

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-04-30 17:40:38

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2a

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Ocean Farms Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Calum MacLean

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Director

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
§ 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
§ 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

Maritime House
30 Centennial Drive
Moturoa
New Plymouth 4310

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:

Offshore Southland - Location E168.50 / S47.15. Map attached

File upload:

Ocean Farms - Location Map - April 2024.png was uploaded

Upload file here:

Ocean Farms - Fast Track - May 2024.pdf was uploaded

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

No

upload file:

No file uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Crown / New Zealand Government - EEZ

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:

N/A

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Ocean Farm-NZ-01

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

High Yield Offshore Salmon Farm Infrastructure Beyond the 12-Mile Limit

<https://vimeo.com/user217836818>

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

Salmon farming is a primary industry with a dependence on industrial and technological capabilities as well as relevant environmental factors and enabling politics. New Zealand is one of only a few places world-wide suitable for salmon production

Global solid demand has resulted in the salmon farming industry becoming the most technologically advanced aquaculture industry in the world

Ocean Farms have been advancing novel technological offshore systems that have been developed with our Norwegian partners to expand viable production areas in New Zealand and move from the more traditional and challenging open-pen farming methods closer to shore.

The NZ governments 2035 Aquaculture Strategy triggers and creates a window of opportunity for introducing this know-how which will be instrumental for the planned future growth of the NZ salmon farming industry

Ocean Farms has in place a strategy that will enable the implementation of technologically advanced offshore farming infrastructure designed for harsh sea conditions known in New Zealand. Our farms can be scaled both in size, shape, environmental conditions and automation level

The senior management team behind Ocean Farms in NZ and Norway have accumulated many years of experience and expertise from the construction of vessels and rigs for the energy industry, delivering solutions to Norwegian and international markets for the past 15 years for a total value of § 9(2)(b)(ii).

Ocean Farms will offer a charter contract for NZ salmon farmers, whereby they will have zero CAPEX costs upfront.

Ocean Farms Hex Box-NZ90/400 delivers the means and capability to ramp up production in line with the 2035 Aquaculture Strategy

Each Hex Box NZ90/400 can produce up to 8500t per annum at today's value is § 9(2)(b)(ii)

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

Please write your answer here:

Stage 1 – 2022 – 2024 has been completed over the previous 18 months. During this time, over 10,000 man-hours have been completed on preliminary design and costings in NZ, Norway and at CIMC Yantai. In New Zealand extensive oceanographic studies were undertaken. Cooperation with salmon farmers leading to MOU. Engage EPA, MNZ MPI and NZTE. Two key strategic partnerships have been established.

Stage 2 – Q2-2024 – Select location for Ocean Farm-NZ-01. Continue cooperation in partnership with existing Salmon Farmers to further jointly develop NZ offshore farming infrastructure. Establish HQ and formulate the design to New Zealand waters, undertake and complete all required regulatory maritime approvals to successfully operate in New Zealand waters.

Stage 3 – Q3-2024 Q2 2025 - Completion of NZ specific design and analysis through to FID in partnership with leading NZ Salmon producers.

Stage 4 - 3 2025 -Q2-2027 - Construction of Ocean Farm-NZ-01

Stage 5 - Q3-2027 - Q4 2027 - Sea Trails, Delivery. Commissioning & Installation

Stage 6 - Q1-2028 - Commence Farming Operations

Total Investment for Ocean Farm-NZ-01 is approximately **s 9(2)(b)(iii)**.

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

Please write your answer here:

The proposed activity, being the installation of the HB-NZ-90/400, will require a marine consent under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (the EEZ Act). Specifically, the application will trigger section 20(2) of the EEZ Act with respect to the placement of the mooring array, any required alteration of the mooring array over time, and final removal of the moorings at the decommissioning stage of the project, as well as for seabed disturbance associated with the activities. The project will also trigger section 20(4) of the EEZ Act with respect to the mooring, any required alterations, and eventual removal of the HB-NZ-90/400 within the sea of the EEZ.

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

Please write your answer here:

The proposed activity is beyond the limit of the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), and therefore is within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Authority. The adjacent coastal area is within the Southland Region, although activities requiring consent will not occur in the CMA and there are not anticipated to be any coastal permits required under the RMA.

