INVESTING IN COROMANDEL AQUACULTURE AND MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE



The Coromandel can help meet the world's demand for sustainable food protein



The Coromandel is poised to play a key role in seeing New Zealand's aquaculture industry become a \$3 billion business by 2035.

- ✓ Deep, clean sheltered coastal waters
- ✔ An all-weather centrally located and dedicated marine farming port
- ✔ Established vessel moorings, and servicing precincts
- ✓ Shorebases for farming operations
- ✓ Established processing facilities
- ✔ Quality labour force

The Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy sets out a path to double export growth by 2044. World class operations in the Coromandel will support this growth to be achieved.

Aquaculture supports a thriving food, hospitality, education, and marine science and innovation ecosystem.

\$60+M in exports per annum* \$35+M GDP in local GDP

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800+ JOBS

per annum*

across **New Zealand** including Coromandel Town, Whitianga, Tauranga, Auckland

Direct aquaculture \$ values. 2023. Thames-Coromandel District

With support, proposed projects could see the Coromandel:

- ✔ Raise local mussel production by 70%
- ✓ Establish New Zealand's first ocean kingfish farm
- ✓ Lift aquaculture exports by more than \$100 million per year
- ✓ Enable hundreds of jobs
- ✓ Unlock billions in economic benefit

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UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY REQUIRES:

Capital investment

- Critical enabling infrastructure wharves, roads, land-side activities
- · Business ventures and in-ocean infrastructures



Improved consenting processes

- Fast tracked
- Differentiated for research/trials
- Streamlined for Māori aquaculture

KÖPŪ MARINE SERVICING AND BUSINESS PRECINCT



The \$15.3 million Council owned asset officially opened in June 2024.

The precinct features an 80m commercial wharf, floating pontoon, unsealed haul-out and reinforced slipway, along with a recreational boat ramp and car parking, to support marine and aquaculture activities across the upper North Island.

Adjacent to the wharf are existing marine servicing businesses, and industrial zoned land for future expansion.

\$58.5 million in economic returns over the next 30 years







Kõpū Marine Precinct is perfectly poised to support marine servicing in the region and further afield.

Central Governm Waikato Regio Council, and Th **Community Boar** funding



ARIKI TAHI SUGARLOAF WHARF DEVELOPMENT **CRITICAL ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE** FOR AQUACULTURE EXPANSION





CONNECTING ROADING INFRASTRUCTURE

Roading resilience and safety for freight links is critical for the sector. Capital investment in the local and state highway network is key.

Situated close to Coromandel Town, on Te Kouma road, Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf is a vital piece of strategic infrastructure for the aquaculture sector in the Hauraki Gulf.

Redevelopment is essential

- Consented shellfish farming area in the Gulf has increased by 25% since 2022, to almost 3,000 hectares
- 300 hectares of new finfish farming space has now been granted
- Iwi have very strong aspiration for future investment, with >40% of the water space being iwi-held
- The area lacks fit-for-purpose shore-based infrastructure

Turning consents to operational developments and unlocking benefits relies on increasing capacity at Te Ariki Tahi. There are no feasible alternatives in the Waikato or surrounding regions.

Te Ariki Tahi is the only all-tide facility on the eastern side of the Hauraki Gulf, within working distance of the consented space.

Its redevelopment is critical for regional aspirations of aquaculture expansion, and maximising existing aquaculture facilities. This has been recognised in Whakatupu Ngātahi, the Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy, March 2024.

Te Ariki Tahi currently services around 20 mussel barges for the loading and unloading of product, but when redeveloped will be able to land, process and transport thousands of tonnes produced from fin fish farming and other aquaculture operations within the Hauraki Gulf.



In 2020, \$19.95 million was given by central government's Provincial Growth Fund and \$2 million from Waikato Regional Development Fund to support critical upgrades, and to double existing capacity for commercial activity. Consent was fast-tracked under COVID-19 recovery legislation, and granted in January 2024.

In late 2023 the ATSWL Board tendered the design and construction of the wharf upgrade and work is currently under way on the design of the new wharf, which in the first stage will separate recreational and commercial activities and increase capacity.

Further investment will be required to truly future proof the wharf, develop land side aquaculture activities, and roading infrastructure.

Te Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf Ltd is jointly owned by Thames-Coromandel District Council, Coromandel Marine Farmers Association, and the Crown.

