

## **NZ Aquaculture Council submission**

TO: Brian Ashton, Cost Recovery Manager,  
MFish, PO Box 1020, Wellington.  
& by email

FROM: NZ Aquaculture Council

DATE: 25 February 2005

RE: Statement of Intent & Business Plan (Cost Recovery Services)

---

Dear Brian

Thank you for the MFish consultation on Fisheries Services proposals.

This is the submission of the NZ Aquaculture Council Inc on Proposed Services, especially for the 2004/05 year, as well as key issues for consideration.

**1/ We support the submission of SeaFIC**, noting its focus on the more generic points related to the Proposed Services. We highlight as follows;

### **Proposed additional services for 2005/06**

1. As a general comment in response to the proposed additional services, SeaFIC notes that while we support the content of many of the proposed initiatives (as outlined below), insufficient information has been provided for us to form a view on whether the initiatives require additional funding, or can be funded through more efficient use or reallocation of existing levels of funding within the Ministry.

### **Aquaculture reforms**

2. SeaFIC recommends that the Ministry's responsibilities for implementing the settlement provisions of the aquaculture law reform should be explicitly linked in the SOI with the new capability for facilitating sector economic development. In other words, the Ministry's responsibilities with respect to the settlement should be discharged in a manner which, so far as possible, enhances the overall economic performance of the aquaculture sector.

**2/ MFish Dialogue is Welcomed.** We note the commitment that the implementation of the reforms is at the Crown/MFish's cost.

We thank MFish for its engagement with our industry to work thru the details of how best to implement the details of the reforms re such matters as Registry and also on Reporting/Record-Keeping issues.

We note in particular that our industry is currently contemplating whether we should seek that the Aquaculture Registry should best be kept under MFish (who have done an excellent job) or under another agency, such as FishServe. We are in dialogue with MFish (NB Dave ODea)

---

### **NZ AQUACULTURE COUNCIL INC.**

Chairman Callum McCallum ph 021 786 113  
Administrative Secretariat Roberta & Venice ph 03 578 5044, PO Box 86, Blenheim.  
Executive Secretary Tom Hollings ph 09 378 7001, PO Box 90906, Auckland.

on that and we request that MFish progress its current work on reforming the Register with these issues in mind.

**3/ Costings & Allocation;** We comment that;

- We note that the year had started with an Annual Charge of \$185.01 per consent (by some 1250 consents is ~\$232,000+gst). We note that the 1 April order is to be \$164.16 + gst (~\$205k) for the annual charge. Presumably there will be a credit there. We ask for a closer involvement in advance, with how these costs/charges within Aquaculture are to be budgeted and allocated, plus a clear consideration of any overs and unders.
- We note that the functions of MFish re Aquaculture are in a state of flux. We suggest that the currently separate systems of cost recovery for services that are either; provided by Cost-Recovery or by Transaction charge funding, especially with the move to a single class of consents called authorisations, be reviewed with a view to establishing a coordinated system. Ability to allocate charges per authorisation or per farm-consent or per ha all need consideration.
- We note that MFish will be quite unlikely to charge in future for research on marine farming altho DOC may well still have that intention. 'Fair cost recovery' of such DOC research could be quite problematic if there was not a capacity for targeted-per-ha cost recovery from the Aquaculture Sector.

**4/ Commendable;** We commend MFish for reviewing the hourly rate and the rationalisation of the hourly rate of \$202 per hour downwards by ~ 1/3.

Thank you for the consultation including this opportunity to make a submission.

We welcome your contacting us to discuss any of these matters.

We welcome MFish's close dialogue as we move thru the many issues to consider as we transition through the implementation of the reforms.

Thanks & regards

Callum McCallum  
Chairman  
NZ AQUACULTURE COUNCIL