

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F9Q-T

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-02 14:35:29

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Aroma Aquaculture Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Amanda Hills

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Associate Solicitor

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:

s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:

s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

Gascoigne Wicks Lawyers, 79 High Street, Blenheim 7240

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

A 91ha site in the Coastal Marine Area at Pig Bay, Outer Port Gore, Outer Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough, as shown on the attached map and coordinates. The final size of the site can be considered through the decision making process.

File upload:

ALH-385588-7-28-1 Aroma Aquaculture Pig Bay Site Map to Accompany Fasttrack Application.docx was uploaded

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

No

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

No one: Neither the Crown nor any person owns the common marine and coastal area, per s 11 Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

The applicant currently has no legal interest in the site, but requires a resource consent (coastal permit) and aquaculture decision in order to develop a marine farm in this location.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Aroma Aquaculture Port Gore Spat Nursery Site

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The applicant proposes to develop and operate a new marine farm on the 91ha site at Pig Bay, Port Gore.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the site is primarily as a nursery site for juvenile Greenshell Mussels to be farmed using conventional longline structures, but consent for full mussel farming is sought. The activity will include the associated occupation of space in the coastal marine area, the erection, placement, use of structures, disturbance of the seabed and ancillary discharges to water. No consent is sought to discharge feed.

In addition to the ability to farm Greenshell Mussels, the applicant also seeks consent to farm the species listed at Appendix 11 of Variation 1 of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP): Greenshell mussel (*Perna canaliculus*), Blue mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), Scallop (*Pecten novaezelandiae*), Dredge oyster (*Ostrea chilensis*), Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), Kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*), Pāua (*Haliotis iris*, *Haliotis australis*, *Haliotis virginea*), Cockle (*Austrovenus stutchburyi*), Pipi (*Paphies australis*), Kopakopa/ribbed mussels (*Aulacomya atra maoriana*), Geoduck (*Panopea zealandica*) *Macrocystis pyrifera*, *Ecklonia radiata*, *Gracilaria* spp, *Pterocladia lucida*, *Lessonia variegata*, *Ulva lactuca* and *Asparagopsis armata*.

The objective of the project is to help to achieve the aims of Government and sector strategies. The Government's Aquaculture Strategy 2020 (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15895-The-Governments-Aquaculture-Strategy-to-2025>) seeks substantial growth of the aquaculture industry in New Zealand. One of the points in the 'Resilient' category is to support industry-led spat strategy. The project is also in line with industry strategy (AQNZ, New Zealand Greenshell Mussel Spat Strategy: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L28eNXLLcdMoPv-ByVBMr85EdEk64RD1/view>). A reliable spat supply and access to suitable nursery sites is crucial to maintain and grow the existing industry.

It is anticipated that the Pig Bay site will be particularly valuable as a Greenshell Mussel spat holding or nursery site. Spat holding is the second of three phases of mussel farming, where juvenile mussels (sourced locally or from elsewhere in New Zealand) are seeded onto ropes and held until they are ready to be stripped and reseeded onto lines at other farms for grow-out to harvest size. Mussels may also be grown through to harvest size in this location. The site is likely to be well suited to spat holding because:

- The site is exposed to the cool oceanic waters of the Cook Strait. Outer Sounds sites have traditionally been the most valuable for spat holding. Many existing sites with those characteristics have not been provided for in Aquaculture Management Areas in the MEP (and are the subject of appeals to the Environment Court). Access to sites of this nature is fundamental to the success of the mussel industry.
- Spat catching and holding varies from year to year and season to season. The isolated location of Pig Bay means that this site offers an alternative that may outperform other sites in any given year.
- Outer Sounds sites are very rarely closed for harvesting under the Marlborough Shellfish Quality Programme (MSQP) testing regime. That allows access to an alternative supply when Inner Sounds sites are closed following heavy rainfall events.

The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited sought consent to farm salmon at this location (known as Papatua) via a Board of Inquiry Process in 2013, which was ultimately declined (see *Environmental Defence Society Inc v The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited* [2014] NZSC 38). The Panel would have

the benefit of a significant body of technical expert information about this specific location.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Consent is sought to develop the site as needed, with no specific staging proposed.

