

Aquaculture Reform (Repeals and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004

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Date of assent 21 December 2004
Commencement see section 2

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Aquaculture Reform (Repeals and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004.

2 Commencement

(1) Section 33 comes into force on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by Order in Council.

(2) The rest of this Act come into force on 1 January 2005.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is—

- (a) to repeal the Marine Farming Act 1971 and provide for transitional matters relating to the repeal; and
- (b) to repeal certain provisions in Part IVA of the Fisheries Act 1983 and provide for transitional matters relating to the repeal; and
- (c) to provide for transitional matters relating to the ending of the moratorium under the Resource Management Act 1991.

4 Arrangement of this Act

- (1) This Act is arranged as follows:
 - (a) sections 6 to 17 repeal the Marine Farming Act 1971 and deal with transitional matters arising from the repeal:
 - (b) sections 18 to 33 repeal certain provisions in the Fisheries Act 1983 (relating to marine farming) and deal with transitional matters arising from the repeals:
 - (c) sections 34 to 54 deal with transitional matters relating to the ending on 31 December 2004 of the moratorium established under the Resource Management (Aquaculture Moratorium) Amendment Act 2002 on the granting of coastal permits for aquaculture activities:
 - (d) sections 55 to 58 deal with some general matters.
- (2) The arrangement of this Act does not necessarily enable certain situations and the relevant provisions to be readily identified.
- (3) The table at the end of this section refers to certain situations and the relevant provisions in a different order based on arranging situations in a sequence in which they are likely, in practice, to occur.
- (4) The purpose of this section is to present alternative arrangements for ease of reference, and nothing in this section limits or affects the other provisions of this Act.

Situation	Section
Pre-moratorium resource consent applications	50 (Pre-moratorium and pre-commencement applications for coastal permits not subject to moratorium)
	51 (Regional council must request aquaculture decision if application for coastal permit declined or withdrawn)
	20 or 21 (Marine farming permits and certain spat catching permits deemed to be coastal permits)
	24 (Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3))
	28 (Lapsing of parts of coastal permit)
	29 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer regis- tration pending registration by chief executive)
	53 (Off-site farms)
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures on coastal marine area)
	52 (Areas excluded from interim aquaculture management area or aquaculture management area)
Pre-commencement early uplift applications	46 (Pending applications where moratorium ends before 31 December 2004)
Pending applications when moratorium ends on close of 31 December 2004	47 (Pending applications where moratorium ends on close of 31 December 2004)

Situation	Section
Holder of a coastal permit issued under the Resource Management Act 1991	20 (Marine farming permits deemed to be coastal permits)
and a marine farming permit issued under the Fisheries Act 1983, both in force at commencement of this Act	24 (Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3))
	28 (Lapsing of parts of coastal permit)
	53 (Off-site farms)
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area)
	29 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer regis- tration pending registration by chief executive)
	32 (Levies)
Holder of a coastal permit issued under the Resource Management Act 1991	21 (Certain spat catching permits deemed to be coastal permits)
and a spat catching permit issued under section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983, both in force at commencement of	24 (Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3))
this Act	28 (Lapsing of parts of coastal permit)
	53 (Off-site farms)
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area)
	29 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer regis- tration pending registration by chief executive)
	32 (Levies)
Existing application for new permit under Fisheries Act 1983 or change of conditions of permit under Fisheries Act 1983	27 (Order of processing applications and request for aquaculture decision in relation to aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area)
	25 (Completion of certain matters pending at commencement of Act)
	20 or 21 (Marine farming permits and certain spat catching permits deemed to be coastal permits)
	24 (Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3))
	28 (Lapsing of parts of coastal permit)
	53 (Off-site farms)

Situation	Section	
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area)	
	29 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer regis- tration pending registration by chief executive)	
	30 (Application to register fish farmer deferred pending decision on permit)	
	31 (Application to register as fish farmer to be declined if marine farming permit or spat catching permit declined)	
	32 (Levies)	
	52 (Areas excluded from aquaculture management area or aquaculture management area)	
New applications for new permits under Fisheries Act 1983	26 (Applications after commencement of Act)	
	27 (Order of processing applications and request for aquaculture decision in relation to aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area)	
	20 or 21 (Marine farming permits and certain spat catching permits deemed to be coastal permits)	
	24 (Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3))	
	28 (Lapsing of parts of coastal permit)	
	53 (Off-site farms)	
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area)	
	29 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer regis- tration pending registration by chief executive)	
	30 (Application to register fish farmer deferred pending decision on permit)	
	31 (Application to register as fish farmer to be declined if marine farming permit or spat catching permit declined)	
	32 (Levies)	
	52 (Areas excluded from interim aquaculture management area or aquaculture management area)	

Situation	Section	
Surrender of permits under Fisheries Act 1983	25(4) (Completion of certain matters pending at commencement of Act)	
Review of permits under Fisheries Act 1983	25(5) (Completion of certain matters pending at commencement of Act)	
Holder of a lease or licence issued under	8 (Application)	
the Marine Farming Act 1971 in force at commencement of this Act (including forfeiture)	10 (Leases and licences deemed to be coastal permits)	
	12 (Approvals under Harbours Act 1950)	
	16 (Certain matters to be completed under principal Act)	
	13 (Mortgages and charges)	
	14 (Subleases and sublicences)	
	53 (Off-site farms)	
	56 (Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area)	
	17 (Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farm registra- tion pending registration by chief execu- tive)	
	49 (Preferential right for deemed permit holder to apply for coastal permit for occupation)	
Existing application to change condi-	15 (Applications to extend term)	
tions of lease or licence issued under the Marine Farming Act 1971	16 (Certain matters to be completed under principal Act)	

5 Interpretation

- (1) In this Act unless the context otherwise requires, **aquatic life**, **fish, fishing**, and **seaweed** have the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Fisheries Act 1996.
- (2) In this Act, **the commencement of this Act** means 1 January 2005.

