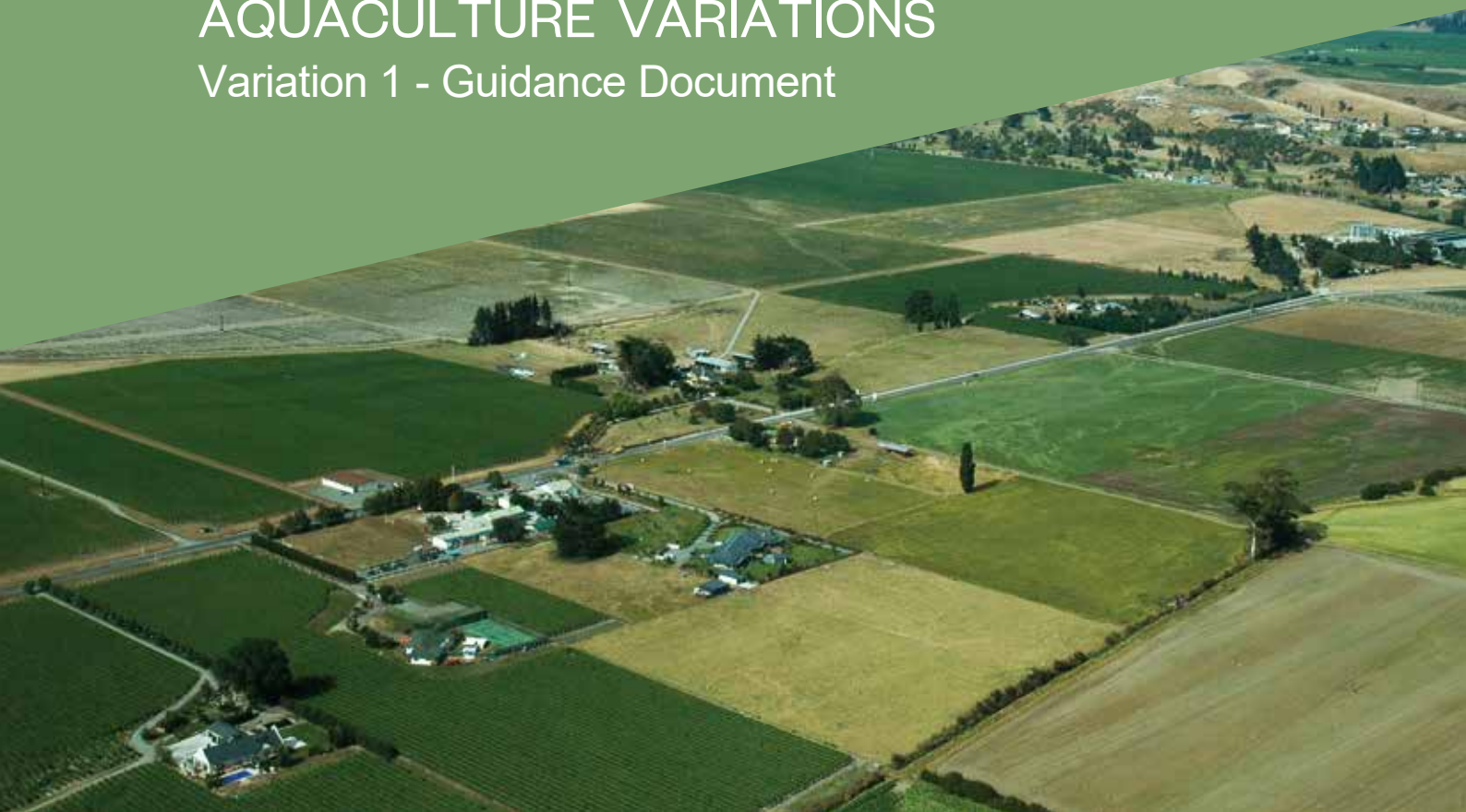
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROPOSED

MARLBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT PLAN

AQUACULTURE VARIATIONS

Variation 1 - Guidance Document



The Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan and Variations 1 and 1A.

What is the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan?

The Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan is the new resource management document for the Marlborough district. It is a combined regional policy statement, regional coastal plan, regional plan and district plan that was publicly notified in June 2016. Submissions have already been received on the Plan, hearing of submissions has taken place and a decision was publicly notified in February 2020. The decisions are now subject to appeal. The Plan will eventually replace the current Marlborough Regional Policy Statement, Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, and the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan.

Why variations to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan?

The aquaculture provisions were removed from the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan before it was publicly notified in 2016, so that the provisions could be further reviewed. The Council did not consider that the draft provisions gave full effect to Policy 8 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. The review has now been completed and the variations are a result of the review process.

