

File ref: FTAA-2511-1138

22 January 2026

Ray Smith
Chief Executive
Ministry for Primary Industries
By email: UAE@mpi.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Request for recommendation under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Ngāi Tahu Seafood Resources Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 26 November 2025. The Hananui Aquaculture Project application relates to developing a finfish marine farm, including—

- 4 separate marine farms each consisting of 2 blocks of approximately 10 circular net pens
- installing approximately 5 anchored barges as operational bases

The application was assessed as complete and referred to the panel convener for decision making on 21 January 2026.

The application seeks an approval described in section 42(4)(a) (resource consent) for aquaculture activities to be undertaken in the coastal marine area.

The authorised person for the application does not hold a coastal permit under the Resource Management Act 1991 to occupy the relevant area of the coastal marine area for aquaculture activities.

Section 48(2) of the Act requires the EPA to request a recommendation from the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries in accordance with clauses 14 to 16 of Schedule 5 of the Act on the aquaculture decision to be made under section 80.

For the purpose of making a recommendation on an aquaculture decision requested under section 48, the Chief Executive may seek information relevant to the application, or consult with the following persons or organisations under clause 14 of Schedule 5 of the Act:

- a) the applicant;

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- b) any fisher whose interests may be affected; and
- c) persons and organisations that the Chief Executive considers represent the classes of persons who have customary, commercial, or recreational fishing interests that may be affected by the granting of the coastal permit or change to, or cancellation of, the conditions of the coastal permit.

If the Chief Executive seeks information or consults persons or organisations under section 48, they must do so at the same time as the panel seeks written comments on the application for the resource consent under section 53 of the Act. The persons or organisations must provide the information or submissions to the Chief Executive within 20 working days after the Chief Executive's request, and the Chief Executive must provide these to the EPA no later than 5 working days after the date by which submissions must be received.

The EPA will notify the Chief Executive of the date on which the panel intends to invite comments under section 53 of the Act in accordance with section 48(4).

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Mickleson, Application Lead by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Bond

Team Lead, Fast-track Applications