

Appendix 4

Factors for Assessing Adverse Effects on Natural Character

The following factors assist in assessing whether a subdivision, use or development proposal will have adverse effects and the nature and magnitude of those adverse effects, for the purposes of implementing Policies 6.2.1 and 6.2.2. The factors shall be considered by the decision maker on resource consents or plan changes.

1. **Status of resources:** The importance of the area—locally and regionally. (Effects on rare or limited resources are usually considered more significant than impacts on common or abundant resources).
2. **Proportion of resources affected/area of influence:** The size of the area affected by the activity will influence the degree of impact (i.e. affecting a large area will generally be significant). Affecting a large proportion of a limited area or resource will tend to be significant.
3. **Persistence of effect:** The duration and frequency of effect (for example, long-term or recurring effects as permanent or long-term changes are usually more significant than temporary ones. The ability of a resource to recover after the activities are complete is related to this effect).
4. **Sensitivity of resources:** The effect on the area and its sensitivity to change. (Impacts to sensitive resources are usually more significant than impacts to those that are relatively resilient to impacts).
5. **Reversibility or irreversibility: Whether the effect is reversible or irreversible.** Irreversibility will generally be more significant (depending also on nature and scale), and reversibility the converse.
6. **Resilience to change:** The ability of the environment to resist or assimilate change without adversely affecting the conditions of abiotic and biotic systems and/or experiential attributes.
7. **Probability of effect:** The likelihood of an adverse effect resulting from the activity may affect the significance of the effect. However, an effect of low probability and of high potential impact can be significant.
8. **Cumulative effects:** The accumulation of impacts over time and space resulting from the combination of effects from one activity/development or the combination of effects from a number of activities. Cumulative effects can be greater in significance than any individual effect from an activity (for example, loss of multiple important sites).
9. **Degree of change:** The character and degree of modification, damage, loss or destruction that will result from the activity. Activities that result in a high degree of change are generally more significant.
10. **Magnitude of effect:** The scale and extent of possible effects caused by an activity (for example on the number of sites affected, on spatial distribution etc). Activities that have a large magnitude of effect are generally more significant.

Commented [1]: KPF Investments Limited & United Fisheries Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-41
 Beleve Limited, RJ Davidson Family Trust and Treble Tree Holdings Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-44
 Aroma (NZ) Limited and Aroma Aquaculture Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-45
 Goulding Trustees Limited and Shellfish Marine Farms Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-47
 The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-51
 Clearwater Mussels Limited and Talley's Group Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-55
 Apex Marine Farm Limited
 ENV-2020-CHC-63
 Environmental Defence Society
 ENV-2020-CHC-67
 KPF Investments & United Fisheries (previously AJ King Family Trust and SA King Family Trust)
 ENV-2020-CHC-73
 Marine Farming Assn Inc & Aquaculture NZ
 ENV-2020-CHC-74
 Just Mussels Ltd, Tawhitinui Greenshell Ltd and Waimana Marine Ltd
 ENV-2020-CHC-77
 By consent order dated 17 July 2023

Appeal Version

