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## **AQUARIA REPORTS A BOTTOM LINE LOSS OF \$1.24M FOR SIX MONTHS.**

265 words

14 March 1998

The Christchurch Press

22

English

(c) 1998 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Aquaria 21 likes its new aquarium in China so much it is buying the designer.

The investment company bought into a aquarium under construction in Shanghai and has now conditionally bought a British company, **Aquaculture** Technology Ltd, which designed and is overseeing construction of the facility.

Aquaria 21 yesterday reported a bottom line loss of \$1.24 million for the six months ended December 31. It has changed its balance date from June 30, so the result is also the annual figure.

Non-recurring costs made up \$720,000 of the loss, split evenly between fees and costs associated with the aquarium purchase, and the costs of a placement of 90 million shares which raised \$18m. Aquaria 21 began life as Regal Salmon, operated as a shell company under the name Queen Charlotte Holdings from mid-1996, and took on the new name last year.

It issued 60m shares to buy the Chang Feng aquarium project in Shanghai in November. Construction of the aquarium is on budget in US dollar terms, but over budget because of the depreciation of the NZ dollar. If current exchange rate trends continue, the rate of return in NZ terms should exceed forecasts made in September the company said.

Aquaria 21's only income for the six months was \$283,000 in interest receipts.

At balance date the net tangible asset backing was 29.2c a share. The shares rose 1c yesterday to 27c. The company has negligible debt, and no borrowings.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1998.

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## WAIROA MAYOR BACKS AQUACULTURE FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

256 words  
4 March 1998  
New Zealand Press Association  
English  
(c) 1998 New Zealand Press Association

Hastings, March 4 - Wairoa mayor Derek Fox says he is picking **aquaculture** as one of the better bets for economic development in smaller centres. Speaking to a group of Maori developers yesterday, Mr Fox said Wairoa still had an air of optimism despite the loss of economic confidence due to the downturn in farming and the drought.

Larger centres, with their more diverse economies, were better placed to cope with events such as the drought, but in smaller centres like Wairoa, the effects could sometimes be devastating, Mr Fox said. Places such as Wairoa needed wider diversification of economic activity so that risk could be more widely spread.

Mr Fox said he was pretty upbeat about Wairoa's future and the council would continue efforts to attract large-scale projects to the area. Wairoa was looking forward to a time when its maturing forests come on stream but in the meantime there was a need to examine smaller, innovative activities for economic growth, Mr Fox said. Ventures such as aquaculture and organic horticulture were two such promising examples, according to Mr Fox. Wairoa had the same advantage as districts where marine farming had been successful a clean environment with enough distance from major centres to ensure a quality environment was maintained. Mr Fox said land and sites for a variety of aquaculture ventures were readily available in the Wairoa district. He said his council was supportive of any new development for Wairoa.

(C) 1998 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020010926du3400c7r

## FISHING FOR ASSET GROWTH.

By MARK REYNOLDS.

273 words

20 November 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

The Sanford fishing company is confident that recent strong cashflow gains will be reflected in a steady growth in asset values over the next few years.

Sanford has pursued an expansionary strategy, with investment in additional fish-catching assets, cold-storage facilities and **aquaculture**.

Writing in the company's annual report, the managing director, David Anderson, said the rate of capital spending will slow over the next few years because the company now has the balance of assets that it wants.

The company's accounts show that in its 1997 financial year spending on fixed and long-term assets slid to \$14.1 million, down from \$44.7 million a year earlier.

Recent purchases have included a 64m factory vessel bought in Norway and two 32m ice-storage ships. It also is building, in conjunction with a Korean firm, Dong Won Fisheries, a 5000-tonne coldstorage facility on the Timaru waterfront.

Other purchases have included a 40 per cent interest in a Namibian fishing company, Atlantic Sea Products, along with long-term fishing quota.

The extra assets are expected to help Sanford expand earnings, despite a forecast continuation of weaker worldwide fish prices.

Sanford's sales fell 13 per cent to \$314 million in its latest financial year while operating profit after tax fell 24 per cent to \$19.02 million. It also wrote off \$8.87 million on some investments in Chile.

Mr Anderson suggested fish prices are recovering from cyclical lows and this, coupled with a continued focus on concentrated management of existing assets will add shareholder value.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dtbk003ei

**SANDFORD CHALLENGED.**

86 words

7 November 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

Listed fishing company Sandford expects the difficult trading conditions which cut its net profit by 60 per cent to remain challenging this year. For the year ended August 31 the company posted a \$10.15 million net profit, down from \$25.04, the previous year after the \$8.87 million writeoff of its Chilean **aquaculture** venture. Sales were 13 per cent down at \$314.3 million. Sandford will pay a 6c final dividend making 11c for the year.

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dtb7002pd

## MUSSEL DEAL IRKS LOCALS.

204 words

3 November 1997

The Christchurch Press

5

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Pigeon Bay locals feel they have been ignored by a Canterbury Regional Council decision granting a resource consent for Canterbury's first mussel farm.

The consent allows Pigeon Bay **Aquaculture** Ltd to occupy 9ha on the western side of Pigeon Bay, Banks Peninsula. Local farmer Ed Aitken and a Marlborough marine farmer, Simon Acton-Adams, are the main shareholders in the company.

Community spokeswoman Celia Hay, who farms in Pigeon Bay with her husband, Alan, said objections by residents appeared to have fallen on deaf ears. "We are very concerned about the process. We don't seem to have been listened to. About 75 per cent of Pigeon Bay locals objected to the farm and the consent was still granted. You have to ask what does it take," she said. Several issues about the proposed farm concerned locals, including the loss of a public area for private gain, she said.

The new operation would change the pleasant, rural nature of the bay where "nothing much goes on".

Lights marking the perimeter of the farm would be seen by many Pigeon Bay residents, and the bay's wharf could deteriorate with the proposed commercial use.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dtb3002sf

## **KIWI SPONGE IN CANCER DRUG TRIAL.**

124 words  
15 October 1997  
The Dominion

1

English

(c) 1997 The Dominion, INL .

RESEARCH into large-scale **aquaculture** of a rare Kaikoura sea sponge is at the centre of an imminent international agreement to develop anti-cancer drugs.

An agreement with a Spanish pharmaceutical company and a multi-national drug development company to start clinical trials into sponge compound extracts was expected to be signed next week, National Institute of Water and Atmosphere marine scientist Chris Battershill said yesterday. The trials would last at least five years.

Dr Battershill said the most advanced of the sponges was the lissodendoryx found only in an undersea canyon off the Kaikoura coast.

Its anti-tumour ingredient had tested successfully on human cells, and would be tested on real patients.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1997.

