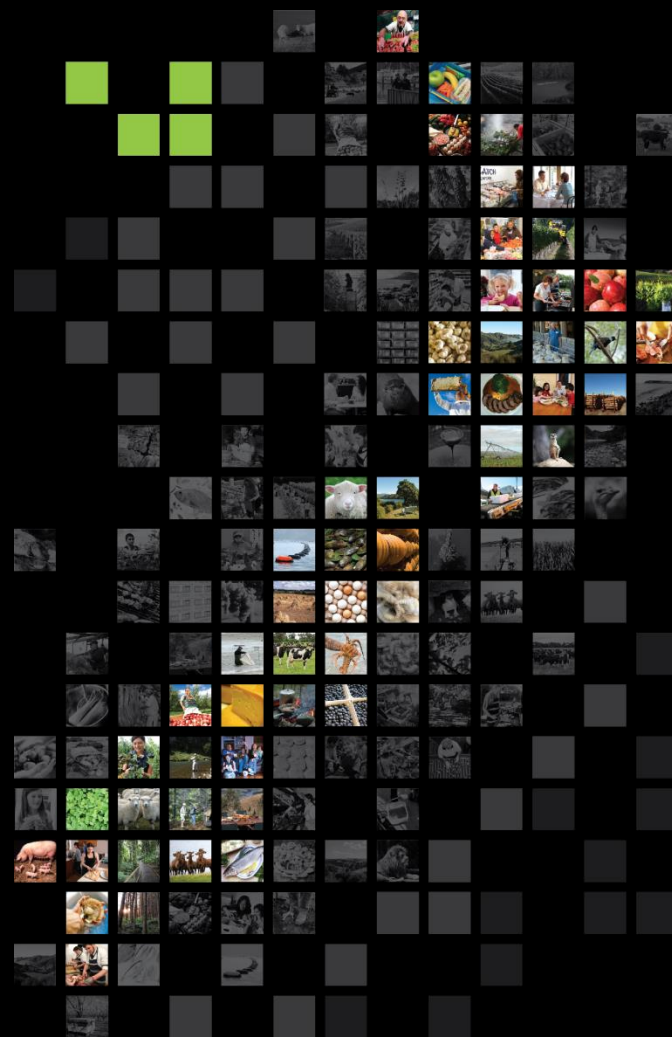


GROWING AND PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND

Marlborough salmon farm relocation proposal



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the Panel at the end of the Public Hearing process.

It has been good to see the community interest and debate that has occurred.

I will reiterate some of the key points of the proposal and clarify some matters raised by the public and iwi authorities

Frances Lojkin our RMA planner is also available to answer questions on the proposed regulations.

The importance of regional growth

Primary industries are essential to New Zealand's future social, cultural and economic growth



But to grow sustainably industries need to be able to adapt to changing environmental standards



Relocating salmon farms to higher flow sites could improve economic, environmental, and community outcomes

Recent reports have suggested regions like Marlborough will struggle to grow. This increases the importance of these types of initiatives. We need vibrant regional economies.



We need to diversify our regional economies and make use of their inherent assets to make them more resilient to future international shocks and recessions.



Salmon farming has the potential to contribute significantly to this region's socioeconomic development.

It is one of the most efficient ways to create animal protein.

Marlborough could benefit from relocating some existing salmon farms to more suitable locations