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

Please write your answer here:

Ocean Farms Limited have not previously made any applications with respect to this or similar projects.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Not Applicable

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

Please write your answer here:

Detailed Design - Q1-2025 - 180 days

Final Investment Decision - **s 9(2)(b)(iii)** - July 2025 - 60 Days

Commence Construction - September 2025 - 668 Days

Sea Trails, Delivery, Commissioning and Installation - July 2027 - 180 Days

Time Line is subject to variables in yard, materials and equipment availability. Discussions are ongoing with CIMC Yantai with an MOU being signed earlier this year.

Funding discussions have been initiated.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Detail all consultation undertaken with persons likely to be affected by the project, including:

- relevant local authorities:

Ocean Farms have engaged with Environment Southland, who are supportive of the project. A letter of support has been provided by the Southland Regional Development Agency.

- relevant iwi authorities

Ocean Farms has initiated a channel with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to enable consultation on the proposed project.

- relevant Treaty settlement entities

Ocean Farms has initiated a channel with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to enable consultation on the proposed project.

- protected customary rights groups .

The AOI is within the fisheries waters of the EEZ adjacent to the CMA, and therefore is within the claim area of Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

- customary marine title groups

The project area is outside the CMA and is therefore not within any areas subject to customary marine title.

- applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.

The project area is outside the CMA and is therefore not subject to any claims under the Marine and Coastal (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. The largest claim nearest to the AOI is that of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Claims have also been made in nearby coastal waters by the Ruapuke Island Group, Te Whanau o Topi, and the Pohio Whanau.

- ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou –

Not applicable. The AOI is not within the rohe of Ngāti Porou.

- any person with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981. Not applicable.

The AOI is located within the EEZ, and no land transfer is required.

- Ocean Farms has engaged with the commercial fishing industry with respect to the proposal who have completed and independent review and report of the location. Report attached.

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:

Ocean Farms have initiated engagement directly with Ngai Tahu. Ocean Farm engaged with consultants in other aspects.

Ocean Farms commissioned a study with both the Offshore & Inshore Fishing Federations on the suitability of the location vs fishing grounds'

Ocean Farms commissioned a comprehensive oceanographic study for the location

As the project is located in the EEZ there is few parties with whom to liaise and consult.

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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:

Not applicable

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project? Include a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements and any statutory acknowledgement areas.

The AOI is within the fisheries waters of the EEZ adjacent to the CMA, and therefore is within the claim area of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as defined in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

There are no statutory acknowledgement areas identified within or near to the AOI, with the nearest being Toi Toi Wetland on Rakiura Stewart Island.

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?

The project area is within the EEZ and is not located in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area

declared under s12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.

The AOI is within the fisheries waters of the EEZ adjacent to the CMA, and therefore is within the claim area of Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

A number of marine species that may interact with the structure including marine mammals, seabirds and penguins are identified in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as being taonga species.

There are no customary fisheries entitlement areas identified in the EEZ.

Under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 58 recognised iwi across New Zealand are allocated fisheries assets including fishing quota. In some cases, the quota is fished directly by iwi companies holding the quota, while in other cases quota is leased to commercial operators. In addition to the fishing quota held by individual iwi, each recognized iwi is allocated income shares in Aotearoa Fisheries Limited, which is managed and overseen by Te Ohu Kai Moana (Māori Fisheries Trust).

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

Not applicable. The activity is not within the Rohe of Ngāti Porou.

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

The project area is located entirely in the EEZ. There are no identified parcels of Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu within or affected by the project.

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

No

If yes, what are they?:

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

The project area is within the EEZ and is not located on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land as described in the ineligibility criteria.

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?:

The project area is within the EEZ and is not located in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.

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

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:

No file uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

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

Please describe:

The principal potential adverse effects associated with the installation and ongoing placement of the HB-NZ-90/400 relate to the physical presence of the mooring array on the seabed, disturbance of the seabed during the placement, any alteration, and final removal of the moorings, and the physical presence of the structure in the waters of the EEZ.

The mooring equipment on the seabed is expected to occupy a total area of approximately 0.0039 km², consisting of 6 separate moorings each with an 18 metric tonne anchor (area per anchor approximately 50 m²) and 1.2 km of chain (total area of each chain approximately 600 m). There will also be some penetration of the anchor into the seabed.

