconer <David.Falconer@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Pierre Tellier

<Pierre.Tellier@mfe.govt.nz>; Rebecca Martel <Rebecca.Martel@mfe.govt.nz>; Kate Brooking <Kate.Brooking@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: **CLASSIFICATION** Summer Reading: 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal + **Out of scope**

Kia ora Jo,

As an FYI, Bonnie and I had been working to Aaron Napier on a summer reading AM for Minister Simmonds (cc Watts) on marine carbon dioxide removals (and Gigablue). These are attached. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Have a good relaxing holiday break, and we'll see you in the new year,
Cheers,

Matt

From: Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 19 December 2025 11:56 am

To: Briefings - Simmonds <BriefingsSimmonds@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Natasha Lewis <Natasha.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>; Martin Workman

<martin.workman@mfe.govt.nz>; Alison Collins <Alison.Collins@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross

<Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** Summer Reading: 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal + **Out of scope**

Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached for Min Simmonds Summer Reading pack:

- 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal and one appendix.
- **Out of scope**

Ngā mihi,

Jolene Murray ([she/her](#))

Ministerial Services Coordinator | Kairuruku

Ministerial Services | Ngā Pūnaha Minita

Office of the Chief Executive | Te Rōpū Tumu Whakarae

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