Repeal of Marine Farming Act 1971 and transitional provisions relating to repeal

6 Marine Farming Act 1971 called principal Act in sections 7 to 17

In sections 7 to 17, the Marine Farming Act 1971 is called "the principal Act".

Repeal

7 Repeal

The principal Act is repealed.

Transitional

8 Application

- (1) Sections 9 to 17 apply to every lease or licence that—
 - (a) has been executed under the principal Act; and
 - (b) is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) For the purposes of sections 9 to 17, a variation of a lease or licence made under section 13 of the principal Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act is to be treated as a condition of the lease or licence.

9 Interpretation

In sections 10 to 17, unless the context otherwise requires, **deemed coastal permit** means a lease or licence that is deemed to be a coastal permit under section 10(1).

10 Leases and licences deemed to be coastal permits

- (1) On and from the date specified in subsection (2), each lease and licence is deemed to be a coastal permit granted under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the date is—
 - (a) the commencement of this Act; but
 - (b) if section 16 applies, the date on which the application referred to in that section is determined.
- (3) A deemed coastal permit is subject to the same conditions as applied to the lease or licence immediately before the date specified in subsection (2).

- (4) The consent authority may, within 12 months after the commencement of this Act,—
 - (a) commence a review of a deemed coastal permit, including the conditions of the permit; and
 - (b) if it considers it necessary to do so, vary, add, or delete conditions for the purpose of making the conditions consistent with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (5) In exercising the power in subsection (4), the consent authority—
 - (a) may do so on its own initiative or after a request from the holder of the permit; but
 - (b) must not amend the species or area covered by the permit.
- (6) To avoid doubt, a review under subsection (4) is a review of consent conditions for the purposes of section 120 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (7) Sections 23 and 24 apply to a decision made by a consent authority under subsection (4), and that provision applies accordingly with all necessary modifications.
- (8) A deemed coastal permit is to be treated as if it had been granted for a term of 20 years beginning on the commencement of this Act.
- (9) A deemed coastal permit is to be treated as if it—
 - (a) authorises the holder to undertake aquaculture activities in the area specified in the lease or licence concerned to the extent consistent with the lease or licence as in force immediately before the date specified in subsection (2); and
 - (b) includes all the coastal permits that would otherwise have been required under sections 12 and 14 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to undertake those activities; and
 - (c) includes all the coastal permits that would otherwise have been required under section 15 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to undertake those activities to the extent that they were being undertaken at the commencement of this Act.
- (10) Subsection (11) applies if, immediately before the date specified in subsection (2),—

- (a) a variation has been made under section 13(1) or (3) of the principal Act to a lease or licence which authorises the farming of species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed not authorised before the variation; and
- (b) the holder of the lease or licence has not begun to farm the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the variation applies to.
- (11) The holder of the lease or licence must not begin farming the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed referred to in subsection (10)(b) if doing so would have, or is likely to have, effects that are more adverse in character, intensity, or scale than the effects of farming the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the lease or licence applied to immediately before the variation.
- (12) However, subsection (11) does not apply if the holder of the lease or licence is authorised to farm the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed concerned by—
 - (a) a permission that is deemed to be a coastal permit by section 384 of the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - (b) a coastal permit granted under the Resource Management Act 1991; or
 - (c) a variation granted before 1 October 1991.

11 Provision of records to regional councils

The chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries must, within 3 months after the commencement of this Act, provide to each regional council details of the relevant leases and licences to which section 8 applies.

12 Approvals under Harbours Act 1950

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if a person holds—
 - (a) a deemed coastal permit; and
 - (b) an approval under section 178(1)(b) of the Harbours Act 1950 to erect structures for aquaculture activities that is—
 - (i) deemed to be a coastal permit under section 384 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
 - (ii) in force immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The deemed coastal permit referred to in subsection (1)(b)—

- (a) becomes part of the deemed coastal permit referred to in subsection (1)(a) and subject to section 10; and
- (b) lapses as an approval under the Harbours Act 1950.

13 Mortgages and charges

- (1) A lease or licence that, immediately before the commencement of this Act, is subject to a mortgage registered under section 15(2) of the principal Act continues, on and from the commencement of this Act, to be subject to the mortgage.
- (2) A mortgage referred to in subsection (1) is to be treated as if it were a charge over a coastal permit, and section 122(3) and
 (4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 applies accordingly.
- (3) If a mortgage referred to in subsection (1) is registered under the Personal Property Securities Act 1999, within 1 year after the commencement of this Act, no fee is payable for the registration.

14 Subleases and sublicences

A sublessee or sublicensee of a lease or licence that is subject to a sublease or sublicence immediately before the commencement of this Act must be treated as a person acting under a resource consent with the permission of the consent holder.

15 Applications to extend term

- (1) An application to extend the term or period of a lease or licence under section 13(2) or (4) of the principal Act, made but not determined before the commencement of this Act, is cancelled.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an application to extend the term or period of a lease or licence, if the lease or licence has expired before the commencement of this Act.

16 Certain matters to be completed under principal Act

(1) An application to vary a lease or licence under section 13 of the principal Act, made but not determined before the commencement of this Act, must be continued and determined under the principal Act as if this Act had not been enacted.

- (2) If a controlling authority has taken action to forfeit a lease or licence under section 14 of the principal Act, but the forfeiture has not been completed or discontinued before the commencement of this Act, then—
 - (a) the forfeiture may be completed or discontinued under the principal Act after the commencement of this Act; but
 - (b) until the forfeiture has been completed or discontinued, the other provisions of sections 9 to 15 and section 17 do not apply to the lease or licence.
- (3) This section applies subject to section 15.

