



22nd July 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Aquaculture Reform

Today the Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Hon Phil Heatley, announced a series of Cabinet decisions on reform of the regulatory regime for aquaculture. The decisions build on those announced in April this year, and focus on transition to and implementation of the new regime.

Key points from the decisions are that Cabinet has:

- Agreed on measures for transitioning existing marine farms into the new law with minimal disturbance.
- Agreed to allow the processing of outstanding 'old law' applications and interim Aquaculture Management Areas to be concluded.
- Agreed that the elements of the Aquaculture Legislation Amendment Bill (No 2) that will remain relevant under the new law will be incorporated into the Aquaculture Reform Bill.
- Considered funding options for improvement of regional coastal plans and related activities to address impediments to sustainable aquaculture development.
- Agreed to make changes to the Tasman and Waikato regional coastal plans through the Aquaculture Reform Bill to enable applications for small extensions to existing farms (in some areas of Waikato) and to remove the species prohibitions.

The Cabinet paper and decisions are available on our website, www.fish.govt.nz, click on the 'aquaculture reform' link on the homepage. If you would like more information or do not have access to the internet, please phone Jessie Davis on 04 819 4240 or write to her at the Ministry's address above.

Ministers are considering options for implementing the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement under the new regime. We will advise you of decisions on this matter in due course. We will also continue to update our website as the aquaculture reforms progress and we encourage you to check the site from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Taylor'.

Emma Taylor
Aquaculture Reforms Manager