

New Zealand King Salmon New Water Space Project

Tourism and Recreation Assessment FINAL

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Prepared for



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of an application for plan change and resource consents for new water space, New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) has commissioned Tourism Resource Consultants to undertake an assessment of the potential recreation and tourism effects of their proposals.

The statutory framework for this assessment includes the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) and Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan 2003 (MSRMP).

The process used for this assessment has included a formal team briefing for NZKS expert witnesses, a review of supporting documentation and relevant tourism and recreation data, consideration of the Department of Conservation recreation opportunities review in 2004, site visits to all proposed and existing salmon farm sites in the Queen Charlotte Sound and Pelorus Sound, an NZKS boat tour to Clay Point farm with member of the public, and select interviews with key stakeholders and NZKS staff.

The potential effects of the proposed new salmon farms on tourism and recreation in the area were determined using the Department of Conservation's (DOC) identification of 'priority recreation sites' in 2004 and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) DOC uses to classify recreational opportunities.

Tourism and recreation

The tourism industry is a key component of the New Zealand economy. Both tourism and recreation play an important role in the Marlborough Sounds.

In 2009, a total of 1.5 million visits contributed \$208 million to the Marlborough region¹. The focal point for recreation and tourism in the region is the Queen Charlotte Sound, and the key product is the iconic Queen Charlotte Track and its supporting infrastructure and amenities.

Although compared to the Queen Charlotte Sound there is less recreation and tourism activity in the Pelorus Sound, there are some key destinations such as French Pass and Tennyson Inlet that attract thousands of visitors annually.

Fishing is an important recreational activity in the Marlborough Sounds and it is also a key driver for tourism in the region.

The Marlborough Sounds, like other regions in New Zealand, also has examples of industrial tourism (the Greenshell Mussel Cruise), which have the potential to be expanded and enhanced.

¹ The Marlborough region is defined as the area within Marlborough Regional Tourism Organisation.
www.lovemarlborough.co.nz



Assessment of potential effects

The assessment of tourism and recreation effects of the proposed new water space by NZKS was undertaken at a site-specific and at a destination (Marlborough Sounds) level.

In our opinion the effects on recreation and tourism at the specific sites range from negligible to more than minor but not significant. All of the sites, with the exception of Papatua in Port Gore, are classified as 'accessible' by DOC under the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system. This implies an experience where users are likely to encounter others, access is relatively easy and there is a degree of modification to the natural environment. And whilst the Port Gore area is classified as 'remote', it does have several established marine farms throughout the bay, mostly concentrated in Melville Cove.

A number of the proposed sites are located near or adjacent to DOC-managed reserves; however, there are no sites that DOC considers priority recreation sites in the immediate vicinity. The potential effects on DOC-managed lands from the proposed marine farms are negligible.

The sites are also generally in parts of the Queen Charlotte Sound and Pelorus Sound that have lower recreational and tourism use. They are largely removed from existing tourism and recreational water-based activity, and from land routes and infrastructure (eg accommodation). Existing recreational users have ample opportunity and water space to continue to utilise these locations without compromising their experience.

The existing use of water space around the actual sites specifically for recreational fishing is unknown. Further consultation with the recreational fishing community would help clarify the existing use.

Assessment of potential cumulative effects

The new salmon farms will add eight farm sites to the aquaculture industry in the Marlborough Sounds, which currently has over 560 marine farms, most of them in the Pelorus Sound.

The accessible nature of the waterways and land is linked to recreational and tourism users' perceptions of the area and its amenity values. Users expect to see a natural environment with a degree of modification (eg jetties, wharves and marine farms).

Given the wide range of recreation and tourism opportunities and choice of locations in the Marlborough Sounds, in our opinion none of the proposed sites have activities (with the possible exception of diving in Port Gore) that are not readily substitutable nearby; as a result the cumulative impact from eight additional farms on tourism and recreation will be less than minor.



Furthermore, there is the potential to pilot or develop a tourism product and/or experience based on visiting and understanding salmon farm operations.

Recommendations and mitigation

That after the lodgement of the NZKS application for plan change for new water space further consultation with the tourism industry and recreation groups, in particular recreational fishing, is undertaken.

That NZKS takes into consideration any design-related recommendations from experts on landscape and noise impacts when new salmon farm infrastructure is developed.

That NZKS continue to work with the local tourism, conservation and recreational groups. This may be undertaken informally or through a structured advisory group.

That NZKS look at the potential to assist in the development of salmon-farm-related tourism in the Marlborough Sounds.

Conclusion

If NZKS is granted approval to develop eight new salmon farm operations, there will be a less than minor impact on the tourism and recreation activities in the Marlborough Sounds.

There is the potential to further expand the aqua-tourism industry and NZKS has a key role to play in assisting with the development of salmon farm tourism.





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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. As part of an application for plan change and resource consents for new sites to build and operate new salmon farms, New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) requires an assessment of effects on tourism and recreation.

1.2. Statutory framework for this tourism and recreation assessment

Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provisions to be addressed in regard to recreation and tourism include plan provisions under Section 6 (a) and (d) Matters of National Importance. Also Section 7 (c) and (f).

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) sets out objectives and policies for managing the coastal environment around New Zealand. In relation to recreation and tourism, Objective 2 refers to preserving natural character, protecting features and landscapes, Objective 4 references maintaining and enhancing public open space and recreational opportunities, and Objective 6 refers to enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety.

Policies of relevance include:

- Policy 1 Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment
- Policy 3 Precautionary approach
- Policy 4 Integration
- Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment
- Policy 8 Aquaculture
- Policy 11 Indigenous biological diversity
- Policy 13 Preservation of natural character
- Policy 15 Natural features and natural landscapes
- Policy 18 Public Open Space.

Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan 2003

The Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan 2003 (MSRMP) sets out objectives and policies for the preservation of natural character (Chapter 2), managing public access to the coastal marine area (Chapter 8), managing coastal marine area activities (Chapter 9), and managing noise (Chapter 22).



The MSRMP is currently under review. The Marlborough District Council is rationalising the current resource management framework by combining the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan and Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan.

Framework for assessment

This tourism and recreation assessment for the proposed new water space takes into account:

- public and commercial access to the coastal areas;
- public and commercial use and enjoyment;
- perceptions of wilderness values and other natural character qualities.

The cumulative effects of the proposed new water space application on tourism and recreation use and experiences are assessed at the destination level (Marlborough Sounds) and in the vicinity of each of the proposed new salmon farm areas (Waitata Reach, Tory Channel, entrance to Tory Channel and Port Gore).



2. APPROACH TO ASSESSMENTS UNDERTAKEN

- 2.1.1. NZKS has contracted Tourism Resource Consultants to undertake an assessment of potential tourism and recreation effects arising from the construction and operation of several new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

An assessment of potential regional economic effects, including employment effects, is being carried out by Market Economics Ltd (Dr Douglas Fairgray) and landscape and visual amenity assessment by Boffa Miskell Limited.

- 2.1.2. This process was followed to carry out this assessment:

- attendance at a NZKS expert witness team briefing in April 2011;
- background research into relevant tourism and recreation strategies and plans for New Zealand and the Marlborough Sounds region;
- a review of national, regional and local tourism and recreational data;
- two days of field work (11–12 May 2011) conducted by boat in the Pelorus Sound, Queen Charlotte Sound and Tory Channel to visit all existing NZKS farms and the eight proposed sites;
- a review of the proposed new salmon farms in relation to the Department of Conservation's (DOC) priority recreation sites² in the Marlborough Sounds – these sites also tend to be the areas of greatest use as identified through the Department's asset management system;
- analysis of amenity values of the proposed sites, with reference to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) used by DOC to classify recreational use in the Marlborough Sounds;
- meetings with a selection of key stakeholders in Picton and Blenheim including Department of Conservation, Port of Marlborough, Harbour Master and tourism operators (see Appendix 1);
- participation in an NZKS-hosted Marlborough community boat tour (20 May 2011) to the NZKS Clay Point Farm.

- 2.1.3. Further interviews and consultation with tourism and recreational users in the vicinity of the proposed sites are envisaged once the plan change proposal has been lodged and the physical location of the proposed sites is known publicly. As a result the site-specific assessments and comments are of a preliminary nature.

² Department of Conservation – Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy recreation opportunities review. Submissions analysis and decisions, October 2004



3. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

- 3.1.1. This report outlines the importance of the tourism industry to New Zealand and the Marlborough Sounds in particular. The report describes tourism- and recreation-related experiences and sites in and linked to the Marlborough Sounds area.
- 3.1.2. The assessment of effects is undertaken on a site-specific basis for tourism and recreational use in the vicinity of each of the proposed salmon farms and also at a broader destination level, where the cumulative effects are also considered.

4. TOURISM AND RECREATION

4.1. National context

Tourism

- 4.1.1. The tourism industry plays a very important role in the New Zealand economy. It directly and indirectly contributes 9.1% to total gross domestic product and 9.6% of employment (185,000 full-time equivalent jobs)³.
- 4.1.2. There were 2.51 million international visitor arrivals to New Zealand for the year ended March 2011⁴.
- 4.1.3. There were 16 million domestic overnight trips for the year ended December 2010⁵.
- 4.1.4. One of the main travel motivators for international leisure visitors to New Zealand is to experience New Zealand's landscape.
- 4.1.5. The New Zealand cruise industry contributes an estimated \$305 million directly to the economy, with passengers spending approximately 736,600 days in New Zealand ports.⁶
- 4.1.6. A key objective of the New Zealand Tourism Strategy 2016 is for tourism to take a leading role in protecting and enhancing the environment⁷.