17 Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farm registration pending registration by chief executive

- (1) The holder of a deemed coastal permit must be treated as a registered fish farmer under Part 9A of the Fisheries Act 1996 for the space that the deemed coastal permit relates to.
- (2) Within 12 months after the commencement of this Act, the chief executive must register the holder of the deemed coastal permit as a fish farmer under section 186V of the Fisheries Act 1996 without an application or payment of the prescribed fee.

Repeal of certain provisions in Part IVA of Fisheries Act 1983 and transitional provisions relating to repeals

18 Fisheries Act 1983 called principal Act in sections 19 to 33

In sections 19 to 33, the Fisheries Act 1983 is called "the principal Act".

Repeals and amendments

19 Repeals

- (1) Sections 67I to 67Q of the principal Act are repealed.
- (2) Section 314(1)(x) of the Fisheries Act 1996 is consequentially repealed.

Transitional

20 Marine farming permits deemed to be coastal permits

- (1) This section applies to every marine farming permit that—
 - (a) has been granted under section 67J of the principal Act;
 - (b) is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) On and from the commencement of this Act, each marine farming permit is deemed to be a coastal permit granted under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed and area referred to in the permit and on the same conditions as applied to the permit immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (3) The consent authority may, within 12 months after the commencement of this Act,—
 - (a) commence a review of the conditions of a coastal permit referred to in subsection (2); and
 - (b) if it considers it necessary to do so, vary, add, or delete conditions for the purpose of making the conditions consistent with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (4) In exercising the power in subsection (3), the consent authority—
 - (a) may do so on its own initiative or after a request from the holder of the permit; but
 - (b) must not amend the species or area covered by the coastal permit.
- (5) To avoid doubt, a review of conditions under subsection (3) is a review of consent conditions for the purposes of section 120 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (6) A coastal permit referred to in subsection (2) does not, of itself, authorise the holder to occupy a coastal marine area.

21 Certain spat catching permits deemed to be coastal permits

- (1) This section applies to every spat catching permit that—
 - (a) has been granted under section 67Q(2) of the principal Act: and
 - (b) is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act.

- (2) On and from the commencement of this Act, every spat catching permit is deemed to be a coastal permit granted by a consent authority under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed and area referred to in the permit and on the conditions as applied to the permit immediately before the commencement of this Act.
- (3) The consent authority may, within 12 months after the commencement of this Act,—
 - (a) commence a review of the conditions of a coastal permit referred to in subsection (2); and
 - (b) if it considers it necessary to do so, vary, add, or delete conditions for the purpose of making the conditions consistent with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (4) In exercising the power in subsection (3), the consent authority—
 - (a) may do so on its own initiative or after a request from the holder of the permit; but
 - (b) must not amend the species or area covered by the coastal permit.
- (5) To avoid doubt, a review of conditions under subsection (3) is a review of consent conditions for the purposes of section 120 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (6) A coastal permit referred to in subsection (2) expires on the same date as the coastal permit that relates to the spat catching permit that is deemed by subsection (2) to be a coastal permit.
- (7) A coastal permit referred to in subsection (2) does not, of itself, authorise the holder to occupy a coastal marine area.

22 Provision of records to regional councils

The chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries must, within 3 months after the commencement of this Act, provide to each regional council details of the relevant marine farming permits and spat catching permits to which sections 20 and 21 apply.

23 Regional councils may charge for review

Section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991 applies in relation to the functions of a consent authority under sections 10, 20, and 21 as if a review under any of those sections were a

review under section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Objections to decisions made under sections 20(3) and 21(3)

- (1) The holder of a permit referred to in section 20(3) or section 21(3) has a right to object to a consent authority in respect of the consent authority's decisions made under those provisions.
- (2) Sections 357(5) to (8) and 358 of the Resource Management Act 1991 apply in relation to an objection under this section.

25 Completion of certain matters pending at commencement of Act

- (1) If a person to whom subsection (2) applies makes an application to which subsection (3) applies, the application must be continued and completed under the principal Act as if this Act had not been passed.
- (2) This subsection applies to a person who holds—
 - (a) a coastal permit granted under the Resource Management Act 1991 to occupy a coastal marine area for a marine farming or spat catching activity; or
 - (b) a certificate of compliance granted under that Act to occupy a coastal marine area for marine farming or spat catching.
- (3) This subsection applies to the following applications if received before but not determined at the commencement of this Act:
 - (a) an application under section 67J of the principal Act for a marine farming permit:
 - (b) an application under section 67Q(2) of the principal Act for a spat catching permit:
 - (c) an application under section 67K of the principal Act to change or cancel any of the conditions of a marine farming permit or a spat catching permit, or to add new conditions to the permit.
- (4) A notice of surrender under section 67O of the principal Act forwarded before but not processed at the commencement of this Act must be processed as if this Act had not been passed.

- (5) A review under section 67P of the principal Act that has not been completed at the commencement of this Act must be completed as if this Act had not been passed.
- (6) On and from the date on which a matter referred to in this section is completed under the principal Act,—
 - (a) section 20 applies to the permit if it is a marine farming permit granted under section 67J of the principal Act:
 - (b) section 21 applies to the permit if it is a spat catching permit granted under section 67Q(2) of the principal Act.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6), sections 20 and 21 apply as if every reference in those sections to the commencement of this Act were a reference to the date on which the application was granted.

26 Applications after commencement of Act

- (1) Despite section 19, a person may (after the commencement of this Act) apply for a marine farming permit or a spat catching permit under the principal Act if—
 - (a) the person holds—
 - (i) a coastal permit to occupy a coastal marine area for the purpose of marine farming or spat catching; or
 - (ii) a certificate of compliance to occupy a coastal marine area for marine farming or spat catching; and
 - (b) the application is—
 - (i) under section 67J of the principal Act for a marine farming permit for the same area and the same species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the coastal permit or certificate of compliance relates to; or
 - (ii) under section 67Q(2) of the principal Act for a spat catching permit for the same area and the same species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the coastal permit or certificate of compliance relates to.
- (2) The application must be made and determined under the principal Act as if this Act had not been passed.