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

A resource consent (coastal permit) is sought under the Resource Management Act 1991, and an aquaculture decision is sought under the Fisheries act 1996.

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

The Marlborough District Council.

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

The applicant has not lodged any other applications in relation to this space.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project requires resource consent from Marlborough District Council and an aquaculture decision from the chief executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries, but no other approvals or consents are required for any other party.

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Detailed design will involve fitting screw anchors and warps plus individual blocks of longlines into the site dimensions. This must allow for increased 3.0 to 1.0 warp ratio's for deeper water.

Procurement will be subject to availability of engineering materials to fabricate 6 metre shafted swivel head screw anchors.

Funding will be by Aroma Aquaculture Ltd through its parent company, Aroma (N.Z.) Limited.

The commencement of site works will be subject to availability of materials and specialised contractors to install screw anchors and warps. The applicant would hope to begin installation work within 6 months of the site being granted.

Completion would occur once the site is installed and the lines are seeded over a 24 month period as Kaitaia GLM09 ACE spat/weed stranding becomes available from Ninety Mile Beach.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Marlborough District Council, as the relevant local authority.

The following Te Tai Ihu Iwi have Statutory Acknowledgements in the area in which the proposed site is located:

- (a) Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō
- (b) Ngāti Kōata Trust
- (c) Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust
- (d) Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui
- (e) Te Runanga O Ngāti Kuia
- (f) Te Runanga a Rangitane O Wairau
- (g) Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- (h) Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu

There are no established areas of protected customary rights or customary marine title within the meaning of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 at this location. The following have applications for customary marine title and/or protected customary rights under that Act which include the area of the project site:

- a. Te Rūnanga o Rangitāne o Kaituna Inc (Michael David Bradley on behalf of) (CIV-2017-485-167);
- b. Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau (CIV-2017-485-251 and MAC-01-12-010);
- c. Tahuāroa Watson Whānau (Onauku Bay) (CIV-2017-485-172 and MAC-01-12-012);
- d. Te Ātiawa o Te Waka a Māui Trust (CIV-2017-485-365 and MAC-01-12-017);
- e. Ngāti Apa ki te Ra To (MAC-01-12-006);
- f. Te Runanga o Ngāti Rārua (MAC-01-12-008); and
- g. Ngāti Toa Rangatira (MAC-01-12-021).

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

The timeframe for lodging this application has not given sufficient time to consult. Absence of consultation is why the applicant is seeking that the project be included in Schedule 2B.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

N/A

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

As above, the following Te Tai Ihu Iwi have Statutory Acknowledgements in the area in which the proposed site is located:

- (a) Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō
- (b) Ngāti Kōata Trust
- (c) Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust
- (d) Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui
- (e) Te Runanga O Ngāti Kuia
- (f) Te Runanga a Rangitane O Wairau
- (g) Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- (h) Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Note that there is Māori land in the southern part of Port Gore, outside the project area.

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

No

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

There are no protected customary rights relating to the application area.

Upload your assessment if necessary:

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Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited sought consent to farm salmon at this location (known as Papatua) via a Board of Inquiry Process in 2013, which was ultimately declined. Significant expert input was obtained for that application.

The effects of mussel farming are well understood, minor, limited to the footprint of the farm or just beyond, and are reversible upon removal of the farm (See, for example, Overview of Ecological Effects of Aquaculture (Ministry for Primary Industries, 2013), available here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/4300-Overview-of-ecological-effects-of-Aquaculture>). Similarly, the effects of farming the other species in Appendix 11 of the MEP are anticipated to be minor.

The site is in 30 to 40m deep water, with the seabed dominated by mud, and benthic communities representative of many other areas in the Marlborough Sounds (More detail on the site's characteristics is available in the Papatua Benthic Report for NZ King Salmon's 2013 Plan Change Application, available here: <https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/proposal/NSP000002/Applicants-proposal-documents/b17d4d1b14/Appendix-4-Seabed-Report-Appendix-9-Papatua.pdf>).