Document domn000020011001dtaf00253

## **ABALONE `QUIET`.**

258 words

9 October 1997

The Christchurch Press

5

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

RANGIORA - The owners of a proposed abalone (paua) farm in Amberley Beach say it will not be noisy or smelly, contrary to neighbouring residents' claims.

Abalone **Aquaculture** Ltd partner Kevin Freitas said yesterday that the farm where abalone would be grown from about 10mm long to market size of 80mm would not create noise, smell, or loss of amenity for local residents.

"The farm will be behind a dense area of trees so you will not even be able to see it. In fact the amount of landscaping and planting we will be doing will enhance the area," he said.

A number of residents who live less than 100m from the proposed farm opposed the resource consent application. The Hurunui District Council approved the consent after three days of hearings but attached 20 conditions to it.

"The council did not make a flippant decision - they spent three long days over several months getting more and more information on the proposal," Mr Freitas said.

Concerns about noise and smell was also not a problem, he said.

"At all times the abalone are submerged. They are a marine snail so they are very quiet. I have visited every other abalone farm in New Zealand and there has never been any noise or smell and they are all kept very clean," he said.

Mr Freitas will develop the farm in partnership with Shula Guse, a marine biologist.

Initially two farm buildings will be put up, with another 13 buildings planned over five years.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dta9004by

## **PAUA FARM PLAN ANGERS NEIGHBOURS.**

By Stacey Mair.  
273 words  
3 October 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
4  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

The granting of a resource consent for a proposed abalone (paua) farm in Amberley Beach has angered neighbouring residents.

Abalone **Aquaculture** Ltd was granted the consent by the Hurunui District Council to run a farm where abalone would be grown from about 10mm long to market size of 80mm.

There were 42 submissions on the consent application. Twenty-five were in outright opposition, 14 in support, and three opposed in part. One person sought more data.

Initially two farm buildings will be put up, with another 16 buildings planned over five years. Twelve water storage tanks and eight settling and evaporation ponds are also planned.

The site is next to the Amberley Beach reserve, south of the Amberley Beach road.

Residents in South Crescent, the closest road to the farm, are upset because the farm will be less than 100m from their homes.

One resident, Norman Austin, said yesterday they were concerned because no other farm of this size had been built in New Zealand.

"We at the beach are angry and upset at being treated like Third World citizens, all for the sake of the company having a profitable business and making money at our expense."

"I am upset with the council for letting this happen," Mr Austin said. "The farm will be right by my back fence. How can they say there will no noise, smell, or other problems?"

In his resource consent application, Kevin Freitas said abalone farming generates no noise, pollution, smell, or loss of amenity.

He said the farm would provide about 40 jobs.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dta3002jd

## **SHELLING OUT TO FARM ABALONE.**

By MARK REYNOLDS.

468 words

30 September 1997

New Zealand Herald

English

(c) 1997 The New Zealand Herald

An Auckland company has formed a joint venture with Australian investors to spend as much as \$45 million developing abalone farms in New Zealand and Australia. The venture, to be called Greatlands **Aquaculture**, might be partly financed by public investment, with an initial public offering of shares in Australia a possibility.

The New Zealand partner in the venture is Abalonics International. Ltd, an investment offshoot of the privately owned McFarlane and Schuler Marine Hatchery Ltd. The latter company has spent six years researching and developing technology to farm abalone, or paua as it is known in New Zealand.

The Australian arm of the joint venture is Greatlands General Insurance, a privately owned Australian investment firm. The principals of the Brisbane-based company are Martin Wotton and Gerard O'Connor.

Lance Schuler, the executive director of Abalonics International, said the joint venture would enable his company to begin a commercial development of its hatchery at Christian Bay near Warkworth, north of Auckland.

The facility is now hatching up to one million abalone a month. A full commercial farm would see up to 30 million of the shellfish being spawned on the site each year.

The shellfish sell for about \$4 each on international markets.

In Australia, the joint venture plans to produce up to 3 million abalone in its first year of operation.

Both of the facilities will use technology developed by Abalonics. The patented technology enables large-scale growing of abalone in shallow tanks on land.

Mr Schuler said the New Zealand technology outstripped existing overseas abalone-growing facilities in terms of survival rates, simplicity and growing rates. Tests showed the farmed abalone growing at twice the rate of wild stock.

"One of the benefits of farming is the consistent quality of the product, and this is what markets will demand," he said.

Most of the markets identified by research are in Asia, where abalone is valued for fresh meat but also as a powdered and frozen product.

Greatlands Aquaculture is expected to award tenders for construction of its facilities in the next few months. The farms will be growing abalone from next year.

But it will be a while before the product is commercially available. The shellfish take nearly three years to grow to a saleable size.

Mr Schuler noted that besides the joint venture with Greatlands, McFarlane and Schuler had sold investments in smaller-scale cultivation plants at Christian Bay.

The plants were designed to grow about 100,000 abalone a year and despite an initial cost of more than \$200,000 each, units had already been sold to six investors.

"Our aim is to look at a variety of ways of commercially developing the system, both in New Zealand and overseas."

(c) The New Zealand Herald, 1997.

Document nzhld00020011002dt9u00222

**BAY BID-A Golden Bay environmental lobby group.**

58 words  
17 August 1997  
Sunday Star-Times  
4  
English  
(c) 1997

A Golden Bay environmental lobby group is objecting to a bid by Talley's Fisheries to expand its cockle harvesting operation into Golden Bay. Friends of Golden Bay says it is opposed to any inter-tidal **aquaculture** being carried out on a commercial basis.

(c) Sunday Star Times, INL 1997.

Document sunstt0020011004dt8h001rn

## THE WEEK AT A GLANCE - SANFORD SHRINKS.

92 words

9 May 1997

National Business Review

English

(c) 1997 The National Business Review

Fishing company Sanford's bottom-line profit plunged by \$13 million to a \$1.4 million loss for February half-year.

Directors blamed a significant reduction in foreign exchange cover compared with the previous year, the stronger New Zealand dollar, and weaker markets for fin fish and **aquaculture** production. Sanford wrote off the total \$8.9 million residual value of its Chilean operations but announced a 40% stake in a Namibian company with term quota and exploratory fishing concessions.

(c) The National Business Review, 1997.

Document natbr00020011002dt59002v4

**PAUA-FARM HEARING ADJOURNED.**

141 words  
23 April 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
4  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

RANGIORA - A hearing of a resource consent to establish a land-based paua farm at Amberley Beach has been adjourned after a two-day hearing.

The Hurunui District Council's environmental services committee found there was insufficient information supplied in the application, by Abalone **Aquaculture** Ltd, for it to make a decision.

The application attracted 42 submissions - 25 in outright opposition, 14 in support, three which opposed part of the application, and one which sought more information.