Recreation

- 4.1.7. The most popular recreational activities for adult New Zealanders include walking (64%), swimming (35%), cycling (23%), fishing (19%) and tramping (9%). Canoeing/kayaking (6%) was number 18 on the list⁸.

³ Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Leading Indicators Monitor, July 2010

⁴ Ministry of Tourism, Key Tourism Statistics, May 2011

⁵ Ministry of Tourism, Key Tourism Statistics, May 2011

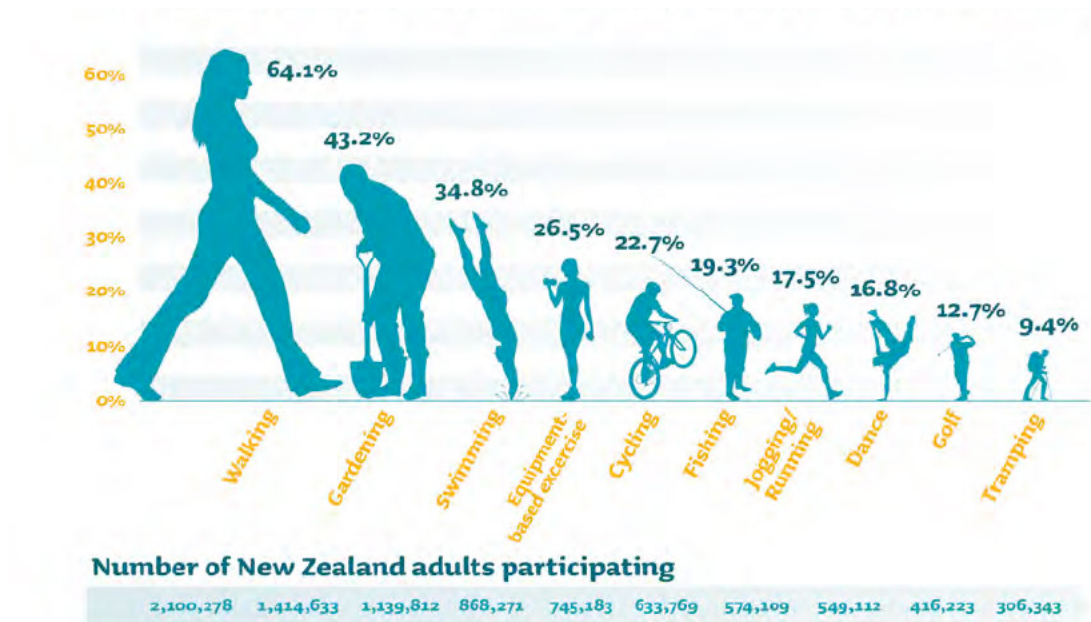
⁶ Ministry of Economic Development, Cruise New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand, New Zealand Cruise Industry Study, September 2010

⁷ Ministry of Tourism, New Zealand Tourism Strategy 2016, 2008

⁸ Sport and Recreation New Zealand, Key results of the 2007/2008 Active NZ Survey



Top ten recreation and sport activities for participation



Source: Sport and Recreation New Zealand, Key results of the 2007/2008 Active NZ Survey

- 4.1.8. Boating in New Zealand is a popular recreational activity, with an estimated 350,000 pleasure boats in New Zealand. The proportion of people who go boating has remained constant, with 1.5 million people, or one in three, stating that they go out in a boat at least once a year⁹.
- 4.1.9. Recreational fishing and shellfish gathering are highly significant activities in New Zealand, with a large proportion of the population able to access fishing and gathering sites¹⁰.
- 4.1.10. The majority of New Zealand dive sites are clustered on the east coast north of Tauranga; however, other 'hotspots' occur about Taranaki, Cook Strait, Fiordland and Stewart Island¹¹.

4.2. The Marlborough Sounds

- 4.2.1. The Marlborough Sounds, made up of the Queen Charlotte Sound, Tory Channel, Port Gore and Pelorus Sound, are a network of sheltered bays and waterways. They provide both recreational and tourism opportunities that are generally of regional significance. The Queen Charlotte Track, Ship Cove Historic Reserve and Mikhail Lermontov shipwreck are of national recreational importance.
- 4.2.2. A visit to the Marlborough Sounds is considered one of AA Travel's 101 'Must Do's' for Kiwis¹².

⁹ Maritime New Zealand, Boating Safety Strategy 2007

¹⁰ Biosecurity New Zealand, Mapping the Values of New Zealand's Coastal Waters. 3. Social Values, July 2009

¹¹ Biosecurity New Zealand, Mapping the Values of New Zealand's Coastal Waters. 3. Social Values, July 2009

¹² AA Travel, www.aatravel.co.nz



"A maze of deep coves and secluded bays fringed by native forest, the Marlborough Sounds provide an unspoilt wilderness to enjoy an array of maritime pursuits such as sailing, fishing, diving, sea kayaking and viewing marine life. To see rare birds, dolphins, penguins and seals, join an eco-tour and sail to the outer Sounds for close encounters with sea birds, seals, orcas and endangered species."

"Mussel and salmon farming are common in the Sounds, and you can take cruises to see how the mussels are grown and harvested, taste fresh mussels straight from the sea."

"Aside from the obvious water activities that the Marlborough Sounds have to offer, there are also many on-land activities to take advantage of. Tramping and mountain biking the famous Queen Charlotte Track....the islands to visit are D'Urville, Motuara, Long, Blumine and Allports home to native wildlife."¹³

- 4.2.3. While there are no formal DOC-classified wilderness areas in the Marlborough Sounds, some tourism marketers do promote the concept of wilderness values in parts of the outer sounds. The main themes promoted by Destination Marlborough are 'wilderness, wine and water'. The intrinsic values of wilderness are personal and vary from individual to individual. There is an acceptance that some Marlborough Sounds areas such as the Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park, Port Gore and some islands in the outer sounds are remote and have wild values. This has also been substantiated through DOC's recreation planning processes. This concept is explained in detail in section 4.6.

Tourism

- 4.2.4. Tourism is an important industry within the Marlborough region¹⁴. In 2009 international and domestic visitors spent a total of \$208 million in the Marlborough region¹⁵.
- 4.2.5. There were 267,000 international and 525,000 domestic overnight visitors to Marlborough in 2009¹⁶.
- 4.2.6. Just over one-fifth of international visitors are Australian, closely followed by UK (19%) and Germany (11%).
- 4.2.7. One-third of domestic visitors to the region are from Canterbury; it is expected numbers for the 2010/11 season will be down as a result of the earthquake in Christchurch and poor summer weather. Wellington residents accounted for the next largest share at 18%.

¹³ AA Travel, *go see discover stay, free guide*, Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman and Golden Bay, 2011

¹⁴ The Marlborough region includes the Marlborough Sounds as well as Blenheim, Renwick and Wairau Valley

¹⁵ Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism Strategy Group, New Zealand Regional Tourism Forecasts 2010-2016 Marlborough RTO, August 2010

¹⁶ Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism Strategy Group, New Zealand Regional Tourism Forecasts 2010-2016 Marlborough RTO, August 2010



- 4.2.8. Picton received approximately 1.07 million ferry passengers in 2009¹⁷. The port also received approximately 8,000 cruise passengers for 2009/10. This number is forecast to more than double for the 2011/12 season, with over 20 ships scheduled for the Port of Marlborough. Some cruise ships also visit Ship Cove.
- 4.2.9. The Marlborough region is marketed by Destination Marlborough around three core attributes: wilderness, water and wine. The water-based activities, native bush, and marine and terrestrial wildlife are all a key part of the attraction for visitors to the sounds.
- 4.2.10. Sightseeing cruises, mailboat runs and boat trips around the Queen Charlotte Sound and to a lesser extent the Pelorus Sound are a key activity, along with kayaking, fishing and sailing.
- 4.2.11. The Marlborough Sounds contains some excellent diving opportunities used both recreationally and commercially by dive operators out of Picton, Blenheim, Nelson and Wellington. The three sites in the Marlborough Sounds, that are listed nationally as either spectacular or popular are D'Urville Island, Pelorus Sound (at the entrance of the sound and around the Chetwode and Forsyth islands) and Port Gore¹⁸. Dive boat charters from Marlborough and Wellington take a small number of divers (less than 500 per annum) to key sites in the sounds, while many key sites are also used by recreational divers.
- 4.2.12. There are several scenic flight operators out of Blenheim and Picton airports whose scenic flights cover most of the sounds. The long flights venture as far as D'Urville Island and French Pass. The use of floatplanes by one Picton-based company allows access to most locations within the sounds.