WILL DELIVER

- Critical piece of enabling infrastructure for Hauraki Gulf the only all-tide wharf
- Support to lift mussel farming production by 70% to 42,000 tonnes
- Unlocking of \$1 billion in economic benefit over 35 years
- 1,500 jobs supported once fully operational
- · Maximisation of existing infrastructure in line with regional objectives -Whakatupu Ngātahi, the Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy, March 2024

REQUIRES

• Further capital investment for wharf development

The 300 ha consented space is set to be the first ocean kingfish farm in New Zealand.

PARE HAURAKI KAIMOANA - FINFISH FARM **A GAME CHANGER IN NZ'S AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY**

In 2011 the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone was established to provide space for commercial finfish aquaculture, such as kingfish and hāpuku.

In 2023, Pare Hauraki Kaimoana were granted resource consents to establish a 300-hectare finfish farm in this zone, 13.5km from Coromandel Town and 11km from Waiheke Island.

This consented space is set to be the first ocean kingfish farm in New Zealand.

It holds the promise of a step change in the economics of the country's aquaculture, with revenue per hectare orders of magnitude greater than shellfish farming.

Pare Hauraki Kaimoana is owned by the Pare Hauraki Fishing Trust that represents the 12 iwi of Hauraki. The consent is for a period of 35-years.

WILL DELIVER

8.000 TONNES

of kingfish by live weight + mussels, sea cucumbers, sponges, seaweed

a year in exports

\$100+ M

350 JOBS direct and indirect full-time jobs

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MUSSEL SPAT SUPPLY

SECURE SUPPLY FOR A MORE RESILIENT AQUACULTURE SECTOR

Diversifying and expanding the supply of spat for the Green Lipped Mussel industry is a strategic priority to enable this sector to thrive and meet the Government's aim to "boost Greenshell Mussel earnings to \$1 billion per year by 2035".

Spat survival is a pressing and critical need for the mussel farming industry

Spat retention has become a critical issue. The proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (WRCP) includes some solutions, but they will not be operative in time to address the pressing needs of mussel farmers across the Waikato.

Farmers urgently need:

- Diversified spat sources
- Nursery activities in appropriate locations

'The continued success and growth of the industry is dependent on; reliable sources of spat, quality spat holding/nursery space, innovation and new technologies, the ability to adapt to climate change, and the ability to respond to other environmental pressures'.

Several spat retention projects are posed in the region to support industry resilience. Many are linked to realising iwi economic aspirations.

TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL, THESE PROJECTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM:



Waikato West Coast Mussel Spat **Catching and Nursery**

Nationally significant and critical industry need

North Western Mussels Limited has made an application for a groundbreaking mussel spat nursery off the coast of Whaingaroa/Raglan.

The application comprises 700 hectares across four sites and is underpinned by 10 years of research and a comprehensive suite of independent expert assessments. Noting the need to invest in spat supply, we support NWML's application.

BENEFITS

- Nationally significant for NZ's Green Lipped mussel industry
- Potential to provide resilient seed mussels for over 60,000 tonnes of harvested product

Mercury Bay spat farm to support local supply

In 2020 Ohinau Aquaculture Ltd was granted a 20-year consent to establish a 30-hectare spat catching farm off the coast, north of Whitianga in Mercury Bay. After an appeal in 2021, the consent was finally granted in May 2023. Development of the spat farm commenced in 2024.

Benefits include 10 jobs, and increasing the local spat supply. Ohinau Aquaculture Ltd, is a joint venture between Coromandel mussel farmer Peter Bull, and Joe Davis, Kaumatua, Kaitiaki representing Ngāti Hei shareholder interests.

Research to boost survival rates of mussel spat

The Coromandel Marine Farmers Association are a key partner in a project to increase the resilience of New Zealand's spat supply. Announced in April 2024, the

REQUIRES

• Support for the fast tracking of the consent application

\$1.04 million project is backed with co-funding of \$410,000 from the Coalition Government over three years. It is also supported by The University of Auckland, the Marine Farming Association, Aquaculture New Zealand, Greenshell Spat Co and Sanford.

Other research projects to boost survival rates are currently underway investigating options around minimising fish predation and the use of Flupsy upwelling systems.



SEAWEED CULTIVATION INITIATIVES **EMERGING SECTOR WITH HIGH POTENTIAL**



WATERWAYS Improved health of waterways

PRODUCTION

Production at scale and production of bioproducts



Seaweed cultivation is a multi-billion-dollar industry worldwide but is in its infancy in New Zealand.