Submitters said the farm would detract from the amenity of the area, lead to pollution of surface and groundwater, lead to odour and noise problems, devalue their properties, affect indigenous flora and fauna, harm the landscape, increase mosquito numbers, and increase traffic.

Supporters of the application said it would bring jobs to the area.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt4n008zj

## **PURE NZ HEAD EYES TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES.**

187 words

10 April 1997

The Christchurch Press

27

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Pure New Zealand will be moving further towards intellectual property and other technology activities under its new chief executive, Chris Holmes.

He plans to expand the company's scientific division, Contech, which has about 25 scientists with expertise in soil sciences, geochemicals, geothermal energy, **aquaculture** and fisheries, waste management, and food technology. Much of their work is in internal research but Mr Holmes said outside consultancy work would be sought.

A former executive at major funds management groups AMP and Armstrong Jones, Mr Holmes said he had been interested for a long time in venture and technology developments, which were benefiting from the changes in the economy during the last decade. At AMP, he was instrumental in establishing the Greenstone Fund and the listed Direct Capital Partners, both investors in developing companies. AMP remains a significant shareholder in both companies.

Mr Holmes joined Pure NZ about a week ago, but had earlier built up a shareholding of about 160,000 shares at January 17, 0.63% of the company. The shares traded at 25c yesterday.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt4a00cwk

**APPOINTMENTS - FLETCHER VAUTIER MOORE.**

125 words  
21 March 1997  
National Business Review  
English  
(c) 1997 The National Business Review

Former Maf Fisheries regional solicitor Mike Sullivan is joining Nelson law firm Fletcher Vautier Moore. An expert in the area of fisheries law, Mr Sullivan has an LLM from the University of Washington School of Law. He was the regional solicitor with Maf Fisheries based in Nelson, with responsibility for the central New Zealand region. In his time with the Ministry of Fisheries (1989-1997), he prosecuted over 250 cases, 40 of which were major quota management system prosecutions. Fletcher Vautier Moore is launching a specialist service covering fisheries, **aquaculture** and maritime law. The other team members are Hamish Fletcher, who specialises in maritime law, and Chris Tuohy, who will cover civil and criminal litigation.

(c) The National Business Review, 1997.

Document natbr00020011002dt3l0024a

## **WIDER AQUACULTURE BAN URGED.**

By William HOBBS.  
265 words  
6 February 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
5  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Broken floats, spat bags, and other marine farming paraphernalia littered the Tasman District Council chamber yesterday as Golden Bay representatives raised concerns about **aquaculture** applications.

Community board member Joe Bell said the jetsam collected from a short stretch of beach at Milnthorpe was representative of rubbish being washed up throughout Golden Bay and on the Farewell Spit nature reserve.

"When people see this coming ashore from off-shore operations they get concerned about what would happen with operations on the beach itself," he said.

Mr Bell asked the committee to support a variation to the new resource management plan extending the areas, particularly in inter-tidal zones, where aquaculture would not be accepted.

He said this would send a signal to would-be applicants who were taking an "apply and hope" approach to aquaculture resource consents.

"There's more anguish about this than anything else in Golden Bay," he said.

Mr Bell was supported by Golden Bay councillor Andy Clark, who described applications for experimental inter-tidal marine farming operations as a "land grab".

"We need to highlight the strong concern in the bay over the issue," he said.

The council had received 230 submissions to one recent application which was subsequently withdrawn.

Environment and planning manager Dennis Bush-King said the council could not stop people lodging applications for marine farming operations.

He said if there was concern about the extent of the exclusion zones in the resource management plan this would be dealt with most quickly through the submission process.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt2600ely

## **CONCERN AT PLANS FOR PAUA FARM.**

206 words  
20 January 1997  
The Christchurch Press  
6  
English  
(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

RANGIORA - Amberley Beach residents are concerned at plans for an abalone (paua) farm near the settlement.

New Zealand company Abalone **Aquaculture** Ltd has filed a resource application with the Hurunui District Council to run a farm where abalone will be grown from juvenile animals about 10mm long, to market-sized animals of 80mm.

The farm would be next to the Amberley beach reserve and south of the Amberley Beach Road. Two farm buildings initially would grow to 16 over five years. The property would also house 12 water storage tanks and eight settling and evaporation ponds.

Council planning assistant Belinda Wallis said yesterday that the application was a contentious issue for the people living in the Amberley beach area.

"We have received several submissions so far with most containing concerns over the proposal. I think most of the residents near to the site think there will be more negative effects than positive from the business," she said.

Resource consent applicant Kevin Freitas said in the application that abalone farming generated no noise, pollution, smell, or loss of amenity.

Mrs Wallis said submissions would close on February 10. A hearing was expected 15 days later.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt1k00b5a

**SANFORD EXPECTS SATISFACTORY RESULTS.**

70 words

13 December 1996

National Business Review

English

(c) 1996 The National Business Review

The fishing and **aquaculture** company said it believed it would trade satisfactorily and maintain its strength over the coming year. Shareholders at the annual meeting were told the company had sound, conservative financial management practices, and unless the climate or the economic environment changed significantly for the worse, it should achieve a satisfactory profit for the year to August, 1997.

(c) The National Business Review, 1996.

Document natbr00020011018dscd002jd

## TURNING TRASH INTO TREASURE.

568 words

14 April 1996

The Dominion

6

English

(c) 1996 The Dominion, INL .

IT'S NOT only beach bums who find New Zealand's coastline attractive. The greebies discharged from foreign ships' ballast water often find the temperature and cleanliness here to their liking, and can sometimes prove difficult to dislodge.

But in one case, someone else's trash may well become our treasure. Japan's third most important agricultural seaweed crop has taken root here quite by accident, after spores of the wakame plant were released in ballast water. The plant's arrival prompted a re-think on New Zealand's **aquaculture** industry.

Cawthron Institute marine botanist Dr Cameron Hay, documented the spread of the plant during the 1980s, and was charged with the task of establishing a supply of seed cultures.

The project has great promise. A high level of interest has been stirred among leading New Zealand fishing companies, keen to cash in on the high-demand export market.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to grow quality wakame in Japan, given increasing sea pollution levels, and New Zealand-grown produce is still seen as a novelty.

Also in the seaweed's favour is its non-aggressive nature, meaning it's unlikely to run rampant up and down the coastline. The harvested, processed and dried product retails in New Zealand for around \$6 per 20g. Japan's wakame industry reaps just under \$US1 billion annually.

Now that a seed source has been established, the next step involves farm trials in the Marlborough Sounds. Seed strings will be strategically placed, and with a wave of the wakame wand, little plants should begin to appear.

