

Appendix 4

Code of Practice to avoid, remedy or mitigate environmental impacts from marine farming activities in Wainui Bay spat catching sites on other users and residents

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Practice is to;

1. Be sensitive and considerate to residents and other users when undertaking marine farm activities on the water.
2. Recognise the impact of mussel spat catching on other users in the Wainui Bay and local residents
3. To provide methods/guidelines for marine farm industry operators to follow to reduce the localised impact of mussel spat catching activities.
4. To provide methods/guidelines for marine farm operators to follow to avoid unnecessary noise and disruption to residents from marine farming vessel's lights.

Noise

1. Noise from working marine farm vessels in the Wainui Bay can disturb the natural character of the areas if not managed properly.
2. The MFA recognises that the best way of embracing this issue is to develop a Code of Practice which when adopted will avoid, remedy or mitigate the impact of unnecessary vessel noise.
3. The harvesting of marine farm products in Wainui Bay has permitted use status.
4. The noise criteria for Wainui Bay (Golden Bay) is listed in the Tasman Resource Management Plan.
5. Article 6.3 of the Aquaculture New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice deals with Noise and sets out the environmental objective, management practices performance measures expected of parties attached to the Code.
6. Non-operational noise from marine farming vessels is primarily related to the volume of either marine radios or music systems on the vessels.
7. The impact of noise from working vessels can be affected by a number of factors including; the management of noise policies on vessels, the distance of the vessel from residential properties, the weather, sea state and the type of noise emanating from the vessel.
8. Residents are more or less receptive of vessel noise at different times of the day.

Other Matters

9. It is recognised that other spat catching activities in Wainui Bay can also impact local residents. These include;
 - Debris washed up on the Wainui Bay beach and Spit
 - Lights from working marine farm vessels
 - Coloured floats

Code of Practice

1. This Code of Practice has been adopted by the MFA in an effort to avoid, remedy or mitigate non-operational and unnecessary noise from working vessels in the Wainui Bay.
2. All vessels owned by members of the MFA are asked to adopt this Code of Practice as Company Policy.
3. At all times vessel skippers are to note the weather and sea state in the bay and modify non-operational and unnecessary noises as may be appropriate. It is noted that sound waves carry a great distance in calm still weather.
4. Vessels working in Wainui Bay should pay particular regard to the effect of non-operational and unnecessary noise on residents in the bay.
5. Vessel speed is restricted to 5 knots within the consented areas of the Farms.
6. Permitted noise levels - when vessels are moored at night, noise from vessels must be kept to such a level that the occupants of the nearest residence are not able to hear the noise.
7. All spotlights are to be turned off after lines are located and the vessel is secured to the line, 'working' deck lights only are to be used when required.
8. The Association recognises that maritime radio is used on vessels for communication and maritime safety (eg weather forecasts, hazard warnings and in emergencies). It is also recognised that members listen to channels of their choice and that radios may be left to scan various channels. To avoid clutter Channel 60 is provided by Nelson Marine Radio Ltd for the use of commercial operators (marine farmers, water taxis and fishermen). No broadcast radio station or digital or analogue recorded noise (including loud cell phone ringtones, CD's, cassette tapes, MP3's or other digital formats) is to occur in the Wainui Bay between 8pm and 6am
9. The Association expects vessel skippers to ensure that there is not a "volume war" between users of the vessel's maritime radio.
10. Floats used on the Wainui Farms must be black (no coloured floats), with an orange float at the end of each long line and in the centre of the seaward most long line of each site.
11. No one ended floats are to be used.
12. No bundling of floats on the farms are permitted.
13. Marine Farmers in Wainui Bay will be responsible for the regular monitoring of and collection of marine farm debris deposited on Wainui Bay and the Spit

Review

This Code of Practice will be reviewed on an annual basis or as may be deemed appropriate by the MFA Environment Committee in conjunction with the Wainui Bay consent holders.