

Summary of meeting between Wainui Bay residents and Marine Farm permit holders 5.7.13

Present:

GB Community Board members , Leigh Gamby , Karen Brookes , Mik Symmons

Hika Roundtree, Clearwater mussels

Merv Whipp, Ngai Tahu Seafood Resources

Jason McKay, Perna Contracting

Dean Higgins, Kono Seafood

Doug Saunders – Loder, Talleys Seafood

Margaret Bell , Moira Tilling, FOGB

Jilly Foxwell, Wainui Bay resident

Ros Squire TDC Coastal Planner

Apologies received from Sue Robertson- King, Jim & Marie Robertson, Brooke Weatherwell, Joseph Blessing, Ginny Henderson, Carolyn Maclellan, Martine Boullir, Jean Patterson, Angela Wright, Liz Burrell, Pip Burrell , Mark Burrell.

Background: An annual meeting between consent holders and Wainui Bay residents to be called by the GB Community Board is specified in clause 27 of the consent conditions for 2 farms.

There have been historic complaints mainly from 2009 -11 about boat noise and loud music coming from the boats. Current concerns raised in two letters are about boats ignoring the condition that no sound should be louder than the boat engine with loud radios and sound systems, and also that consented working hours are being exceeded with boats sometimes working through the night.

Only two of the farms operate under the conditions in this resource consent, the other four farms operate under earlier consents with different conditions, these are currently being reviewed by TDC, with 95% of the process completed. It is likely that the new consents will have similar conditions to the two outer farms, and the number of lines will be defined. The new consent conditions are not open for public submission, however the consent holders can appeal the draft conditions.

Although these earlier consents do not have specific conditions about noise there is a general presumption under section 16 of the RMA to avoid unreasonable or unnecessary noise.

Talleys believe they meet the conditions but will discuss with other consent holders to try and get a collective approach . It was noted that the people who own the farms aren't always the ones working on them so contractors need to be aware of the consents. Also weather conditions can have a big effect on how far sound travels .

Although complaint numbers have tailed off residents who have concerns need to call TDC, complaints are logged and reported.

Clearwater Mussels try not to work before 6am and avoid weekends , however if there is a high spat count this is not always possible.

There was discussion over the timing of the meeting and attendance, Marine farmers are fine with face to face meeting. Consent conditions should not impose a condition on a third party, in this case

the Community Board, however the Board would like to remain involved. Ros will draft a new condition to make clear the purpose of the meeting, who calls it and when it is held. July is a good month, but meeting time later in the day and in school holidays would be better.

The majority of complaints relate to noise, it would be better if all six farms operate under the same set of rules. The other four consent holders will take noise issues on board, there is an informal code of practice amongst the marine Farmers but sometimes outside operators come in who are unaware of the conditions.

These issues will be taken back to the Marine Farmers Association for discussion.

Jilly finds the farms visually intrusive and has concerns about orange and blue rope being dumped and washing up on the beach although there is less than in earlier years. She is also concerned about the hours of work exceeding the consent conditions- when the farms are really busy it is very intrusive. Spotlights also shine onto the shore rather than the boat decks.

Clearwater run the farms for Talleys and keep within the specified hours, however after two poor years need to make the most of spat availability which sometimes involves working weekends. There are usually three big spat falls each year and harvesting is also dictated by the weather.

The MFA has an environmental code of practice, and Darren Clarke is employed as the Environmental officer and carries out regular inspections.

Action points :

- MFA will follow up on spotlights and noise issues
- Any noise complaints to be reported to TDC
- Darren Clarke to check on management of ropes to avoid losses and beach debris
- Ros will work on finishing consents for four existing farms to try and align consent conditions for all Wainui Bay marine farms
- Ros to redraft condition 27 to clarify purpose of annual meeting, who calls it and when
- GB Community board to continue to attend meetings.