

27 August 2026

Attention: Rebecca Clarkson
Aquaculture Direct Limited
c/- 2a Alfred Street, Mayfield,
Blenheim, 7201

SLR Project No.: 840.030190.00001

Dear Rebecca

RE: Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, Marlborough Aquaculture (a consortium of operators) are proposing the establishment of six separate new marine farm sites in the Marlborough Sounds ('the application').

As a consulting marine mammal ecologist I have prepared the following components for the application:

- The 'Assessment of Effects on Marine Mammals' report for the proposed Hapuku Rock site in Outer Admiralty Bay;
- The Marine Mammal Management Plan (MMMP) for all six proposed marine farm sites; and
- A letter dated 18 August 2026, re Technical Advice, Marine Mammals - Marlborough Aquaculture.

In terms of my involvement with the application, I confirm that the statements made within my report, the MMMP and my letter are within my area of expertise, and I am not aware of any material facts which might alter or detract from the findings therein. Whilst acknowledging the application is not before the Environment Court, I have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as set out in the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note 2023. The content of the documents that I prepared (as listed above) is based on my qualifications and experience and is within my area of expertise. Where I rely on the evidence or opinions of others in these documents, my statements clearly acknowledge this.

Regards,

SLR Consulting New Zealand

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. McConnell'.

Helen McConnell, MSc, BSc
Principal Consultant – Marine Ecology
Email: [REDACTED]