Recreation

- 4.2.13. The Marlborough Sounds are a recreational playground for residents and are very popular for a range of water- and land-based pursuits including cruising, fishing, sailing, swimming, waterskiing, windsurfing, walking, tramping, biking and wildlife viewing.
- 4.2.14. Fishing is ubiquitous in the Marlborough Sounds, an important recreational activity and is also a key driver for tourism in the region. The closure of the blue cod fishery from 2009–2011 had an impact on the recreational fishery and visitor numbers to the sounds¹⁹. Note that Port Gore is outside the blue cod ban area, and as such may have a higher level of importance for recreational fishing while the ban is in place.
- 4.2.15. Older information from a Marlborough Sounds recreational fishing survey in 1998 (J.D. Bell) suggests widespread use of the area for recreational fishing (eg. rod/line fishing from private boat, charter boat, diving, shore based fishing, dredging and set netting). The main fishing method was rod/line fishing from private boats and the areas with the highest level of fishing effort were: eastern side of D'Urville Island,

¹⁷ Port of Marlborough, Annual Report 2010

¹⁸ Mapping the Values of New Zealand's Coastal Waters. 3. Social Values, Biosecurity New Zealand Technical Paper, Allen *et al.* 2010

¹⁹ Dain Simpson Peer Review, joint owner of the Portage Resort Hotel, 7 June 2011



Croisilles Harbour and between Arapawa Island and Endeavour inlet. Additionally, Kenepuru Sound was popular for private boat line fishing, while Kenepuru Sound, Beatrix and Crail Bays had the high levels of fishing from shore²⁰. While this information is dated it provides a useful indicator of historical use and activity.

- 4.2.16. The most popular sport and recreation activities for adults in the Tasman²¹ region of relevance were walking (68.4%), swimming (40.5%), cycling (36.2%), fishing (28.8%), tramping (15.3%) and running/jogging (9.5%)²².
- 4.2.17. Boating and being out on the water is a big part of the recreation activity in the Marlborough Sounds. The area has three marinas providing more than 1,140 berths, plus there are more than 500 additional vessels in boat sheds and storage compounds²³.
- 4.2.18. Yachting is popular throughout the sounds, but according to the Navigation Report (Walker, 2011), Pelorus Sound is a much less popular area for sailing due to the gusty nature of the winds and the shallow upper reaches. In general Pelorus Sound has less recreational traffic than the Queen Charlotte Sound.
- 4.2.19. The DOC-managed sites that are recognised as priority recreation sites in the Marlborough Sounds are widely dispersed through the area. However, the key and highest use sites are generally located in the Queen Charlotte Sound²⁴ (Queen Charlotte Track, Ship Cove, Karaka Point, and Grove Arm camping and day use areas), with the exception of Cullen Point (near Havelock) and Duncan Bay (Tennyson Inlet).
- 4.2.20. Recreational fishing occurs throughout the Marlborough Sounds, in both the inner and outer sounds areas. The Pelorus Sound is popular for snapper due to its warmer water and blue cod is another important species for the region. The blue cod fishery was recently reopened (1 April 2011) on a limited basis within the Marlborough Sounds (note Port Gore was outside the closed fishery area for Blue Cod).

4.3. Queen Charlotte Sound and Tory Channel

- 4.3.1. The Queen Charlotte Sound is the recreational and tourism hub of the Marlborough Sounds, although it also has an industrial edge, with the deepwater port at Shakespeare Bay and the freight and passenger shipping terminals in Picton Harbour. The vast majority of recreational and tourism boat traffic occurs in the Queen Charlotte Sound and into Tory Channel. This stretch is also home to the busiest land-based recreation and tourism sites in the sounds including Queen Charlotte Track, Ship Cove Historic Reserve, Momorangi Bay Scenic Reserve, Karaka Point walkway and Motuara Island.

²⁰ Marlborough Sounds Recreational Fishing Survey 1998. J. D. Bell and Associates, final research report for the Ministry of Fisheries Project REC9807

²¹ The Tasman Regional Sports Trust area includes Kaikoura, Marlborough, Tasman/Nelson and Buller

²² Sport & Recreation New Zealand, Active NZ Survey, Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Profile: Tasman Region 2007/2008

²³ Port of Marlborough, Annual Report 2010

²⁴ Department of Conservation – Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy recreation opportunities review. Submissions analysis and decisions, October 2004



- 4.3.2. The 71-km Queen Charlotte Track is a nationally significant multi-day walk or mountain bike ride that receives over 30,000²⁵ users annually. It is a major tourism attraction and supports a range of accommodation from campsites to hotels, as well as guiding companies and transportation businesses. There is a range of on-track accommodation options, most of it in bays on the Queen Charlotte Sound side, with the exception of the Portage Resort and Te Mahia (see Queen Charlotte Track map in Appendix 2).
- 4.3.3. Motuara Island Scenic and Historic Reserve is a pest-free island that contains an abundance of native New Zealand wildlife, including blue penguins, South Island saddleback, kereru, bellbirds, yellow-crowned parakeets (kakariki), bellbirds and South Island robins. The island receives approximately 9,100²⁶ visitors who walk the track to the summit and encounter numerous birds on route.
- 4.3.4. Within the Marlborough Sounds Port Gore is a popular dive location because of the Mikhail Lermontov²⁷ and Lavington shipwrecks located in the bay. In our opinion the Lermontov is of national significance. There are also kelp forests, and abundant marine life including in the Long Island Marine Reserve. Water clarity is generally excellent in many sites and temperatures vary from about 10 degrees Celsius in winter to about 18 degrees in summer. Scuba-diving highlights in the Marlborough Sounds include²⁸:
- Koi shipwreck and Long Island – Queen Charlotte Sound
 - Mikhail Lermontov, Lavington and Rangitoto shipwrecks – Port Gore
- 4.3.5. Outward Bound operates from Anakiwa in the Queen Charlotte Sound. The school, established in 1962, seeks to inspire personal and social development through value-based experiential learning in an outdoor environment. The school operates programs throughout the Queen Charlotte Sound, and over 48,000 participants have completed Outward Bound courses since the school was established²⁹.

4.4. Pelorus Sound

- 4.4.1. The Pelorus Sound has a more industrial feel to it, largely as a result of mussel farming and forestry. In terms of aquaculture, over 85%³⁰ of the more than 560 Marlborough Sounds farms (see Appendix 3) are in the Pelorus Sound; they are widely dispersed through most bays, with the exception of Tennyson Inlet.
- 4.4.2. World's End, Tennyson Inlet is considered by many people to be the most picturesque part of Pelorus Sound. It is surrounded by native bush with safe anchorages³¹. The campsite at Duncan Bay receives around 10,000 visitors annually and Elaine Bay campsite a further 4,900 visitors³².

²⁵ Department of Conservation

²⁶ Department of Conservation

²⁷ The Heritage Report prepared by History Works, May 2011, also references the Mikhail Lermontov and other shipwrecks

²⁸ www.divemaster.co.nz

²⁹ www.outwardbound.co.nz

³⁰ Marine Farming Association Inc (MFA) and correspondence with Bruce Cardwell at Aquaculture Direct: this includes farms in Tory Channel, Queen Charlotte Sound, Port Underwood and Pelorus Sound

³¹ New Zealand Cruising Guide, Central Area, Keith W J Murray and Baron Ralph Von Kohorn 2006

³² Department of Conservation visitor estimates



- 4.4.3. Fishing, especially for snapper in Kenepuru Sound, is a popular activity in the inner and outer Pelorus Sound. The Waitata Reach also experiences a moderate level of fishing activity, and Ketu Bay in particular is a popular scallop-dredging site for recreational fishermen.
- 4.4.4. Waitata Reach provides the only access into the Pelorus Sound. Cruising and/or boating are popular throughout the inner Pelorus Sound and at key sites like Tennyson Inlet and Waitata Reach. Kayaking is largely focused in Kenepuru Sound and Tennyson Inlet areas.
- 4.4.5. There are a number of private conservation projects in the vicinity of Waitata Bay (Tui Nature Reserve) and Te Kopi/Port Ligar. There is accommodation available at a number of sites in this area and there are ecotourism aspirations to develop product, although very limited activity currently exists.
- 4.4.6. Recreational activity in the outer Pelorus Sound is focused around D'Urville Island and French Pass. The French Pass Campsite receives 8,300 visitors per year³³. However, this figure is only for visitors to the campsite. This area, although part of the more remote outer sounds, does have road access and is classified by DOC under the ROS system as 'accessible waters', with the exception of the western side of D'Urville Island, which is classified 'remote'.

4.5. Mapping existing tourism and recreational use in the Marlborough Sounds

- 4.5.1. The map in Appendix 4 illustrates the key sites and usage patterns and routes within the Marlborough Sounds. It was prepared following consultation with DOC and also incorporates information from other interviews (eg Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company for kayaking). The site-specific numbers refer to DOC visitor estimates for their key sites (ie 6,600 Cowshed Bay Campsite, Kenepuru Sound) obtained from their asset management system.
- 4.5.2. It is important to note that activities such as boating (including sailing) and fishing occur throughout the entire Marlborough Sounds area and as a result are not detailed on the map.
- 4.5.3. However, visitor use is only one component of assessment, but this has largely driven DOC investment in reserves infrastructure following their recreation opportunities review in 2004. Remoteness, wild or scenic values are also important for specific areas that receive few visitors and users and forms part of our assessment. This is discussed further in section 4.6.

4.6. Recreational planning

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

- 4.6.1. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a system for classifying the range of recreational opportunities available in any one place or region, and managing that range. The ROS system has been extensively used for recreation planning internationally, particularly in natural areas in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

³³ Department of Conservation visitor estimates



- 4.6.2. The ROS system has been used by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy of DOC within their Conservation Management Strategy (CMS, 1996) to classify terrestrial and marine recreation within the conservancy.

Under the ROS classifications, the recreation experience in 'accessible waters' is defined as:

"The probability of experiencing interaction with other users is variable, through to quite likely. While challenge and use of skills may be quite significant, the risks will generally be lower than if the same activity were undertaken in a more remote location."