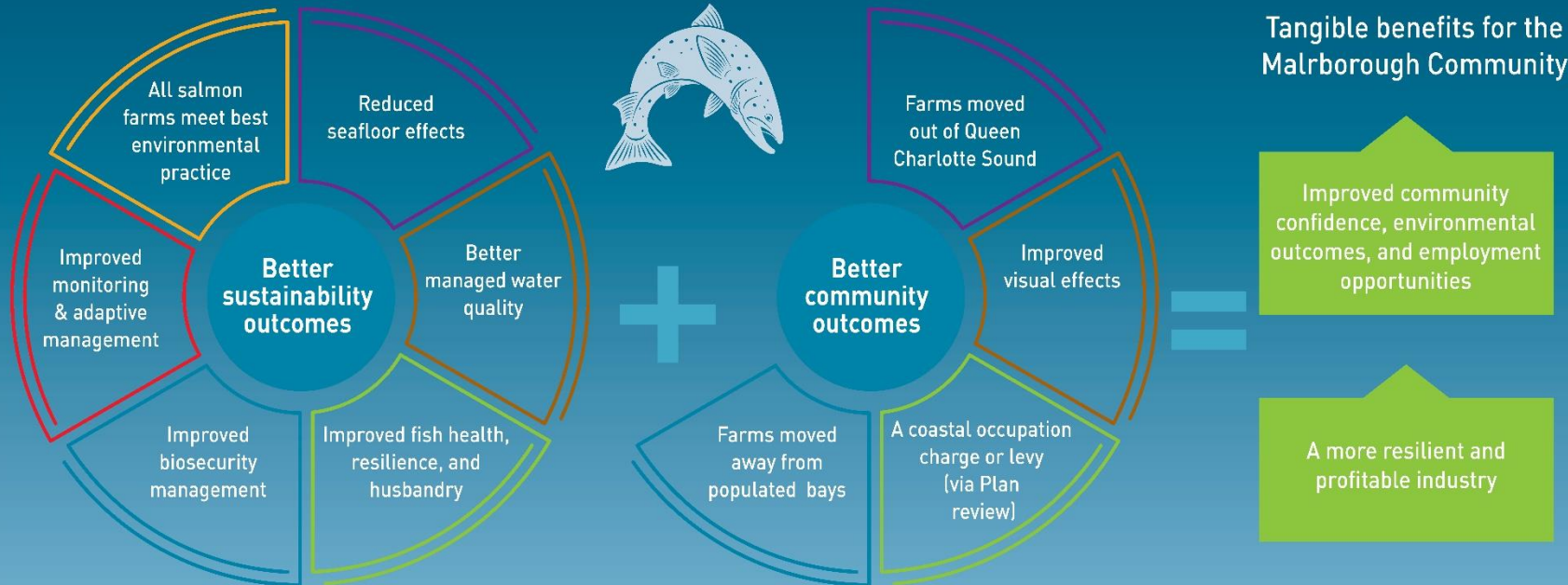
We know more about salmon farming than we did even 5 years ago. We already manage salmon farming to a high standard, but should always try to improve.

New Best Management Practice Guidelines developed by MDC, MPI, community, experts