- (3) If the application is for a marine farming permit and the application is granted, section 20 applies to the permit as if every reference in that section to the commencement of this Act were a reference to the date on which the application was granted.
- (4) If the application is for a spat catching permit and the application is granted, section 21 applies to the permit as if every reference in that section to the commencement of this Act were a reference to the date on which the application was granted.

Order of processing applications and request for aquaculture decision in relation to aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area

- (1) This section applies in relation to an aquaculture management area or an interim aquaculture management area in respect of which there are—
 - (a) 1 or more applications for permits under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the principal Act; and
 - (b) a request for an aquaculture decision under section 186D of the Fisheries Act 1996.
- (2) The applications for permits and request for an aquaculture decision must be dealt with in the following order:
 - (a) first, any application for a permit received before the request for the aquaculture decision:
 - (b) second, the request for an aquaculture decision:
 - (c) third, any application for a permit received after the request for an aquaculture decision.

28 Lapsing of parts of coastal permit

- (1) This section applies to the following permits held by the same person:
 - (a) a marine farming permit or spat catching permit that is deemed to be a coastal permit under section 20 or section 21; and
 - (b) a coastal permit granted under the Resource Management Act 1991 that—
 - (i) is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act; and

- (ii) applies to the area or part of the area and 1 or more of the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the permit referred to in paragraph (a) relates to.
- (2) If the permits do not apply to the same species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed, then the coastal permit referred to in subsection (1)(b)—
 - (a) has effect only in relation to the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the permit referred to in subsection (1)(a) applies to; and
 - (b) is to be treated as having lapsed in relation to the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed that the permit referred to in subsection (1)(a) does not apply to.
- (3) If the permits do not apply to the same area, then the coastal permit referred to in subsection (1)(b)—
 - (a) has effect only in relation to the area that the permit referred to in subsection (1)(a) applies to; and
 - (b) is to be treated as having lapsed in relation to the area that the permit referred to in subsection (1)(a) does not apply to.

29 Holder of deemed coastal permit to be treated as holder of fish farmer registration pending registration by chief executive

- (1) The holder of a deemed coastal permit under section 20 or section 21 must be treated as a registered fish farmer under Part 9A of the Fisheries Act 1996 for the space that the deemed coastal permit relates to.
- (2) Within 12 months after the commencement of this Act, the chief executive must register the holder of the deemed coastal permit as a fish farmer under section 186V of the Fisheries Act 1996 without an application or payment of the prescribed fee.

30 Application to register fish farmer deferred pending decision on permit

(1) The chief executive must not grant or decline an application under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996 to register a fish farmer if—

- (a) the applicant has a resource consent to use the space concerned as a fish farm that was granted—
 - (i) before the commencement of this Act; or
 - (ii) under an application to which section 50 applies; and
- (b) the applicant—
 - (i) has not made an application under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 for the area, or part of the area, to which the resource consent relates; or
 - (ii) has made an application under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 for the area, or part of the area, to which the resource consent relates, but the chief executive has not granted or declined the application.
- (2) If the applicant makes or has made an application under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 and the application is granted, the chief executive may proceed to grant or decline the application under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996 to register the applicant as a fish farmer.
- (3) This section does not prevent the chief executive from granting or declining an application under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996 if the applicant has had an application under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 granted in respect of other space and this section does not otherwise apply in relation to that space.

31 Application to register as fish farmer to be declined if marine farming permit or spat catching permit declined

- (1) The chief executive must decline an application under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996 to register a fish farmer if the applicant—
 - (a) has made an application under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 for the area or part of the area to which the resource consent relates; and
 - (b) the chief executive has declined the application.
- (2) This section does not prevent the chief executive from granting or declining an application under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996 if the applicant has had an application

under section 67J or section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983 granted in respect of other space.

32 Levies

- (1) Subsection (2) applies to a levy or fee under the Fisheries (Cost Recovery Levies for Fisheries Services) Order 2004 payable by the holder of—
 - (a) a marine farming permit under section 67J of the Fisheries Act 1983; or
 - (b) a spat catching permit under section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983.
- (2) A levy or fee that is, immediately before the commencement of this Act, payable but unpaid remains payable even though the permit is deemed to be a coastal permit under section 20 or section 21.

Revocation

33 Revocation of Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983

- (1) The Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 (SR 1983/278) are revoked.
- (2) All licences granted under the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 are revoked.
- (3) Section 2(1) of the Fisheries Act 1996 is amended by repealing paragraph (b) of the definitions of **fish farm** and **fish farmer**.
- (4) Sections 186ZA and 301 of the Fisheries Act 1996 are repealed.
- (5) On and from the commencement of this section the holder of a fish-farm licence immediately before the commencement of this section is to be treated as if the holder were registered as a fish farmer under section 186S of the Fisheries Act 1996.
- (6) The chief executive must, within 12 months after the commencement of this section, register without an application or payment of the prescribed fee the holder of a fish-farm licence under the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 immediately before the commencement of this section as a fish farmer in respect of the space that the licence relates to.

(7) An application for a fish-farm licence under regulation 6 of the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 made but not determined at the commencement of this section must be treated as if it were an application to register as a fish farmer under section 186R of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Transitional provisions relating to end of moratorium under Resource Management Act 1991

34 Resource Management Act 1991 called principal Act in sections 35 to 54

In sections 35 to 54, the Resource Management Act 1991 is called "the principal Act".

