

MPI advice on Fast-track Listed Project Application

Application name	Mussel Spat Muriwhenua
Application number	FTA346
Applicant	James Phillip Murray – Director, James Murray Aquaculture Limited
Whether aquaculture decision will be required under Schedule 12 of the FTA Bill	This is an application for marine farms within the Territorial Sea so will require aquaculture decisions under Schedule 12 of the FTA Bill.
Other authorisations that may be required from MPI	n/a
Aquaculture settlement considerations	<p>The application is not located within an aquaculture settlement area established under section 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or within an area reserved for aquaculture within an individual iwi settlement.</p> <p>Should this application be consented over an area that has not previously been subject to a resource consent for aquaculture, it could generate a settlement obligation in the Northland region (under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act) that is representative of 20% of the newly consented space.</p>
Fisheries settlement considerations	The application area is within the rohe of Te Rarawa whose hapū manage customary fishing in the area. The hapū have the right to manage their customary fishing and fishing grounds of customary importance under regulations which have been made for that purpose as part of the Fisheries Settlement. They have yet to take this opportunity. The application may affect the ability of hapū to manage important fishing grounds. There are no other Fisheries Settlement issues with the application.
Impacts of a project on Māori development and PSGE priorities	Potentially positive economic impact as the opportunity aligns well to other local mussel spat farms. Further opportunity for consent holder to work with iwi and hapu to enable both customary and commercial outcomes.
Other matters to note	There may be some spatial overlap between part of this application and part of the FTA23 application, particularly off the coast of Kowhai Beach. It is unclear how the Bill will deal with applications competing for the same space within the coastal marine area.

Disclaimer: This advice has been developed to support MfE advice to the independent Fast-track Projects Advisory Group and is not intended to provide comment on the merits or viability of the application.