Forecasted warming sea temperatures

New Hydrodynamic Water-Quality Models developed by NIWA

The benefits of higher flow sites



CONSISTENT CONSENT CONDITIONS

CONSISTENT MONITORING

CONSISTENT MANAGEMENT

Continual environmental improvement

Monitoring technology

Feed efficiency

Waste capture

Future offshore aquaculture

Conceptual framework for developing a vision for salmon farming in Marlborough

Current state
late 1980s to today

Second generation adaption
2017/18 – potential relocation

Third generation adaption
2030 – consideration of offshore if
technology allows

Better environment but
still close to people

Six lower
flow sites

Transition
to
higher flow
sites

Potential
transition
to offshore,
inshore &
land-based

Remediation of vacated
salmon farms

Development of BMP-
water quality standards

Research
Waste capture
Feed efficiency
New species

Reducing competition with other users and values of the coast

Improving environmental performance, monitoring and international reputation

Improving economic performance, husbandry, climate resilience, and biosecurity

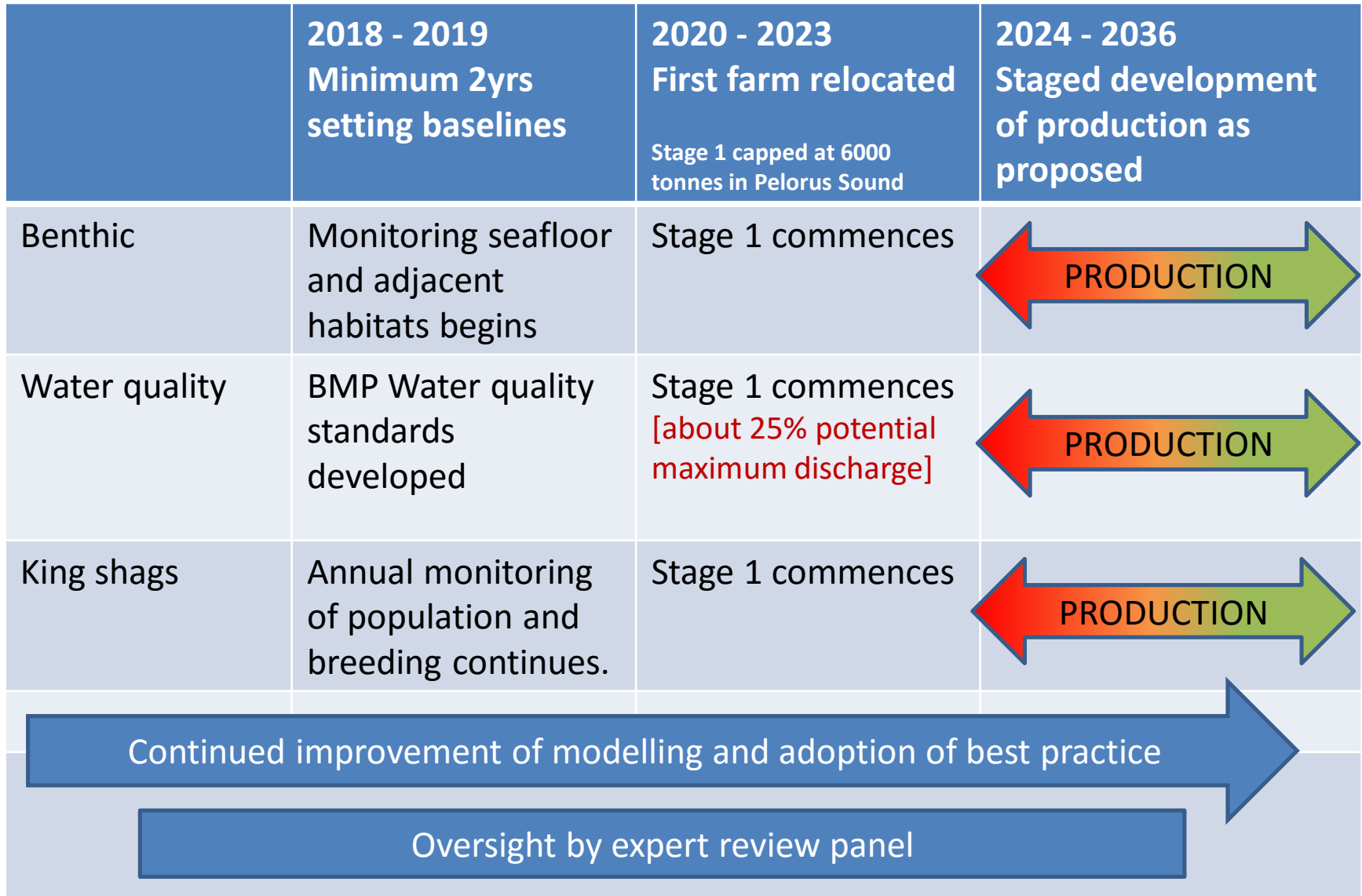
Monitoring and staged development

- Much discussion and debate has focussed on what will happen at the maximum theoretical feed inputs.
- I think we all agree there is uncertainty about the effects of maximum feed inputs into the Sounds.
- The proposal however is to stage development over 15 years with at least 3 years of careful monitoring between stages to ensure the marine environment is protected.
- The maximum theoretical levels may never be reached.
- Monitoring may enable increased production over time, but it may also require that production is decreased if needed.
- Agencies do not support NZKS's proposed changes to staged development and the priority order of relocating of sites.