The site is located well offshore/away from any Ecologically Significant Marine Sites identified in the MEP (including tubeworms on the shoreline to the south, a horse mussel bed to the northeast near the entrance to Port Gore, and a king shag colony to the south). No adverse effects on those sites are anticipated.

The proposed marine farm is located over an environment well suited to mussel farming. For that reason, it is anticipated that there would be a change to the benthic environment from the proposed farm, but that change is unlikely to be adverse (ie. It would be a shift in community composition, with the change not being adverse). Effects would be limited to under and close to the growing structures, and would reverse in 5 to 11 years after the farm is removed (See Davidson, R.J.; Richards L.A. 2014. Monitoring of a relocated a mussel farm in Otanerau Bay, East Bay, Marlborough Sounds: 2002-2014. Prepared by Davidson Environmental, available here: https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2ifzri1o01cxbymxkvwz/hierarchy/documents/environment/coastal/marine-farming-list/Monitoring_of_a_r

In addition, marine farms can provide positive effects via ecosystem services (See Stenton-Dozey, J., & Broekhuizen, N. 2019. Provision of ecological and ecosystem services by mussel farming in the Marlborough Sounds. NIWA CLIENT REPORT: 2019020CH. 141p, available here: https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/site_files/24792/upload_files/Fullreport_28.07.2021update.pdf?dl=1).

In terms of hydrodynamics, the farm would alter currents, but water flows would quickly revert to background levels beyond the farm boundaries. A review of the available evidence shows that the effect of mussel farms on the water column is relatively small compared to other terrestrial and regional oceanographic drivers (See Newcombe E, Broekhuizen N 2020. Measuring mussel farming effects on plankton in the Marlborough Sounds. Prepared for Marlborough District Council. Cawthron Report No. 3550. 49 p. plus appendices; available here: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Mussel%20Farming%20List/Measuring>). Given the limited extent of marine farming in Port Gore, the relatively isolated nature of the project site, and the fact that no feed discharge is proposed, it is not anticipated that there would be any adverse cumulative water column effects from the project.

No adverse effects on the endangered king shag are anticipated, including the colony to the south at the Hunia Peninsula. Service vessels for this farm will not need to travel past that colony, so colony disturbance can be avoided. It would be a condition of consent that farm vessels would not travel within 300 metres of the Hunia King Shag Colony. Recent studies show that king shag have individual foraging preferences. Some prefer to forage in marine farms, and the birds frequently use marine farms as roosting sites for rest or to digest their food. More information on the work of the King Shag Working Group is available here: <https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/king-shag-project/>. That new research post-dates earlier decisions to decline mussel farming consents in Pig Bay due to potential adverse effects on king shag.

No adverse effects on other seabirds or marine mammals is anticipated. There are other mussel farms in Melville Cove at the head of Port Gore, one other mussel farm in Pig Bay, and historically there were other farms in the wider bay. In addition, there is mussel farming throughout the Marlborough Sounds. This indicates that mussel farms can coexist with marine mammals and seabirds.

The project site is within a mapped outstanding natural landscape and area of outstanding natural character in the MEP. There will be some adverse visual effects on the values of those mapped areas. However, those effects will be minimised due to the low lying and recessive colour of the surface

structures (Typically black buoys, with the exception of orange floats required for maritime safety purposes). The structures will be visible in close proximity, and will reduce with distance from the farm. The closest land is pastoral farmland, with erosion and tracks cut into the hillside, visible for a much greater distance than the marine farm will be. The applicant will be farming indigenous Greenshell mussels, in their natural habitat, with no feed or additives. In that sense, mussel farming is 'close to nature.' Service vessels will only be at the site intermittently.

The farm would have lighting as required for maritime safety, and those lights would be visible at night. However, those lights are not of a nature that would interfere with the darkness of the night sky.

There would be minor adverse amenity effects for residents in Port Gore, and for some of the people who pass the site in a vessel or fly over in aircraft (depending on their personal view of marine farms). Those effects would mainly be visual in nature, and diminish with distance from the farm. There would be no odour associated with the farm. The main noise generated is during harvest, which occurs infrequently and over relatively short periods. That noise would unlikely be audible from the nearest dwellings.