Under the ROS classifications the recreation experience in 'remote waters' is defined as:

"the probability of experiencing interaction with others is generally low through to unlikely. The level of challenge, the risk, and use of sea or outdoor skills will be significant. A largely natural experience. Dependence on group resources will be significant. Coastal modification usually limited to isolated locations. The waterways and adjacent land may show signs of modification".

- 4.6.3. The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy CMS classifies the land areas in and around the Marlborough Sounds according to the six ROS categories³⁴ (Taylor, 1993) that range from 'urban' to 'wilderness'. The vast majority of this land area has a rural or backcountry classification, with only one area (eg around Mt Stanley in Pelorus Sound) classified as 'remote'. There are no land-based wilderness areas in the Marlborough Sounds.
- 4.6.4. The marine opportunities within the Marlborough Sounds are classified by DOC using four categories: 'urban', 'accessible', 'remote' and 'wilderness'.
- All of the inner Marlborough Sounds (Pelorus and Queen Charlotte) are classified as 'accessible' with a secondary category denoting the type of access (eg land or sea, land only and sea only).
 - The outer sounds area within the headlands is also classified as 'accessible' and this includes all areas inward of Port Ligar and Forsyth Island and the eastern side of D'Urville Island in the Pelorus Sound, and the area inward of Cape Jackson in the Queen Charlotte Sound, and all of Tory Channel.
 - Port Gore, with the exception of Melville Cove (accessible), is classified as 'remote'. Other 'remote' sites in the outer sounds include Titi Island, the north end of Forsyth Island, the Chetwode Islands, Alligator Head and the northeastern side of Arapawa Island.
 - There are no marine recreation wilderness opportunities in the Marlborough Sounds.

³⁴ The New Zealand Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Guidelines for Users. Department of Conservation, P.C. Taylor (1993)



Natural character

- 4.6.5. The preservation of natural character under Policy 13 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) seeks to preserve the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The importance of this in 'remote' recreational settings, or 'wild or scenic' NZCPS 13(f) places, such as Port Gore, is an important consideration. Other areas of the outer sounds (both Queen Charlotte and Pelorus) like Waitata Reach that are classified as 'accessible' would also be considered 'scenic' and of high natural character³⁵ and valued as such for recreational and tourism purposes.

DOC recreation opportunities review

- 4.6.6. In 2004 the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy conducted a recreation opportunity review as part of a national initiative³⁶. The process and resulting document effectively prioritised sites on which DOC would focus its attention and resources. This has led to a focus on a number of key sites, invariably the sites that receive the most use, such as Ship Cove, the Queen Charlotte Track, Motuara Island, Blumine Island, and a number of upgrades to campsites throughout the sounds.

4.7. Industrial tourism

- 4.7.1. Industrial tourism involves visits by tourists to operational industrial sites where the core activity of the site is non-tourism oriented³⁷.
- 4.7.2. Interest in industrial tourism is growing. It is a form of tourism that provides visitors to a particular site with an informative experience based primarily around the industry and the actual operations of the site. The opportunity to talk with and interact with workers as part of this greatly enhances the experience.
- 4.7.3. Some good examples of this type of industrial tourism experience in New Zealand include³⁸:
- Macraes Gold Mine Tours, East Otago: up to 3,000 visitors annually participate in guided tours run by OceanaGold staff;
 - Martha Gold Mine, Waihi receives 44,000 visitors a year to the visitor centre and around 2,800 take tours operated by Visions Waihi Trust;
 - Manapouri Underground Power Station, Doubtful Sound, where visitors can only enter the station as part of a guided tour: the station receives approximately 5,500 visitors annually between October and April;
 - Cadbury Factory, Dunedin: visitor numbers range between 115,000 to 120,000 annually;
 - Huka Prawn Park, Taupo (founded in 1987 by Aquatech Farms Ltd, this is New Zealand's only prawn park, producing 26 tonnes of prawns per year, which are consumed by the 70,000 visitors to the restaurant): the park

³⁵ Natural Character, Landscape and Visual Amenity Effects, July 2011, Boffa Miskell Limited.

³⁶ Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy recreation opportunities review. Submissions analysis and decisions, October 2004, Department of Conservation.

³⁷ An empirical study of industrial tourism attractions, Ms Elspeth A Frew, and Professor Robin N Shaw, La Trobe University, Australia

³⁸ Visitor estimates obtained from OceanaGold, Real Journeys, Cadbury New Zealand, Newmont Gold Waihi and Huka Prawn Farm, June 2011



receives around 42,000 visitors and is a key all-weather attraction for Taupo.

- 4.7.4. In the Marlborough Sounds examples of industrial tourism exist: the Greenshell Mussel Cruise operated by Marlborough Travel in the Pelorus Sound showcases the mussel farms in Kenepuru Sound. The cruise stops at an active mussel farm where visitors can see the mussels growing on longlines and learn how the farm works. While at the farm visitors also get to try freshly steamed mussels with wine.
- 4.7.5. In the Queen Charlotte Sound many of the charter and boat operators servicing the Queen Charlotte Track and providing sightseeing tours pass the Ruakaka salmon farm to see seals and talk about the farm operation. The Ruakaka farm is considered an important attraction for visitors³⁹.
- 4.7.6. Both Beachcomber Fun Cruises and Cougar Line who operate cruises in the Queen Charlotte Sounds include the Ruakaka Bay salmon farm in their itineraries. The Cougar Line Twilight Cruise focuses on salmon and the farm at Ruakaka Bay.

“Learn about salmon farming in the Marlborough Sounds as we cruise by the Regal Marlborough Salmon Farm nestled in Ruakaka Bay and sample delectable appetizers of fresh smoked salmon. Your skipper shares his knowledge of the salmon fishery, and the history of the Sound, in an informed commentary peppered with entertaining anecdotes. Watch out for the fur seals who lazily circle the farm.”⁴⁰

Other Picton based operators such as Dolphin Watch Ecotours who specialise in ecotourism (viewing and interacting with wildlife in the natural environment) also visit the Ruakaka Bay salmon farm to view fur seals as part of their tours.

5. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

5.1. Potential marine farm effects on recreation and tourism

- 5.1.1. One of the challenges in assessing the potential effects on recreation and tourism is the lack of existing formal information on use and activities at specific sites, as well as at the local level and also regional levels.
- 5.1.2. Evidence has largely been gathered through interviewing key stakeholders, experienced operators, recreation groups and key community members. Given the confidential nature of this proposed plan change, the amount of consultation undertaken to date is limited.
- 5.1.3. The assessment of the potential effects on recreation and tourism is supported by expert evidence provided by landscape, noise/acoustic and heritage professionals, presented in their respective reports.

³⁹ Dain Simpson Peer Review, joint owner of the Portage Resort Hotel, 7 June 2011

⁴⁰ www.cougarline.co.nz/cruises/twilight-cruises.aspx



5.1.4. Marine farms have the potential to affect recreational and tourism activity in a number of ways.

- Marine farms sited on a location used by recreationalists that physically limit or block access. This may take the form of a fishing location, or a kayaking or boating route. The RMA s6(d) refers to the maintenance and enhancement of public access. So does the MSRMP Policy 1.1, while MSRMP Policy 1.6 specifically refers to recreational interests retaining dominant status over commercial activities. The NZCPS Policy 6(2b) specifies the need to maintain and enhance recreation qualities and values. The significance of these effects can depend on the user's ability to easily substitute that specific location or route for one of similar quality/type nearby.
- The location of marine farms has the potential to affect the amenity value of the recreation and tourism experience. Amenity values and natural character are addressed in the RMA s6(a) and in NZCPS Policy 13. Section 7(c) of the RMA requires "the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values", which is defined in s2 as "those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes" In addition, section 7(f) refers to the quality of the environment being maintained and enhanced.
- In 'remote' areas the amenity value of the recreational experience has a higher level of importance due to the expectations of the users in these settings.
- The effects of marine farms also need to be assessed on a cumulative basis. While one marine farm may have no effect on recreation in a specific area, several marine farms in the vicinity would increase the footprint and operational activity and may begin to affect an area's natural character and the amenity values of users.

5.1.5. However, as illustrated in section 4.7 'Industrial tourism', marine farms also have the potential to play a significant role in the development of tourism products and experiences. Products that focus on cuisine, general sightseeing, and ecotourism (wildlife viewing) are currently utilising mussel farms in the Pelorus Sound and Ruakaka salmon farm in the Queen Charlotte Sound as a key component of their experience.

5.1.6. Marine farms can also play a positive role in supporting recreation. The mussel farms in the Pelorus and Kenepuru Sounds are widely acknowledged to play a key role in supporting a healthy snapper population for sport and charter fishing⁴¹.

5.2. Site-specific assessments

5.2.1. The site-specific assessments have been grouped into four sections based on the locations of the proposed plan change zones. They are Tory Channel, the entrance to Tory Channel from Queen Charlotte Sound, Port Gore and Waitata Reach.

⁴¹ Peer Review Report of the Tourism and Recreation Assessment, Dain Simpson, Dain Simpson Associates and joint owner of the Portage Resort Hotel, June 2011.