Over time it is expected that there will be some colonization of the chains and exposed parts of the anchors by marine organisms, and that burrowing species will occupy the seabed beneath and around the chains. However, the area of seabed occupied by the anchors (a total of approximately 300 m²) will have reduced habitat availability for benthic species for the duration of the placement.

The effects on the benthic habitat will be reduced by selection of the mooring locations to avoid any sensitive environments such as reefs or sensitive species, as confirmed by detailed surveys prior to the placement. The water depths in the AOI (approximately 120 meters) means there is very low light penetration and therefore high densities of marine benthic fauna or marine plants are not expected on the seabed in the AOI. It is anticipated that following final removal of the moorings the seabed will be rapidly recolonized by marine fauna.

The HB-NZ-90/400 will occupy a sea surface area of approximately 0.0064 km². The HB-NZ-90/400 can be ballasted to different depths depending on sea conditions, operations, or inspections. At its usual operational draft, the top column of the HB-NZ-90/400 is 10.5 m above sea level, and the lowest point of the HB-NZ-90/400 net is at 90 m depth below the sea surface. The total volume of the net will be 0.00045 km³ at operational draft, and this volume will be unavailable for fish other than those that are being held in the farm.

There will be navigational safety lighting on the HB-NZ-90/400 as required under the Maritime Transport Act 1994, as well as some lighting directed onto the working areas of the HB-NZ-90/400 for the operational safety of personnel. Lighting on the structure is expected to be no greater than for a ship of similar total size, and would be somewhat less than an offshore installation used for oil and gas developments. While lighting may attract seabirds and fish to the structure it is not anticipated that there would be significant adverse effects relating to this, based on data from existing offshore oil and gas installations in New Zealand waters, and appropriate mitigation measures to minimize potential risk to seabirds would be included in the final design. The presence of fish within and around the HB-NZ-90/400 may potentially attract fur seals, sea lions, predatory fish, and penguins, although impacts on these species are not anticipated.

It is also noted that there will be a safety zone sought from Maritime New Zealand around the structure and moorings (nominally 500 meters) to avoid potential collisions by vessels with the HB-NZ-90/400 or entanglement of fishing gear in the moorings. Consultation has been undertaken with the commercial fishing industry and a review undertaken of vessel tracks for commercial fishing, cargo ships, and large tourist vessels in the area, which has confirmed there is unlikely to be any significant impact from the project on other vessel operations in the area. Further, the exclusion of fishing in this area, combined with the presence of the structure itself, may have a positive effect by creating habitat and protection within the safety zone.

The application for marine consent will be accompanied by a detailed environmental impact assessment prepared by a suitably qualified marine scientist.

Upload file:

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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 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 - The purpose of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand.

The proposed area is located in the EEZ, approximately 23 km from the closest boundary of the territorial sea and approximately 45 km from the closest coastline. The activities are not regulated under the RMA, and the nature of the proposed project is not expected to result in any effects on the characteristics, qualities, and uses of the coastal environment.

The National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture - The National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture (NES-MA) set national rules that replace regional council rules for existing marine farms except where the NES-MA allow regional council rules to remain in force. As the proposed activity is outside the CMA and is not an existing marine farm, the NES-MA does not apply to the project.

No other national policy statements or national environmental standards are relevant to the proposed activity.

File upload:

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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:

The proposed project fulfills a number of the specific criteria for eligibility described in s.17 of the Bill, including the meeting criteria for a project of significant regional or national benefits as described in s.17(3) as discussed below.

The relevant criteria applicable to the project include:

(3) In considering under subsection (2)(d) whether the project would have significant regional or national benefits, the joint Ministers may consider

whether the project—

(a) has been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government, or sector plan or strategy (for example, in a general policy statement or spatial strategy) or central government infrastructure priority list:

(d) will deliver significant economic benefits:

(e) will support primary industries, including aquaculture:

(h) will support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards:

(i) will address significant environmental issues:

(j) is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies.

Current methods of salmon farming in coastal waters are subject to significant impacts from climate change including the effects of increased water temperatures resulting in fish mortality and reducing the quality of fish produced. Open ocean farming provides an opportunity to move salmon production into far deeper, cooler waters where fish health will be improved, the potential for environmental effects is reduced, and the activities are removed from high-competing use in coastal waters.

