

Key Policy Provisions	Relevance to Application
Objective 1: To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land.	The application proposes an activity which will enhance the form and function of marine ecosystems. Cultivating Bladder Kelp, a foundation species, will provide structural habitat, food, and protection for myriad of indigenous marine plants and animals enhancing ecosystem complexity and biodiversity. Kelp farming also supports marine resilience by improving water quality (through filtering and absorbing nutrients), carbon sequestration and coastal protection.
Objective 2: To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values	The proposal will not adversely affect the natural features or landscape values of the coastal or marine environment. Sites have been selected to avoid areas of significant environmental or landscape value. Visual impacts associated with the kelp farm will be limited to the kelp canopy and required navigational aids.
Objective 3: To take account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment	The applicant recognizes the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and is committed to meaningful relationships and interactions. The applicant has engaged with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te ao Marama and Awarua Runanga in regard to site selection, local knowledge and workforce development.
Policy 2 The Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua and Māori heritage	
Policy 3 Precautionary approach	A precautionary, adaptive management approach will be taken to the development of the site. If unanticipated, unacceptable adverse effects occur, the farm can be moved without long term, irreversible impacts.
Policy 5 Land or waters managed or held under other Acts	The project will be planned and managed to ensure that adverse effects on land or waters managed under other acts are avoided (where possible), or appropriately remedied or mitigated.
Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment	The kelp farm will be designed to avoid and mitigate adverse effects and enable the provision of regionally significant economic benefits, whilst ensuring that occupied space is efficiently utilised and that members of the public are only excluded for the site where and when necessary to avoid adverse effects on safety.
Policy 8 Aquaculture	The application proposes a new aquaculture activity which will provide regionally significant social and economic benefits. This includes the establishment of a new, sustainable, high value export industry for

	Southland as well as associated opportunities for employment, skill and workforce development. The project will also catalyse the establishment and growth of industries and businesses across the aquaculture value chain.
Policy 9 Ports	The proposed kelp farm will be planned and designed to avoid primary navigation routes or other areas used for commercial transport purposes.
Policy 11 Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity)	The cultivation of Bladder Kelp will enhance indigenous biodiversity by providing habitat for marine species. The proposed site has been selected to avoid areas of significant environmental value including significant habitats for indigenous fauna. Potential adverse effects on marine mammals and seabirds will be avoided through detailed design of the kelp farm, which will be informed by scientific investigations to understand the ecological characteristics and values of the project site, as well as an adaptive management approach to installation and scale up informed by a comprehensive monitoring programme resulting in (but not restricted to) a Marine Mammal Management Plan, Seabird Management Plan, and Biosecurity Management Plan. The project incorporates eco-friendly design and management, monitoring and data collection, reporting of incidents and near misses, workforce training, and the establishment of standard operating procedures. If unanticipated, unacceptable adverse effects occur, the farm can be moved without long term, irreversible impacts. The farm structures and cultivation methods are based on global best practice for the avoidance of adverse impacts to marine species, including mammals.
Policy 12 Harmful aquatic organisms	The application proposes to cultivate Bladder Kelp from local genetic stock. Clean material will be used to construct the farm structure and all structures, as well as any vessels or moorings associated with the project will be monitored and managed to control any invasive species and eliminate risk of contamination. A specific Biosecurity Plan will be prepared prior to farm establishment to ensure appropriate monitoring and management controls are in place.
Policy 13 Preservation of natural character	The project is low impact, and the proposed site has been selected to avoid areas of significant natural character.
Policy 14 Restoration of natural character	By cultivating Bladder Kelp from local genetic stock, the project will restore habitat for indigenous species and enhance local ecosystems.

Policy 15 Natural features and natural landscapes	The effects of kelp farming on natural features and landscapes will be minor. Visual effects will be limited to the kelp canopy and required navigational aids.
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