Ngamahau – Tory Channel

The current tourism and recreation situation

- 5.2.2. The Ngamahau site is northeast of two existing NZKS sites – Clay Point and Te Pangu. There are also existing mussel farms in Oyster Bay.
- 5.2.3. The main recreation and tourism activities in the vicinity are daily Interislander and Blue Ridge ferries, recreational boating (predominantly vessels over 5 metres) and fishing. Regular boat traffic through the channel is an existing use and as a result the Tory Channel, in our opinion, is more of a thoroughfare than a destination for tourism and recreation.
- 5.2.4. This area is not a major Picton scenic cruise and/or charter location; however, the Beachcomber Mailboat cruise does operate a Tory Channel route twice weekly⁴².
- 5.2.5. The Perano Whaling Station northeast of the site is approximately 3km away. The site has recently undergone restoration. A recreation hall-cum-film theatre has been refurbished, and preservation work carried out on whale-processing equipment and factory structures⁴³.
- 5.2.6. There are limited recreation and tourism facilities in the vicinity. These facilities include the Arapawa homestead (accommodation) and a DOC campground at Ngaruru Bay.
- 5.2.7. The Tory Channel is classified by DOC under the ROS system as an ‘accessible’ recreation area. Characteristics of ‘accessible waters’ include: “the waterways and/or adjacent land are readily accessible. Water is commonly plied by runabouts, trailer sailers, and other small vessels. Modification is apparent but not dominant.”
- 5.2.8. There are no ‘priority recreation sites’ managed by DOC in the area, with the exception of its involvement at Perano Whaling Station. DOC manages land in the vicinity at Malcoms Bay Scenic Reserve and Tipi Bay Recreation Reserve.

Assessment of effects for Ngamahau

- 5.2.9. In our opinion there will be a less than minor impact on the current recreation and tourism activities from the proposed Ngamahau site in Tory Channel.
- 5.2.10. The Ngamahau site and the area surrounding it are classified as ‘accessible waters’ for recreation, which implies a degree of modification to the natural environment and the likelihood of encountering other users and uses of the area. There are also existing salmon and mussel farms in the immediate vicinity.
- 5.2.11. There are no ‘priority recreation sites’ managed by DOC in the vicinity of the Ngamahau site, with the exception of Perano Whaling Station. However, this site is out of sight and over 2.5km away from the Ngamahau site. The recreational use at existing reserves in Tory Channel will not be affected by the proposed farm.

⁴² www.mailboat.co.nz/pgs/cruises/mail_run/mail_run.php

⁴³ www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/2010/former-whalers-join-celebration-of-whaling-station-restoration/



- 5.2.12. The existing land-based recreation and tourism facilities in the vicinity are not in line of sight of the Ngamahau site nor at a close distance, and will not be affected. Refer to Landscape Report prepared by Boffa Miskell Limited for salmon farm visibility ranges from water and elevated positions.
- 5.2.13. In our opinion this part of the sounds is an area of low recreation and tourism use in comparison to Queen Charlotte Sound and parts of Pelorus Sound. To our knowledge there are no daily tour routes and only moderate recreational fishing levels. Existing users have ample opportunity and water space to continue to utilise this part of the Tory Channel without compromising their experience. The presence of a salmon farm at the Ngamahau site will not compromise the recreation amenity values of the area due to its existing classification and use as 'accessible waters', and given the existing level of marine farming in the vicinity.

Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko – entrance to Tory Channel from Queen Charlotte Sound

The current tourism and recreation situation

- 5.2.14. Nearby aquaculture farms include the NZKS salmon farm in Ruakaka Bay (2.7km across Queen Charlotte Sound) and mussel farms in Hitaua Bay (2.6–3.1km to the south of the sites).
- 5.2.15. Compared to the other proposed new salmon farm locations (Waitata Reach, Port Gore and Tory Channel) this location in the Queen Charlotte Sound has the greatest exposure to tourism and recreational activities in the Marlborough Sounds. However, these proposed farm sites are on the southern side of the sound and generally removed from the tourism and recreation small vessel transport routes from Picton to the popular Queen Charlotte Track, which stretch from Ship Cove to Anakiwa and the islands (Motuara, Long and Blumine) in the outer Queen Charlotte Sound (see Appendix 4).
- 5.2.16. Recreational and tourism boating in this area includes kayaking and Outward Bound boat trips. These activities tend to hug the northern coastline of the Queen Charlotte Sound. This route offers shelter, safety and quick access to the popular Queen Charlotte Track and the many holiday homes in the intervening bays (eg Endeavour Inlet, Bay of Many Coves). The route on the northern side also keeps recreational craft out of the Interislander and Blueridge ferry route, as the ferries have right of way over all boats, including boats under sail and kayaks.
- 5.2.17. While fishing occurs throughout the Queen Charlotte Sound, the area northeast of the Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko sites through to Cape Jackson (over 28km away) is frequently used by recreational fishers and fishing tourism operators.
- 5.2.18. The Queen Charlotte Sound at the entrance to Tory Channel is classified by DOC using the ROS system as 'accessible' recreation area. Characteristics of 'accessible waters' include: "the waterways and/or adjacent land are readily accessible. Water is commonly plied by runabouts, trailer sailers, and other small vessels. Modification is apparent but not dominant".
- 5.2.19. There are no 'priority recreation sites' managed by DOC in the vicinity of the Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko sites at the entrance to Tory Channel. However, the farm is adjacent to the Ruaomoko Point Scenic Reserve on the southern tip of Arapawa



Island.

Assessment of effects for Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko

- 5.2.20. In our opinion the overall potential effects on recreation and tourism at these two sites will be less than minor.
- 5.2.21. The nearest tourism accommodation, in Maraetai Bay and Bay of Many Coves, is over 3.5km away. Given the distance from these two properties, potential effects would be negligible. This is discussed within the Landscape Report.
- 5.2.22. The Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko sites and the area surrounding them are classified as 'accessible waters' for recreation, which implies a degree of modification to the natural environment and the likelihood of encountering other users and uses of the area. There are also existing salmon and mussel farms in the immediate vicinity.
- 5.2.23. In our opinion this location on the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound from Tory Channel is removed from the main tourism and recreational activity in Queen Charlotte Sound, which hugs the northern side of the sound. Existing recreational boating and tourism-related boat traffic would not be displaced by the proposed development. Existing use of these two sites specifically for recreational fishing is unknown. Further consultation with the recreational fishing community would help clarify the existing use. The Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko sites would not compromise the recreation amenity values of the area due to its existing classification and use as 'accessible waters', and given that the existing recreation and tourism activity in the vicinity is focused on the northern side of Queen Charlotte Sound.

Papatua – Port Gore

The current tourism and recreation situation

- 5.2.24. The proposed Papatua site at Pig Bay is adjacent to three existing mussel farms. The majority of the existing marine farms in Port Gore are concentrated in Melville Cove. There are also farms in the southeast corner of Port Gore near Pool Head and Gannet Point.
- 5.2.25. Port Gore is the most remote location of the proposed new salmon farm sites. As discussed in section 4.6, Port Gore fits the ROS definition of 'remote waters' area because of its largely natural experience, difficult access (need for significant sea or outdoor skills to reach) and low levels of visitation⁴⁴. Characteristics of 'remote waters' include: 'the probability of experiencing interaction with others is generally low through to unlikely. The level of challenge, the risk, and use of sea or outdoor skills will be significant. A largely natural experience. Dependence on group resources will be significant. Coastal modification usually limited to isolated locations. The waterways and adjacent land may show signs of modification".
- 5.2.26. One of the attractions of Port Gore from a recreational and tourism perspective is the area's remoteness and difficult access. This equates to lower levels of use compared to other more accessible areas of the Marlborough Sounds.
- 5.2.27. While the ROS system classifies Port Gore as a remote recreation setting, the classification also allows for evidence of modification of the waterways and adjacent

⁴⁴ Recreation Opportunity Spectrum definitions, Marine Opportunities, Taylor 1993



land. There is a dominance of mussel farms in the Melville Cove area, and also small numbers in the Pig Bay and Pool Head areas. However, the eastern side of Port Gore out to Cape Jackson has the greatest wild and scenic values given its undeveloped state.

- 5.2.28. Tourism and recreation access is difficult. Port Gore usually requires use of a large vessel to reach the bay, which faces into Cook Strait and requires access around Cape Jackson or Cape Lambert. There is no public road access into Port Gore from Titirangi Road⁴⁵. However, Go Dive Marlborough, which operates out of the Lermontov Lodge in Melville Cove, has vehicle access to drive customers to the lodge. There is walking access from Ship Cove along the Outer Queen Charlotte Track to the Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park (Cape Jackson). There is also air access to a small landing strip in the southeast corner for the Port Gore Homestead.
- 5.2.29. In terms of recreation and tourism, Port Gore is used primarily by divers going to the Mikhail Lermontov, Lastingham and Rangitoto wrecks. While there are no formal records kept for Port Gore diving, a conservative annual figure of less than 500⁴⁶ per year is estimated. We agree with the evidence presented by Mr Rob Greenaway⁴⁷ that the Mikhail Lermontov is of national significance.
- 5.2.30. Port Gore is a moderately popular fishing location, with boats tending to fish the eastern side of the bay. Port Gore is outside the blue cod ban area and as such may have a higher level of importance for recreational fishing while the ban is in place.
- 5.2.31. There are no 'priority recreation sites' managed by DOC in Port Gore. However, the Papatua site is adjacent to the Cape Lambert Scenic Reserve.

