

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

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Dear Steve

KCSRA Comments and Observations – The History of Benthic Change in Pelorus Sound (NIWA Report 2015)

As discussed in the **attached** memorandum, the Association's Marine Subcommittee thought the above NIWA Report was surprisingly skewed in some areas. Accordingly, we decided to offer some balancing comments from the perspective of an informed local community group.

In particular, we believe the Report shows:

1. An unfortunate limited degree of community consultation with other than those from marine farming backgrounds.
2. An apparent unwillingness to look beyond 2007 and acknowledge the impending demise of a Marlborough Sounds commercial wild shell fishery (scallops), notwithstanding NIWA's pivotal role in the "management" of that fishery.
3. A reluctance to quantify the impact on the benthos from the deposition of bio deposits from mussel farms even though published scientific reports quantify the same as being in the range of 250-400 tonnes per hectare of farm per annum.
4. A reluctance to discuss the potential impact of concentrated mussel farming in low-flush bays on the water column.
5. A blinkered industry-centric approach to the work by Zeldis by seemingly overlooking the fact that if mussel farms are experiencing up to a 25% yield decline due to restricted food sources, then so too must the indigenous ecological community dependent upon

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the water column for the same food source.

6. That the limits of growth for mussel farming in the Pelorus Sound have been reached and that the industry needs to focus its efforts on the development of larger scale farms in less sheltered and higher current locations such as in the Bay of Plenty, Pegasus Bay and Tasman Bay if the industry wishes to meet its aspirational growth targets.

Finally, in our view, the above and the attached memorandum underline the need for there to be independent and expert scientific peer review of such a report in order for the community to have the appropriate degree of confidence in the findings.

As indicated previously, the Marine Subcommittee would be happy to discuss this memorandum and related marine farming issues with you by way of a joint telephone conference call.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Caddie

Chair
Marine Subcommittee

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