Aquaculture Reform in New Zealand

Sustainable solutions through a national policy statement

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RESEARCH BASED SOLUTIONS
Outline

- Aquaculture’s potential
- Barriers to progress
- Possible role of an EPA

*Barriers can be addressed via NPS and NES, administered by a new EPA*
Sustainable food

- Growing global middle class seeking animal protein
  - Compare e.g. dairy & pork
- Shellfish
  - Filter feeders
  - Harvesting nutrients from land runoff
- Finfish
  - Feed supply needs to be resolved long term
  - Nutrient input can be managed in conjunction with shellfish
Harvesting New Zealand’s Aquaculture Potential

Potential Additional value

- Others
- High Value Shellfish
- Fish 3
- Fish 2
- Fish 1

2014 | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | 2020

$500,000
$450,000
$400,000
$350,000
$300,000
$250,000
$200,000
$150,000
$100,000
$50,000
$0
Barriers to Progress

- Lack of new space
- Lack of security
- Inconsistency across New Zealand
- Inflexibility
- Lack of voice in government
Other Issues

- Settlement with Maori
- Effects on Fishing
- Coastal occupation charges
Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Why? RCs unwilling to bear the political and financial costs of the ~5 yrs it takes to get an AMA approved.

A New Aquaculture Act

- Aquaculture Commission (appointed)
- Coastal zoning for aquaculture
- Allocate coastal space (mechanism?)
- Decision criteria?
Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Aquaculture Development Corporation

- State-owned enterprise
- Applies for private plan change for AMAs
- Leases space to industry
- Bears financial risk
- Has planning and aquaculture expertise
Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Aquaculture National Policy Statement (NPS)

- Designate AMAs in major regions
- Specify allocation process
- Discretionary activity in the regions
- Initial short-term consent
- Rules on transferability to stop speculation
Policy Solutions to “A Lack of Security”

Aquaculture Act
- Establish an occupation right
- Right of renewal if “good behaviour”

Aquaculture NPS
- Specify length of consent
- Specify conditions for renewal
- Users already have protection against “gazumption”
Policy Solutions to “Inconsistency Across NZ”

Aquaculture Act
- Aquaculture Comm sets policies and criteria

Aquaculture NPS
- National objectives, policies, and “rules”
- Nat’l env’l standards
- Supported by central agency
- Reduces costs of RMA process
“Lack of Voice” in Government

- Aquaculture Act
  - Independent agency within an existing government agency

- Aquaculture NPS
  - Agency dedicated to aquaculture provides advice on NPS
Policy Solutions to “Inflexibility”

Aquaculture Act
- Delegated power to Ministry of Fisheries for minor changes to existing permits

Aquaculture NPS
- Specify changes deemed “minor”
- Non-notified
- Delegated to EPA or other agency
Other Issues

- Coastal occupation charges
  - Revenue from leases

- Settlement with Maori
  - Revenue or space

- Effects on Fishing
  - Industry needs to resolve where effects are more than minor, and how to address
Role of an EPA

- National Policy Statement
  - Run process w/ RCs
  - w/ aquaculture agency

- National Environmental Standards
  - Establish conditions for environmental effects

- Considering minor changes
  - Small boundary adjustments
  - Change in species if effects similar
The Advantages of a National Policy Statement

- Aquaculture remains integrated with RMA
- One set of criteria and case law
- Less time required to achieve reforms
- Less risk of failure – RMA is known entity
- EPA can play useful role