Variation 1 and 1A each have their own guidance document.

Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming

This is the main variation. It adds provisions to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan that contains objectives, policies and rules about how marine farming activities will be sustainably managed in the Marlborough district. Variation 1 mainly addresses longline farming like mussels, oysters, and seaweed. It also divides the sounds into small Coastal Management Units and Aquaculture Management Areas to make things easier to talk about.

Proposed Variation 1A: Finfish Farming

This variation specifically addresses finfish farming in the district. Finfish farms would be managed by the objectives, policies and rules in the proposed aquaculture provisions.

We recommend reading the Proposed Variation 1 guidance document alongside Proposed Variation 1A. Variation 1A relies on certain provisions in Variation 1, and builds upon the core aquaculture framework.

WHAT IS PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING?

Variation 1 to the Proposed Marlborough Environment plan contains objectives, policies, methods and rules about how marine farming activities (for example mussel, oyster, and seaweed farms) will be sustainably managed in the Marlborough district. Marine farming is an important economic activity in the district, and we need to protect its long-term and sustainable future. The aquaculture industry needs confidence and certainty about where they can operate and develop. Communities need assurance that marine farming's effects on the environment will be managed alongside the other things that are valued in the district.

Groups that helped us develop the aquaculture provisions

The Marlborough District Council developed Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming with significant input from the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group, who in turn received advice from the Technical Advisory Group. Details on those working groups appear later in this document. The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group used the following guiding principles which set the scene for how we would like to see aquaculture managed in the district:

- Maintain the same level of aquaculture in the inner (enclosed water) Sounds
- Move marine farms seaward to improve access and restore foreshore euphotic zone health (the upper layer of a waterbody that receives enough sunlight to enable photosynthesis)
- Relocate farms where necessary to reduce effects on other coastal values
- Provide future capacity for marine development outside the enclosed waters (open water) of the sounds, guided by Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan policies and values

The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group reported back to the Council in July 2019, including recommendations and a draft variation. There was one dissenting view presented and another member expressed a concern.

The Council acknowledges and appreciates the time and commitment of the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group members. They've worked on this project for over two years, and we wouldn't have made it to this point without their hard work, knowledge, and energy.

NOTE FOR READERS

This guidance document talks about a lot of different 'proposed' concepts. To make this document easier to read, we often shorten these terms (while acknowledging they are still proposed concepts):

TERM	SHORTENED TO
Proposed Geographic Unit	Geographic unit
Proposed Aquaculture Provisions	Aquaculture Provisions
Proposed Coastal Management Unit	Coastal Management Unit
Proposed Aquaculture Management Area	Aquaculture Management Area
Proposed Coastal Management Zone	Coastal Management Zone

WHAT DOES PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING DO?

- Divides the sounds into 45 Coastal Management Units. A Coastal Management Unit is a geographical unit based on catchments, key features, and values.
- Identifies Aquaculture Management Areas - areas appropriate for marine farming within the Coastal Management Units.
- Encourages existing marine farms to move away from the foreshore euphotic zone, while staying within the Aquaculture Management Areas.
- Prohibits new marine farming outside Aquaculture Management Areas, in the enclosed water Coastal Management Units.
- Supports research to establish appropriate environmental baselines and to manage the effects that aquaculture activities have on these baselines.
- Encourages research and development of open water marine farming and manages it with resource consents in the open water Coastal Management Units.

GEOGRAPHIC UNITS FOR THE AQUACULTURE PROVISIONS

PROPOSED COASTAL MANAGEMENT UNITS

We divided Marlborough's coastal marine area into geographic units called Coastal Management Units (Figure 1). Our goal was to develop meaningful parcels of land and water that could be easily understood and discussed and have aquaculture policies and rules easily applied to them. The Coastal Management Unit boundaries are therefore open to change following submissions from the public.