"The whole thing will be phased up if it proves worthwhile going commercial," says Dr Hay.

AROUND 900 apples a day keep the rotten pit away. At least for a few of the Cawthron technicians bent over an endless array of flan-sized, decorative looking apple slices.

It is peak apple harvest season in the Nelson region, and if you ever thought fruit was the most unencumbered food available on the shop shelf, then it may come as a surprise that it is sometimes subject to stringent scientific analysis.

Several varieties of apple are prone to bitter pit rotting in transit if mineral levels are low. And, as the old cliché goes, it only takes one bad apple to spoil the bunch.

The Cawthron lab is one of several in the region carrying out the task on behalf of orchardists. Calcium, magnesium and potassium levels in the apples are checked, and from that the grower is able to treat the crop if needed.

WATCHING a video on paua growth and development is like watching science-fiction: Pulsating, creeping, bizarre mutations.

Paua begins life as a miniscule, dog-like creature, whizzing around the ocean floor before being chemically ordered to turn into a slug and slap itself on to a rock. Identifying that chemical cue is occupying Cawthron marine scientist Rodney Roberts' time, for the sake of improving harvests.

Paua farms form a major component of New Zealand's wild fishery industry. Most of the meat is for export, but hindrances to further development lie in its inconsistent survival rates and slow growth stages - about 7-8 years from critter to harvest stage.

Finding the chemicals that trigger these changes may lead to ways of short-circuiting growth stages, improving life expectancies, and ultimately improving farming methods.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1996.

Document domn000020011017ds4e006on



## RESEARCH FUNDING SETS FIRMS DOWN DEVELOPMENT TRAIL.

By CHRIS HUTCHING.  
898 words  
12 April 1996  
National Business Review  
English  
(c) 1996 The National Business Review

Funding a way to develop new technology doesn't have to mean having to go down on bended knees before a bank manager for an extension to the mortgage that will burden cash flow for years to come.

If the right project fits the criteria, the Technology for Business Growth programme will come up with half the readies - as Roger Beattie of Sea Right **Aquaculture** recently learned. His company wanted to expand into paua cultivation and had commissioned a \$340,000 research project into the growth habits of a sea weed called macrocystis, which paua graze on.

Making the research possible was a grant from the government-funded Technology for Business Growth, a business unit of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

The provided half the money needed to employ the zoologists to carry out demographic surveys and measure growth of the seaweed.

Sea Right already owns paua quota. Commercial divers in the Chathams, Otago, Marlborough, Kaikoura and Banks Peninsula catch and can paua under licence for Sea Right, which then exports the paua to Asian markets where a can fetches up to \$30.

But Sea Right - and about 10 other paua farmers around the country has been hampered in developing paua farming because of concerns about the sustainability of cutting the seaweed paua graze on.

Mr Beattie wants to develop his paua farm in the Akaroa Harbour and also hopes to sell a turnkey package to other aquaculture farmers. Sea Right will not only sell its paua barrels but an entire production and marketing package. The paua barrels are made from a type of heavy plastic and have already been sold to companies in Chile and the US.

Mr Beattie had tried to obtain a permit to harvest the seaweed. But to overcome concern about seaweed depletion, the company has to do research to prove commercial cutting is sustainable. That means the sea-weed's growth patterns need to be understood. So far, research has shown the seaweed's growth rate is quite variable in different locations and at deferent times of the year.

"The aim is to get a larger share of what's available on a sustainable basis and also to farm it," Mr Beattie said.

The study, by David Shiel of the department of zoology at Canterbury University, is measuring the size of the biomass, comparing various kelp beds and tagging the macrocystis in the study area around Akaroa Harbour.

Meanwhile, Sea Right is continuing its commercial preparations, with plans to buy a vessel and a barge as the next step towards full commercial production of paua meat and pearls.

"We've done a lot of the logistical work for the pre-commercial phase of farmed paua. Now we'll be looking at a combination of farming ourselves, and selling the farming system. This will include leasing and selling of the barrels and the management system involved," Mr Beattie said.

His project is one of 300 to receive Technology for Business Growth grants since the programme started five years ago. The average grant has been around \$140,000. Most of the recipients have been developing products for export.

The grants scheme is managed by John Manning who looks for secure companies with convincing explanations of why technology research is important for their customers. Seven out of 10 applicants are given grants.

Mr Manning said the big hurdle for companies came after the research and development phase, while they were seeking market acceptance for their products. It was important for them to continue spending money on product development.

"Sea Right is just at the beginning of the process and there have been many other projects that have come to fruition lately.

"Marine Air Systems of Lower Hutt has had success developing a type of telephone exchange technology. Another big success was Tait Electronics, which developed a new type of radio link with telephone. These are multi-million dollar projects."

Other projects have included development by the Wool Research Institute and Alliance Textiles of a new type of wool textile called Triotec yarn. In Palmerston North, Nerine Nursery has developed a system for extending the flowering period and colour variations of a new type of lily.

Alliance Knitting Yarns of Mosgiel recently launched its first downloadable catalogue of knitting patterns worldwide on the Internet as part of a programme to rejuvenate its handknitting market.

Firth Industries developed a hollow, flexible-concrete power pole for use in areas where severe weather conditions often fracture the poles.

One important breakthrough was announced recently by French Maid Foods of Wellington, which produces vinegar.

Making vinegar is usually a two-stage process involving fermentation of sugar into alcohol then turning the alcohol into acetic acid.

But with the help of a grant and in partnership with Industrial Research, a revolutionary one-step process was developed, French Maid Foods managing director Maarten Groen said. It used just one tank and eliminated considerable wastage. French Maid Foods would market it to vinegar processors and believed it would also benefit the wine industry.

Mr Groen said that in a four-year study completed last year, 36 companies were analysed after completing Technology for Business Growth projects. The study showed the companies provided 157 new jobs and that the projects produced \$47 million worth of sales.

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Document natbr00020011018ds4c003fo

**AROUND THE TRAPS - MEREMERE UPDATE.**

By BELINDA MILNES.

61 words

4 April 1996

National Business Review

English

(c) 1996 The National Business Review

Olivine New Zealand, the company buying the disused Meremere power station, said it was not just planning to burn rubbish to generate power. Latest reports indicate it plans to start forestry, horticulture, **aquaculture** and tourism schemes based at the power station on SH1 in the North Waikato.

(c) The National Business Review, 1996.

Document natbr00020011018ds44003cv

## **MARINE FARMERS GRAB LAST COASTAL AREAS SUITABLE FOR AQUACULTURE.**

By RICHARD INDER.  
469 words  
19 January 1996  
National Business Review  
English  
(c) 1996 The National Business Review

New Zealand marine farmers are scrabbling for the rights to farm the diminishing amount of coastline suitable for **aquaculture**.

