

# Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Hon S. Nash  
Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
**Wellington**

*Andrew Caddie*  
*President KCSRA*  
*C/- PO Box 5054*  
*Springlands*  
*Blenheim 7241*  
*email: president@kcsra.org.nz*  
*WWW: kcsra.org.nz*

12 May 2019

## **Salmon Farming – Unsafe anywhere in the Pelorus**

Dear Minister

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association.

The Association has been reading with interest the recent announcements from King Salmon – once again high summer and autumn sea temperatures have lead to massive salmon mortalities in King Salmon farms.

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to hold firm against the increasingly desperate spin from King Salmon in arguing for more farm space in the Pelorus. Unfortunately for them the empirical data does not support their rosy vision/aspirations.

### **Background**

In 2012 at the Board of Inquiry (BOI) hearings King Salmon witnesses made it clear that of the three critical factors for successful salmon farming sea temperatures below 17 degrees Celsius was **top of the list**.

Accordingly, we were stunned to see that King Salmon's own evidence showed sea temperatures in the Pelorus routinely exceeded this threshold. Sadly the BOI placed little weight on this. Bear in mind this was against a background of news of a serious mortality event at King Salmon farms in the Pelorus.

Given the difficulties we experienced in extracting information from MPI on the 2012 salmon mortalities we decided to do and publish our own research<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly it was no surprise to the Association to learn of the 2015 mortality event. Nor the findings of the resultant MPI report

<sup>1</sup> KCSRA June 2016 Paper "Salmon Mortality in the Pelorus –Why?"  
[http://kcsra.org.nz/documents/salmonFarmMortality/160604\\_KCSRA\\_Paper\\_-\\_Salmon\\_Mortality\\_in\\_the\\_Pelorus\\_-\\_Why.pdf](http://kcsra.org.nz/documents/salmonFarmMortality/160604_KCSRA_Paper_-_Salmon_Mortality_in_the_Pelorus_-_Why.pdf)

---

#### **Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Andrew Caddie  
Tom Wright  
  
Stefan Schulz

president@kcsra.org.nz  
vicepresident@kcsra.org.nz  
secretary@kcsra.org.nz  
treasurer@kcsra.org.nz

around the discovery in the mortalities of two hitherto unknown (to NZ) pathogens.<sup>2</sup> Stressed fish attract pathogens.

## The Salmon Advisory Panel process

Then we had the new push by King Salmon/MPI in 2017 for new space. This time the public process was via a Salmon Advisory Panel.

Again we participated. Again we pointed out the obvious around sea temperatures, disease and mortalities. Unfortunately the Advisory Panel airily shrugged this off on the basis that no empirical evidence existed to point to rising sea temperatures<sup>3</sup>.

## Latest Mortality Spikes

When we became aware of the 2108 mortality spike we sought the details from MPI and in particular how the two new high flow “cool” BOI sites in the Pelorus were faring. Regrettably this information was not forthcoming. Commercial sensitivity.

King Salmon argued, of course, that 2018 was a one off abnormal event. However, reality is no respecter of King Salmon spin.

We **attach** a sea temperature graph that we maintain from Marlborough District Council data<sup>4</sup> showing what happened this summer. Again in 2019 we have reports of another serious mortality spike.

## Conclusion

Minister we appreciate that you are under real pressure from King Salmon to grant them more space in the Pelorus whatever the longer-term environmental cost. The harsh reality is that the Pelorus is not a “cool” water area. As a result of normal sea temperature patterns **there is nowhere** in the Pelorus that is a safe place for salmon farms. We urge you not to grant any further space to King Salmon in the Pelorus.

If you would like to discuss this matter further we would be pleased to meet with you in Wellington.



Robert Cochrane  
President

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association

Email: [president@kcsra.org.nz](mailto:president@kcsra.org.nz).

c/- PO Box 5054, Springlands, Blenheim 7241

---

<sup>2</sup> Intelligence Report – NZ-RLO & T.maritimum 2015 response – MPI Technical Paper No. 2017/39 - May 2017

<sup>3</sup> See Chapter 7 page 119 of the “*Report and Recommendations of the Marlborough Salmon Farm Relocation Advisory Panel*” - May 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Note - we receive the temperature data from MDC every two months

# Temperature records 2013 - 2018 for Pelorus Entrance and Tory Channel

Data supplied by Marlborough District Council