Significant investment has been made in seaweed cultivation initiatives in the Coromandel to support the development of the sector.

BENEFITS

Benefits of seaweed cultivation include:

- Improved health of waterways bioremediation during seaweed production
- Production, at scale
- Production of bioproducts that can replace synthetic animal health products, fertilisers, human health products, protein, and materials
- Localised jobs

REQUIRES

Development of a fully-fledged commercial seaweed farming sector requires:

- Additional investment for commercial feasibility and market studies of different seaweed varieties
- Investment for industry establishment localised processing facilities, supply chain infrastructure, workforce planning and skills development
- Regulations that enable the harvest, hatching and farming of seaweed species

Seaweed Ocean Farming Pilot

The Coromandel is home to New Zealand first, three-year regenerative ocean farming pilot - GreenWave Aotearoa. Led by EnviroStrat, in partnership with Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki, Premium Seas Ltd, the Universities of Waikato and Auckland, and AgriSea. The \$5 million pilot is focused on creating an economically viable seed-to-harvest model for seaweed farming in New Zealand.

In the north of the Coromandel, Premium Seas is leading in-water trials to farm native kelp Ecklonia radiata, facilitating access to water space and the Coromandel hatchery, and providing operational oversight for the pilot delivery. Premium Seas also continues to embark on other seaweed farming and processing projects, beyond its current products - including wakame (food), fucoidan and other extracts (health and beauty extract).



Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki are providing recently consented marine farming space to support the pilot and are part of the pilot steering committee. Gold Ridge Marine Farm is providing consented marine farming space outside Coromandel and in Wilsons Bay.

Seaweed innovation company AgriSea is contributing its post-harvest production, market, and processing expertise to the pilot.

Land-based Ulva Cultivation

Other activities in the Coromandel include AgriSea's world first diffuse source land-based trial of Ulva (green seaweed) cultivation, 6km north of the Kōpū marine precinct.

The multi-year trial secured investment from MPI, AGMART. and AgriSea, a gifted land lease from Thames-Coromandel District Council, and support from Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Hako.

The recently completed trial aimed to determine how effectively Ulva can improve river water quality, while growing into biomass that can be used as biostimulants or other bioproducts, including alternative protein.



Results from the trial were far beyond predictions. The bioremediation system is cleaning up to 90% of the nitrogen within the pond system and 70% of the phosphorus, while also generating:

- 54.8 tonnes of dry biomass per hectare per year
- 12 tonnes of Nitrogen removed
- \$82,000 in Nitrogen Credits per hectare
- Ulva biomass valued at \$109k to \$219k per hectare (based on a hectare model)

This system has been proven to clean up the river while creating jobs and other high value products, such as alternative proteins and ulvans. Upscaling a system like this will have significant benefits for New Zealand. We welcome interest from the Government to upscale this facility and add value to our district.



A BOOST FOR OYSTER FARMING NEW SEMI-AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY

The Coromandel has around 70 hectares of traditional oyster farms that have sustainably and successfully operated for the last 50 years.

New technology presents a significant opportunity for the sector - with the implementation of semi-automated systems using surface longlines and floating baskets.

Although higher initial capital cost is required for all oyster farms to transition to the new semi-automated system, mechanised production has significant benefits including productivity improvements of consistent, highquality oysters, with an even kinder environmental footprint and significant improvement in working conditions for oyster farmers.

Moana New Zealand, the country's only producer of Pacific oysters endto-end, is nearing full transformation of its Coromandel farms to use the semi-automated system. While it is currently best suited to sheltered farm sites, further research and development is underway to explore open water viability so oysters can be farmed at scale.

BENEFITS

- Potential for increased production and productivity as it's not reliant on tides and provides more stable working hours
- · Improved working conditions and less arduous on-the-water farm work
- Significantly less in-water infrastructure improving waterflow and visual impact
- Reduced benthic disturbance with farmers working on-barge instead of walking on sea floor
- Growth for the sector, which already supports around 70 local jobs, \$4 million to the local economy, and \$5 million in export sales from the region





REQUIRES

- Investment in R&D for open water methodology
- Additional capital investment

Aquaculture in the Coromandel is poised for growth. Let's support a stronger, more resilient aquaculture sector together.

CONTACT US

Thames-Coromandel District Council 07 868 0200 customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

Coromandel Marine Farmers Association info@coromfa.co.nz

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