Strong industry growth during the past few years has forced the country's salmon and shellfish farms into less-than-ideal areas. In many areas, growth has stalled for lack of space.

In Marlborough and Thames, the squeeze on coastline space has resulted in a flurry of activity to secure areas that remain.

In the past 18 months Environment Waikato gave consents for about 1800ha of marine farms. Environment Waikato resource officer David Pearkes said the majority of the applications were for mussel farms although some farmers would trial other shellfish such as oysters or scallops.

Mr Pearkes said few people were now applying for consents since most coastline had been taken up.

He said the remaining areas were a long way from population centres which, because of transport costs, made the farms less competitive.

The Marlborough District Council, which administers the Marlborough Sounds, the country's premier marine farming region, has received about 140 applications to farm shellfish in the past 12 months - the equivalent of 28% of all the marine farms in the region.

Consents are being hotly contested. Marlborough District Council resource consents manager Dave Olliver said about 50 of last year's consents were to go before the Planning Tribunal.

"The best and most obvious have already been allocated," Mr Olliver said.

Marine Farming Association executive director Paul Lupi said growth of marine farms had virtually stopped outside Marlborough and the Firth of Thames.

He said the mussel industry had grown by about 20% each year for the last few years.

Mr Lupi said the industry had been unable to meet demand over the past few years. However, with the new areas coming on stream, supply and demand should balance in the coming years.

Oyster Farmers' Association secretary Bill Bates said growth in the oyster industry was being constrained by the lack of coast line. Export receipts had grown from \$7 million to \$10 million over the last three years, but he said this trend was unlikely to continue.

"Leases are only being granted for areas in the far north," he said. "The industry is looking at how we can use what space we have more efficiently."

The salmon industry has been similarly affected. In Big Glory Bay in Stewart Island space is virtually exhausted, while in the Marlborough Sounds - the country's other major salmon growing area - farmers have resorted to buying existing aquaculture farms and converting them to salmon farming.

The marine farming association expects the combination of mussel, salmon and other shellfish farms to contribute over \$140 million to the economy in the coming year.

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Document natbr00020011018ds1j000c6

## **SMALLER PLAYERS FIND THEIR NICHE IN AQUACULTURE.**

639 words  
3 December 1993  
National Business Review  
30  
English  
(c) 1993 The National Business Review

Marlborough Seafoods is indicative of the small-sized companies benefiting from the increasingly lucrative **aquaculture** sector.

The Blenheim-based producer of greenshell mussels, privately owned by Invercargill businessmen Keith Neylon, is expecting a 40% increase in exports in the next two years from its 17 marine farms.

Managing director Dennis Morgan said given the size of the company, which employs 85 staff, expenditure on technology has been significant.

So far Marlborough Seafoods has invested \$1.7 million and plans to spend another \$750,000.

Semi-automated half-shell openers are being developed, and the company is switching to rapid freezing after packing to maintain quality.

International demand for quality niche products and the contamination hazards of the fishfood business are forcing small firms such as Marlborough Seafoods to improve the quality of their onshore operation.

Mr Morgan said the local fishing industry would experience further changes and the focus would be on tight cost controls.

"There will be fewer players in the market. For example, we are taking over the Regal Salmon marine farms. The industry will be dominated by the larger players, but there will be a position for smaller niche marketers," he said.

Mr Morgan confirmed that a number of industry players are undertaking aquaculture trials in crayfish, paua, oysters, scallops and farmed tuna.

"We believe that as fish resources diminish worldwide, aquaculture products will increase in demand," he said.

Marlborough Seafoods has started a three-year research trial of alternative shellfish species. Mr Morgan said the types of species and the location of the trials were commercially sensitive.

He said the weakness of the international economy is pushing prices down. "Only the smart, efficient processor and exporter will survive."

The main constraint for Marlborough Seafoods was their processing capacity which was not meeting the demand generated by their marketing campaign, he said.

Even though competition for overseas market share is fierce, industry cooperation in fish processing was increasing total capacity.

"We have used other companies to process for us and we have processed for other exporters."

The company's top priority was to invest more in additional processing facilities.

The largest owner of fishing industry quota, Sealord Products, has approximately 10% of the local mussel farming business through their 100% ownership of Southern Ocean Processors.

"The world is turning to aquaculture and we will be responding to that. Over time there is likely to be additional investment," said chief executive Brian Rhoades.

Dr Rhoades said long-term resource access issues need to be resolved in what is turning into significant million dollar commitments.

"The access rights need to be cast in stone so we can be sure people can make those investments," he said.

The international food industry was complicated by the effects of fads, promotional campaigns and demand cycles.

"You can never be sure where you are in the cycle. One good marketing deal to a Japanese restaurant chain could have a positive effect on price," he said.

"Prices for mussels have been relatively low over the last 12 months but the local industry has been building its market in step with volumes."

He said it took 10 years for the price of salmon to drop, but the speed of new species onto the market could herald solid earnings for aquaculture companies.

"The technology exists to do it. Most of the issues are commercial. For instance, where does New Zealand's strategic advantage lie? If farming of a fish species is labour intensive, the low-cost labour equatorial countries would be more competitive."

Dr Rhoades said aquaculture products will generate the same market reaction as agriculture products, because of the stability from "crop planting".

"Finfish will not get the same international reaction. It is an absolute resource. The world has more or less used up its sustainable harvest."

Document natbr00020011121dpc3002mq

## **REGAL SENDS HEALTH SALMON TO FRANCE.**

227 words  
19 November 1993  
National Business Review  
8  
English  
(c) 1993 The National Business Review

Marlborough-based **aquaculture** firm Regal Salmon placed its first shipment of organically produced smoked salmon on the French market this week through supermarket chain Monoprix SA.

Regal Salmon sales and marketing director Dexter Taylor said smoked salmon cartons were sent to a dozen Monoprix and Galleries Lafayette supermarket stores in Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon and Toulouse.

The European health food market was growing in excess of 200% a year, Mr Taylor said. The French eat 26,000 tonnes of smoked salmon annually, including 8,000 tonnes in the festive December season: "If we got 5% of the 26,000 tonnes, it would be mammoth. There won't be competition in Europe, because they all use chemicals and antibiotics." he said.

In the worldwide organic food market, a premium of 30% was received for natural food products.

Regal Salmon will start an extensive promotion campaign of the niche-marketed smoked salmon in January.

Starting seven years ago, Regal Salmon has three farms in the Marlborough Sounds. Exports account for 92% of revenue.

In a Tradenz report on the seafood industry released in Nelson on Tuesday, a growth objective of doubling export sales to \$2 billion was projected. An increase in volumes is expected to come from the aquaculture sector, with further processing of deepsea fish stock predicted to contribute \$300m of that total.

