



**This information sheet provides a brief introduction to the aquaculture industry.** The information sheet focuses on sea (marine)-based aquaculture, as there have been recent changes from the aquaculture reform legislation.

#### **AQUACULTURE**

Aquaculture is the general term given to the cultivation of any aquatic (fresh and marine) species (plant or animal), where these plants or animals are kept in the "exclusive and continuous possession" of the breeder and are clearly distinguishable and separate from wild stock.

#### **MARINE-BASED AQUACULTURE**

The Resource Management Act 1991 ("the RMA") defines marine-based aquaculture as:

"the breeding, hatching, cultivating, rearing, or on-growing of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for harvest if the breeding, hatching, cultivating, rearing, or on-growing involves the occupation of a coastal marine area; and includes the taking of harvestable spat if the taking involves the occupation of a coastal marine area".

The term aquaculture only applies to activities that are exclusively owned or controlled by a person(s) and are able to be distinguished from naturally occurring fish, aquatic life or seaweed.

Aquaculture does not include commercial fishing, which is controlled under the Fisheries Act 1996. The RMA is the primary legislation controlling aquaculture in New Zealand.

#### **CURRENT STATISTICS**

Some current key facts and statistics relating to aquaculture in New Zealand include:

- The aquaculture industry is currently worth around \$300 million to the New Zealand economy
- The aquaculture industry is the fastest growing sector of New Zealand's seafood industry
- Aquaculture is the second biggest industry in Marlborough, and generates over \$700million annually and supports 1,500 full-time jobs

- New Zealand's contribution to global aquaculture is about 0.02 percent of sales by weight
- Aquaculture makes up about 20 percent of the total fisheries production in value and 15 percent of New Zealand's seafood exports by revenue
- New Zealand's three main export markets are the United States of America, Japan and Australia.
- The greatest contributor to the growth of aquaculture production in New Zealand has been Greenshell™ Mussels, with King salmon and Pacific oysters as the other two significant species

The market revenue generated by aquaculture is set out in the following table:

#### **MARKET REVENUE (2005)\***

##### **EXPORT MARKET REVENUE (NZ\$ FOB)**

Greenshell™ mussels	166
King salmon	32
Pacific oysters	16

##### **DOMESTIC MARKET REVENUE (NZ\$)**

Greenshell™ mussels	43
King salmon	56
Pacific oysters	12

##### **TOTAL MARKET REVENUE (NZ\$)**

Greenshell™ mussels	209
King salmon	88
Pacific oysters	28

\*Source: New Zealand Aquaculture Council Inc. and the New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy 2006.





## THE NEW ZEALAND AQUACULTURE STRATEGY

The *New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy* was released in July 2006.

The strategy was prepared in conjunction with participants from all sectors of the seafood industry, iwi, government departments, regional and local governments, research providers and non-government organisations.

The Strategy sets out a vision that: "the New Zealand aquaculture sector is recognised within New Zealand and around the world as producing healthy, high quality, environmentally sustainable aquaculture products".

The aquaculture industry goal is to achieve aquaculture sales of \$1 billion per annum by 2025. A ten-point plan sets out the key actions required to achieve the vision and goal.



### The New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy Ten-Point Plan:

1. Establish a new national sector organisation
2. Strengthen the partnership with government
3. Strengthen the stakeholder partnerships
4. Secure and promote investment in aquaculture
5. Improve public understanding and support for aquaculture
6. Promote Māori success in aquaculture
7. Develop the market for New Zealand aquaculture products
8. Maximise opportunities for innovation
9. Promote environmental sustainability and integrity of aquaculture
10. Invest in training, education and workforce promotion

Point 1. (above) has already been completed, with the establishment of New Zealand Aquaculture Ltd in November 2006.

To view the *New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy*, visit:  
<http://www.nzmic.co.nz/Assets/Content/Publications/sector%20strategy%20final%20low%20resolution.pdf>

To find out more about New Zealand Aquaculture Ltd, see our information sheet "Roles and Responsibilities in Aquaculture".

## MĀORI AND AQUACULTURE

Māori already have a significant presence in the New Zealand aquaculture industry, a role that is likely to increase over time as the requirements to allocate aquaculture space (or its equivalent) through the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 are met.

Increasing and strengthening the level of participation in the aquaculture industry will benefit Māori. However, inappropriately located and unsustainable aquaculture development may potentially compromise values and resources important to coastal whānau, hapū and iwi.

The Government's *National Position Statement on Aquaculture* identifies that strengthening Māori success in aquaculture requires a focus on the following critical factors:

- New Māori aquaculture developments must be sound business propositions
- Māori must have access to industry and commercial expertise
- Māori must have the knowledge and human resources to actively participate in the planning process, specifically the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)
- An emphasis on iwi working together at a regional level to maximise the benefits of the settlement assets
- Wider environmental concerns must balance with commercial aquaculture aspirations
- Collaboration and relationship building between iwi, community, industry, regional and central government

To find out more about the *Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004*, see our information sheet "The Aquaculture Settlement".

To find out more about the Government's *National Position Statement on Aquaculture*, see our information sheet "Roles and Responsibilities in Aquaculture".