The Aquaculture Round Table Report
Callum McCallum
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Aquaculture Round Table – Scope

“to determine the role and needs of aquaculture in the Gulf, including impacts and benefits”
Participants

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- James Hendra
- Willie Lochore
- Harry Mikaere
- Barry Weeber
- Hamish Hey
- Keith Woodley
- Alan Proctor
- Raewyn Peart
- Dirk Sieling
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- Katrina Goddard
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Aquaculture in the Gulf

**Mussels: 30,000 tonnes from 1480 ha**
- mostly in the Wilson Bay zone (1106 ha)

**Oysters: 1400 tonnes from 210 ha**
- mostly in Mahurangi Harbour (108 ha)

**Fish: zone created but no farms yet**
- 300 hectare Coromandel marine farming zone
- 90 hectares within the Wilson Bay zone
What it does...

**Produces healthy food**
- growing global demand for nutritious food

**Creates jobs**
- direct employment of over 700 FTEs

**Contributes to the economy**
- adds $59 million to GDP
- supports other sectors: charter boats, tourism, restaurants, service industries
What it does...

**Shellfish farms filter the water**
- extract nutrients by feeding on phytoplankton

**Farm structures create habitat**
- ‘artificial reef’ effect provides food and shelter

**Monitors the environment**
- ‘canary in the mine’

**Supports the recreational fishery**
- many fishing spots are mussel farms
Example – Revive our Gulf

OUR VISION

• A Hauraki Gulf enhanced with restored seabed mussel reefs, healthy ecosystems and a natural biodiversity of marine life.
What it needs...

**Good growing water**

- clean, nutrient rich, sheltered, suitable depth

**Land based infrastructure**

- landing facilities, shore depots, transport links

**Supportive regulatory environment**

- certainty for business planning and investment
Challenges...

Managing potential adverse effects

- ecological effects
- landscape and natural character

Minimising conflicts with other users

- boating and commercial fishing

Effects can be avoided or minimised by locating farms in suitable locations and by applying good farming practices
The Round-Table’s Vision

‘Prosperous aquaculture that positively contributes to the health and wellbeing of the people and environment of the Gulf’
Desired outcomes

• thriving sector supports the communities
• healthy environment is maintained
• farms are environmental sentinels and contribute to restoration
• conflicts over use of space are minimised
• add to knowledge of the state of the Gulf
• certainty for planning and investment
• flexibility to innovate and diversify
• a variety of scales of aquaculture
Recommendations

Maximise benefits

- Develop a 3-tiered regulatory framework:
  - **enable** where benefits will be maximised
  - **restrict** where it is not suitable
  - allow consideration **case-by-case** in other areas

- Identify the areas where it should be enabled

- Ensure community and social benefits occur
  - prioritise those with strong links to communities
  - ensure regulation doesn’t prevent small operations
Recommendations

Maximise benefits

• Recognise ecological benefits
  • in the regulatory regime
  • provide for mussel reef enhancement and restoration

• Encourage innovation and research
  • provide for research and innovation in the regulatory regime
  • promote development of a research centre
  • use Aquaculture as an education opportunity

• Coordinate monitoring

• Reduce risks to aquaculture
Recommendations

Locate where:

• benefits will be maximised
• biophysical conditions are suitable for farming
• it does not impact on ecologically significant areas
• Away from areas where it will adversely affect outstanding natural character, features or landscapes
• it will not conflict with popular high use areas
Recommendations

Frameworks and guidelines

• Consistent regulation across the Gulf

• Recognise the value of investment
  • provide certainty about process and outcome in the regulatory regime
  • encourage increased production from existing farms

• Alternative allocation approaches
  • allocate space to operators that will maximise the benefits
Recommendations

Frameworks and guidelines

• Develop robust guidelines
  • navigational safety
  • biosecurity
  • adaptive management approaches

• Develop nationally consistent approach to abandonment

• Monitoring of strategic issues
  • good baseline data
  • consistent metrics
  • transparency
Aquaculture:
• is a growing sector
• has positive benefits for people and the environment
• has potential adverse effects that can be managed through good location and good farming practices
• can contribute much more to the people and environment of the Gulf
End of Report

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In partnership with mana whenua
and the following agencies:

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park
Ko te Pataka kai o Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Waikato Regional Council
Te Iti Hau-Rangi Rūmeanu

Auckland Council
Te Haunui a Pātea