

From: Mark Preece
Sent: 21 Jul 2020 12:37:59 +1200
To: Claire Frooms-8094
Subject: PRP feedback on reef report
Attachments: PRP 2020 Comments for the Reef Monitoring Report of 2019 final.docx

Hi Claire

Please see the attached. I will send to Cawthron and the TWP.

thanks

From
Mark

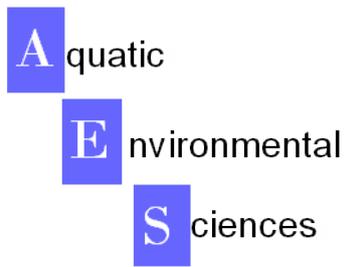
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Mark James, Aquatic Environmental Sciences Ltd
Peter Longdill, Groundswell Science & Consulting Ltd
Shaun Ogilvie, Eco Research Associates Ltd

Review date 17.07.2020

Peer Review Panel Comments on the report “Reef Environmental Monitoring Results for the New Zealand King Salmon Company Ltd Salmon Farms: 2019” (Cawthron Report 3513). “Client draft”.

General Comments:

1. The report includes results from reef monitoring associated with the following farms:
 - Tory Channel / Queen Charlotte Sound
 - Clay Point (CP)
 - Te Pangu (TP)
 - Ngamahau Bay (NB)
 - Pelorus Sound
 - Waitata Reach (WR)
 - Kopaua (Richmond Bay, RB)
2. As the Peer Review Panel (PRP), our comment and review focusses on those farms where we have a defined mandate and scope, i.e. the Ngamahau, Waitata, and Kopaua farms. We are not mandated to make comment on the Clay Point and Te Pangu farms.
3. The report is fit-for-purpose and generally meets the requirements in the Adaptive Management Plan.
4. Looking at the PCO analysis results presented in Figures 26, 27 & 28, it appears that there has been a clear directional change in intertidal communities, that has occurred across all (i.e. farm and reference) sites. While we concur that there is no evidence of differences between the farm and reference sites (Box 3, page 57), we wonder if there might be any explanation for the overall directional change across all sites.
5. However, it would also be worth noting the implication of the “% of total variation” of the data set which is analysed/explained by the PCO analysis (which is ~ 16-30% across the various analyses), and that conclusions should be considered in that context – i.e. the PCO conclusions are applicable to a minor component of the data.

6. Recommendations for the future monitoring in 2020 (e.g. page 60). We agree with the recommendation that monitoring continue at the NB, WR and RB sites but only when the feed levels are stabilised and fully utilised.
7. We note the “poor health” of sponges due to filamentous algae and diatoms and assume that there is no additional work/assessment required at this stage as it appears to be at both farmed and reference sites.
8. P27 – note that other sites such as Waitata have also shown increasing abundance etc as is noted for Pelorus Sound (last para).
9. P38 para 2. Suggest need to be a bit careful saying that an increase in a population at one farm but a decrease at another shows not farm related. It could be one site is showing farm-related effects and the other isn't. Suspect conclusion is correct just the wording.
10. Figures 23-24 etc could benefit from saying which sites are reference ones.
11. P58, para1 – Agree the work contribute sot wider understanding but need to ensure the focus remains on what is needed for compliance with conditions and doesn't become focussed on the wider understanding.
12. Considering that due to equipment failure and COVID these '2019' surveys were actually undertaken during Feb 2020, and July 2020, is there really value in surveying again so soon in November 2020?
 - a. It would be useful for Cawthron to provide a recommendation on that, which may be to delay/postpone the November 2020 survey until November 2021.
 - b. Some sections of the report (e.g. page 59/60) would benefit from a clear terminology or description when referring to the originally planned November 2020 survey. At present it feels strange reading a report which describes surveys performed in Feb and July 2020, referring in a future tense to 2020 surveys.
13. One element that has become a perennial issue is the assessment of mauri. The PRP questioned in earlier reviews whether mauri had been appropriately considered in the MEM-AMP. In regard to the 2018/19 MEM-AMP (and stated again last year) we noted that the *“TWP (Tangata Whenua Panel) were keen to have an iwi monitor person on board during the scientific surveys, to undertake a Cultural Health type Index. Mauri is the health of the waterway and the environment as well. The existing method of monitoring will partially fulfil this, but also need a suitably qualified Mauri person to do this.”* It appears that this hasn't been able to happen?

We are aware that there have been attempts to bring together the TWP to discuss suitable approaches to mauri assessment. We also understand that time-series video footage is available of reef transects at site(s) of noted importance to the TWP. We suggest that dialogue is continued with the TWP about whether review of the video footage could serve as a surrogate means to assess potential changes in mauri at the reef sites. We consider that deciding on suitable methods to take mauri into consideration is at the discretion of the TWP. They may see value in the video footage, or they may prefer to be there in person

during the surveys. They may also be happy to review the findings in this report as they are, and feel comfortable making a call on mauri. Either way, it seems there remains a need to further explore potential approaches, and agree with the TWP on a suitable way forward.