Document natbr00020011121dobj002y4

### **Marron farm refused injunction.**

540 words

16 January 1993

New Zealand Herald

4

English

(c) 1993 The New Zealand Herald

Koru **Aquaculture** yesterday failed in an attempt to get a High Court injunction to stop the slaughter of marron crayfish at the company's Warkworth farm.

Mr Justice Thomas refused the company's application at a closed hearing in Auckland, but the issue has been set down for another hearing on Tuesday.

Marron ponds at the farm are being drained by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries staff because of fears that the crayfish could damage the environment and other fisheries if they escape from the property.

The Government has already rejected several pleas from the company to stop the destruction of the freshwater crayfish.

The injunction application yesterday was based on a claim that the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were acting illegally by "deliberately killing the native fish Cran's bully."

The fish are believed to be in the crayfish ponds and to be dying as the ponds are drained.

The Koru Aquaculture lawyer, Mr Christopher Harder, said the company would try to appeal to the cabinet to stop the draining of the ponds. However, the cabinet is not scheduled to meet until January 26.

Mr Harder said that if the destruction was stopped by tomorrow there would be enough marron left to rebuild an export stock within a year.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries communications director, Mr Robert Brewer, said the five staff members draining the ponds expected to finish the job by Wednesday.

The Government's decision to close the marron farm and destroy the stock has been welcomed by freshwater anglers.

The chief executive of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, Mr Dave Stack, of Rotorua, said that given the importance of trout fishing in New Zealand, it was too great a risk to allow the introduction of a new species before its impact on existing resources was known.

If marron farming in New Zealand had not been nipped in the bud, applications for similar ventures in Rotorua's internationally famed trout fishing district would have been inevitable, he said.

Following the "too-hastily given" decision to allow the first marron farm, two applications for such farms in the Bay of Plenty had been received, said Mr Stack.

If those proposals had been approved on the basis that a precedent had already been set, it would only have been a matter of time before someone eyed an opportunity in the immediate Rotorua area.

He said that once such enterprises were shown to be viable, there was a demand from others wanting to cash in, and control was lost.

Mr Stack said commercial pressures often worked to remove Government control and he cited the case of grass carp. Fish and game councils and trout fishermen had fought against the introduction of the species and the enterprise was now in the hands of the private sector.

The Eastern Region Fish and Game Council had considered marron farming applications and declined them on the basis of the potential threat posed to trout and indigenous fish.

Marron escaping to the wild would compete with trout for food and would feed on smaller trout.

He said marron could not be compared with the New Zealand koura (freshwater crayfish).

Document nzhd00020020118dp1g002e9

**Marron firm seeking court order.**

230 words

15 January 1993

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1993 The New Zealand Herald

The Warkworth marron company Koru **Aquaculture** will seek an urgent High Court order today preventing the drainage of its crayfish ponds.

The company's lawyer, Mr Christopher Harder, said the legal bid hinged on the contention that the drainage contravened fisheries legislation because it was killing an indigenous fish species, Cran's Bully.

Mr Harder announced the move in response to a refusal last night by the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, to delay the draining of the ponds.

Mr Kidd went further, announcing the withdrawal of an earlier offer to the company allowing the export of the remaining marron.

Ministry officials had ordered the destruction of the freshwater crayfish, saying they posed environmental risks.

Company representatives met Mr Kidd in Wellington yesterday and sought a halt to the destruction while it made written proposals about alternative options.

The firm pointed to the algal bloom threatening coastal shellfish as reinforcing the need for an alternative freshwater industry.

It also sought an inquiry by an independent Australian expert, Dr Noel Morrissy.

Mr Harder said last night that the company was disappointed at the minister's "lack of vision," particularly in light of the present threat to coastal marine life.

A company representative and secretary of the Ngato Whatua Trust Board, Mr Joe Hawke, said aquaculture had big potential and offered job prospects in hard-pressed Northland.

Document nzhd00020020118dp1f002ev

## **Workers hit by ban must wait for dole.**

438 words  
15 January 1993  
New Zealand Herald  
3  
English  
(c) 1993 The New Zealand Herald

**Aquaculture** workers laid off because of a ban on processing shellfish from the eastern coast of the North Island should see Social Welfare if they are in "desperate" need, says the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Falloon.

The Government would not waive the two-week stand-down period before redundant workers could collect unemployment benefit, he said yesterday.

At least 350 shellfish workers have lost jobs and 1,000 may be laid off because of an exporting ban promoted by a toxic poisoning scare.

The scare spread to the west coast of the North Island yesterday when a Raglan man became ill after eating mussels.

Mr Falloon said the large-scale poisoning of shellfish along the coast and its effect on processors and exporters was "very serious ... very sad."

But the Government did not want to set a precedent by wiping unemployment conditions for that group.

However, if workers were desperate they could get a special grant for Social Welfare.

Mr Falloon's comments follow a plea from the Fishing Industry Board that, if possible, the condition be waived for those industry workers.

Japanese authorities have now requested information about New Zealand's export procedures. This follows a United States Food and Drug Administration decision this week to ban New Zealand shellfish imports.

Nearly 70 people have suffered food poisoning after eating shellfish contaminated by a toxic algae bloom, first discovered in Whangarei Harbour last week.

A ban on the export and collection of shellfish has been imposed throughout the eastern North Island, from North Cape to Cape Palliser.

The Fishing Industry Board deputy chief executive, Mr Alastair Macfarlane, said last night that 300 workers from, 21 companies between Whangarei and Tauranga had been laid off.

A further 50 workers were laid off by a Gisborne kina processing factory, while a Nelson mussel exporter was yesterday forced to close.

Mr Macfarlane said most of the staff affected were in the mussel processing industry, but some oyster workers, cockle fishermen, harvesters and transporters had also lost jobs.

He said up to 1,000 workers could lose jobs if the export ban continued.

Some companies were considering importing products from the South Island.

He "sincerely hoped" there would be no permanent loss of export markets because of the bloom. While some individual companies might lose clients, most international authorities were used to dealing with blooms, he said.

A Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries spokesman, Mr Robert Brewer, said Japanese authorities yesterday asked about the bloom and exporting routines. MAF had no concerns at the moment that Japan might impose a ban, he said.

Document nzhd00020020118dp1f002et

## **KORU AQUACULTURE'S Marron fate in Kidd's hands.**

587 words  
28 May 1992  
New Zealand Herald  
9  
English  
(c) 1992 The New Zealand Herald

The Government-ordered destruction of 500,000 freshwater crayfish at a Warkworth farm has been postponed while the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, considers a request by the owners to export stock to China.

