

## **Appendix 6: Consideration of National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards**

There are 8 National Policy Statements as follows:

1. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
2. National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat
3. National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land
4. National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation
5. National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission
6. National Policy Statement on Urban Development
7. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
8. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

In relation to aquaculture, we note the following:

**National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management:** This NPS sets out objectives and policies for managing freshwater resources sustainably. While it primarily focuses on freshwater quality and quantity, it may indirectly affect aquaculture by influencing water allocation decisions and water quality standards that can impact aquaculture operations.

**National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat:** The NPS provides nationally consistent policies and requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industries using process heat by:

- prohibiting discharges of greenhouse gases from new low to medium temperature coal boilers immediately and from existing coal boilers after 2037 (after this date no further consents can be issued)
- requiring resource consent to be held for new and existing fossil fuel boilers that emit 500 tonnes and above of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year, per site
- requiring resource consent applicants to prepare and implement greenhouse gas emission plans and set out actions to reduce emissions.

The NPS is not relevant to aquaculture.

**National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land:** This NPS aims to protect highly productive land from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. While it doesn't directly address aquaculture, it may indirectly affect aquaculture activities if they occur on or near highly productive land. We note this is not of concern in the case of the proposal given its location.

**National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation:** This NPS promotes the development of renewable electricity generation projects. While it doesn't directly address aquaculture, it may indirectly impact aquaculture activities if they interact with renewable energy projects, such as hydroelectric dams or wind farms. We note that no such renewable energy generation is proposed.

The proposal has no land based elements and water quality impacts in the coastal marine area will need to appropriately consider baselines of the Whangaroa Harbour and immediate development area against the proposed use.

**National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission:** The NPS provides a high-level framework that gives guidance across New Zealand for the management and future planning of the national grid.

It does the following:

- acknowledges the national significance of the national grid, which has to be considered in local decision making on resource management
- gives guidance to local decision makers in the management of the impacts of the transmission network on its environment
- recognises the national benefits we all get from electricity transmission, such as better security of supply of electricity
- guides the management of the adverse effects of activities from third parties on the grid which helps reduce constraints on the operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the grid
- ensures long-term strategic planning for elements of the national grid.

These matters are not relevant to the project for aquaculture.

**National Policy Statement on Urban Development:** This NPS provides direction for urban growth and development to support well-functioning urban environments. While it primarily focuses on urban development, it may indirectly impact aquaculture activities if they intersect with urban areas or areas undergoing development. We note this is not of concern in the case of the proposal given its location.

**National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity:** This NPS aims to halt the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. While it primarily focuses on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, it may indirectly affect aquaculture activities if they impact indigenous biodiversity in coastal or freshwater environments.

Consideration of aquatic flora and fauna will form part of a comprehensive assessment of effects associated with the proposal if accepted as part of the fast track bill.

The **New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2016** is of relevance. Our summation of its relevance to aquaculture is provided below:

**Sustainable Management:** The NZCPS emphasizes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment. Aquaculture, if managed properly, can contribute to sustainable resource use by providing a renewable source of seafood and reducing pressure on wild stocks. However, aquaculture operations must be carefully managed to minimize environmental impacts such as habitat degradation, pollution, and competition with wild species.

**Protection of Coastal Environment:** The NZCPS aims to protect the natural character and amenity values of the coastal environment. Aquaculture activities should be located and managed in a way that minimizes adverse effects on coastal landscapes, ecosystems, and recreational values. This may involve siting aquaculture facilities away from sensitive areas, implementing effective environmental monitoring and mitigation measures, and incorporating visual and aesthetic considerations into aquaculture planning and design.

**Integration with Other Activities:** The NZCPS encourages the integration of aquaculture with other coastal activities and land uses. Aquaculture operations should be planned and managed in coordination with activities such as tourism, recreation, conservation, and traditional Māori customary uses of coastal resources. Integrated coastal management approaches can help balance competing interests and minimize conflicts between aquaculture and other stakeholders.

**Māori Cultural Values:** The NZCPS recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing the cultural values and interests of Māori in the coastal environment. Aquaculture activities should respect and accommodate Māori cultural values, practices, and rights, including traditional fishing rights and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) responsibilities. Consultation and engagement with Māori communities are essential to ensure that aquaculture developments align with cultural aspirations and contribute to the well-being of coastal communities.

**Climate Change Adaptation:** The NZCPS acknowledges the need to address the impacts of climate change on the coastal environment, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and ocean acidification. Aquaculture operations may be affected by these changes, and adaptive management strategies will be necessary to mitigate risks and build resilience. This may involve site selection criteria that consider future sea-level rise projections, investment in infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events, and diversification of aquaculture species and production systems to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Overall, aquaculture can play a valuable role in New Zealand's coastal economy and food production while contributing to sustainable coastal management objectives outlined in the NZCPS. However, effective governance, robust environmental regulation, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive management approaches are essential to ensure that aquaculture development aligns with the principles of sustainable management and protects the values and interests of coastal communities and ecosystems.

There are 10 National Environmental Standards as follows:

**National Environmental Standard for Air Quality:** This standard sets maximum allowable concentrations for various air pollutants to protect human health and the environment. This has no relevance to the project.

**National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health:** This standard provides guidelines for assessing and managing contaminants in soil to protect human health from exposure to contaminated land. This has no relevance to the project.

**National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry:** This standard regulates the management of commercial forestry activities to protect soil, water, and biodiversity values. This has no relevance to the project

**National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities:** This standard sets rules and requirements for electricity transmission activities to protect the environment and manage adverse effects. This has no relevance to the project.

**National Environmental Standard for Freshwater:** The NES set requirements for carrying out certain activities that pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Anyone carrying out these activities will need to comply with the standards.

The standards are designed to:

- protect natural inland wetlands
- protect urban and rural streams from in-filling
- ensure connectivity of fish habitat (fish passage)
- set minimum requirements for feedlots and other stockholding areas
- improve poor practice intensive winter grazing of forage crops
- restrict further agricultural intensification until the end of 2024
- limit the discharge of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser to land, and require reporting of fertiliser use.

In many cases, people will need to apply for a resource consent from their regional council to continue carrying out regulated activities. This has no relevance to the project.

**National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gases from Industrial Process Heat:** The standards provide nationally consistent policies and requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industries using process heat by:

- prohibiting discharges of greenhouse gases from new low to medium temperature coal boilers immediately and from existing coal boilers after 2037 (after this date no further consents can be issued)
- requiring resource consent to be held for new and existing fossil fuel boilers that emit 500 tonnes and above of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year, per site
- requiring resource consent applicants to prepare and implement greenhouse gas emission plans and set out actions to reduce emissions.

They work alongside the [National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gases from Industrial Process Heat](#) (NPS). This has no relevance to the project.

**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.

The NES-MA will ensure existing marine farms meet best environmental practice while providing a more certain and efficient process for:

- replacement consents for existing marine farms
- realignment of farms
- applications to change farmed species.

This has no relevance to the project as it relates to existing aquaculture marine farms.

**National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water:** This standard aims to protect the sources of human drinking water from contaminants and pollution. This has no relevance to the project.

**National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors:** The purpose of the NES is:

- To ensure the risks of harm to the environment, human health and local communities from outdoor tyre storage are appropriately managed.
- To support more consistent management practices across New Zealand, filling gaps in regulatory settings that create incentives to move tyres between regions.

This has no relevance to the project.