Assessment of effects for Papatua

- 5.2.32. In our opinion the effect on existing recreation and tourism activities in Port Gore from the proposed new Papatua site would range from less than minor to more than minor, but not significant depending on weather conditions at the time. While the Port Gore area is classified by DOC under the ROS system as 'remote', it does have several established marine farms throughout the bay, mostly concentrated in Melville Cove.
- 5.2.33. The existing tourism accommodation in Melville Cove is over 4km away and is out of sight; it is also situated near the large number of mussel farms in the cove. The property in the southeast corner of Port Gore, is over 6km from the Pig Bay site and it would be difficult to see the proposed salmon farm from a non-elevated position. The majority of diving takes place at the Mikhail Lermontov site, which is an estimated 3km from the Papatua site; the creation of a salmon farm here would have a minor effect on the experience. This is discussed in the Landscape Report in further detail.
- 5.2.34. The effects of noise from the proposed Papatua site on diving and fishing in Port Gore are not known.

⁴⁵ There is a private road that leads to Port Gore from Titirangi Road that is closed with a locked gate

⁴⁶ Based on Robert James Greenway's Environmental Court Evidence for Cliff Merchant, 28 October 2010.

⁴⁷ Based on Robert James Greenway's Environmental Court Evidence for Cliff Merchant, 28 October 2010.



- 5.2.35. The Papatua site and the area surrounding it are classified under the ROS system as 'remote waters' for recreation, which implies a higher degree of natural landscape values and lower levels of use because of difficulty of access. The amenity values for Port Gore include 'wild' and 'scenic'⁴⁸ qualities that are an integral part of the recreation and tourism experience in this location. In our opinion there would be a more than minor, but not significant effect on existing recreational use by the proposed farm given the remoteness and peacefulness of the site and the fact that this site will be staffed by NZKS; however, the site is also over 3km away from the nearest recreational activity at the Mikhail Lermontov dive site.

Richmond, Tapipi, Waitata and Kaitira–Waitata Reach

The current tourism and recreation situation

- 5.2.36. Waitata Reach is situated in the outer Pelorus Sound at the entrance to Cook Strait, and is the main thoroughfare into the Pelorus Sound.
- 5.2.37. Marine farming in the Waitata Reach area is extensive, with numerous mussel farms and two existing NZKS sites, and the White Horse Rock site "currently under appeal". The main marine farming activity is focused in Waitata Bay, Waihinau Bay and Port Ligar on the western side of the reach. However, there are also a significant number of sites in Horseshoe Bay and Forsyth Bay. Richmond Bay has only a couple of sites, while Ketu Bay has no existing marine farms.
- 5.2.38. The main recreation and tourism activities in Waitata Reach, as elsewhere in the Marlborough Sounds, are recreational fishing and boating. The Tapipi site near the entrance to Ketu Bay, is near one of the most popular scallop-dredging sites in the Pelorus Sound for recreational fishers. The level of recreational fishing usage and details of other sites within Waitata Reach are not known. The Pelorus Mail boat's Outer Sounds route takes in the bays (Waitata, Richmond, Bulwer and Port Ligar) of Waitata Reach once a week on Fridays⁴⁹. However, the Pelorus Sound does not have the same popularity and high use for recreation and tourism as does the Queen Charlotte Sound.
- 5.2.39. There is existing camping and lodges in the vicinity, at the Tui Nature Reserve and the Te Kopi Reserve. Other accommodation includes the Port Ligar Cottages, McCaulay's in Waihinau Bay, and the Pohuenui Nature Resort in Richmond Bay.
- 5.2.40. The Te Kopi Nature Reserve run by Pelorus Wildlife Sanctuaries Limited, and the Tui Nature Reserve are significant conservation projects on the peninsula. These initiatives both have accommodation and recreation, and nature-based tourism aspirations that could include both water- and land-based activities in the area. They are currently in their infancy.
- 5.2.41. Waitata Reach is classified by DOC under the ROS system as an 'accessible' recreation area. Characteristics of 'accessible waters' include "the waterways and/or adjacent land are readily accessible. Water is commonly plied by runabouts, trailer sailers, and other small vessels. Modification is apparent but not dominant."

⁴⁸ NZCPS Policy 13(f)

⁴⁹ www.mail-boat.co.nz/mailruns.html



- 5.2.42. There are no 'priority recreation sites' managed by DOC in the vicinity of the proposed Waitata Reach salmon farms. However, DOC manages the following sites in the area: Bulwer Scenic Reserve, Deep Bay Scenic Reserve, which has a campsite, and Maud Island/Te Hoiere Scientific Reserve (entry by permit only).

Assessment of effects for Richmond, Tapipi, Waitata and Kaitira

- 5.2.43. In our opinion the proposed four farm sites in Waitata Reach will have a less than minor effect on existing recreation and tourism in the vicinity.
- 5.2.44. The Waitata site is adjacent to Pelorus Wildlife Sanctuary (Te Kopi) land; while it is over 2.5km from any of the current nature reserve and/or ecotourism accommodation, there may be minor effects on existing activities, including any potential water-based ecotourism activities planned. The Pohuenui Nature Resort in Richmond Bay is 2.9km from the proposed Richmond farm site, which would have a less than minor effect on the tourism operations at Pohuenui.
- 5.2.45. The Kaitira site is directly opposite Waihinu Bay and Cedarview Cottages; however, the distance of over 4.5km would mean there would be less than minor effects on the amenity values of the operation. (Refer to Landscape Report for salmon farm visibility ranges from water and elevated positions.)
- 5.2.46. Waitata Reach is classified by DOC under the ROS system as 'accessible waters' for recreation, which implies a degree of modification to the natural environment and the likelihood of encountering other users and uses of the area. There is significant modification of the waterways, with other salmon and numerous mussel farms in the immediate vicinity (eg Waitata Bay, Waihinu Bay and Port Ligar); only Ketu Bay remains untouched by marine farming. Given the existing marine farming in the Waitata Reach and the relatively low level of recreation and tourism activity here, with the exception of fishing and boating, in our opinion the additional four farms will have a less than minor effect on existing recreational and tourism use and the amenity values that contribute to that experience.
- 5.2.47. The Tapipi site near the entrance to Ketu Bay is near one of the most popular scalloping sites in the Pelorus Sound. Refer to the Tapipi Report prepared by Cawthron for information on species found on the sea floor in the vicinity of the proposed farm site, which mentions the "occasional scallop" found under the site; therefore the effects on the existing recreational scalloping at Tapipi would be less than minor.

5.3. Cumulative effects of the proposed new salmon farms

- 5.3.1. The new salmon farms will add eight farm sites to the aquaculture industry in the Marlborough Sounds, which currently has over 560 marine farms, most of them in the Pelorus Sound.
- 5.3.2. The vast majority of the Marlborough Sounds is classified by DOC under the ROS system as 'accessible' recreation area, with the exception of Port Gore and some outer islands (eg Titi and the Chetwodes). The accessible nature of the waterways and land is linked to recreational and tourism users' perceptions of the area and its amenity values. Users expect to see a natural environment with a degree of modification, whether it be the prevalence of jetties, wharves and moorings in the



Queen Charlotte Sound, or marine farms in the Pelorus Sound.

- 5.3.3. Given the wide range of recreation and tourism opportunities available throughout the Marlborough Sounds, recreationalists and tourists have an extensive choice of activities and locations. In our opinion, none (with the possible exception of diving in Port Gore) of the proposed sites have activities that are not substitutable nearby, and as a result the cumulative impact from eight additional farms on tourism and recreation will be less than minor.
- 5.3.4. Furthermore, with the proposed development of eight new salmon farms there is the potential to pilot or develop a tourism product and/or experience based on visiting and understanding salmon farm operations. There are strong indications of private sector interest in salmon-farm-related tourism. This tourism activity would complement successful aqua-tourism business such as the Greenshell Mussel Cruise.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION

- 6.1.1. That after the lodgement of the NZKS application for plan change for new water space further consultation with the tourism industry (eg boat operators, tour guides) and recreation groups (eg fishing clubs) is undertaken.
- 6.1.2. Recreational fishing is one area in particular that will benefit from further research and consultation. This could help provide greater detail on recreational fishing and the pattern of fishing at and near individual sites. The blue cod fishery has been the subject of recent research and a stringent management plan, but the impacts of that regime are yet to be fully determined.
- 6.1.3. That NZKS takes into consideration any design-related recommendations from experts on landscape and noise.
- 6.1.4. That NZKS continue to work with the local tourism, conservation and recreational groups. This may be undertaken informally or through a structured advisory group.
- 6.1.5. That NZKS look at the potential to assist in the development of salmon-farm-related tourism in the Marlborough Sounds.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1. If NZKS is granted approval to develop eight new salmon farm operations, there will be a less than minor impact on the tourism and recreation activities in the Marlborough Sounds.
- 7.1.2. There is the potential to further expand the aqua-tourism industry and NZKS has a key role to play in assisting with the development of salmon farm tourism.





