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Re-Location of King Salmon Marine Farms - Ngāti Koata Recommendations



RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY ANEIKA YOUNG
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Tiakina te Taiao Ltd.

‘Anei ngā mea i whakataukitea ai e ngā tūpuna, ko te kaha, ko te uaua, ko te pakari’

Here are the things valued by the ancestors; it is the strength, the vigor, and the sturdiness¹ .

¹ This whakatauki refers to the importance of ‘Ngā taonga tuku ihu’ the taonga gifted and passed down from the tūpuna, such as the natural resources and wāhi tapu, which are to be protected and safe guarded as taonga.

Executive Summary

The following provides Recommendations provided by Ngāti Koata taken from the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA). The CIA will inform the wider CIA that will be completed at a later date. The following recommendations have been prepared by Tiakina te Taiao on behalf of Ngāti Koata in response to the current proposal to move the King Salmon Marine Farms, four from Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound and two from Totaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound. Tiakina te Taiao represents the following manawhenua iwi: Ngāti Tama manawhenua ki Te Tau Ihu Iwi Trust; Te Ātiawa Manawhenua ki Te Tau Ihu Iwi Trust; Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust; Ngāti Koata Trust; and two Māori organisations: Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust (NRAIT) and Wakatū Incorporation². Manawhenua iwi acquired the lands in the Motueka Tasman District through conquest during the Hekenga migrations and land wars in the 1820's.

² Note: NRAIT was formed via the Ngāti Rārua Ātiawa Iwi Trust Empowering Act 1993 and represents the descendants of the original owners for the Whakarewa native reserve lands in Motueka. Wakatū Incorporation represents approximately 4000 land owners who descend from Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa. Collectively manawhenua iwi have customary rights and responsibilities as kaitiaki of the Wakatū Nelson and Aorere Tasman rohe, recognising the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, wāhi tapu and other taonga.

Ngāti Koata Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made to mitigate any potential effects on the cultural values of manawhenua iwi to the proposed development and in some cases the recommendations require further consultation.

1.0 Meaningful consultation

Ngāti Koata stress the importance of continual consultation and communication with stakeholders involved in the project, to maintain on-going dialogue with Ngāti Koata Iwi Trust regarding any issues, proposed changes in operations, plans and future activities before they are implemented. In relation to the proposed activity it is vital that manawhenua iwi are made aware of the timing around decisions of the marine farms.

2.0 Protecting Wāhi tapu and Taonga

As kaitiaki, Ngāti Koata are responsible for the protection of wāhi tapu and taonga in their respective rohe. Wāhi tapu includes pā sites, ditches, terracing, kōiwi, kumara pits, hangi stones, gardens and modified soils, middens, taonga, artefacts, urupā, battle grounds and waka landing sites, waka routes, kāinga, māhinga kai, taonga species and natural ecosystems of cultural significance. The destruction of wāhi tapu and taonga is not an acceptable practice and Ngāti Koata are not in favor of destroying cultural sites of significance.

3.0 Maintaining the mauri of the moana

The mauri or health of the coastal environment is of immense importance to Ngāti Koata. The area has been severely affected by land use modification, residential, horticulture, forestry and agriculture compromising the health of biodiversity and their habitats. The implementation of further marine farms potentially poses threats to the mauri and health of these coastal marine ecosystems. The mitigation of impacts on the marine environment such as water quality, Bethnic environment. Ngāti Koata would like to see the reduction of marine farms as much as possible within the Marlborough Sounds area. Ngāti Koata fundamentally oppose development of marine farms on wāhi tapu areas and areas of cultural significance such as māhinga kai, māhinga mātaimai and traditional waka routes, therefore less marine farms would help to minimize further loss of cultural integrity. The loss of māhinga kai and māhinga mātaimai has been a huge issue for Ngāti Koata ability to provide kai for manuhiri, inability to be kaitiaki, which has meant Ngāti Koata mana has been

4.0 Implementing Marine Cultural Health Indicators (MCHI)

Ngāti Koata would recommend the application of MCHI cultural monitoring of the new proposed sites to be implemented. This type of monitoring would acknowledge Ngāti Koata values and issues with the marine coastal environment and help to allow iwi participation in the monitoring to ensure the mauri of the moana and marine ecosystems isn't compromised.

Concluding Statements

The recommendations provide an understanding of the significance of Marlborough Sounds to Ngāti Koata, through maintaining and protecting cultural landscapes, wāhi tapu, taonga, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems significant to Ngāti Koata in this area. Ngāti Koata identifies the whole area as a wāhi tapu or cultural landscape and of cultural significance. The Te Ao Māori understanding of viewing the landscape is based on the concept 'ki uta ki Tai' from mountains to the sea, therefore viewing the area as an interconnected whole. In modern times this concept still applies but is complex as a result of a new land tenure system, modification and privatisation of ancestral lands and marine space. The privatisation, modification and development of Māori land and coastal marine space does not remove the kaitiaki obligation to manage and safe guard natural resources and wāhi tapu for future generations and to maintain cultural integrity and identity.

The recommendations made in response to the proposed activities outline Ngāti Koata aspirations for the protection and enhancement of the proposed site. Continual communication and dialogue is a key component of adhering to manawhenua iwi values and priorities and close communication with regards to the impacts and issues is recommended to ensure the area is protected. Ngāti Koata iwi therefore will only support the proposed activity if the recommendations and conditions given are adhered to and that kaitiaki aspirations are honored to ensure manawhenua iwi are included in the consent process. This is with regards to the destruction of wāhi tapu. If this means that plans are to change to take these issues into consideration, then this may have to be an objective. Ngāti Koata wants to reiterate that the Marlborough Sounds coastline is highly sensitive both culturally and ecologically and that development over wāhi tapu is not supported by manawhenua iwi. In this case the aim is to mitigate and cease any disturbance and damage whatsoever to wāhi tapu, taonga and natural resources to maintain the cultural and ecological integrity of the area. The recommendations are crucial for ensuring wāhi tapu and taonga are not damaged.