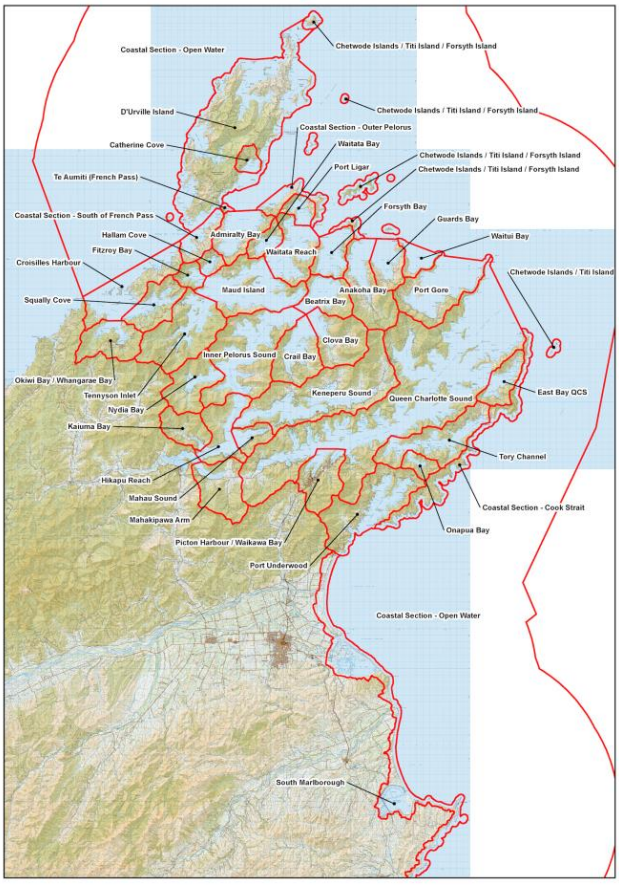


Figure 1 - Coastal Management Units, Marlborough District

How did we decide on Coastal Management Unit size and shape?

The size and shape of each Coastal Management Unit is based on catchments, key features, and values. We used a standard set of criteria to divide the sounds: we started at the large scale and progressively divided the region into smaller and smaller parts, before fine-tuning the individual Coastal Management Unit boundaries. Here's the criteria used:

Large scale

- Coastal natural character areas
- DOC biogeographic zones
- Landscape units as defined in "Natural Character of the Marlborough Coast: Defining and Mapping the Marlborough Coastal Environment" (Boffa Miskell et. al., June 2014)
- National Transportation Routes

Medium scale

- Underlying geography to define catchment areas
- Marlborough Shellfish Quality Programme catchment units
- Patterns of existing development
- Runoff potential
- Land zoning and land cover
- Water depth and flow patterns (to define the Coastal Management Unit seaward boundaries)

Small scale

- Final adjustments based on whether each Coastal Management Unit contained values that varied enough from neighbouring areas to treat it differently

In the open water, when close to the coast or offshore islands, the area within 500 metres from the shore is considered to be near-shore waters and is treated as a separate Coastal Management Unit.

Values

The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group identified a consistent set of values for the sounds. The characteristics of the values were identified and recorded in detail for each Coastal Management Unit as follows:

Value	Characterised by
Natural character	Outstanding landscapes, absence of marine farming
Ecological	Significant marine sites, benthic habitat, mammals, seabirds, conservation land
Social	Landscape, amenity, public access, heritage, settlement areas
Economic	Production, employment, processing facilities, farm-tourism, commercial fishing
Navigation	Safe navigation, safe anchoring, public access
Iwi	Areas of cultural or spiritual significance, archaeological sites, customary commercial sites, regional agreements

PROPOSED AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Using the values as a guide, the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group identified Aquaculture Management Areas (Aquaculture Management Areas) within each Coastal Management Unit that are appropriate for marine farming. Aquaculture Management Areas are generally located between 100-300 metres from the shore, instead of the current 50-200 metre limit for marine farms. Figure 2 is an example Aquaculture Management Area configuration. Existing marine farms will be given priority allocation within the Aquaculture Management Areas, and when necessary they will be encouraged to move seaward or to more appropriate locations.