APPENDICES

Appendix 1. List of stakeholders consulted

- Roy Grose, Diana Parr and Brendon Clough, Department of Conservation
- Rose Prendeville and Steve McKeown, Port of Marlborough
- Tracey Johnston, Destination Marlborough
- Captain A. Van Wijngaarden, Harbourmaster Port of Marlborough
- Sara Archdale and Dave Watson, Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company
- Chris Godsiff, Marlborough Travel
- Bruce Cardwell and Graeme Coates, Aquaculture Direct





Appendix 2. Queen Charlotte Track accommodation and amenities

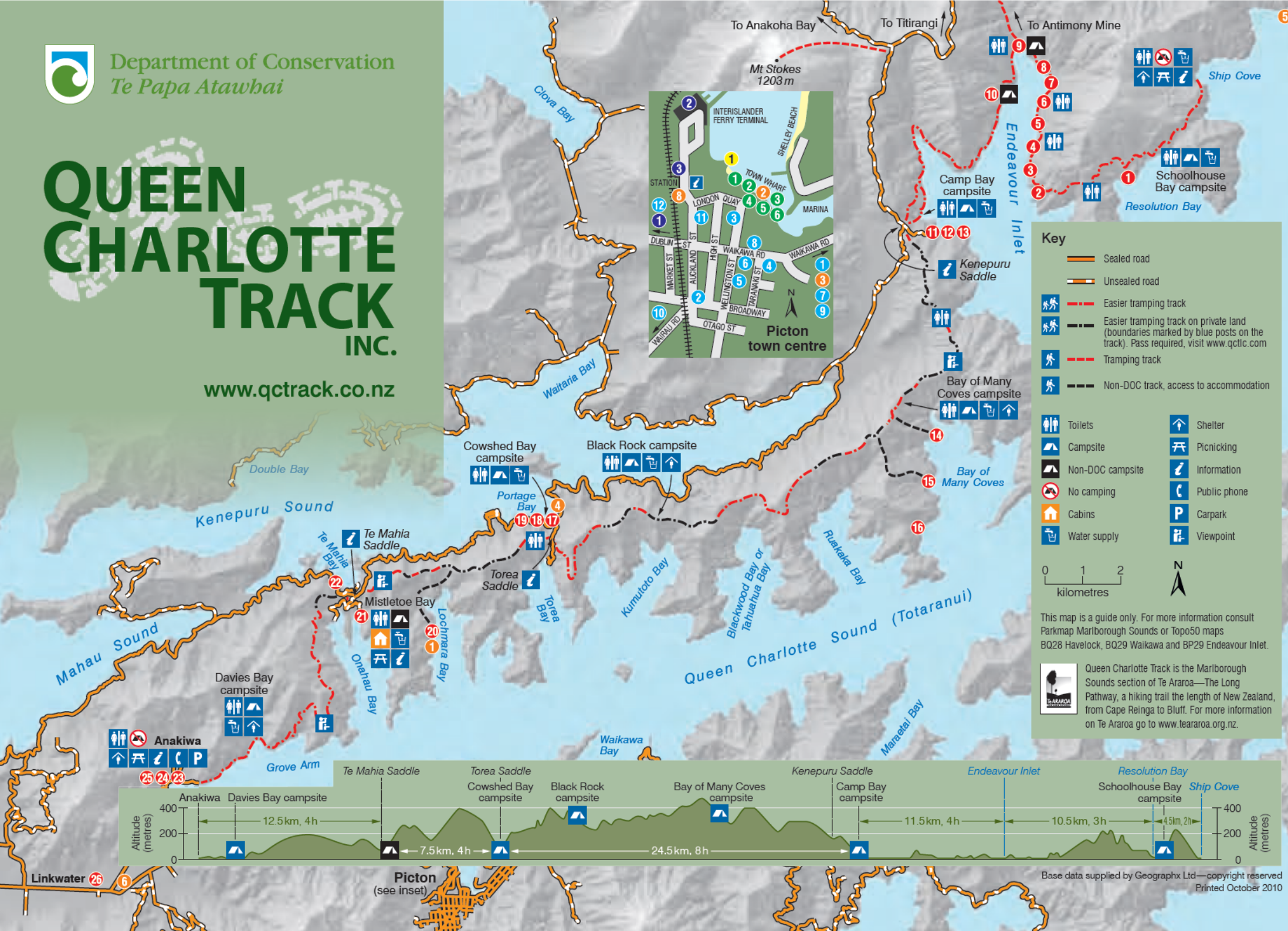




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Getting to Picton

- 1 Bluebridge**
Phone: 0800 844 844
Website: www.bluebridge.co.nz
Email: bookings@bluebridge.co.nz
- 2 Interislander**
Phone: 0800 802 802
Website: www.interislander.co.nz
Email: info@interislander.co.nz
- 3 Sounds Air**
Phone: 0800 505 005/03 520 3080
Website: www.soundsair.com
Email: info@soundsair.com

Picton accommodation

- 1 Bayview Backpackers**
Phone: 03 573 7668
Address: 318 Waikawa Road, Picton
Website: www.truenz.co.nz/bayviewbackpackers
Email: bayviewbackpackers@xtra.co.nz
- 2 Broadway Motel**
Phone: 03 573 6563
Address: 113 High Street, Picton
Website: www.broadwaymotel.co.nz
Email: stay@broadwaymotel.co.nz
- 3 Escape to Picton**
Phone: 03 573 5573
Address: 33 Wellington Street, Picton
Website: www.escapetopicton.com
Email: enquiries@escapetopicton.com
- 4 Harbour View Motel**
Phone: 03 573 6259
Address: Cnr Waikawa Road & Taranaki Street, Picton
Website: www.harbourviewpicton.co.nz
Email: harbourviewpicton@callplus.net.nz
- 5 Jasmine Court—Travellers' Inn**
Phone: 03 573 7110
Reservations 0800 421 999
Address: 78 Wellington Street, Picton
Website: www.jasminecourt.co.nz
Email: info@jasminecourt.co.nz
- 6 Marineland Heritage House B & B**
Phone: 03 573 6429
Address: 28 Waikawa Road, Picton
Website: www.marinelandaccom.co.nz
Email: marineland@xtra.co.nz
- 7 McCormick House**
Phone: 03 573 5253
Address: 21 Leicester Street, Picton
Website: www.mccormickhouse.co.nz
Email: enquiries@mccormickhouse.co.nz

- 8 Mercure Picton Marlborough Sounds**
Phone: 03 573 7002
Address: 25 Waikawa Road, Picton
Website: www.mercure.com
Email: info@mercurepicton.co.nz
- 9 Picton Top 10 Holiday Park**
Phone: 03 573 7212 or 0800 277 444
Address: 78 Waikawa Road, Picton
Website: www.pictontop10.co.nz
Email: enquiries@pictontop10.co.nz
- 10 Sequoia Lodge Backpackers**
Phone: 0800 22 22 57 or 03 573 8399
Address: 3 Nelson Square, Picton
Website: www.sequoiialodge.co.nz
Email: stay@sequoiialodge.co.nz
- 11 The Villa Backpackers**
Phone: 03 573 6598
Address: 34 Auckland Street, Picton
Website: www.thevilla.co.nz
Email: stay@thevilla.co.nz
- 12 Tombstone Backpackers**
Phone: 03 573 7116
Address: 16 Gravesend Place, Picton
Website: www.tombstonebp.co.nz
Email: tombstonebp@xtra.co.nz
- 13 Picton & Sounds B&B Association**
Website: www.pictonsoundsbb.co.nz
Email: enquiries@pictonsoundsbb.co.nz

Transport

- 1 Beachcomber Cruises**
Phone: 03 573 6175
Address: Picton Foreshore
Website: www.beachcombercruises.co.nz
Email: office@mailboat.co.nz
- 2 Cougar Line**
Phone: 03 573 7925
Address: Picton Foreshore
Website: www.queencharlottetrack.co.nz
Email: enquiries@cougarline.co.nz
- 3 Dolphin Watch Ecotours**
Phone: 03 573 8040 or Freephone 0800 WILDLIFE
Address: Picton Foreshore
Website: www.naturetours.co.nz
Email: info@naturetours.co.nz
- 4 Endeavour Express**
Phone: 03 573 5456
Address: Picton Foreshore
Website: www.boatrides.co.nz
Email: help@boatrides.co.nz

- 5 Lochmara Water Taxi**
Phone: 03 573 4554 or 0800 562 462
Location: Lochmara Bay & Picton Foreshore
Website: www.lochmaralodge.co.nz
Email: enquiries@lochmaralodge.co.nz
- 6 Picton Water Taxis**
Phone: 03 573 7853
Address: Picton Foreshore
Website: www.pictonwatertaxis.co.nz
Email: info@pictonwatertaxis.co.nz

Transport by air

- 1 Picton Floatplane**
Phone: 03 573 6866
Address: Dunbar Wharf, Picton
Website: www.nz-scenic-flights.co.nz
Email: floatplane@xtra.co.nz

Activities

- 1 Lochmara Lodge Wildlife Recovery & Arts Centre**
Phone: 03 573 4554 or 0800 562 462
Location: Lochmara Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.lochmaralodge.co.nz
Email: enquiries@lochmaralodge.co.nz
- 2 Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company**
Phone: 0800 283 283
Location: London Quay, Picton
Website: www.marlboroughsounds.co.nz
Email: adventure@marlboroughsounds.co.nz
- 3 Natural Encounters Guided Walks**
Phone: 021 268 8879
Address: 11 Hampden Street, Picton
Website: www.natural-encounters.com
Email: info@natural-encounters.com
- 4 Portage Adventure Centre**
Phone: 03 573 6078
Location: Portage Bay, Kenepuru Sound
Website: www.marlboroughsounds.co.nz
Email: adventure@marlboroughsounds.co.nz
- 5 Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park**
Phone: 03 579 9025
Location: Cape Jackson, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.truenz.co.nz/wilderness
Email: wilderness@truenz.co.nz
- 6 Sea Kayak Adventures**
Phone: 03 574 2765 or 0800 262 5492
Location: Cnr Anakiwa Road & Queen Charlotte Drive, Linkwater
Website: www.nzseakayaking.com
Email: info@nzseakayaking.com

