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9 September 2021

Arihia Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Arihia Bennett

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Hananui Aquaculture Project – Comments sought

In the week commencing Monday 10 May 2021, Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited applied to refer the above project to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). As the project lies in the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation and I will jointly decide on the referral application.

The project is described as follows, and a copy of the application is attached.

The project is to construct and operate an open ocean marine farm (salmon) within a 2500 hectare area of the CMA including 500 hectares of exclusive occupation of the CMA. The project comprises four separate marine farms including five anchored barges proposed as operational bases for the farms. It will be developed in four stages over ten years to produce up to 16,000 tonnes of salmon per annum.

The project proposes adaptive management where management practices are modified throughout the life of the Project to remedy and mitigate adverse effects.

The project will involve activities such as:

- works to construct and install net pens, mooring lines, anchors, navigational aids and lights and other structures
- disturbance and occupation of the seabed
- moorings for five barges
- introduction of exotic fauna
- deposition of material on the seabed
- discharges of water and contaminants to water
- all other works associated with the above activities

The applicant is seeking coastal permits under the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland, to be determined for the project through the fast-track process. A resource consent application for the same project was lodged with Southland Regional Council in December 2019 (RMA consent) and is currently on hold while further information is being prepared.

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA. A template is attached for this purpose.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days so that we can take them into consideration when deciding on whether or not to accept the application and refer the project to a panel.

If you would like more information about the fast-track consenting process, or to discuss this application, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's fast-track consenting team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz to arrange an appointment.

This information is provided to you in confidence and as part of the statutory process set out in the FTCA. Please do not forward the application or the request for comments to anyone outside your organisation.

If we decide to refer the project to a panel there will be an opportunity for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to nominate a representative to sit on this panel. At this stage, applicants will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects along with their applications for the consents and approvals needed for the project, and you will have the opportunity to provide further comments to a panel along with certain other specified groups.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Hananui Aquaculture project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

cc: info@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Te Ao Marama