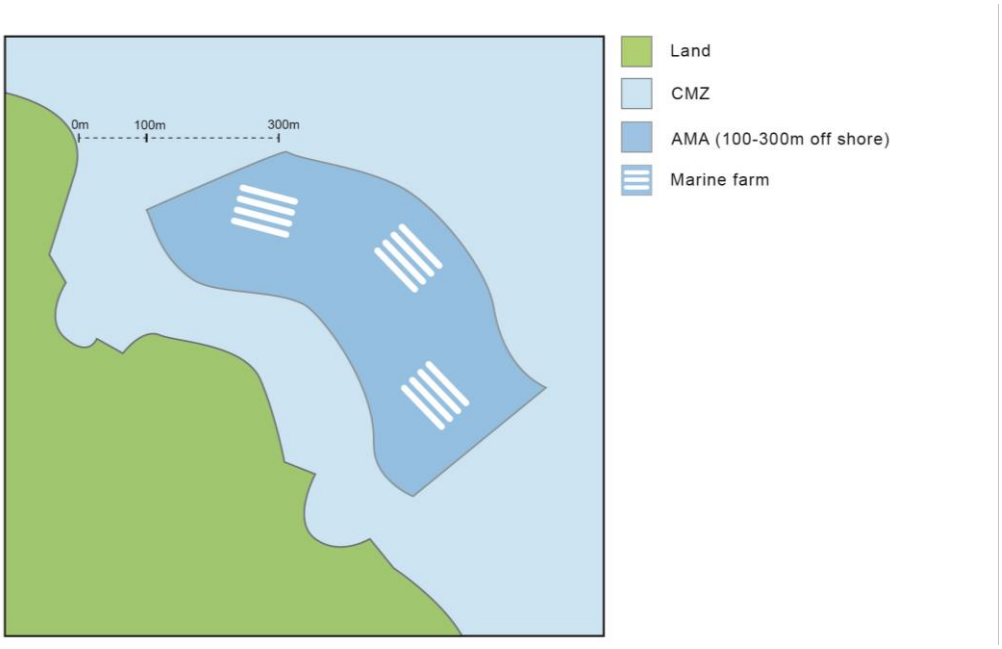


Figure 2 - Example Aquaculture Management Area (AMA) configuration

How did we decide where to locate Aquaculture Management Areas?

The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group located the Aquaculture Management Areas using these general principles:

- Where appropriate, move marine farms to 100–300 metres from the mean low water mark (MLWM) (most farms are currently between 50–200 metres from the MLWM). Moving farms seaward will prevent shading in shallow areas and restore biodiversity to the foreshore euphotic zone. This seaward movement also creates a 100-metre corridor between farms and the MLWM facilitating improved public access to the foreshore.
- Avoid 'double parking' marine farms, where one is seaward/in front of another.
- Move marine farms away from beaches and jetties to increase amenity.
- Avoid making navigable boat routes less than 200m wide. Narrow routes can result in speed restrictions.
- Avoid moving marine farms near reefs and Ecologically Significant Marine Sites, to manage effects as required by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- Move existing marine farms away from Outstanding Natural Landscapes and areas of Outstanding Natural Character (as identified in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan), if necessary, to manage effects as required by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Exceptions were made to the Aquaculture Management Area principles but only if it resulted in sustainable outcomes. For example, in Port Underwood most of the Aquaculture Management Areas mirror the existing marine farm locations. Moving those existing farms would have greater impacts on sea floor life and navigation than leaving them where they are. Another example is Anakoha Bay, where moving farms away from the foreshore would narrow the navigable channel into the bay.

WHAT CHANGES WILL PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING MAKE?

Current plans: **Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan (MSRMP)** **Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan (WARMP)**	**Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan**
Under the MSRMP Three Coastal Management Zones: **CMZ1** • New marine farms are prohibited activities • Existing marine farms with a current Coastal Permit, Marine Farm Lease, Licence applied for before 1 August 1996, or authorised by a new Coastal Permit, are controlled activities • Marine farms listed in Appendix D of the MSRMP are discretionary activities **CMZ2** • New marine farms located 50-200 metres from the MLWM are discretionary activities • New marine farms located *closer* than 50 metres, or *further* than 200 metres, from the MLWM are non-complying activities • Existing marine farms with a current Coastal Permit or current Marine Farm Lease or Licence applied for prior to 1 August 1996, or	One Coastal Management Zone (CMZ). 45 Coastal Management Units which divide the sounds into unique parcels based on catchments, key features, and values. Aquaculture Management Areas (Aquaculture Management Areas) within the Coastal Management Units. Most Aquaculture Management Areas will be between 100-300 metres from the MLWM. • Within Aquaculture Management Areas, existing marine farms (using conventional longline structures or intertidal racks) are a controlled activity • Within Finfish Aquaculture Management Areas, existing finfish farms are a restricted discretionary activity • Outside of Aquaculture Management Areas, but within enclosed water Coastal Management Units, marine farms are a prohibited activity • In open water Coastal Management Units, marine farms are a discretionary activity The council is considering adopting the

authorised by a new Coastal Permit, are controlled activities • Marine farms listed in Appendix D of the Plan are discretionary activities **CMZ3** • This zone was created as a result of the New Zealand King Salmon Private Plan Change (Plan Change 24) and several concurrent applications • Marine farms are located at three sites (Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond) as a result of the *Board of Inquiry* hearing • Marine farming shall be limited to the species King Salmon and is a discretionary activity **Under the WARMP:** One Coastal Marine Zone (CMZ) - Mean High Water Springs to 12 Mile Limit **CMZ** • Any marine farm is a discretionary activity	"authorisation allocation" methodology, where existing marine farming activities will be allocated authorisations for coastal space for the same total backbone or oyster rack length as the existing consented marine farm. Farms with authorisations can then apply for resource consent.

Activity status definitions

Controlled activities require a resource consent. As long as an application complies with the district or regional plan conditions, councils must grant controlled resource consents. There is a limit to the kinds of conditions the council can include on a resource consent.

