

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Hon David Parker

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Tene koe Minister

King Salmon Mortalities – Unsustainable Practices - RMA Reform

I write in my capacity as President of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association and in the context of your office's press release of 8 February on the above topics.

By way of background, I note that the Association has a membership of more than 300 full or part-time residents and takes an active interest in a range of local and community matters.

Of particular interest to members is the preservation and enhancement of the diverse environmental values making up the unique and iconic marine space of the Sounds.

To this end, from 2012, the Association has actively participated - via the democratic process - in the public review of schemes by New Zealand King Salmon to increase its intensive fish farming operations in the Sounds. See our website www.kcsra.org.nz for further details.

Since 2012 we have tried to bring to the authorities attention that the adverse the sea temperatures in the Central Pelorus Sound would only result in more and increasing levels of fish mortalities and increase the risk of new diseases among the unfortunate fish. We have been proved right.

There have been many hundreds of tonnes of dead salmon dumped at the Blenheim landfill over the months of December and January of this summer (approx 600 tonnes). This is a pattern now being repeated year after year and is unacceptable.

Accordingly we support your efforts to deliver a planning system that, among other things, attempts to set environmental standards that ensure more sustainable practices. The current system is clearly not achieving this with respect to King Salmon operations.

We are also heartened to see you refer to the need to ensure a fair return to New Zealanders for the use of our precious marine space for marine farming. The lack of a capital charge or an on-going annual rental is an astounding oversight of the current system. As can be seen in

the Sounds, it encourages the industry to take excessive risks with the environment and supports a “devil take the hindmost” attitude when marine farmers seek new marine space.

However, we are a little concerned that your officials appear to be suggesting to you that acquiring small new areas in better-located space can solve King Salmon’s problems.

The latest application by King Salmon is for over 10 million square metres of marine space off Cape Lambert. This is massive. It also totally overlooks the fact that the adverse thermoclines generated by the Tasman Sea are the same that are causing their Pelorus fish farms so much predictable grief which, incidentally, King Salmon are not suggesting they give up as some sort of quid pro quo.

Minister, I and a few members of my marine sub committee would like to have the opportunity to meet with you, when your busy schedule permits, to discuss why the Sounds is not suitable for large scale aquaculture operations and why sustainable alternatives must be considered.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Caddie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Caddie

President Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents’ Association