

MINISTER'S DECISION

Ministerial decision not to call in as a proposal of national significance a resource consent application lodged by The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited to establish and operate a salmon farm, north of Cape Lambert, Marlborough

Having had regard to all the relevant factors, pursuant to section 142 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), I consider that the application for resource consent to establish and operate a salmon farm ('the matter'), north of Camp Lambert, Marlborough by The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited is not, or is not part of, a proposal of national significance and therefore I will not call in the matter.

In making this decision, I have sought and obtained advice and recommendations from the Environmental Protection Authority. I have also considered the views of the local authority, Marlborough District Council, including its capacity to process the matter, and the views of the applicant, The New Zealand King Salmon Co. Limited.

My reasons for this decision are as follows:

I recognise that the application is the first open ocean aquaculture application and covers a large application area. However, I consider the proposed activity is not significant on a national scale. Therefore, I consider that the matter is not, or is not part of, a proposal of national significance.

Relevant factors set out in section 142(3)(a) of the RMA

Aspects of this proposal which I consider may invoke the factors listed in section 142(3)(a) are:

- *Factor (iii) Affects or is likely to affect a structure, feature, place, or area of national significance*
I consider the application may have visual effects on the environment within an area of high coastal natural character and in close proximity to an outstanding natural character area. However I consider this would not be of such significance to elevate the proposal itself to be one of national significance, particularly given the distance of the proposed application offshore.
- *Factor (vi) Involves or is likely to involve technology, processes, or methods that are new to New Zealand and that may affect its environment*
The application seeks consent for open ocean aquaculture with the flexibility to use technology that would be new to New Zealand. Whilst this factor may be of relevance, I consider it would not be of such significance to be considered as a matter of national significance.

On balance, I consider these factors are not of such significance for the matter to be considered a proposal of national significance, nor do I consider there are any other factors that may be relevant which would make the proposal, or part of it, a proposal of national significance.

Dated at Wellington..... this 12th..... day of December..... 2019



Hon. Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation