

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister of Revenue

Associate Minister of Finance



MFE BRF-2854

DOC 22-B-0122

Jake Oliver
Harbourmaster
Marlborough Harbourmaster
Email: harbours@marlborough.govt.nz

Dear Jake Oliver

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 – comments sought on referral application – Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project

The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited has applied to refer the Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project (project) to an expert consenting panel (a panel) for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA). This letter is sent to you pursuant to section 21(3) of the FTCA.

The project is described in Appendix A and the application documents are in Attachment 1. As the project lies in the Coastal Marine Area, the Minister of Conservation (Hon Willow-Jean Prime) and I will jointly decide whether or not to accept the application.

Marlborough Harbourmaster may have an interest in the project because of the potential adverse effects on navigational safety.

To assist us, Minister Prime and I invite Marlborough Harbourmaster's written comments on the referral application. A template is provided for this purpose in Attachment 2.

The above 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 accept the application and the project is referred to a panel, the applicant will be able to lodge applications with the Environmental Protection Authority for the approvals needed under the Resource Management Act 1991. The applicant must provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects and cultural impact assessment(s) as part of this process.

Please provide comments via return email within 10 working days if you wish us to take them into consideration when making our decision.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Parker', with a large loop at the end.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Appendix:

- A. Details of proposed project

Attachments:

1. Application to refer the Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures Project to an expert consenting panel, including supporting information (Databox link in covering email)
2. Response template for written comments

Appendix A - Proposed project

Project	Applicant	Details
Reimagining Aquaculture – Trials of Novel Aquaculture Structures	The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited	The project is to install aquaculture structures and conduct trials involving fish in Tasman Bay approximately 6 kilometres to the west of Sauvage Point, D'Urville Island covering an area of approximately 3.6 hectares, located within the boundary of a consented 450-hectare marine farm. The project will occur wholly in the coastal marine area (CMA). The trials have four phases. Phase 1, involving physical trials of fish enclosures only (i.e., without live fish) is consented and underway in different locations within the coastal waters of Nelson City. This project involves Phases 2 to 4 that will test the physical suitability of the enclosures in an exposed environment with fish present.

