

**Aquaculture New Zealand and  
Pakihi Marine Farms  
Submitter**

**Topic 019 Natural Features,  
Landscape and Character**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act  
1991 and the Local Government  
(Auckland Transitional Provisions)  
Act 2010

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Proposed Auckland Unitary  
Plan

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DENNIS JOHN SCOTT FOR PAKIHI  
MARINE FARMS (CLEVEDON COAST OYSTERS) AND WAIHEKE  
MUSSELS LTD (AWAKIRIAPA) IN RELATION TO TOPIC 019 NATURAL  
FEATURES, LANDSCAPES AND CHARACTER**

**4 August 2015**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. My name is Dennis John Scott.
2. I am a Landscape Architect specialising in landscape planning, analysis and assessment and land use design and management in urban, rural and coastal environments.
3. I hold the qualifications of a Diploma in Urban Valuation (1969) and a postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture (1974). I am a Registered Landscape Architect and Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects. I am a past – President (2009-2011) of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA).
4. I am experienced in a wide range of landscape planning, analysis, assessment and management programmes and the relationship of interpretive design input into the formal New Zealand statutory and land use planning process, including the preparation of plans under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). I have been involved in the formulation of several regional and district planning documents.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

5. For the purpose of this Independent Hearing Panel (IHP), I also confirm have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses contained in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2014. I agree to comply with the Code and confirm that my evidence has been prepared in accordance with it.
6. The matters which I give expert opinion evidence are within my area of expertise and on which I am qualified to express an opinion. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

## **PURPOSE AND EXTENT OF EVIDENCE**

7. I am instructed by Pakihi Farms (Clevedon Coast Oysters) and Waiheke Mussels Ltd (Awakiriapa Bay Mussels) to log a formal statement to the PAUP Independent Hearings Panel.
8. The above stated mussel farm operations require some certainty of future operations and potential limited expansion of the existing farms located within ONL overlays that extend into the marine area (CMA).

9. See Annexure for location of the existing Mussel farms together the PAUP Natural Heritage overlay(s).

10. It is noted that discussions and mediation between Aquaculture New Zealand and representatives of individual Marine Farm companies has resulted in the following response from the Auckland Council Planning team:

- *The water areas are not specifically defined, they are an arbitrary cut-off of water area and land area that creates the landscape relationship*
- *The peninsula (Awaawaroa) is narrow at this point and it is difficult to not include the sea around it.*
- *All the seaward boundaries are 'arbitrary' it simply captures a sizeable water area that captures interplay between land and sea*
- *200m gives a reasonable depth of water area*
- *The presence of a marine farm – looked at as if farming in a pastoral landscape - it does not necessarily destroy or downgrade a coastal landscape, in the same way that pasture does not necessarily degrade a terrestrial landscape*

**General issue raised with descriptions:**

- *Issue of how some ONL's are described (eg ONL 80) - no reference to the wharf or aquaculture that exist, no acknowledgement that the farms are part of the landscape*
- *Aquaculture NZ would like to include aquaculture activities in the description of the appendices*
- *Example of Brown's Bay Mahurangi referred to = description includes the marine farm – others should be amended in a similar way to include reference to farms*
- *ONLs/HNC – some include description of farms, others don't*

**In response to the issues raised in response to 'king salmon':**

- *King Salmon was a different situation (to the example given) and was looking at new marine farms, matters that are relevant are the scale of development, and type of farm (salmon farm structures)*
- *Agreed that because of the King Salmon decision there is an emphasis on describing the qualities, characteristics and attributes that comprise these areas.*

**Outcome:**

*It is agreed that the description of marine farms should be included where they are located within ONLs/HNC overlay. Since these farms are part of the existing landscape*

*within some ONLs and ONC/HNC areas and their presence should be acknowledged as part of that landscape.*

## **CONCLUSION**

11. As agreements between parties do not limit the ability of the Hearings Panel to make recommendations or the ability of the council to make decisions on these recommendations, I hereby draw the attention of the IHP to the submitters request that the response to the discussions between parties is recognised and formally noted.



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Dennis Scott  
Registered Landscape Architect

4 August 2015