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Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture) Regulations 2020 (NES-MA) provide for replacement consents for existing marine farms and changes of species, so are not directly relevant to this project.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) is relevant to this project:

a. This project is consistent with Policy 8, to provide for aquaculture in appropriate places. There are only a limited number of sites suitable for mussel spat holding in Marlborough. Prime spat holding sites have not been provided for in AMAs in the MEP and are subject to Environment Court appeals.

b. The project is consistent with indigenous biodiversity policy 11, in that adverse effects on species and habitats at policy 11(a) would be avoided, and significant adverse effects on policy 11(b) species and habitats would be avoided, remedied or mitigated (see Section 5 above).

c. Some would say that the project is contrary to policy 13(1)(a), the requirement to preserve natural character by avoiding adverse effects on areas of outstanding natural character; and policy 15(a), the requirement to protect natural features and natural landscapes by avoiding adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes. Mussel farming (and farming of other MEP Appendix 11 species) will have a relatively low visual impact and will change the ecology in a non-adverse way. In some places in the Marlborough Sounds, marine farms are consistent with mapped outstanding natural landscapes. For the reasons discussed in Section 5 above, effects are likely to be low, and the application is to farm an indigenous species that was once widespread in the Marlborough Sounds (See Handley, S. 2015. The history of benthic change in Pelorus Sound (Te Hoiere), Marlborough. NIWA Client Report No: NEL2015-001: Marlborough District Council; and Handley, S., Gibbs M., Swales A., Olsen G., Ovenden R., Bradley A. 2017. A 1,000-year history of seabed change in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere, Marlborough. NIWA Client Report No: 2016119NE. 136p. Copies are available here: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/historical-ecosystem-change>). The question of whether the project is contrary to policies 13 and 15 depends on individuals' subjective opinion.

d. The application is consistent with the remainder of the NZCPS.

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Due to the historic salmon farming application at this site, there would likely be significant attention on any new application, and a number of preconceptions. It would be inefficient to call substantive evidence and go through the usual consenting process in that context. Now that the question of potential effects on king shag has been addressed through further research, the remaining issues are effects on landscape and natural character, which are inherently subjective.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

A significant body of information is already available about this site from the previous NZ King Salmon plan change application, which would assist the Panel with assessing the nature of the location. Those documents are available here:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/rma-applications/view/NSP000002>

Further, the effects of mussel farming are otherwise well understood.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The purpose of the project is identified as a priority in both a central government strategy and a sector strategy.

The project is consistent with the Government's Aquaculture Strategy 2020 (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15895-The-Governments-Aquaculture-Strategy-to-2025>), which seeks substantial growth of the aquaculture industry in New Zealand. One of the points in the 'Resilient' category is to support industry-led spat strategy.

The project is also in line with industry strategy (AQNZ, New Zealand Greenshell Mussel Spat Strategy: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L28eNXLLcdMoPv-ByVBMr85EdEk64RD1/view>). A reliable spat supply and access to suitable nursery sites is crucial to maintain and grow the existing industry.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The mussel industry has been experiencing issues of spat supply for the past two years or more. This has been due to reduced availability of beach cast wild caught Kaitaia spat (ie. from Ninety Mile Beach) and lack of suitable primary holding/nursery sites within the Marlborough Sounds. The inner Sounds sites have issues with increased summer water temperatures, marine biofouling oversettlement and sedimentation from forestry and other land uses. This has increasingly led to higher spat mortality and poor spat retention rates for several years.

Currently the industry in the Marlborough Sounds has insufficient sites proximate to the open ocean available for holding and retaining spat from primary through to interseed and final seed size. Industry desperately needs new spat holding and retention space to maintain or improve productivity.

