

Information sheet

Aquaculture Unit – An Overview

In New Zealand, aquaculture is already the fastest-growing sector of our seafood industry. Annual sales are estimated at more than NZ\$350 million, about 20% of all fisheries. The industry has set itself a goal of NZ\$1 billion sales each year by 2025.

The Government is committed to unlocking this potential as part of its Economic Growth Agenda, to increase export earnings and create new jobs.

Government's principal advisor

The Aquaculture Unit is the Government's principal advisor on marine and land-based aquaculture. A business unit of the Ministry of Fisheries, the Aquaculture Unit will take the lead on aquaculture across central government in a 'one stop shop', working with the aquaculture industry, regional government, environmental groups, iwi, and others with an interest in New Zealand's coastal waters.

The Aquaculture Unit's priorities

The Government is committed to aquaculture development within a framework of sustainable coastal management.

The Aquaculture Unit has three immediate priorities:

- » build coordination between the groups involved in aquaculture
- » develop and then implement a national Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan that includes both marine and land-based aquaculture
- » lead implementation of the proposed new law (Aquaculture Legislation Amendment Bill (No 3), introduced on 9 November 2010).

The Aquaculture Unit will work to strengthen relationships with all stakeholders, including the aquaculture industry, iwi, local communities, wild fisheries, researchers, other user groups, and environmental interests.

The Strategy and Action Plan will clearly identify how central government will work with stakeholders to develop aquaculture. The strategy will cover projects to develop new space and species, and will also look broadly into research and innovation, market development, and iwi participation.

The proposed new law will reduce regulatory burdens for industry and increase certainty for all stakeholders. To learn more about proposed aquaculture reform visit www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Aquaculture+Reform.



Graeme Silver, Environment Waikato

Undue adverse effects on fishing test

Decisions on the potential effects of a proposed aquaculture activity on recreational, customary and commercial fishing will continue to be the responsibility of the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Fisheries. The Spatial Allocations Team of the Ministry of Fisheries will undertake the undue adverse effects on fishing (UAE) test on new marine aquaculture applications.

To learn more about the UAE visit www.aquaculture.govt.nz/uae_test.php. To learn about the effect of the proposed new law on the UAE visit www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Aquaculture+Reform/default.htm.



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Marine aquaculture

In New Zealand, marine aquaculture, also known as marine farming, began in the 1960s. Today it is an industry that is worth in excess of \$350 million annually to the New Zealand economy.

The top three species farmed in New Zealand are Greenshell™ mussels, Pacific oysters and king (or Chinook) salmon. Blue mussels and flat oysters are also farmed. Species still in the research or pre-commercial stages include sea cucumbers, yellowtail kingfish and groper/hāpuka.

There are 17,987 hectares of allocated water space for marine-based aquaculture – over half of this space is near shore.

Land-based aquaculture

Land-based farming is managed under the provisions of the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983. The regulations cover both freshwater and marine species farmed on land. Pāua (abalone), koura (freshwater crayfish) and salmon are just some of the species that are grown on land – in constructed pools or tanks.

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