Mr Gray Jamieson, managing director of the Warkworth company Koru **Aquaculture** Ltd, said he had been approached by the Chinese Government which was keen to set up freshwater crayfish farms in Guangdong Province.

The Guangzhou Agriculture Commission wants 10,000 brood stock.

Koru's freshwater crayfish were to be killed as part of an out-of-court settlement between the Crown and the company.

Koru Aquaculture began farming marron - a species of freshwater crayfish native to the south-western region of Western Australia - in 1987 and two years later was granted a 14-year freshwater fish licence.

However, in November 1990, after strong lobbying from anglers and conservation groups, the new National Government decided not to support marron farming until further environmental issues were examined.

For the past 18 months the Crown and Koru Aquaculture have been involved in a bitter dispute over the company's right to farm marron and Government moves to stop it.

No research on the impact of marron farming in New Zealand has been carried out and the company has accused the Government of "basing its decision on a perceived fear rather than any concrete environmental report or research."

In December 1991, a Chinese Government trade delegation visiting New Zealand expressed an interest in freshwater crayfish farming but delegates were unable to visit Koru aquaculture's farm at Warkworth.

However, in March Mr Jamieson and the farm manager, Mr Paul Decker, were invited to China to investigate the potential for such farms in Guangzhou - Auckland's sister city in Guangdong Province.

According to Mr Jamieson China leads the world in aquaculture, farming around 4.4 million hectares of ponds, This is expected to increase.

Mr Jamieson said an agreement for a joint freshwater crayfish farming venture was signed while he was in China. Under the terms of this agreement his company would provide the 100,000 brood stock and technical expertise and the Guangzhou Agricultural Commission would be responsible for all funding and Yue Xiu Enterprises Ltd(NZ) would coordinate the project.

The managing director for Yue Xiu Enterprises in New Zealand, Mrs Noon Wong, said that when the commission visited New Zealand late last year its members were initially interested in the native fish species but they found there was no potential for them.

The commission then heard about Koru Aquaculture and decided to investigate the viability of farming marron in the province.

Freshwater crayfish are not bred in Guangdong Province and, with a population of 50 million people, Mrs Wong said there was great potential from the local market.

When Koru Aquaculture was given approval in 1987 to import live marron into New Zealand, rigorous quarantine requirements were imposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr Jamieson said it was largely because of the requirements that Koru's stock was sought- it being considered the most disease free in the world.

Initially Koru Aquaculture would have a 20 per cent share in the project and after four years the company would retain a share of 10 per cent.

Koru would also be given the exclusive rights to the marketing of all crayfish stock exported from China and have an 85per cent share in the marketing company.

A decision from Mr Kidd is expected early next week.

Document nzhd00020011122do5s009wa

**NZ Salmon still to make buy plans.**

91 words

5 March 1992

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1992 The New Zealand Herald

New Zealand Salmon, cashed up after selling its New Zealand salmon farming assets, has no asset acquisition plans yet, according to the chairman, Mr Ian Farrant.

The company could look outside **aquaculture** for future investments.

Mr Farrant said he held no real concerns that New Zealand Salmon, being cash rich and debt free, could be ripe for a takeover bid.

New Zealand Salmon shares, with a net asset backing of around 50c after the sale compared with 11c in September, last traded at 32c.

Document nzhld00020011122do3500811

**Business Week - NZ SALMON REPORTS ANNUAL LOSS OF \$4.92M.**

138 words

6 December 1991

National Business Review

47

English

(c) 1991 The National Business Review

NZ Salmon reported a \$4.92 million loss for the September year due to depressed markets, income reduced by asset sales and extraordinary losses of \$2.4 million. The tax paid loss of \$2.43 million was 9% down on last year although any comparison is complicated by changes to business during the year. These included the sale of Cedenco Foods and Drum Packaging. This resulted in turnover falling to \$7.6 million from \$20.55 million in 1990 and assets falling to \$10.18 million from \$23.45 million. Various assets have been written down including Tentburn Ocean Ranch. A modest profit is forecast for next year on the back of improving markets and profits from the **Aquaculture** joint venture, raising salmon and salmon trout in Chile.

Document natbr00020011124dnc600gju

## **KORU AQUACULTURE LOBBYING CABINET FOR A FAIR DEAL.**

1,243 words  
11 October 1991  
National Business Review  
30  
English  
(c) 1991 The National Business Review

A small North Auckland crayfish company is frantically lobbying Cabinet for "a fair deal" after being regulated out of business.

Koru **Aquaculture** reckons the government doesn't play fair.

First, the government gave Koru permission to import marron - a big freshwater crayfish native to south western Australia.

Then, after a two year quarantine period, Koru was given a fish farming licence.

Finally, with its ponds teeming with tens of thousands of baby marron, ready for sale to other fish farmers, the government effectively shut down Koru's operation.

Cabinet and public servants feared the heavyweight marron - 2.5 kilograms maximum - would get established in the wild and wipe out New Zealand's smaller, native cray, the koura.

So, Fisheries Minister Doug Kidd is talking of three years of research to check on what damage marron could do.

Koru managing director Gray Jamieson complains government agencies - including the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Conservation - have already had more than four years to do just that.

He reckons the government has acknowledged that Koru deserves compensation - but won't come to the party with a reasonable sum.

By late last year, the government was getting the jitters over marron.

Under the terms of Koru's fish farming licence, the company could begin selling baby marron to other "satellite" farmers from January 1 this year.

A veritable marron explosion could be in the offing, the ministers feared.

Cabinet urgently discussed the issue in late December last year - and decided to negotiate to buy the Koru farm at Warkworth.

A December 19 letter from Kidd to Jamieson was headed up: "Outcome Of Cabinet Meeting: Marron."

In it, Kidd said Cabinet was worried about the possible effect of marron on the environment and MAF needed to do more research.

"To facilitate such research I have been authorised to negotiate with your company the acquisition of your marron farm."

Since MAF scientists did not actually need the farm to do research, the prospective purchase looked a lot like compensation, under a different name.

Kidd went on: "A decision will be made within three years as to whether or not marron are to be allowed to remain in New Zealand, and if so in what areas and under what conditions they will be farmed.

"If a decision is made by the government in three years to allow the continuation of marron farming, Koru Aquaculture will have the right to repurchase the farm at the end of that period."

Koru was prepared to go along with this. In January, an agreement was drawn up between the Crown and the company for the running of the farm pending the conclusion of negotiations.

By April, negotiations had got nowhere.

Koru says it rejected a "spurious" offer of \$150,000.

The government seemed to be crying poor. Kidd wrote to Koru that he had "experienced certain frustrations in trying to find the funding to purchase the marron farm. "The government is operating under severe financial constraints ... However all is not lost as I am still striving to obtain approval from cabinet for the necessary funds to purchase your marron farm."