Interim aquaculture management areas

35 Interpretation

In sections 36 to 54,—

aquaculture decision means a determination or reservation **chief executive** means the chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries

determination, in relation to an interim aquaculture management area, means a decision by the chief executive that he or she is satisfied that the interim aquaculture management area will not have an undue adverse effect on fishing or on the sustainability of fisheries resources

interim aquaculture management area—

- (a) means a coastal marine area described in an Order in Council made under section 150C of the principal Act or section 36 of this Act; but
- (b) does not include a coastal marine area described in paragraph (a) if the area is an aquaculture management area under section 44 of this Act

reservation, in relation to an interim aquaculture management area, means a decision by the chief executive that he or she is not satisfied that the interim aquaculture management area will not have an undue adverse effect on fishing or on the sustainability of fisheries resources.

36 Interim aquaculture management areas declared by Order in Council

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister of Conservation, declare a coastal marine area described in the order to be an interim aquaculture management area.
- (2) The Minister must not make a recommendation unless—
 - (a) the regional council concerned has requested the Minister to make the recommendation; and
 - (b) a regional coastal plan or proposed regional coastal plan—
 - (i) has, before the commencement of this Act, been notified under clause 5 of the First Schedule of the principal Act; and
 - (ii) applies to the coastal marine area to be described in the Order in Council; and
 - (c) the Minister is satisfied that he or she has received adequate information to base a recommendation on; and
 - (d) the Minister is satisfied that—
 - the regional coastal plan or the proposed regional coastal plan provides for aquaculture activities as a controlled or restricted discretionary or discretionary or non-complying activity in the area that the request relates to; and
 - (ii) the provisions of the plan or proposed plan adequately address the adverse effects (including cumulative effects) on the environment (other than fisheries resources) of the occupation of a coastal area and of aquaculture activities.
- (3) The Minister must make a recommendation under subsection (1) within 3 months after receiving a request if the Minister is not prevented by subsection (2) from making the recommendation.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), section 37 of the principal Act applies, with all necessary modifications, as if the Minister were acting as a consent authority.

37 Application for aquaculture decision in relation to interim aquaculture management area

- (1) A regional council may request the chief executive to make an aquaculture decision in relation to an interim aquaculture management area.
- (2) However, a regional council must not make a request in relation to an area to which section 39(a), (b), or (c) applies.

38 Chief executive to make aquaculture decision

- (1) Within 6 months after receiving a request for an aquaculture decision under section 37, the chief executive must—
 - (a) make a determination; or
 - (b) make a reservation; or
 - (c) make 1 or more determinations or reservations or both in relation to different parts of the area.
- (2) The chief executive may request the regional council that requested the aquaculture decision and any person whose interests may be affected to provide him or her with further information about the effects that the interim aquaculture management area would have on access to or displacement of fishing or the sustainability of fisheries resources.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the period beginning on the day when a request for further information is made and ending on the day when the information is provided is excluded from the 6-month period referred to in subsection (1).
- (4) Before making an aquaculture decision, the chief executive must—
 - (a) consult the persons and organisations that the chief executive considers represent the classes of persons having a customary, commercial, or recreational fishing interest in the interim aquaculture management area; and
 - (b) consider any submissions made by those persons and organisations.

39 Aquaculture decisions must not be made in relation to certain areas

The chief executive must not make an aquaculture decision if the decision would apply to an area for which—

- (a) a coastal permit under the principal Act authorises occupation for the purposes of an aquaculture activity;
- (b) a deemed coastal permit under section 10 or section 20 or section 21 is in force; or
- (c) an application for a coastal permit under the principal Act, other than an application to which section 150B(2) of that Act applies, has been made but not determined.

40 Matters to be considered by chief executive

In deciding whether to make a determination or reservation, the chief executive must have regard only to the following matters:

- (a) the effect of the interim aquaculture management area
 - (i) the biological diversity of the aquatic environment:
 - (ii) the productivity and biological abundance of fisheries resources:
 - (iii) habitats of known significance for fisheries management:
- (b) the location of the interim aquaculture management area in relation to areas in which fishing is carried out:
- (c) the effect of the interim aquaculture management area on fishing of any fishery, including the proportion of any fishery likely to become affected:
- (d) the degree to which aquaculture activities within the interim aquaculture management area will lead to the exclusion of fishing:
- (e) the extent to which fishing for a species in the interim aquaculture management area can be carried out in other areas:
- (f) the extent to which the interim aquaculture management area will increase the cost of fishing:
- (g) the cumulative effect on fishing of any previous aquaculture activities.

41 Requirements for aquaculture decision

- (1) An aquaculture decision must—
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) define the areas that are subject to the decision; and

- (c) provide reasons for the decision; and
- (d) if the decision is a determination based on a rule in a regional coastal plan or proposed regional coastal plan that relates to the character, intensity, or scale of occupation of the interim aquaculture management area by aquaculture activities,—
 - (i) specify the rule; and
 - (ii) state that the rule may not be revoked or amended until the chief executive makes a further aquaculture decision in relation to the area affected by the revocation or amendment; and
- (e) be notified to the regional council.
- (2) If the chief executive makes a reservation, the reservation must also include—
 - (a) whether the reservation relates to customary, recreational, or commercial fishing or a combination of them; and
 - (b) if the reservation relates only to commercial fishing, the stocks and areas concerned, specifying any stocks subject to the quota management system, any stocks or species specified in Schedules 4C and 4D, and any stocks for species not subject to the quota management system; and
 - (c) any other matters required by regulations to be included.
- (3) The chief executive must—
 - (a) publicly notify the fact that he or she has made a determination or reservation; and
 - (b) in the notice published for that purpose, include—
 - (i) the information specified in subsections (1) and (2); and
 - (ii) information about where a copy of the determination or reservation can be obtained.