How monitoring would work

- The **benthic environment** would be monitored in accordance with the BMP benthic guidelines – monitoring of the seafloor and adjacent habitats will begin two years before any farms are relocated to develop a baseline to ensure the benthic standards are met and adjacent marine communities are not adversely affected.
- **Water quality and clarity** – water quality and clarity is already monitored in the Sounds. The introduction of new real time monitoring buoys will increase the frequency of monitoring alongside the techniques already in place. New BMP Water Quality Standards will be developed to guide staged development.
- **King shags** – will be monitored in accordance with the King Shag Management Plan approved by Council under conditions set by the EPA, but expanded to include annual monitoring of both population size and nesting bird numbers. Monitoring occurred in 2015, and will occur in 2018 and 2019; thereby strengthening the baseline before any farms are moved.

Timetable visual



Biosecurity

Experts agree
biosecurity disease and
pest risks are not
increased.

Consent holders will be
required to develop a
biosecurity plan.
Compliance will be
independently audited.

MPI and the
aquaculture industry
are also in the process
of developing a national
biosecurity plan for
salmon farming.

Higher flow deeper sites would result in improved fish husbandry and disease and temperature resilience.

King shags

King shags are vulnerable, but no evidence the population is in decline.

Accepted by NZ Threat Classification System as a stable population.

Relocation should not increase the cumulative effects on King shags

The proposal is to move farms to deeper and higher flow sites less preferred for foraging.

You have heard from Niall Broekhuizen and Ben Knight about water clarify effects at theoretical maximum production.

Changes to water clarity can be monitored with confidence as part of staged development.

New BMP Water Quality Standards would include water clarity monitoring and measures to ensure water clarity is not impacted to the detriment of King shags.

Landscape & natural character

There are wide ranging expert views on landscapes and natural character values and how salmon farming might affect those values.

The two proposed Blowhole Point sites are probably the most controversial.

Under the operative RMA Plan these sites are not in areas identified as outstanding. But, under the proposed Plan they are within the proposed outer sounds outstanding natural landscape and a proposed outstanding natural feature.

Potential sites were chosen as much as possible to be in already modified areas and offshore of existing aquaculture.

The proposed farm circular cage structures are also less intrusive.

The Panel will need to exercise its judgement given the information available.

The Panel needs to consider the scale of the landscapes in question and the values that would be affected by the proposed farms.

Tangata Whenua

You have heard the specific concerns from Ngati Kuia and Ngati Koata.

You have heard the views of Te Atiawa who have an interest in the Tio Point Site in Tory Channel.

Iwi through TOKM's presentation have asked, if you recommend relocation, that:

- BMP water quality standards are developed as soon as possible
- 2 years of baseline monitoring occur at new sites.
- NZKS remediate vacated sites.

These actions can be accommodated into the plan change. NZKS are required by their existing consents to remediate vacated sites.

Iwi have also asked that:

- they are represented on a group established to have a monitoring and compliance role of consent conditions. This suggestion has merit.
- that NZKS look at best practice farming over and above the current standards. Agencies support a process of continued improvement.

In respect to the request Iwi have preferential access to one of the proposed sites, government is looking for a good outcome socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. We would welcome your recommendations on this matter if you see this option enabling an overall better outcome.

Aquaculture settlement regional agreements can be varied to provide space if parties agree.

Iwi have requested that sites are relocated with no increase in production, this is a matter for the Panel's judgement. Government consider increased production should be allowed if sustainable.

Conclusion

The Minister for Primary Industries (Minister of Aquaculture) looks forward to receiving your final report and recommendations.

It may be that there are a number of options for relocation that would each meet the requirements of the RMA.