Restricted discretionary activities require a resource consent. Councils assess the actual and potential effects of the application against a specific (restricted) set of criteria and decide whether to grant consent, which can include conditions (on the specified matters of discretion).

Discretionary activities require a resource consent. Councils assess the actual and potential effects of the application and decide whether to grant or decline consent, which can include conditions.

Non-complying activities require a resource consent. Applicants must establish that the adverse effects of the application will be minor or that the activity will not be contrary to the relevant plan or proposed plan. The council has full discretion to decide whether to grant or decline consent.

Prohibited activities are not allowed.

WHAT DOES PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING MEAN FOR NEW AND EXISTING MARINE FARMING?

What does Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming mean for existing marine farms?

Existing farms can operate in their current location until they need an authorisation and a new resource consent. Existing farms will then be given priority for space in the Aquaculture Management Areas. Replacement consents will be assessed as controlled activities if the applications are for the same area, number of lines, and backbone length.

When the Aquaculture Management Area boundaries are finalised, some farms may need to move lines seaward, and some may need to relocate. The council will work with those farmers on a case by case basis. Existing marine farms can move into the Aquaculture Management Area with the same number of lines and same line spacing. As the controlled activity rule is currently proposed, marine farmers won't be able to increase their line spacing or add more lines without further consent (Figure 3).

Moving marine farms seaward could possibly result in an increase in production. For example, mussel farm dropper lines (the lines that mussels grow on) could be longer in deeper water. However, longer dropper lines usually require shorter backbone lines to enable deeper anchoring, so it's also possible that production would not increase.

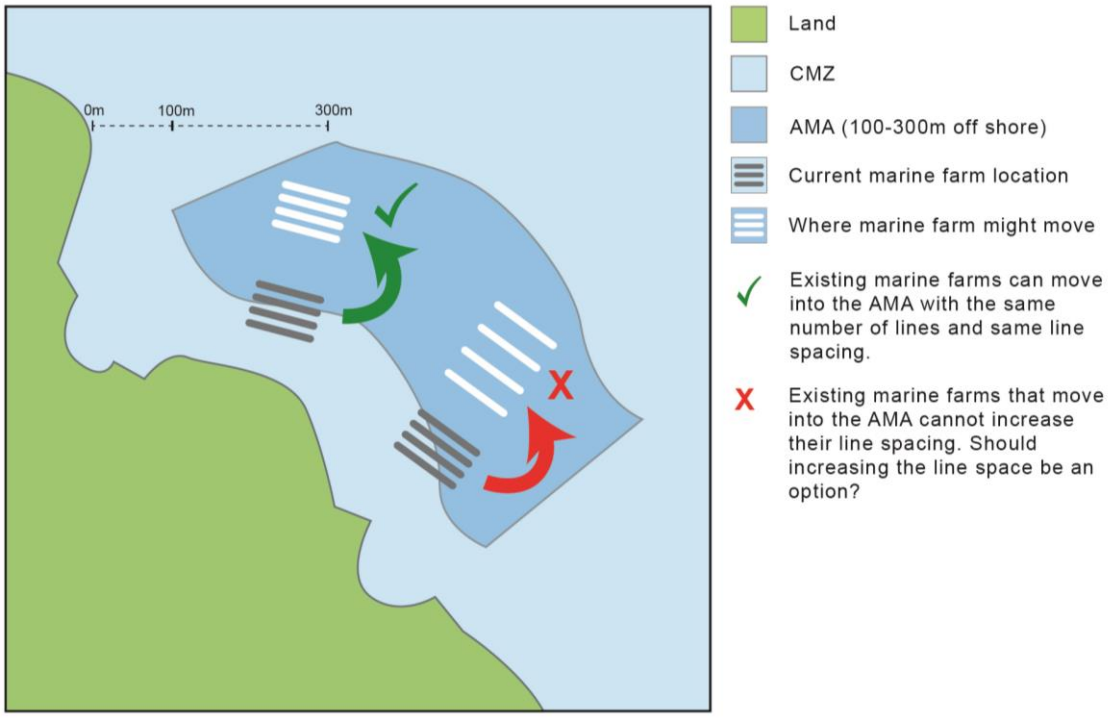


Figure 3 – Example mussel farm movement into an Aquaculture Management Area (AMA)

What does Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming mean for new marine farms in enclosed water Coastal Management Units?

We and the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group believe that the enclosed water Sounds are at, or approaching, full capacity for marine farms. It is therefore not appropriate to add new marine farms beyond what the Aquaculture Management Areas will accommodate. Anyone wanting to establish a new farm in an enclosed water Coastal Management Unit would need to apply for a plan change to create a new Aquaculture Management Area.