- 7 Tuatara Tours**
Phone: 03 962 3280
Location: Christchurch
Website: www.tuataratours.co.nz
Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- 8 Wilderness Guides**
Phone: 03 573 5432 or 0800 266 266
Address: Picton Railway Station, 3 Auckland Street, Picton
Website: www.wildernessguidesnz.com
Email: info@wildernessguidesnz.com

On the track accommodation

- 1 Resolution Bay Cabins**
Phone: 03 579 9411
Location: Resolution Bay, Queen Charlotte Sounds
Email: reso@xtra.co.nz
- 2 Tawa Cove Lodge Homestay**
Phone: 03 579 8363
Location: Tawa Cove, [halfway between Resolution Bay & Furneaux Lodge]
Website: www.tawacove.co.nz
Email: info@tawacove.co.nz
- 3 The Blue Water Lodge**
Phone: 03 579 8400
Location: Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.thebluewaterlodge.co.nz
Email: enquiries@thebluewaterlodge.co.nz
- 4 Cnoc na Lear Backpacker Retreat**
Phone: 03 579 8444
Location: The Pines, Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.cnocnalear.co.nz
Email: cnoc@xtra.co.nz
- 5 No Road Inn**
Phone: 03 579 8300
Location: Head Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.noroadinn.com
Email: info@noroadinn.co.nz
- 6 Furneaux Lodge**
Phone: 03 579 8259
Location: Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.furneaux.co.nz
Email: info@furneaux.co.nz
- 7 Endeavour Resort & Fishing Lodge**
Phone: 03 579 8381
Location: Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.endeavourresort.co.nz
Email: endeavourresort@xtra.co.nz
- 8 The Woolshed**
Phone: 03 579 8398
Location: Head of Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.endeavourwoolshed.co.nz
Email: adrienne.cathie@clear.net.nz
- 9 Miners Camp**
Phone: 03 579 8186
Location: Head of Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Email: soundsewa@xtra.co.nz
- 10 Madsens Camp**
Phone: 03 579 8106
Location: Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Email: kainga1@xtra.co.nz
- 11 Punga Cove Resort**
Phone: 03 579 8561
Location: Punga Cove, Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.pungacove.co.nz
Email: enquiries@pungacove.co.nz
- 12 Mahana Lodge**
Phone: 03 579 8373
Location: Camp Bay, Endeavour Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.mahanalodge.co.nz
Email: info@mahanalodge.co.nz
- 13 Noeline's Homestay**
Phone: 03 579 8375
Location: Punaruawhiti Bay [Camp Bay] Endeavour Inlet, QC Sound
Website: www.thevilla.co.nz/homestay
- 14 Craglee Lodge Retreat**
Phone: 03 579 9223
Location: Bay of Many Coves, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.craglee.co.nz
Email: relax@craglee.co.nz
- 15 Bay of Many Coves Resort & Spa**
Phone: 03 579 9771 or 0800 5799 771
Location: Bay of Many Coves, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.bayofmanycovesresort.co.nz
Email: enquiries@bayofmanycovesresort.co.nz
- 16 Kulak Rent a House**
Phone: 03 579 9252 or 027 283 8769
Location: Queen Charlotte Sounds
Website: www.kulakrentahouse.co.nz
Email: Aldridge_kulak@xtra.co.nz
- 17 The Portage Resort Hotel**
Phone: 03 573 4309
Location: Portage Bay, Kenepuru Sound
Website: www.portage.co.nz
Email: enquiries@portage.co.nz

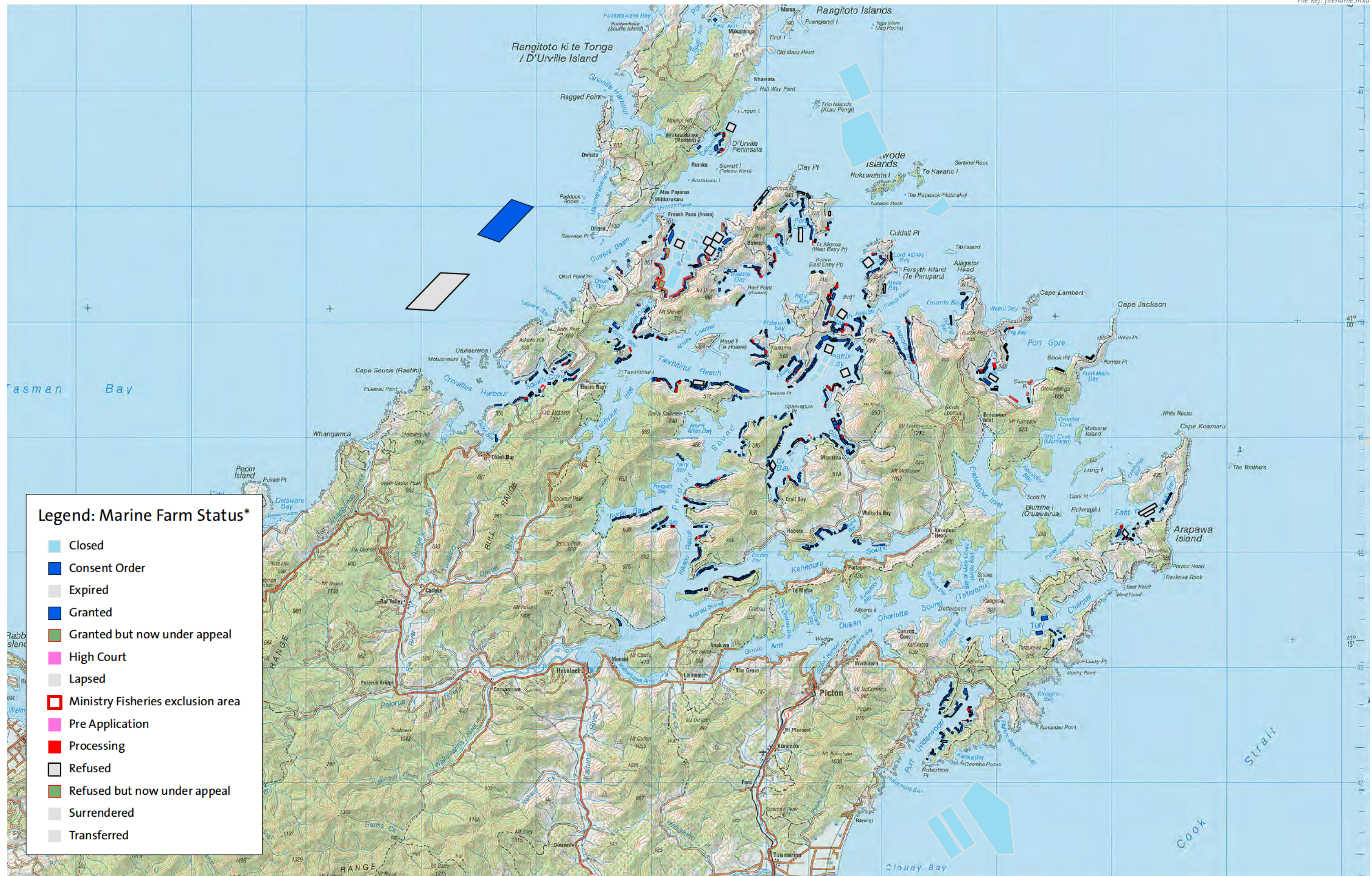
- 18 DeBretts**
Phone: 03 573 4522
Location: Portage Bay, Kenepuru Sound
Website: www.stayportage.co.nz
Email: parasail@xtra.co.nz
- 19 Treetops Backpackers**
Phone: 03 573 4404
Location: Portage Bay, Kenepuru Sound
Email: staytreetops@xtra.co.nz
- 20 Lochmara Lodge**
Phone: 03 573 4554 or 0800 562 462
Location: Lochmara Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.lochmaralodge.co.nz
Email: enquiries@lochmaralodge.co.nz
- 21 Mistletoe Bay Eco Village**
Phone: 03 573 4048
Location: Mistletoe Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.mistletoebay.co.nz
Email: stay@mistletoebay.co.nz
- 22 Te Mahia Bay Resort**
Phone: 03 573 4089
Location: Te Mahia Bay, Kenepuru Sound
Website: www.temahia.co.nz
Email: holiday@temahia.co.nz
- 23 Anakiwa Backpackers & Green Caravan Café**
Phone: 03 574 1388
Location: Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.anakiwabackpackers.co.nz
Email: info@anakiwabackpackers.co.nz
- 24 YHA Anakiwa Lodge**
Phone: 03 574 2115
Location: Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.anakiwa.co.nz
Email: info@anakiwa.co.nz
- 25 Tirimoana House**
Phone: 03 574 2627
Location: Tirimoana, Queen Charlotte Sound
Website: www.tirimoanahouse.co.nz
Email: bookings@tirimoanahouse.co.nz
- 26 Smiths Farm Holiday Park**
Phone: 03 574 2806
Location: 1419 Queen Charlotte Drive, Linkwater
Website: www.smithsfarm.co.nz
Email: cbfaulls@xtra.co.nz

**QUEEN
CHARLOTTE
TRACK
INC.**



Appendix 3. Marine farms in the Marlborough Sounds







Appendix 4. Marlborough Sounds recreation and tourism activity



Waihinu Bay

Kaitira

Forsyth Bay

Waitata

Tapipi

Richmond

 Papatua
(Rotation between sites)



0 3 km
1:175,000 @ A3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Marlborough Sounds Recreation and Tourism Activity

Plan Prepared for NZ King Salmon by TRCNZ and Boffa Miskell Limited

Checked: _____