



## Ngā Tūranga Mahi me ngā Mana Whakahaere Ahumoana Roles and Responsibilities in Aquaculture



**This information sheet provides a summary of the key stakeholders involved in aquaculture in New Zealand, and their roles and responsibilities.** The information sheet firstly sets out the Government's position on aquaculture, and then explains the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in aquaculture: key central government agencies; local government; Te Ohu Kaimoana; Iwi Aquaculture Organisations; and New Zealand Aquaculture Ltd.

### THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON AQUACULTURE

The Government released *Our Blue Horizon* on 7 June 2007, which included the *National Position Statement on Aquaculture*. The Government has committed to working in partnership with the aquaculture industry, local government, Māori and communities to maximise the contribution aquaculture makes to the national economy and its potential for growth. The Government's commitment to aquaculture is built on five key objectives. These are:

- Building the confidence to invest
- Improving public support
- Promoting Māori success
- Capitalising on research and innovation
- Increasing market revenues

The Government has committed to a number of targeted initiatives over three years from June 2007. The Government has established a \$2 million contestable Aquaculture Planning Fund, available to regional and unitary councils over a five-year period from 2007 to support new sustainable aquaculture initiatives in their region. In addition, the Government is also supporting key implementation projects to ensure that new areas for aquaculture development are established.

In terms of Māori participation, the Government has committed to working with Māori to develop resources for a sustainable growth framework that takes into account both commercial and kaitiaki aspirations. This will include actively engaging Māori participation at all levels of the industry, including the planning process and its growth.

To find out more information on the Aquaculture Planning Fund, see <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/index.html>

To find out more about the Government's commitment to aquaculture, see the publication *Our Blue Horizon*.

### KEY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AQUACULTURE PLANNING AGENCIES

There are five key agencies involved in various aspects of implementing and supporting the growth of sustainable aquaculture in New Zealand. They are: the Ministry of Fisheries; the Department of Conservation; the Ministry for the Environment; Te Puni Kōkiri; and the Ministry of Economic Development.

Current initiatives that are underway are focussed on ensuring that:

- Central government agencies work together to achieve the reform
- Councils are well equipped to run with the new legislation
- Central government agencies understand and implement their statutory responsibilities
- Transition issues are appropriately managed



### **The Ministry of Fisheries**

- Leads the implementation of the Government's *Sector Strategy Response for Aquaculture*
- Advises on implementing settlement of Māori commercial aquaculture interests
- Provides information and advice to regional councils on fisheries matters before the coastal plan is notified;
- Provides formal assessment, before plan notification, on whether a proposed Aquaculture Management Area (AMA) will have an undue adverse effect on customary, recreational or commercial fishing
- In the event of an undue adverse effect on commercial fishing, the Ministry identifies the area(s) where marine farmers must seek agreement of affected commercial fishers before lodging an application for a coastal permit, and identifies the parties whose agreement is needed
- Registers agreements between marine farm applicants and fishing interests in areas specified as having an undue adverse effect on commercial fishing
- Notifies councils of any agreements lodged with the Ministry of Fisheries
- Administers the fisheries registration system for all fish farms
- Declares species that can be taken as spat
- Decides marine farming and spat catching applications under the Marine Farming Act, if such an application was notified before 28 November 2001.

To find out more about the Ministry of Fisheries, see [www.fish.govt.nz](http://www.fish.govt.nz)

### **The Department of Conservation**

- Provides information and advice to councils on coastal management and marine conservation matters before the coastal plan is notified
- May participate in the statutory process for Resource Management Act 1991 ("the RMA") plan development
- Recommends to the Minister of Conservation whether to approve a regional coastal plan, including plan changes to establish AMAs
- Recommends to the Minister of Conservation, on the issuing of directions to councils on the allocation of space in certain circumstances
- Is responsible for the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*, including review and monitoring its implementation

To find out more about the Department of Conservation, see [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

### **The Ministry for the Environment**

- Is responsible for any legislative reforms to the RMA
- Is responsible for the implementation of the RMA
- Provides guidance and support for good decision-making.

To find out more about the Ministry for the Environment, see [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)

### **Te Puni Kōkiri**

- Promotes increases in levels of achievement attained by Māori with respect to education, training and employment, health and economic resource development
- Monitors and liaises with each government department or agency that provides, or has a responsibility to provide, services to, or for Māori, for the purpose of ensuring the adequacy of those services
- Offers services and information to assist in the development of Māori businesses

To find out more about Te Puni Kōkiri, see [www.tpk.govt.nz](http://www.tpk.govt.nz)

### **Ministry of Economic Development**

- Is responsible for the Government's Economic Transformation Agenda
- Developed the Government's response to the *New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy*
- Led the preparation of the *National Position Statement on Aquaculture*

To find out more about the Ministry of Economic Development, see [www.med.govt.nz](http://www.med.govt.nz)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT – REGIONAL AND UNITARY COUNCILS

Regional and unitary councils have a key role in the aquaculture industry. Regional and unitary councils are responsible for the RMA processes for authorising existing aquaculture activities; identifying locations where new aquaculture activities may occur in their regional coastal plans (including expansion of existing activities); allocating authorisations for aquaculture space; and approving resource consents to allow for new aquaculture activities.

