



OIAD-3372

Doccm-7432242

25 September 2023

Patrick Shonakan
McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka
ps@mcguinnessinstitute.org

Tēnā koe Patrick

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 28 August 2023, in which you asked the following:

Question 1:

We understand that DOC and New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1998 regarding the Ruakaka farm in the Queen Charlotte Sounds (Marlborough Sounds). We believe that this agreement may be part of negotiations to resolve appeals on an earlier proposed Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan. Can you please provide a copy of the actual agreement and any relevant correspondence on the matter, before and after 1998?

Question 2:

Can you also advise if DOC have entered into any other Memorandums of Understanding with NZKS? If yes, please provide copies of the agreements and/or any relevant correspondence.

Question 3:

Have any agreements been discussed between DOC and NZKS but not signed? If yes, please provide what marine farms these relate to, the approximate dates, and the purposes of these discussions.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
Whakātu Nelson Office
Private Bag 5, Nelson 7042,
www.doc.govt.nz

Our responses to your questions are listed below:

1. *Can you please provide a copy of the actual agreement [Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998] and any relevant correspondence on the matter, before and after 1998?*

DOC and New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Ruakaka farm in the Queen Charlotte Sounds in December 1998. This was related to negotiations to resolve references (appeals) by both parties in respect of the Proposed Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan.

I have decided to release this document in part (see table below).

With respect to your request for *any relevant correspondence on the matter, before and after 1998*, I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information you seek, and this part of the request is refused pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act: that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have borne in mind sections 18A and 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of these provisions would not assist in this case.

For context, the step of establishing whether there is any relevant correspondence would require searching a large number of archived files relating to references on the Proposed Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan, and other files relating to marine farming in the Sounds. However, if there are any more specific topics or types of correspondence you would like to see, or if you would like to discuss matters relating to the Memorandum of Understanding, please get in touch.

2. *Can you also advise if DOC have entered into any other Memorandums of Understanding with NZKS? If yes, please provide copies of the agreements and/or any relevant correspondence.*

New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited and DOC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2010 regarding support for environmental enhancement projects in the Marlborough Sounds. The Memorandum of Understanding ceased on 1 January 2016 and has not been renewed. We believe that this is the only other Memorandum of Understanding that has been entered into between DOC and New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited.

I have decided to release this document in part (see table below).

We have not identified any recorded correspondence in our systems that relate to the MOU any other documents related to this Memorandum of Understanding or actions that have arisen from it.



3. *Have any agreements been discussed between DOC and NZKS but not signed? If yes, please provide what marine farms these relate to, the approximate dates, and the purposes of these discussions.*

We have not identified any other agreements that have been discussed between DOC and New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited but not signed.

The following documents are therefore being released.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	2 December 1998	Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Conservation and New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited	Released in part
2	8 December 2010	Memorandum of Understanding between New Zealand King Salmon Company Limited and Department of Conservation	Released in part

I have decided to release the documents above subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact [REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]