

Subject: OIA 2024/07: Oceans Secretariat, marine protection and finfish farming
Date: Thursday, 4 April 2024 at 10:45:57 AM New Zealand Daylight Time
From: Wendy McGuinness <wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
To: [REDACTED]
CC: Patrick Shonakan <ps@mcguinnessinstitute.org>
Attachments: image001.png

Attention: Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries of New Zealand

Dear Minister,

Our OIA 2023/04: Oceans Secretariat and marine protection

The McGuinness Institute is a think tank based in Wellington, New Zealand. One of our research areas is our ocean ([Project OneOcean](#)). Given the change in Government, I was hoping you might answer the following questions.

Oceans Secretariat

Question 1: Can you clarify if the Oceans Secretariat is still operating? We understand it was established in June 2021.

Question 2: If yes, can you provide their operating report (no doubt an annual report of some kind) and any information on its agenda and work programme?

Question 3: Does a Oceans Secretariat website exist? If yes, please provide. If not, can you advise how we might contact the Secretariat to learn more about their work?

Marine protected areas

Question 4: The Institute is aware of the *Marine Protected Areas: Classification, protection standard and implementation guidelines* document published in 2008 by DOC and the then Ministry of Fisheries ([see here](#)). Can you advise if there is an updated guideline and where we might find it? In addition, are there any plans to update this guide in the near future? If yes, can you advise who is undertaking this work and how we might contact them (e.g. ideally the department name and the name of the specific team understating this work)?

Question 5: The Institute is also aware of a consultation document titled *A new Marine Protected Areas Act: Consultation document* published by MfE in 2016 ([see here](#)). Can you advise what has happened to this consultation process?

Question 6: Can you advise if any work is being undertaken to replace the existing Marine Reserves Act 1971?

Question 7: Can you advise if the Government is working on any plans and/or processes for protecting 30% of New Zealand internal waters and territorial waters by 2030, as noted on the New Zealand page of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) website (found [here](#)) and the MFAT website (found [here](#))? If yes, please explain.

Question 8: The National Party, as part of its oceans policy, recognised the need for an Oceans

Commission to advise the Government on strategies for sustainable ocean management and to foster relationships between the Crown, iwi and other stakeholders (See The National Party [Blueprint for a Better Environment](#), p. 9.) As the Minister for Oceans, is the establishment of a Commission envisaged in the next three years? Please explain.

Salmon farming

Background: We have completed a submission to MPI on ‘the Proposal’ to extend farm consents by 25 years. See submission [here](#). The addition of another 25 years to existing marine farm consents is concerning given many farms already have outdated environmental controls. However our major concern is the finfish farms. Are you aware that there are only 7 finfish farms that expire in the next 12 months and all of these can be extended without public consultation under current law? Councils are the only party that can change these conditions – and they are likely to simply want to standardise the environmental conditions based on the latest scientific evidence (which in our view makes sense). Please note the other five finfish farms have very long expiry dates – the earliest being 2036 (see Table 1 from our submission below).

Question 9: Can you confirm that you are aware that this is the legal situation for these 7 finfish farms that are about to expire?

Question 10: Given the legal situation, is there any consideration being given to excluding finfish farms from the MPI Proposal?

Question 11: Given that there is no public consultation obstacle to these finfish farms being extended, can you explain why these finfish farms require the proposed 25 year extension?

Question 12: Has any work been done in terms of setting national or local coastal occupancy charges (i.e. requiring finfish farmers, such as NZKS, to pay Councils for the use of water space, to help recover costs)?

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or points of clarification.

Thank you again for your time.

Kind regards,

Wendy

Wendy McGuinness

Chief Executive

McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka

Level 1A, 15 Allen Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 24-222 Wellington 6142

[+64 4 499 8888](tel:+6444998888) | www.mcguinnessinstitute.org

The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future, contributing strategic foresight through evidence-based research and policy analysis.

Disclaimer: This email is intended only to be read or used by the addressee. It is confidential and may contain legally privileged information. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to such person), you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone, and you should destroy this message and kindly notify the sender by reply email. Confidentiality and legal privilege are not waived or lost by reason of mistaken delivery to you.

Table 1: Current state of consented marine farms in New Zealand by type of farm
 Source: Adapted from Table 4.1: NZKS salmon farms – By the numbers in *Discussion Paper* (p. 19).

Total finfish farms			
Found in Saltwater: Marlborough Sounds, Akaroa (Christchurch), Stewart Island Found in Freshwater: Aoraki/Mount Cook			
	Farms 'about' to expire (in 2024 or 1 Jan 2025) Note: these farms can be reapplied for without public consultation provided application is received 6 months before expiry ¹²	Farms to expire a lot 'later' (in 2036, 2049 and 2057)	Total finfish farms
	7 (expiring in 2024 or on 1 Jan 2025, see endnote for more details) ¹³		
		2 (NZKS's Sites expiring in 2036 8407/8408)	
		2 (NZKS's Sites expiring in 2049 8632/8634)	
		1 (NZKS's Blue Endeavour expiring on 10 December 2057) ¹⁴	
Total 'about' to expire	7 (0.58%)		
Total to expire 'later'		5 (0.42%)	
(i): MPI's total (as per the Proposal)			
(ii): NABIS total (as per the NABIS website) ¹⁶			