Regional and unitary councils:

- Are responsible for sustainable coastal resource management in the coastal marine area, including the preparation of a regional coastal plan and the processing of resource consents
- Are primarily responsible for the process of identifying AMAs – they identify and gather the information needed
- May propose a plan change to introduce new AMAs
- May identify areas where council-invited private plan change requests will not be accepted
- May invite requests for private plan changes
- Are responsible for the public consultation process for formal notifications; receiving submissions on plans and plan changes; hearing submissions; and making recommendations to the Minister of Conservation to approve new coastal plans or changes to coastal plans that establish new AMAs
- Are responsible for allocating coastal space for marine farming
- Are responsible for the management and consenting of all marine farms including all marine farms that existed before the aquaculture law reform (before 1 January 2005) that were granted licences, leases and permits under the old regime (previously the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries)
- Undertake environmental assessment and monitoring

To find out more about local government, see [www.localcouncils.govt.nz](http://www.localcouncils.govt.nz) or [www.lgnz.co.nz](http://www.lgnz.co.nz)

See our information sheet "Planning for Aquaculture" to find out more about Resource Management Act (RMA) planning processes.





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## TE OHU KAIMOANA

The duties of Te Ohu Kaimoana include:

- To receive settlement assets from the Crown or regional council
- To hold and maintain settlement assets on trust to Iwi Aquaculture Organisations
- To facilitate steps by iwi to meet the requirements for the allocation of settlement assets
- To allocate settlement assets to iwi

Te Ohu Kaimoana is a statutory body created under s.31 of the Māori Fisheries Act 2004. Te Ohu Kaimoana is the trustee for settlement assets under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 ("the Settlement Act"). The Takutai Trust is the trust that will hold assets from the aquaculture settlement. Te Ohu Kaimoana is governed by a board of seven directors.

To find out more about Te Ohu Kaimoana, see [www.teohu.Māori.nz](http://www.teohu.Māori.nz)

## IWI AQUACULTURE ORGANISATIONS

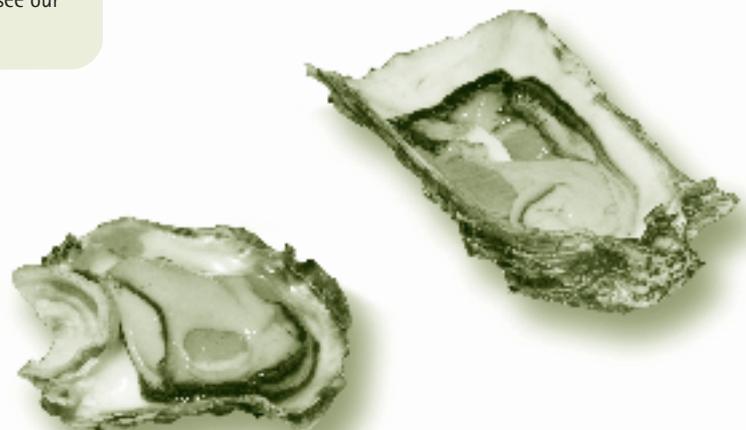
Only an Iwi Aquaculture Organisation can be allocated aquaculture space or receive the financial equivalent of space under the Settlement Act. An Iwi Aquaculture Organisation must be a mandated iwi organisation under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 and must also have been authorised by its members to receive settlement assets under the Settlement Act.

To find out more about the *Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004* and Iwi Aquaculture Organisations, see our information sheet "The Aquaculture Settlement".

## NEW ZEALAND AQUACULTURE LIMITED

New Zealand Aquaculture Ltd is national organisation representing the aquaculture industry. It provides a collective over-arching representation of the three primary species groups in the aquaculture industry (mussels, salmon and oysters) and the New Zealand Aquaculture Council, and is responsible for meeting the vision and goals set out in the New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy. One of the primary roles of the organisation is to work closely with Government in advancing the implementation process of the Aquaculture Law Reform.

To find out more about *New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy*, see our information sheet on "The Aquaculture Industry".



**DISCLAIMER** The information contained in this publication is for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, because the information is generalised, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Readers are advised to seek independent advice on particular matters and not rely on this publication. No liability is assumed by Te Puni Kōkiri for any losses suffered directly or indirectly by any person relying on the information contained in this publication.

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