



MFE BRF-34  
DOC 21-B-0569

8 September 2021

Frances Lojkin  
Principal Planner  
Stantec New Zealand  
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Frances Lojkin

**COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Hananui Aquaculture Project – Request for further information**

Thank you for your application, received on 12 May 2021, to refer the Hananui Aquaculture project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, I am writing to request the following further information under section 22 of the FTCA:

1. When does the applicant anticipate completing all baseline monitoring and environmental assessments including those identified in the request for further information issued for the resource consent application lodged with the Southland Regional Council?
2. If the Project is referred under the FTCA:
  - a. when does the applicant anticipate being able to lodge a consent application with all supporting technical information to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)?
  - b. is the applicant proposing to submit the technical assessments with or without peer reviews with a FTCA application to the EPA?
3. Our consideration of whether to accept your application for referral requires consideration of the Project's consistency with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS). We note that policies 3 (precautionary approach), policy 8 (aquaculture), and policies 11, 13 and 15 require adverse effects on threatened species, ecosystems and habitat, natural character of the coastal environment and outstanding natural landscapes to be avoided. These policies appear to be the most directly relevant policies of the NZCPS. Please provide information regarding how the

proposed adaptive management approach is consistent with the NZCPS, and in particular policies 11,13 and 15.

4. How will the proposed adaptive management approach towards activities with uncertain and potentially significantly adverse effects (policy 3) be consistent with the approach supported by the Supreme Court in *Sustain our Sounds Inv v NZ King Salmon Company* [2014] NZCS 40?

Please provide the required information via return email within 10 working days so that we can take it into account in deciding whether or not to refer the Project.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Parker  
**Minister for the Environment**

Released under the provision of  
the Official Information Act 1982