Creating new space for aquaculture within the enclosed water Sounds was not in the scope of the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group, so Proposed Variation 1 does not propose any new space beyond the Aquaculture Management Areas that cover existing farms.

The exception to this is Draft Variation 1B: Apex Marine Farm. Draft Variation 1B was developed outside of the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group's work. It is a separate variation that proposes a new Aquaculture Management Area in Onapua Bay. You will be able to read more about Draft Variation 1B: Apex Marine Farm in a similar guidance document, once Council has finished consulting on this variation.

What does Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming mean for offshore (open ocean) marine farm applications?

The proposed aquaculture policies and rules make the marine farm application process a little bit easier for offshore marine farms than the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan (MSRMP, the old plan) does.

- Under the MSRMP, the open ocean is zoned CMZ2 and marine farming is a non-complying activity.
- Under Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, offshore marine farming (in an open water Coastal Management Unit) is a discretionary activity.

The open water coastal area does not contain many existing farms. There is potential for new technologies and new types of farms in the future though, so some development flexibility is necessary. However, we've identified these as discretionary activities so we can manage the open water coastal area carefully, only allowing farming there when we are confident it won't adversely affect community or environmental values.

Up until now, applications to establish offshore marine farms (for example New Zealand King Salmon's application U190438) were not affected by the Proposed Aquaculture provisions. Now that Proposed Variation 1 has been notified the provisions have legal effect, which means that any application for an offshore marine farm (in the open water CMU) will be assessed as a discretionary activity.

Will the Ministry for Primary Industries' salmon relocation process be affected by Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming?

In early 2017, the Ministry for Primary Industries released a proposal for relocating Marlborough Sounds salmon farms. This included shifting six of New Zealand King Salmon's farms from low flow areas to higher flow areas, which would decrease their environmental impacts.

The proposed aquaculture provisions will not affect the relocation proposal, because that is a separate proposal run by the Ministry for Primary Industries. It is still in progress and awaiting a decision by the Minister.

Authorisation vs Allocation: How will the council prioritise space for existing and new farms?

Existing farms need to access their existing, adjacent, or relocated space. There are a few ways to do this:

Option 1 – The Resource Management Act allows us to allocate marine farm space through an 'authorisation' process. Marine farms must first apply for authorisation, and resource consent can only be applied for by those with authorisation. This two-step process is easy to administer and means the allocation of space can be earmarked before the resource consent application is made. The allocation of authorisations would be firmly based on policies in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan. The Resource Management Act assumes the authorisations will be tendered. We wouldn't intend to do that, but would offer allocation to existing users on a 'grandparenting' basis (that their future allocation is based on their past use).

Option 2 – We could put allocation tables (that set out which marine farms can apply for which space in the Aquaculture Management Areas) in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan and debate the pros and cons with industry and community submitters at the proposed aquaculture provisions hearing. This allocation table idea may cost more time and money than option 1, but debating allocation in public would increase transparency.

Option 3 – We could put rules in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan for every different type of marine farm allocation situation. This is the most complex option and loopholes are a risk, which would decrease certainty and confidence in the plan.

We are most attracted to Option 1 because it is easy to administer and is the least costly option. Policies in Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan would guide our allocation decisions, so the public and industry will know in advance what criteria we would use to allocate marine farm space.

WILL PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE FARM EFFECTS ON ECOSYSTEM HEALTH?

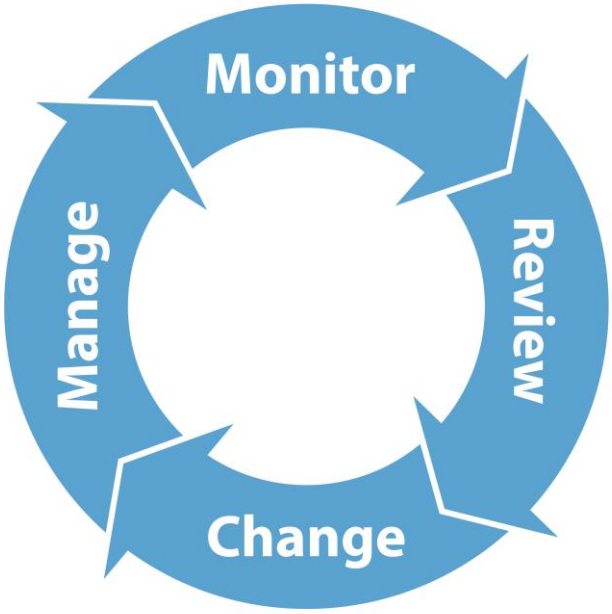
The marine farming provisions of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan were developed with the advice and feedback of the Technical Advisory Group. There isn't much data available

right now to help us understand how marine farming may affect marine ecosystem health, so long-term data collection on the state of marine ecosystems will be necessary.