42 Appeal against aquaculture decision

- (1) The following persons may appeal to the High Court against an aquaculture decision:
 - (a) the regional council that requested the aquaculture decision:
 - (b) any person consulted or who ought to have been consulted under section 38(4):

- (c) any person who has an interest in the decision greater than the public generally.
- (2) An appeal must be filed within 3 months after public notification of the aquaculture decision.
- (3) The High Court may confirm or modify the aquaculture decision appealed against or substitute a different aquaculture decision.

43 Judicial review of aquaculture decision

Any person wishing to seek, under Part I of the Judicature Amendment Act 1972, judicial review of an aquaculture decision must do so within 3 months after the public notification of the decision.

44 Interim aquaculture management area becomes aquaculture management area following aquaculture decision

- (1) If the chief executive makes an aquaculture decision under section 38, the regional council must amend the regional coastal plan and any proposed regional coastal plan as follows:
 - (a) in the case of a determination, by noting on the plan the details of the determination:
 - (b) in the case of a reservation,—
 - (i) by noting on the plan the details of the reservation; and
 - (ii) if the reservation relates to the sustainability of fisheries resources or effects on customary or recreational fishing, by deleting from the plan the area or areas that the reservation relates to.
- (2) However, if, when the aquaculture decision is made under section 38, an interim aquaculture management area is in a regional coastal plan, the regional council must comply with sections 9 to 12 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 before it complies with subsection (1).
- (3) Schedules 1 and 1A of the principal Act do not apply to an amendment made under subsection (1).
- (4) On and from the date on which the regional council complies with subsection (1), the interim aquaculture management area becomes an aquaculture management area.

Deemed aquaculture management areas

Existing coastal permits deemed to be aquaculture management areas

- (1) This section applies—
 - (a) to a coastal permit—
 - (i) that has been deemed to be a coastal permit under any of sections 10, 20, or 21; but
 - (ii) only to the extent contemplated by section 28; and
 - (b) subject to section 53.
- (2) This section does not apply in respect of any space identified in a regional coastal plan or proposed regional coastal plan at the commencement of this Act as space in which aquaculture activities authorised by the coastal permit are prohibited.
- (3) The area to which a coastal permit that this section applies to is deemed to be an aquaculture management area for the purposes of the principal Act and, if the relevant plan is not operative, the relevant plan must be treated as if it were operative.
- (4) The deemed aquaculture management area is subject to the provisions of the regional coastal plan or proposed regional coastal plan that apply to the area.
- (5) An area that is deemed to be an aquaculture management area by this section ceases to be an aquaculture management area if a plan that applies to the area becomes operative after the commencement of this Act and does not provide for the area to continue to be an aquaculture management area.

Existing applications and coastal permits

46 Pending applications where moratorium ends before 31 December 2004

- (1) This section applies to an application—
 - (a) that section 150B(2) of the principal Act applies to; but
 - (b) only to the extent that it relates to an area that an Order in Council made under section 150C(1) of the principal Act applies to.
- (2) At the end of the moratorium, a consent authority must—
 - (a) resume processing an application; and

- (b) process and determine the application under rules in the regional coastal plan, and in any proposed regional coastal plan, as at the end of the moratorium.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), rules in a proposed regional coastal plan include any rule prohibiting an activity if the plan has been notified under clause 5 of the First Schedule of the principal Act.
- (4) Subsection (3) applies subject to section 20 of the principal Act.

47 Pending applications where moratorium ends on close of 31 December 2004

- (1) This section applies to an application—
 - (a) that section 150B(2) of the principal Act applies to; but
 - (b) only to the extent that it relates to an area for which the moratorium expires on the close of 31 December 2004.
- (2) After the end of the moratorium, a consent authority must resume processing an application; but only if and to the extent that the application relates to a regional coastal plan that provides for an aquaculture management area and the application relates to the aquaculture management area.
- (3) An application referred to in subsection (2) must be processed and determined under the rules in the regional coastal plan and any proposed regional coastal plan at the time the consent authority resumes processing the application.
- (4) However, a consent authority must not grant a coastal permit to occupy space for aquaculture activities in an aquaculture management area that is subject to a reservation relating to commercial fishing, except to a person specified in a notice given by the chief executive under section 186ZK of the Fisheries Act 1996 as the holder of an aquaculture agreement under that Act.
- (5) An application is deemed to be cancelled on and from the date on which a proposed regional coastal plan is notified under clause 5 of the First Schedule of the principal Act after the commencement of this Act if and to the extent that the application relates to an area covered by the plan and the plan provides for aquaculture management areas, but it does not include the area that the application relates to.

- (6) An application is deemed to be cancelled on and from 31 December 2014 to the extent that, by that date,—
 - (a) no proposed regional coastal plan covering the area that the application relates to has been notified under clause5 of the First Schedule of the principal Act; or
 - (b) a proposed regional coastal plan covering the area that the application relates to has been notified under clause
 5 of the First Schedule of the principal Act, but the plan contains no aquaculture management areas.
- (7) This section—
 - (a) prevails over Part 7A of the principal Act; but
 - (b) applies subject to the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.
- (8) In this section, **aquaculture management area** does not include an area that is deemed to be an aquaculture management area under section 45.

