

## Appendix One: Priority Projects

### **Project One - New AMA space in Northland**

**The project aims to develop new AMA space in the Northland region. The project will provide a good example for other councils to follow on how AMA process could run.**

#### **Why this project:**

- ◆ Industry, Northland Regional Council (NRC), research providers and iwi are all keen on new space in Northland. This includes opportunities for new species (i.e. kingfish).
- ◆ It is the region most advanced in AMA planning and there is potential to establish a new AMA in the next 24 months. The process is likely to generate a number of applications (possibly 25) for new sites and this will increase the chances of at least some applications being successful.
- ◆ It will provide a good example of how the new AMA process should run. New space created exclusively through the new process will improve everyone's confidence in the law and facilitate ongoing AMA development in other regions.
- ◆ It provides a good opportunity to develop strategies for iwi and industry to work together.

#### **Main impediments to new space in Northland:**

- ◆ Community opposition to aquaculture development in the sheltered harbours of Northland.
- ◆ This is the first time the new AMA process has been run and we must learn as we go.
- ◆ Northland has a low ratepayer base and council capacity may be a problem, particularly around staffing and the ability to afford independent legal advice.
- ◆ A lack of robust information on the economic benefits of aquaculture to the region.

#### **Progress of sub-projects**

##### **Good planning process**

- ◆ Since May 2006, departments have worked closely with council, industry and other interested parties to develop a robust coastal planning framework for AMA development in Northland. NRC notified the proposed Plan Change 4 (*Policy and regulatory framework for aquaculture*) in October 2006, and public submissions are due by 14 February 2007.
- ◆ NRC will invite private plan changes for aquaculture later in 2007. However, a minor legislative amendment is required to make invited private plan change process work.

##### **Industry capacity**

- ◆ Enterprise Northland (the local economic development agency) hosted an industry meeting in early January 2007 to bring parties together to learn about the plan change, think strategically about aquaculture and identify opportunities to work together. The meeting was well attended by industry representatives and NRC provided a well received overview of the planning process. To continue effective discussion, Enterprise Northland offered to support further forums to encourage sustainable aquaculture development in the region.

##### **Mfiori involvement**

- ◆ Departments and TOKM are working with six Te Taitokerau (Northland) Iwi chief executives to develop a collective Te Taitokerau Iwi aquaculture strategic plan. Officials are working with these iwi to finalise a funding proposal for the collective aquaculture strategy. Departments have allocated \$150,000 for this strategy and anticipate it will be completed by mid 2007. This project will be used as a pilot for other regions.

### **Regional communications**

- ◆ A communications group has been established to oversee Government's communications on aquaculture. The communications group is reviewing the government's communications plan to better coordinate the key messages of industry, Government and councils. The review will include the development of a regional communications plan for Northland (and other priority regions).

### **Project two - New AMA space in Auckland**

**This project is about facilitating aquaculture development in Auckland**

#### **Why this project:**

- ◆ Industry has identified the Firth of Thames as the best location in NZ for development.
- ◆ This is a project where Ministerial assistance will be critical initially in encouraging appropriate development. However, once progress has been made, council has the capacity to complete the exercise and may also have the Northland process example to learn from.

#### **Main impediments to new space in Auckland:**

Auckland Regional Council has the capacity to undertake aquaculture development; it is well funded and has capable staff. Impediments to aquaculture are due to:

- ◆ Community concerns about the impacts of aquaculture on receiving environments, including recreational and natural character conflicts in Auckland's coastal waters.
- ◆ Councillors are cautious about aquaculture due to the concerns of their constituents.
- ◆ A lack of information about the economic benefits of aquaculture to the Auckland region.
- ◆ The application of substantial monetary bonds on all aquaculture site in the region.

#### **Progress of sub-projects**

- ◆ Ministers met with Auckland regional councillors and staff on 31 January 2007 to discuss progress on aquaculture in the Auckland region. Council agreed to work the officials on options for streamlining and speeding up the planning process for new space; on addressing information gaps; and on options for better use of existing aquaculture space in the region.
- ◆ Departments are working with ARC staff to gather information for constraints mapping and develop a robust planning process for aquaculture development in the Auckland region.

### **Project three - Better use of aquaculture space (Research & Innovation)**

**This project aims to remove impediments to research and innovation and explore options for new aquaculture species and technologies in both existing and new aquaculture space.**

#### **Why this project:**

- ◆ Better use of existing and new aquaculture space is important to industry achieving its economic potential. This project aims to reduce impediments to research, innovation and new species where appropriate. There are real opportunities to trial new and higher value aquaculture species, including kingfish and the use of polyculture.
- ◆ The coastal marine environment is public domain. Wise and efficient use of the coast will contribute to better coastal management outcomes.

#### **Main impediments to research and innovation:**

- ◆ Industry and research providers believe the time and cost of developing new AMAs hinders short-term research and development trials.

- ◆ Constraints within existing consent conditions and some coastal plans on the species that can be farmed and the methods that can be used.
- ◆ Lack of publicly available information on the environmental effects of new aquaculture species and technologies.