The Technical Advisory Group identified several indicators of a healthy marine ecosystem. The key indicator for benthic (sea floor) habitats is *total free sulphides*. The Variation contains monitoring and adaptive management requirements, including regular sulphide monitoring at control and farmed sites. If sulphides are low, that indicates a healthy benthic (sea floor) environment. If they are high, the benthic environment isn't healthy. That triggers more monitoring and can require a farm or group of farms to manage their operations to reduce the effects.

The Technical Advisory Group identified several pragmatic indicators for understanding water column effects, such as Chlorophyll-*a*, particulate carbon, and particulate nitrogen.

There is not enough long term data on the above indicators, and therefore it is not possible to include an adaptive management regime for water column effects at this time. Council is undertaking monitoring of chlorophyll-*a*, particulate carbon and particulate nitrogen, with the intention of the data collected informing an adaptive management regime in the future.



Examples of other data we're collecting before the next plan review

Council and Land Information New Zealand recently commissioned habitat and sea floor mapping in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound, collecting data throughout the water column. Multibeam echo sounder mapping technology will produce 3D seabed habitat maps. The maps will show both the structure and composition of the seabed and the locations of marine farms. A similar survey for Pelorus/Te Hoiere has been completed but the data is yet to be processed.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUNDS?

Will Proposed Variation 1: Marine Farming cover other activities that affect coastal habitats?

Sedimentation can have significant effects on the seabed and water column. It can smother habitats and kill and displace marine invertebrates, shellfish, and algae. Activities like earthworks which result in runoff can contribute to excess sedimentation in the sounds. Activities that disturb the sea floor can destroy habitat.

The Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan therefore contains policies and rules that control those activities and aim to prevent adverse effects on the seabed and water column. We will continue to do further research into the causes and consequences of sedimentation. Research will include seabed coring, reviewing scientific literature, and using historic aerial photos to identify changes in land use.

WHAT DOES VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING MEAN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

Prohibiting marine farms outside of the Aquaculture Management Areas will give some certainty to the community that another aquaculture expansion won't happen in the enclosed waters of the Sounds without public input. The proposed aquaculture provisions also acknowledge the range of non-farming values that people have for the sounds, including recreation, ecology, landscape and cultural heritage.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Hang on, isn't that Aquaculture Management Area wider than the current allowable width for marine farming? Doesn't that mean there is more area available for aquaculture? I thought you said there would be the same amount.

A. An Aquaculture Management Area shows the space available. The scale of the marine farm is limited by a rule in the proposed provisions that requires existing farms to have the same number of lines as they currently do, even if they move into an Aquaculture Management Area. A wider area will give marine farmers some flexibility to determine the best layout, and to relocate lines from less suitable areas. However, if the marine farmer proposes additional lines or increases the spacing of existing lines, they will not have the benefit of the controlled activity. These proposals will considered as a restricted discretionary activity and a discretionary activity respectively.

Q. If marine farms within Aquaculture Management Areas are controlled activities (the council must grant controlled resource consents), does that mean I can't have my say about mussel farms in my neighbourhood?

A. For the most part, yes. The Resource Management Act prevents limited or public notification of controlled activity status applications unless special circumstances exist. This is reflected in the

proposed provisions of the Variation, where resource consent applications for controlled activities will be considered without public notification or limited notification.

It is for this reason that it is important to have your say about the proposed Aquaculture Management Areas. If you support or oppose an Aquaculture Management Area(s), it is important to make a submission to inform us why.

Q. Isn't there already too much mussel farming in the sounds?

A. The council doesn't have definitive evidence either way. We know that the Sounds are in a poor state as evidenced by low fish stocks and the state of benthic (sea floor) habitats. We also know there are many stressors like excess sedimentation, sea floor disturbance and fishing pressure. There may be some environmental benefit to mussel farming, like filtering sediment and nutrients, and creating shell reef habitats. However, we and the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group do believe the enclosed water of the Sounds are at, or approaching, full capacity for marine farms.

The aquaculture industry believes that no significant adverse environmental effects have been observed from mussel farming. People representing the Keneperu community on the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group are concerned about what they believe are cumulative effects of marine farms in the sounds, including depleted phytoplankton and zooplankton. We feel we don't have enough data yet.

