

FORM 13 SUBMISSION ON APPLICATION

Important Note:

Please ensure that all sections of this form are completed and that the Northland Regional Council receives this submission before the closing date and time specified on the notification.

To: Consents Department
Northland Regional Council
Private Bag 9021
Whāngārei Mail Centre
Whāngārei 0148

For Council Use Only

1. Submitter's details

Full Name Yachting New Zealand
Address for Service PO Box 91209, Victoria Street West,
Auckland Post Code 1142
Contact Person Andrew Clouston
Telephone (09) 361 4021 Fax (09) 360 2246
Mobile (027) 4 Email andrew@yachtingnz.org.nz

2. Application to which submission relates

Name of Applicant Westpac Mussels Distributors Ltd.
Proposal (activity type and location) 125ha farm at Stephenson Island
NRC Application Number CON20112937101

3. Attendance and wish to be heard at consent hearing

- I/we **do not** wish to be heard in support of my submission
(This means that you will not be advised of the date of the consent hearing and cannot speak at the hearing. However, you will still retain your right to appeal any decision made by the Council.)
- I/we **do** wish to be heard in support of my submission
(This means that you wish to speak in support of your submission at the consent hearing.)
- If others make a similar submission, I/we will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing

4. General nature of submission (tick one box)

- I support the application I oppose the application I am neutral regarding the application

5. The specific parts of the application this submission relates to are:

- The whole application (tick box), or the following parts of the application:

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

6. My submission is *(give details)*:

See attached

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

7. I seek the following decision from the Council

To grant consent

To refuse consent

If Consent is granted, the conditions I seek are:

Note: *You do not have to suggest conditions, particularly if you seek that consent be refused.*

The size of the farm be reconsidered to allow for shared use of the eastern bays to allow for sheltered anchorage.

Substantial Markings (Lights, Buoys and Markers) are used to mark the boundaries of the farm. Especially on Points "B" and "D" so the farm is visible in all conditions.

Substantial Bond to be posted to cover the removal of all structures and return the environment to it's pre-farm state when the farm outlives it's use.

Terms and conditions appropriate to control the set up and management of the farm to protect the environment.

(Attach additional sheet if necessary)

8. Request for independent commissioner(s)

Pursuant to section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, I request that you delegate your functions, powers, and duties required to hear and decide the application to one or more hearings commissioners who are not members of the Council.

Note: *If you make a request under section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991, **you may be liable to meet or contribute to the costs** of the hearings commissioner or commissioners. You may not make a request under section 100A of the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to an application for a coastal permit to carry out an activity that a regional coastal plan describes as a restricted coastal activity.*

9. Signature

I/we have served a copy of this submission on the applicant
(This is required by section 96(6) of the Resource Management Act 1991)

Signature:* Andrew Clouston
(Person making submission, or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission.)

Date: 11 / 11 / 2011

Note: **A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.*

Submission to the NRC on Westpac Mussels Distributors Ltd. Application for a 125ha Mussel farm at Stephenson Island, near Whangaroa Harbour (CON20112937101)

6. Yachting New Zealand opposes this application.

Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) is the national sports organisation (NSO) which represents 31,000 members in 123 yacht clubs from Taipa in the north to Bluff in the south – also affiliated are 50 class associations and 40 maritime associations. Many boaties are involved in both power and sail driven activities.

The reasons we opposed this application are as follows:

- The size of the farm is too large. The proposed farm would take up almost the entire easterly bays of Stephenson Island preventing any other boating users from accessing these bays for recreation or safety.
- It should be noted that marine farms have an influence over a wider area than their immediate footprint. For example, it is illegal for example vessels to empty holding tanks within 1 kilometre of a marine farm. Whangaroa Harbour is already very restricted as to where holding tanks can be emptied. This farm would further restrict activities in the area.
- The bay in which the farm is proposed to be located provides sheltered anchorage in Northerly to South South-Easterly winds.
- The entrance to Whangaroa Harbour is narrow and can be a particularly treacherous passage in certain conditions, seven crew of the yacht “Lionheart” perished when their yacht ran aground trying to enter the harbour on June 6 1983 at night in rough weather. The inside of Stephenson Island is the only nearby lee shore where boats who are unable to enter the harbour in these conditions to take refuge and wait till the conditions allow them to enter the harbour. The size of the farm would exclude yachts and other boats from seeking shelter when needed.
- The position of the farm obstructs long recognised navigational paths along the Northland coast.
- Visual pollution impact on an area of natural beauty.
- Northland Regional Council is still working through Plan Change 4 which deals with allocating space for new aquaculture developments.