



MFE BRF-34  
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9 September 2021

Lyndon Cleaver  
Southland Regional Harbourmaster  
Environment Southland  
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Lyndon Cleaver

**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 Hananui Aquaculture 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 below, 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.

You have been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project because it has the potential to affect coastal navigation.

On behalf of myself and the Minister of Conservation, and pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. 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 we decide to refer the project to a panel, the applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects with any resource consent applications that they lodge with the 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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely



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