In the absence of the fast-track decision making process the resource consent would be processed under the existing provisions of the EEZ Act. As the activity does not fall within the limited list of non-notified activities in the EEZ Act, it is expected that the application would be fully notified with the decision being made by a Board of Inquiry. The approval timeframe for the consent application would therefore be up to 220 working days, in addition to the time required for the EPA to publish the decision and the subsequent 15 working day appeals period before the marine consent is in force. It is therefore considered that the application of the fast-track process would be more timely and cost-efficient than an application via the existing EEZ Act processes.

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

Please write your answer here:

The relatively straightforward nature of the application is not expected to have an impact on the efficient operation of the fast-track process.

It is therefore considered that the project will help achieve the purpose of the Bill to provide a fast-track decision-making process that facilitates the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

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

Central government plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

The development of open ocean salmon farms in New Zealand has been identified as a priority in the New Zealand Government Aquaculture Strategy 2019 (the Aquaculture Strategy), the Southland Just Transition, and also in the Beyond 2025 Southland Regional Long-Term Plan.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The annual potential value of salmon farming has been estimated to have an annual value per hectare 16,000 greater than that of sheep and beef farming¹. Salmon is the highest value aquaculture product by hectare in New Zealand with the potential to generate significant export earnings and supply the New Zealand domestic market. In the Accelerate the Aquaculture Strategy: Investment Roadmap the New Zealand government has identified targets to unlock open ocean salmon farming to produce 60,000 to 70,000 tonnes of product per year (equating to **§ 9(2)(b)(ii)** in annual revenue), with production from up to 10 farms by 2030. Currently no open ocean farms have been consented to contribute to this target. It is therefore considered that the proposed project will have significant benefits at both a national and regional level, as highlighted in the Aquaculture Strategy and the Southland Regional Long-Term Plan.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

not applicable

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Each Ocean Farm once operational will have the capacity to harvest 7500t - 8500t of Salmon per annum. At today's prices this equates to **§ 9(2)(b)(ii)** being generated by each farm each year. A high percentage of this will be export value for NZ.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Even though the Ocean Farm is located offshore in the EEZ, With the arrival of increased production, onshore facilities will have to be upgraded to support the growth, both at hatchery and processing for downstream markets. This will offer additional opportunities in the region and beyond to invest and modernise existing facilities and create new operations, upgrading and increasing the skills base; improve productivity ratios; significantly boost export earnings before the end of the decade. new plant and machinery, a well boat vessel will be required. All this points to growth and improvement in the aquaculture sector and will offer a wider choice of employment and training opportunities across the board. ... from the shore-side, offshore facilities, vessels, scientific and. international marketing,

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:

Ocean Farms - by introducing a scale of economies, it will produce more product for less emissions. Our deep water location will have a significantly lower impact on the seafloor; if any at all.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Better fish health and less seafloor damage

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Greatsouth - Transition Strategy - Beyond-2025

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Existing salmon farming operations in New Zealand are approaching capacity, both operationally and financially. Limited coastal waterspace available.

Hex BoxNZ90/400 delivers the means and capability to ramp up production in line with the 2035 Aquaculture Strategy

Our model enables farmers to significantly grow capacity by eliminating upfront CAPEX requirements and financial stress; offering no barriers to scalability

Each Hex Box NZ90/400 can produce 8500t per annum at today's value is s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Opportunity to develop industry knowhow and export technology. Development of valuable New Zealand IP and new skill base creation

Lower and much smaller environmental footprint, HB90/400 easily moveable.

New Zealand transforms into a global aquaculture powerhouse utilizing and growing our existing trade routes into SEA and beyond.

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

No

If yes, please explain:

The project does not include any activities described in s.18 of the Bill that would make it ineligible for the fast-track process.

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

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

No

If yes, please explain:

The HB-NZ-90/400 and mooring system are engineered to withstand in excess of a 20 meter wave heights, well in excess of the conditions that would be expected in the AOI and therefore suitable for extreme weather and storm events that may be exacerbated by climate change. The HB-NZ-90/400 is a floating structure and therefore unaffected by changes in sea level.

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:

Not applicable - there have been no compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant.

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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:

Calum MacLean

Important notes