4SIGHT CONSULTING

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PIPI RELOCATION PLAN

For Doug's Opua Boatyard

August 2020

REPORT INFORMATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

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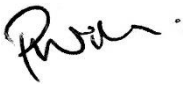
Author:	Dr Pete Wilson Senior Coastal Scientist	
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1 BACKGROUND

Doug's Opua Boatyard (DOBY) is in a small, relatively sheltered embayment known as Walls Bay about 300 m west of the Opua Wharf and Car Ferry Terminal (Figure 1). DOBY is applying for resource consents to make improvements to the boatyard infrastructure. The proposed improvements include:

- reconstruction/remediation of the slipway;
- reconstruction of the wharf;
- using wharf facility berths as a marina; and
- undertaking capital and maintenance dredging.

Figure 1: Location of Doug's Opua Boatyard and nearby key features.

A survey conducted by 4Sight Consulting (4Sight) in March 2018 identified a pipi bed in Walls Bay, south of the DOBY slipway rails (approximate extent of survey area shown in Figure 2).[1] The northern extent of the pipi bed, which has been recorded to include pipi potentially of harvestable size, may be encroached by the removal and replacement of the slipway rails and by the capital dredging (as shown by the blue dotted line in Figure 2). The extent to which pipi may be affected by the proposed works will be dependent on the location of the pipi in Walls Bay at the time of the works. Pipi beds naturally move and their presence in the slipway and dredging footprint would need to be reassessed. The 2018 4Sight survey of the bed suggests a potential for a small area of overlap between the proposed works and the pipi bed (<5% of the pipi bed).

To protect the northern extent of the pipi bed from the dredging, a subsurface erosion barrier has been proposed. This barrier is anticipated to be placed on the north-eastern boundary of the pipi bed so that the pipi should not be affected by the dredge batter.

[1] Wilson, P., 2019. Doug's Opua Boatyard: Ecology and Sediment and Water Quality Assessment. 4Sight Consulting technical report prepared for Doug's Opua Boatyard. 22 p.

In recognition of cultural and recreational values of the bed it is proposed to relocate pipi from within the potential footprint of the works to prevent them being harmed or destroyed. This plan describes the methodology to ensure that pipi relocation is conducted appropriately to maximise their opportunity to re-establish and survive in Walls Bay.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Demarcation of affected area

Prior to works taking place, the extent of the intertidal sediment that will be affected by the slipway remediation, dredging, and installation of the sub-surface erosion barrier should be clearly identified with wooden markers or similar. This will provide a reference point to assess the sediment for the presence of pipi.

2.2 Pipi extraction and relocation

All assessments of the sediment for pipi and the extraction and relocation of pipi shall be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist. The work shall be conducted as close to low tide as possible to ensure that all pipi in the lower intertidal area are included.

The intertidal area in Walls Bay to be assessed for pipi will include:

- Up to 1m from the boundary marked above in 2.1 extending towards the pipi bed;
- All sediment between the boundary marked above in 2.1 and the existing slipway rails; and
- All sediment between the boundary marked above in 2.1 and the water's edge at low tide.

An example of the area of intertidal sediment to be assessed and for pipi to be relocated is shown in Figure 2. The exact area is to be determined on site based on the boundary marked as described above in 2.1.

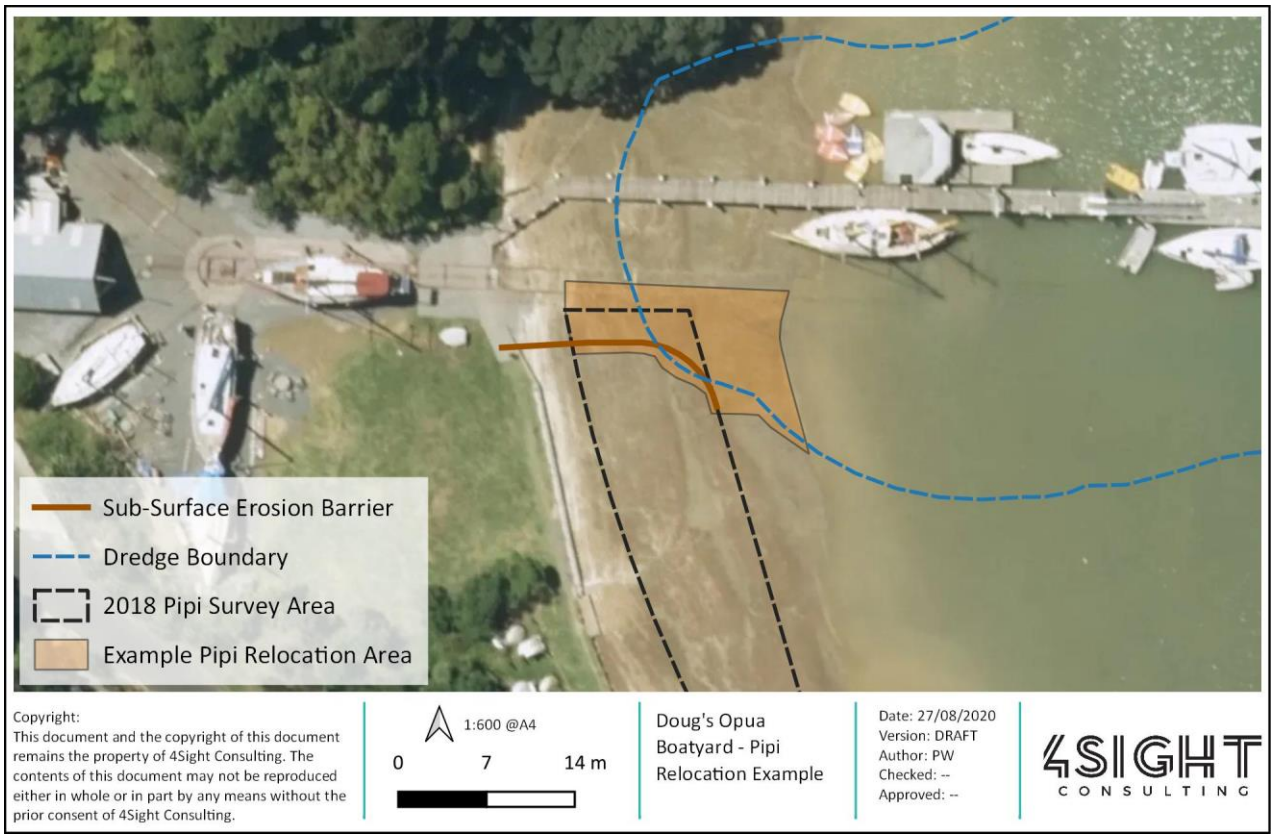

Figure 2: An example showing the intertidal area in Walls Bay from which pipi would be relocated. The exact locations of the dredge boundary and sub-surface erosion barrier may differ from this example.

Pipi shall be extracted manually or with the assistance of a small bobcat digger to remove the surficial sediment (~10 cm), which will be sieved through a coarse screen (5 mm). Within the area marked for remediation near the slipway, all material will be sieved in a secure area where sediment and decant water will be retained above MHWS and not permitted to re-enter the CMA. Recovered pipi will be temporarily placed in a bucket of clean seawater and kept cool.

Extracted pipi will be relocated to the southern end of the pipi bed in Walls Bay within 30 minutes of being extracted. They shall be placed in shallow (8 cm) trenches at a low to moderate density, which avoids multiple layering of the shellfish, and the trenches covered with sand.

Following the relocation of the pipi, the northernmost extent of the pipi bed shall be clearly marked using wooden pegs or similar. No site works shall disturb the sediment at or past this point.