### Summary of sub-projects

#### Explore options for innovation in the Waikato regional coastal plan

- ◆ Environment Waikato is proposing a variation to their regional coastal plan to allow finfish farming in deemed AMAs. Ministers met with District and Regional Council mayors and chairs in November 2006 and agreed to package of financial support for the RMA process.
- ◆ The consultation for the plan variation will occur in the first half of 2007 and the council intends to notify the plan change by the end of June.

#### Flexibility for research and innovation within AMAs

- ◆ Departments are preparing guidance to councils on options for flexibility within AMAs and consents to provide for alternative species and technologies.

#### Information on environmental, social and economic effects of aquaculture

- ◆ Departments have contracted an independent review of the existing information on the environmental effects of finfish farming. Reviews of the effects of other species will follow in early 2007. The reviews are to enable the public, council and industry access to accurate information on the effects of farming different species.
- ◆ Departments are scoping the idea of developing environmental standards for finfish farming in New Zealand

#### Experimental aquaculture

- ◆ Ministers have agreed that officials should explore options for legislative change to make better provisions for experimental aquaculture. This work is ongoing.

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### This project aims to improve the ability of iwi/hapu to fully participate in the aquaculture industry and planning processes, and to investigate options for settlement AMAs

#### Why this project:

- ◆ Mfiori are important players in aquaculture and their ability to input into AMA planning processes and applications is important. Aquaculture has potential to help regional development of tangata whenua. Crown will be seen to be facilitating options to meet settlement obligations.

#### Main impediments to Mfiori involvement in aquaculture:

- ◆ Relationships between iwi/hapu and regional councils could work more effectively in some regions to achieve better shared outcomes for Mfiori and the region.
- ◆ Iwi/hapu capacity to input into the RMA process and to develop strategic plans for aquaculture within their rohe is variable and, in some cases, needs improvement.

### Summary of sub-projects

#### Mfiori ability to input into RMA process

- ◆ Departments are collating information to assist Mfiori participate in aquaculture. A road show is planned for February 2007 across the Northern regions. Part of this road show

will be about managing expectations, as departments need to ensure Mfiori are aware aquaculture is a demanding business and careful planning is required to ensure economically viability.

- ◆ A workshop is being held on 12 February 2007 with Mfiori relationship staff from regional councils, the Seafood industry training organisation (SITO), and department regional offices. The purpose of the workshop is to give relationship officers a basic understanding of the aquaculture industry, RMA planning process and whom iwi should contact from government, councils, industry and research providers for advice and assistance.

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#### **Mfiori aquaculture plans**

- ◆ Progress is being made in Northland on a collective Te Taitokerau Iwi aquaculture strategic plan (refer Project Northland). The work being done in Northland is likely to set up processes that other iwi/hapu can adopt.

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#### **Mfiori ability to participate in the industry**

- ◆ A successful “Mfiori in Aquaculture” workshop organised by TOKM was held on 23 and 24 November 2006 in Nelson. Iwi from around the country attended. The workshop explored Iwi experiences and aspirations in aquaculture.
- ◆ In discussion with industry leaders, a resolution was passed that Harry Mikaere (Hauraki Mfiori Trust Board) would be the interim Iwi representative and a Director on NZ Aquaculture. This position will be reviewed and ratified at the Mfiori Fisheries Conference

### **Project Five - Regional partnerships**

**The goal of this project is to facilitate collaboration between interested parties on the strategic direction of aquaculture planning and development in the regions. The primary mechanism for this project is to establish regional forums to think strategically about aquaculture development.**

#### **Why this project:**

- ◆ The development of enduring regional partnerships is identified as a priority in the aquaculture sector strategy. It is important industry, councils and other interested parties begin to plan strategically for aquaculture development in the regions.

#### **Main impediments to regional partnerships:**

- ◆ Councils and industry relationships outside of Marlborough are variable. Parties are often not working together to strategically plan and develop aquaculture.
- ◆ The reform provisions are still relatively new and stakeholders continue to require information and other support to advance strategy development.
- ◆ People currently focus on marine aquaculture without considering opportunities for land based aquaculture.
- ◆ District councils who manage land use and infrastructure and the local economic development agencies have both had little involvement in aquaculture planning to date.

#### **Progress of sub-projects**

### **Pilot regional forum in the Bay of Plenty**

- ◆ Environment Bay of Plenty hosted the first Regional Aquaculture Forum on 5 December 2006. The forum was opened by the Minister for Economic Development.
- ◆ The forum was successful in cementing ongoing partnerships in the region. EBOP are intending to facilitate ongoing meetings with a subset of interested forum participants.
- ◆ The Ministry of Fisheries recently made a final decision to approve a 3,800ha mussel farm 6 miles offshore of Opotiki. This is the region's most expansive marine farming site. The applicants and the Council are interested in options for innovative use of the space, such as varying the consent conditions to enable alternative species to be farmed.
- ◆ Council is looking to prepare a bid to the contestable fund to partner government on aquaculture initiatives.

Departments are investigating with Environment Waikato the possibility of a second regional aquaculture forum in the Waikato region in 2007.