Spat nursery space is essential to maintaining the existing industry. A 2015 NZIER report (available here: https://www.nzier.org.nz/hubfs/economic_contribution_of_marlborough_aquaculture.pdf) found that the Marlborough mussel industry contributes significantly to GDP and employment, specifically by:

- Providing employment for 170 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees on marine farms, and 605 FTE employees in seafood processing
- Paying average wages that are substantially higher than the average earnings in Marlborough
- Generating export sales revenue of **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** in 2014
- Contributing 5.2% **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** to Marlborough's regional GDP in 2014, with **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** (3.19%) from marine farming and **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** (2%) from seafood processing
- Providing inputs to seafood processing in regions outside Marlborough
- Delivering around 62 % of New Zealand's Greenshell mussels production by tonnes

In addition, access to a reliable source of spat, improved productivity, and access to space for farming new species is essential to meeting the Government's Aquaculture Strategy target of **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** in annual sales by 2035.

Aroma Aquaculture is a prime example of a company focused on processing Greenshell mussels into value added health supplement products. The higher grade power is developed into products for human consumption, such as GSM-OIL Greenshell mussel oil which is a potent supplement for human arthritis, GLYCOMEGA-PLUS mussel powder, HYDRO-MC marine collagen powder, and a joint balm cream. The bottom end powder goes into veterinary supplements for arthritis in dogs, race horses, and racing camels in the Middle East. Domestic and international demand for these products is significant.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Increased spat retention rates will lower the cost of seed production to the industry and make better use of the spat quota from Kaitaia.

The development of a new site such as this benefits many businesses. That includes those that supply anchoring systems and warps, backbone ropes, floats, and culture rope. It also includes those who manufacture and service marine farming vessels, as well as those who crew those vessels. A range of support services are also needed, including engineers, electricians, through to lawyers and accountants.

All of this will lead to increased mussel production, which will increase employment and revenues from the on water growing sector through to factory processing and export sales.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

This site is unique in that it has cooler open ocean water from Cook Strait and good tidal flows running through the site. It is sheltered from the prevailing North West wind and swell by Cape Lambert. It is open to North East through to South East quarter winds (NB. The exposed nature of the site can be countered by subsurfacing the lines down to 3 metres to prevent product shake off. Also installing shafted screw anchors with swivel heads on 3.0 to 1.0 ratio warps allows movement in swell conditions to prevent chaffing the anchor warps).

The site will enable the mussel industry to adapt and be more resilient through access to improved/more diverse spat holding space.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

No

Please explain your answer here:

In terms of the Operative Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, the project might be inconsistent with the landscape, natural character and amenity policies, although those matters are inherently subjective. In some places in the Marlborough Sounds, marine farms are consistent with mapped outstanding natural landscapes. Recent king shag research shows that the project is consistent with the biodiversity policies in the Operative Plan.

The Aquaculture Variation to the MEP says that new marine farming in Enclosed Waters Coastal Management Units (which includes Port Gore) may only be provided for where certain criteria are met, including that a marine farm would not have (among other matters) adverse effects on the values and characteristics of a mapped outstanding natural landscape or outstanding natural character area (MEP policies 13.21.3 to 13.21.5). It is a matter of opinion whether the project would have an impact on the values and characteristics of the overlays in the MEP.

The MEP process has been going since 2006, but even when the MEP was notified the need for exposed semi-open ocean spat holding sites was not well understood. A shortage of spat and spat retention issues over the past two years has highlighted the need for nursery space and this application seeks to address that need.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

N/A

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

Aroma Aquaculture Ltd have no compliance issues apart from a failed mussel farm navigation light, which can happen at any time. If this occurs, it is corrected immediately.

Aroma Aquaculture Ltd have an "A" Plus sustainable farming rating under Aquaculture New Zealand's A+ Sustainable Management Framework: New Zealand Greenshell Mussels, which provides guidance for best environmental and social practice for the industry (see <https://www.aplusaquaculture.nz/>). In addition, the applicant has a Platinum rating for environmental farming under the Marine Farming Association's Environmental Certification Programme (see <https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/environmental-certification/>), which is the highest rating obtainable.

In addition, the applicant has been deemed a "low risk" operator by Maritime NZ on its farm vessel audits since 2020.

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Amanda Hills

Important notes