48 Certain coastal permits granted during moratorium not to be exercised until end of moratorium

- (1) This section applies to a coastal permit if—
 - (a) the application for the permit was notified during the moratorium but before the commencement of the Resource Management (Aquaculture Moratorium) Amendment Act 2002; or
 - (b) the consent authority decided, during the moratorium but before the commencement of the Resource Management (Aquaculture Moratorium) Amendment Act 2002, not to notify the application for the permit.
- (2) However, this section does not apply to a coastal permit for aquaculture activities that relates to a coastal marine area that, immediately before the moratorium, was subject to—
 - (a) a coastal permit; or
 - (b) a marine farming lease or licence under the Marine Farming Act 1971.
- (3) No person may do anything under a coastal permit until the moratorium has expired in relation to the area that the permit relates to.
- (4) At the end of the moratorium, a regional council may—
 - (a) review the conditions in a coastal permit; and

- (b) amend the conditions so that they comply with the rules in the regional coastal plan and any proposed regional coastal plan that apply at the end of the moratorium.
- (5) If a coastal permit relates to a restricted coastal activity, section 119A of the principal Act applies in relation to the amendment of conditions under subsection (4)(b).
- (6) At the end of the moratorium,—
 - (a) no person may carry on any aquaculture activities under a coastal permit in any area in which aquaculture is prohibited; and
 - (b) the coastal permit ceases to have any effect and is deemed to be cancelled.
- (7) For the purposes of section 125 of the principal Act, the commencement date of a coastal permit is the later of—
 - (a) the day after the date on which the moratorium ceases to apply to the coastal permit; or
 - (b) the day after the date on which the regional council notifies the holder of the permit of the result of a review under subsection (4).
- (8) Sections 357 and 358 of the principal Act apply to a decision by a regional council to amend conditions under subsection (4).

49 Preferential right for deemed permit holder to apply for coastal permit for occupation

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
 - (a) a person holds a lease or licence that is deemed to be a coastal permit by section 10; and
 - (b) the deemed coastal permit relates to an area in an aquaculture management area; and
 - (c) the person is giving effect to the deemed coastal permit.
- (2) No person, other than the permit holder, may apply for a coastal permit to occupy the area that the deemed coastal permit relates to.
- (3) However, subsection (2) does not apply if—
 - (a) the permit holder consents in writing to the application; or
 - (b) the coastal permit has expired and—

- (i) the holder of the permit has not applied for a new coastal permit to occupy the same area to undertake an aquaculture activity; or
- (ii) the holder of the permit has applied for a new coastal permit for the same area and the application has been refused and all appeals against the refusal have been withdrawn or dismissed; or
- (c) the coastal permit has lapsed under section 125 of the principal Act; or
- (d) the coastal permit has been cancelled under section 126 of the principal Act; or
- (e) the coastal permit has been surrendered under section 138 of the principal Act.
- (4) This section does not limit or affect section 124 of the principal Act.

Pre-moratorium and pre-commencement applications for coastal permits

50 Pre-moratorium and pre-commencement applications for coastal permits not subject to moratorium

- (1) Subsection (2) applies to an application for a coastal permit under the principal Act to occupy a coastal marine area for aquaculture activities if the application—
 - (a) was made before the commencement of this Act; and
 - (b) is not subject to section 150B(2) of the principal Act; and
 - (c) has not been determined or withdrawn before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) An application to which this subsection applies must be determined under the principal Act as if the Resource Management Amendment Act (No 2) 2004 had not been passed.
- (3) A person who has made an application that subsection (2) applies to may apply, or continue with an application, for a marine farming permit under section 67J of the Fisheries Act 1983 or a spat catching permit under section 67Q(2) of that Act if the application under that Act relates to all or part of the area, and 1 or more of the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed, that the application that subsection (2) applies to relates to.

- (4) An application under subsection (3) lapses if the application to which subsection (2) applies is—
 - (a) withdrawn; or
 - (b) declined and any appeal in relation to the declined application has been unsuccessful or withdrawn.
- (5) If an application that subsection (2) applies to is granted, the application under subsection (3) must be determined under the Fisheries Act 1983 as if this Act had not been passed.
- (6) If the application is for a marine farming permit and the application is granted, section 20 applies to the permit as if every reference in that section to the commencement of this Act were a reference to the date on which the application was granted.
- (7) If the application is for a spat catching permit and the application is granted, section 21 applies to the permit as if every reference in that section to the commencement of this Act were a reference to the date on which the application was granted.

51 Regional council must request aquaculture decision if application for coastal permit declined or withdrawn

- (1) This section applies to—
 - (a) an application for a coastal permit to occupy a coastal marine area for aquaculture activities if the application—
 - (i) is made before the commencement of this Act;
 - (ii) is not subject to section 150B(2) of the principal Act; and
 - (iii) relates to part of an aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area; and
 - (iv) has been declined or withdrawn:
 - (b) a coastal permit if—
 - (i) it was granted under an application to which paragraph (a)(i) to (iii) applies; and
 - (ii) no marine farming permit or spat catching permit has been issued in relation to the coastal permit; and
 - (iii) the coastal permit—

- (A) lapses under section 125 of the principal Act; or
- (B) expires and the holder of the permit is not entitled under section 124 of the principal Act to continue to operate under the coastal permit; or
- (C) is cancelled under section 126 of the principal Act; or
- (D) is surrendered under section 138 of the principal Act.
- (2) The regional council to which the application was made or which granted the coastal permit must request an aquaculture decision for the part of the aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area concerned under section 186D of the Fisheries Act 1996.
- (3) Sections 186C to 186J of the Fisheries Act 1996 apply to the request as if a reference in those sections to an aquaculture management area were a reference to the part of the aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area concerned.

52 Areas excluded from interim aquaculture management area or aquaculture management area

- (1) This section applies to an application for—
 - (a) a marine farming permit under section 67J of the Fisheries Act 1983:
 - (b) a spat catching permit under section 67Q(2) of the Fisheries Act 1983.
- (2) If the chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries has declined an application to which this section applies, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, the regional council must delete from an aquaculture management area or interim aquaculture management area, as the case may be, any area to which the application applies.
- (3) If the chief executive of the Ministry of Fisheries has granted an application to which this section applies, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, the area to which the application relates is to be treated as if the chief executive had made a determination under section 186E of the Fisheries Act

1996, or section 38 of this Act, as the case may be, in relation to it.

