



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

National Office  
Level 4 Central House  
26 Brandon Street  
PO Box 25-498  
Wellington 6146  
(04) 473 7623  
[www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz)

7 February 2002

S02.03

**Submission to the Primary Production Select Committee on the  
Resource Management (Aquaculture Moratorium) Amendment Bill**

The National Council of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 43 Nationally Organised Societies. It has 35 branches spread throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated.

This submission has been written on behalf of the Environment Standing Committee.

**Introduction**

NCWNZ has taken an interest in planning and legislation pertaining to fisheries and marine ecosystems for some years and is pleased to have another opportunity to comment in this area. Submissions have included those to the Ministry of Fisheries on the "Sustainable Fisheries" report in 1992, to the Primary Production Select Committee on the Fisheries Amendment Bill in 1994, and more recently to the Department of Conservation on the marine reserves review in 1999 and to the Oceans Policy planning group in 2001.

**Specific Comment**

NCWNZ supports fully the moratorium on new aquaculture activities in coastal marine areas and endorses preferred option 1 (p4 of the explanation) i.e. imposition of an immediate nation-wide moratorium by legislation prior to the enactment of the main aquaculture reforms. There are several benefits in proceeding with this course of action:

- It allows time for regional and local territorial authorities to research the ecology of the area including both biota and abiotic factors, and then use data obtained to inform their coastal plans. Such research provides a baseline against which the impacts of any proposed Aquaculture venture can be assessed.
- It removes pressure from territorial authorities to approve developments that may not be beneficial long-term.
- The immediate enforcement of the moratorium prevents the "cash in while we can" mentality that has been seen so often in the past in the gap between the passing of legislation and its implementation in areas such as the protection of indigenous forest on private land.
- As part of the planning process there is opportunity for territorial authorities to set zones so that the optimum region for any aquatic activity may be allocated whether this is aquaculture or any other activity.

Care is needed in proceeding with aquaculture applications because the effect these ventures have on the environment is not fully understood, and ongoing research is needed to elucidate the behaviour of such communities. The waste from farmed species pollutes the locality and the large offshore structures could have effects on the neighbouring coastline through physical impacts such as sand shift and changes in water current. The long-term effects of such impacts are unknown.





New Zealand has some unique local ecological systems, and bringing in enormous numbers of one species, together with the supporting infrastructure, has the potential to destroy, or at least alter drastically, these natural systems.

**Conclusion**

NCWNZ supports this Bill because it allows proposed new Aquaculture activities to be properly assessed in the light of regional coastal plans, improved scientific knowledge and the wider policy and planning being undertaken at present such as the Oceans Policy. NCWNZ views this Bill as a further step towards sustainable management of a valuable resource.

Barbara Glenie  
**National President**

Barbara Arnold  
**Convener, Environment Standing Committee**