See the section in this document called 'WILL PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE FARM EFFECTS ON ECOSYSTEM HEALTH?' for information about our data collection plans. For some ecosystem health indicators, we will need several years' worth of data to identify the trends. For other indicators, the trends may be easier and faster to see so we can act more quickly. For example, if the data shows negative impacts, we can decrease the level of marine farming. If the data shows no negative impacts, we may be able to allow more marine farming in the future. We can't make a call on that right now, but the monitoring programme will make sure we have better information for the next environment plan review (which is in about 10 years, or earlier if we think it is necessary).

Q. What about Māori interests – aren't iwi entitled to 20% of any new space created?

A. What we are proposing could technically be considered new space for marine farming because it's different to the currently occupied areas. However, we don't intend for any *additional* space to be occupied by marine farms. We intend to work with the current space set aside through treaty settlement legislation for iwi. Whether our aquaculture variations create a new settlement obligation under the legislation is a discussion between iwi and the Crown.

Areas already set aside for iwi through treaty settlement processes are identified as Aquaculture Settlement Areas in the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, and only the relevant iwi can apply for a resource consent in that space.

Q. What about the National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture (NESMA)? Has this now all become obsolete?

A. National Environmental Standards are consistent planning requirements for specified activities and land uses across the country. The National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture sets out several rules around managing marine farming. The NESMA comes into effect on 1 December, 2020, and as a result, the aquaculture variations have been written to be consistent with the NESMA.

The NESMA allows most replacement consents for existing farms to be processed as non-notified, restricted discretionary activities. The NESMA also says we can set more lenient rules for existing marine farms that are applying for replacement consents. It also says that we can set more stringent rules in areas where aquaculture is identified as 'inappropriate'.

In the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, we propose that existing marine farms should be controlled activities within Aquaculture Management Areas. So, our policies and rules are slightly more lenient in some circumstances than the NESMA.

Outside mapped Aquaculture Management Areas (other than in the offshore CMU), we propose that new or existing marine farms are 'inappropriate' and should be prohibited activities. Outside AMAs our policies and rules are more stringent than the NESMA.

Our goal is that the future of the aquaculture industry and where it operates in the sounds should be decided by our communities through the Marlborough Environment Plan review process, not by central government.

BEHIND THE SCENES – HOW PROPOSED VARIATION 1: MARINE FARMING WAS DEVELOPED

We created the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group to help us work through the marine farming issues, along with a Technical Advisory Group. Iwi groups were consulted separately and invited to give us feedback at any stage.

The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group was made of council officers and elected members, and a range of government, and industry representatives:

- One representative from Fisheries New Zealand (a business unit of the Ministry for Primary Industries)
- One representative from the Department of Conservation
- Two representatives from the Sounds Advisory Group
- Up to two representatives from the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents Association
- One representative from Sanfords Limited
- One representative from Talleys Fisheries Limited
- Up to two representatives from Marine Farming Association
- One representative from Aquaculture New Zealand
- One representative from the Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust
- One MDC staff member - Pere Hawes
- Councillors Trevor Hook and David Oddie

The working group received expert advice from:

- A lawyer
- A consultant planner
- A landscape architect
- A scientific technical advisory group made up of marine scientists from MDC, NIWA, Cawthron Institute, Department of Conservation, Aquaculture NZ and Ministry for Primary Industries

The group received administrative and other technical support (like Geographic Information Systems) from the Marlborough District Council.

Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group process overview

The working group was tasked with:

- Reviewing and potentially modifying the proposed Coastal Management Unit boundaries and locations
- Reviewing and helping develop the values table for each Coastal Management Unit
- Providing feedback on the proposed objectives, policies, and rules in the aquaculture provisions

Their goal was to:

- Establish a planning framework for the aquaculture provisions that is effective and efficient
- Improve efficiency in the consenting process for existing marine farms
- Provide increased certainty for industry and communities about where marine farming will occur and ensure that sustainability matters are met.

The working group agreed in principle to the Coastal Management Unit boundary allocation methods and to using Aquaculture Management Areas (Aquaculture Management Areas) to define where and how marine farming can occur in the Sounds. The working group also agreed to use a values table to inform the planning framework for each Coastal Management Unit. Information that explains the processes the Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group followed to make the Coastal Management Units and the values tables is available from the council if you want it.

The Marlborough Aquaculture Review Working Group was not tasked with reviewing any other provisions in the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan that had already been notified.

We clarified that the group was not tasked with reviewing the space allocated for salmon farming. This was, to an extent, being dealt with through the MPI salmon relocation process.

The working group met 16 times between February 2017 and June 2019. They considered every part of the coastal marine area, Coastal Management Unit by Coastal Management Unit, and looked at the natural and human-use values for each one. This level of scrutiny helped the working group identify what changes (if any) needed to be made to the proposed aquaculture provisions, so they could allocate the most appropriate spaces for marine farms in each Coastal Management Unit.