

# Aquaculture : Frequently Asked Questions

## Why are you consulting again?

After community input from two previous rounds of consultation, we're now in position to put out a final proposal for public submissions.

## What about comments I've already made?

Previous public feedback has led to us making significant changes in our intended approach to aquaculture management, including adding more guidance about factors affecting where AMAs may or may not be established.

## Why is this aquaculture work taking so long?

Although laws governing aquaculture changed some time ago, there are still a number of complex issues which needed to be resolved at a local level by Councils all over New Zealand. In Northland, considerable effort has been spent trying to ensure we have the best result for our unique environment.

## When will Northland see its first new AMAs?

It's unlikely there will be any new Aquaculture Management Areas until at least 2008.

## Why aren't some areas excluded as AMAs?

The approach we're now taking means that there are clear environmental safeguards which will also provide greater flexibility in response to new or improved methods of aquaculture. There's no guarantee that a plan change request will be approved by the Council.

## How will special places be protected from inappropriate marine farms?

Through detailed criteria being finalised through this latest consultation. You can have a say on this.

## What happened to the 'constraints maps'?

These are now called 'use and value maps' and, by ranking the information on them, a second set has also been produced called 'aquaculture evaluation maps'. These maps will be one of the sources of information that Council intends to use to help guide its decision-making. You can comment on these maps as part of the latest consultation.

## How do Maori fit into the new aquaculture regime?

As part of a Treaty of Waitangi settlement arrangement, 20 percent of any new space within an Aquaculture Management Area must go to Maori through Te Ohu Kaimoana. With the 20% area goes a right to also apply for a permit to commence marine farming within that area of the AMA. Tangata whenua who oppose aquaculture still have an equal right to make submissions against proposals.

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### Further information:

- ▶▶ 0800 002 004
- ▶▶ [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)