Review of off-site farms

53 Off-site farms

- (1) This section applies to a deemed coastal permit under any of sections 10, 20, or 21 for which the actual space is not the authorised space.
- (2) The holder of a deemed coastal permit may, within 2 years after the commencement of this Act, apply in writing to the consent authority to amend the permit to reflect the actual space.
- (3) An application under this section must include—
 - (a) the description, to a standard approved by the consent authority, of the actual space; and
 - (b) the description of the authorised space; and
 - (c) an assessment of the adverse effects on the environment of the activity in the actual space, and of moving the activity to the authorised space (including the effects of moving the activity and the effects of the activity in the authorised space); and
 - (d) the reasons for and against amending the permit to reflect the actual space.
- (4) Section 92 of the principal Act applies, with all necessary modifications, to an application under this section as if it were an application for a resource consent.
- (5) After considering an application under this section and consulting the chief executive about it, the consent authority must—
 - (a) amend the deemed coastal permit as requested by the consent holder; or
 - (b) decline to amend the permit and require the consent holder to move the activity to the authorised space.
- (6) Section 120 of the principal Act applies to a decision of the consent authority under subsection (5) as if the decision were a decision on a review of consent conditions.
- (7) A deemed coastal permit amended under this section must not authorise the holder of the permit to occupy a space greater than the authorised space.

- (8) A consent authority must advise the chief executive of its decision under subsection (5).
- (9) As soon as practicable after receiving the advice under subsection (8), the chief executive must amend the fish farmer registration that the advice relates to.
- (10) Sections 357(5) to (8) and 358 of the principal Act apply to a decision of the consent authority under subsection (5).
- (11) Section 36 of the principal Act applies to the functions of the consent authority under this section as if an application to amend a deemed coastal permit were an application for resource consent.
- (12) In this section,—

actual space means the space in relation to which the deemed coastal permit is being exercised

authorised space means the space specified in the deemed coastal permit.

54 Consent authority may initiate review of off-site farms

- (1) This section applies to deemed coastal permits to which section 53 applies.
- (2) A consent authority may review a deemed coastal permit to the same extent and within the same time as if the holder of the permit had applied under section 53(2).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), section 53(5) to (12) applies with all necessary modifications.

General

55 Transitional provision relating to requirements to keep records and returns

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries, make regulations cancelling, on any coastal permit authorising the occupation of the coastal marine area for an aquaculture activity, conditions requiring the holder of the coastal permit to keep or provide accounts, records, returns, and information.
- (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) apply only to coastal permits to which this Act applies.

56 Restriction on erection of structures in coastal marine area

A coastal permit does not authorise the erection of any structure for the purpose of an aquaculture activity unless—

- (a) the area to which the coastal permit relates is in an interim aquaculture management area or an aquaculture management area; or
- (b) the holder of the coastal permit also holds 1 of the following in respect of the area to which the coastal permit relates:
 - (i) a marine farming permit issued under section 67J of the Fisheries Act 1983; or
 - (ii) a spat catching permit issued under section 67Q(2) of that Act.

57 Regulations

- (1) The Governor-General may, by Order in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment, make regulations providing for—
 - (a) the processing and determination of applications for permits, licences, consents, or other authorisations that relate to the occupation of space in the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity:
 - (b) the deeming of any permit, licence, consent, or other authorisation to be a coastal permit to occupy space in the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity:
 - (c) the granting by a consent authority of a coastal permit to occupy space in the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity:
 - (d) the setting of conditions of coastal permits to which the regulations relate including, without limitation,—
 - (i) the area to which each permit relates; and
 - (ii) the term of each permit; and
 - (iii) the species of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed to which each permit relates.
- (2) Regulations made under this section may apply generally or to any areas or regions specified in the regulations.
- (3) The Minister must not make a recommendation under subsection (1) unless the Minister is satisfied that the regulations to which the recommendation relates—

- (a) give effect to 1 or more of the principles specified in subsection (4); or
- (b) are not inconsistent with any of the principles or with this Act.
- (4) The principles are that—
 - (a) a person is entitled to be granted a coastal permit that authorises him or her to occupy a coastal marine area for the purposes of aquaculture activities if the person—
 - (i) was, immediately before the commencement of this Act, authorised to occupy the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity;
 and
 - (ii) would have continued to be so authorised had this Act not been passed:
 - (b) if a person has applied, before the commencement of this Act, for a permit, licence, consent, or other authorisation that would have allowed that person, either by itself, or in combination with 1 or more other permits, licences, consents, or other authorisations, to occupy the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity, and the application has not been withdrawn or declined, the person is entitled to have the application processed as if this Act had not been passed:
 - (c) an applicant is entitled to be granted a coastal permit that authorises him or her to occupy the coastal marine area on terms and conditions that correspond to the terms and conditions that would have applied if this Act had not been passed if—
 - (i) 1 or more applications to which paragraph (b) applies is or are granted; and
 - (ii) the applicant holds permits, licences, consents, or other authorisations that would have entitled the person to occupy the coastal marine area for the purpose of an aquaculture activity:
 - (d) a person to whom paragraph (a) or paragraph (c) applies is not entitled to any rights in addition to those specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), as the case may be.
- (5) A regulation under this section is not invalid because it leaves a matter or thing to be decided by any person.

58 Expiry of section 57

Section 57 expires on the close of the earlier of the following dates:

- (a) on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by Order in Council; or
- (b) 31 December 2006.

Legislative history

14 December 2004 Divided from Aquaculture Reform Bill (Bill 181–2),

third reading

21 December 2004 Royal assent

This Act is administered in the Ministry for the Environment.