How to escape the impasse? In May, a team of independent accountants - including Auckland's Fred Watson and John Hagen - was set up to try to reach a settlement.

The team recommended the Crown buy Koru's assets for \$2 million.

Jamieson says the Crown in July refused to meet the \$2 million figure, offering only \$888,000.

"As the company's secured and unsecured creditors totalled more (than that amount), the company would effectively be placed in receivership the day it accepted such an offer," he says.

Kidd's office says the report was not binding and denies the Crown has any legal liability.

Koru's lawyers - Simpson Grierson Butler White - have looked at a breach of contract case against the Crown for failing to follow the independent team's recommendation, but Jamieson says Koru cannot fund a court case.

Koru is lobbying cabinet ministers to try to get what it considers a reasonable offer.

Jamieson sees Treasury's hand in the \$888,000 proposal and hopes talks with Finance Minister Ruth Richardson could see a better offer.

It wasn't hard to see back in 1987 that a marron fiasco was on the way.

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Colin Moyle approved an import licence for Koru's marron against the advice of ministry officials.

It was later said that the minister had no choice; a flaw in the Animals Act 1967 meant the permit could not be prevented on environmental grounds.

That point is contentious, but it is clear that from the start, the civil servants wanted to stop the marron venture - but couldn't quite manage to get their way.

As a couple of MAF staffers wrote, "the more marron are distributed, the greater the chance of their irresponsible liberation" and disastrous consequences.

Civil servants involved with environmental issues copped a backlash over allowing chinchilla imports.

No way did they want marron to become something like Chinchilla Part Two.

Also, around this period, MAF staffers were involved in the "super duck" foul-up over whether the ministry should have let 1,200 fertilised eggs of the white Peking duck - bigger and better than local ducks - into the country for breeding.

Jamieson brought in 16,500 marron and plonked them in a quarantine area something like a prison - secure against human or bird intruders and possible marron breaks for freedom.

By June 1988, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment had held a special inquiry involving the marron saga and reached two key conclusions.

One was that the decision to allow marron imports was not sound and - possibly - could have been prevented.

The other was that no more marron should be allowed into the country and no farming licences issued "until the issues of ecological and disease risk have been resolved".

Despite this, and after Cabinet consideration, Colin Moyle decided to grant a licence, issued finally in 1989, after Koru came up with a \$250,000 bond, payable if marron escaped to cause environmental havoc.

Cabinet had thought about negotiating with Jamieson to destroy the marron, but decided against it.

In December, Moyle amended the licence to allow the sale of live marron to food retailers and

wholesalers and - from January 1991 - licensed fish farms.

It's ironic that, despite all the marron escape fears, live marron have already been moved up and down the country by Koru and sold to restaurants and the like.

The chances for "irresponsible liberation" could not have been greater.

Another irony is that government money has been poured into the marron project.

There is the \$500,000 loan from the Ngati Whatua O Orakei Maori Trust Board - money that comes from the Maori Affairs Mana Enterprises programme.

Jamieson says in 1987 a regional development grant of \$146,000 also went into the Koru farm.

The government regulations passed last month prevent the possession of live marron except within the boundaries of Koru's farm or by government officers conducting research.

Of Koru's 200,000 marron, about 85% were intended for supplying other farmers, Jamieson says. Seven potential farmers had signed contracts for Koru to supply marron and paid \$140,000 in total in deposits, Jamieson says.

Jamieson says he is 52% owner of Koru, a company with a paid up capital of \$759,900.

Document natbr00020011124dnab00far

## **\$2m FRESHWATER CRAYFISH farmer on the dole.**

436 words

26 September 1991

New Zealand Herald

4

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The managing director of a freshwater crayfish farming company says he is on the dole after spending \$2 million setting up a venture which cannot operate because of Government legislation.

Mr Gray Jamieson, of Koru **Aquaculture**, said he read in the New Zealand Herald on Monday that the Government had decided to ban sales of live freshwater crayfish.

The company imported marron from Australia in 1987.

Mr Jamieson said the Government promised to buy the Warkworth farm last year, so the company now intended to take High Court action in an attempt to force it to do so.

"We appreciate that there are environmental concerns, but it has been a complete and utter bungle from day one. Now we have saleable marron which we cannot sell," he said.

The company was struggling to find the finance to keep the 200,000-marron farm going.

"We will have 500,000 ready next month," he said.

"We have six Access workers, but we do not know how long they are going to last."

Mr Jamieson said he and the farm manager, Mr Paul Decker, were now drawing the unemployment benefit.

The Government, he said, only talks about export potential and employment in the regions.

"Farmers from Southland to Kerikeri are interested in farming marron and have signed contracts with us.

"Three of them have bought farms because they were told that subject to certain conditions they would get licences."

Koru Aquaculture had an agreement with the previous Government that it would be able to sell live juvenile marron to satellite farms from the start of this year.

But last November the National Government said it would buy the Warkworth property to conduct research into marron farming for three years.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr McKinnon, then appointed accountants to value the farm.

They said it was worth more than \$2 million, but Mr Jamieson said Koru Aquaculture was offered less than half that, which it could not accept.

It had paid \$18,000 as its share of the cost of the accountants' report.

New regulations prohibiting the sale of live marron were passed last week and the company was not notified, he said.

The regulations also prohibited the issue of more farming licences until November 30, 1993.

Mr Kidd said the controls would give more time to research the environmental impacts of marron farming before a decision was made on the further development of the industry.

"As marron are restricted to one farm site it is still practical to reconsider the whole marron policy".

Document nzhd00020011124dn9q00k3b

## **Government bans sale of live marron.**

195 words  
23 September 1991  
New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The Government has passed regulations to prevent the sale of live marron, an Australian freshwater crayfish, from Koru **Aquaculture** Ltd's marron farm near Warkworth, north of Auckland.

The farm is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and the new regulations prohibit the possession of live marron except within the boundaries of the farm or by the Government officers conducting research.

Other regulations prohibit the granting of further marron farm licences until November 30, 1993, and increase the penalties for breaches of the regulations.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr Kidd, said the regulations, which took effect on September 20, were a response to concerns about the environment.

"These controls will provide more time to research the potential environmental impacts before we decide whether to allow further development of the industry," Mr Kidd said.

"Clearly we need to proceed cautiously with this sort of development. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is to conduct more research on the ecological requirements of marron and their interaction with other freshwater species.

"As marron are restricted to one farm site it is still practical to reconsider the whole marron policy."

Document nzhd00020011124dn9n00ju

## **MAF backing sought for scallop scheme.**

590 words  
31 July 1991  
National Business Review  
6  
English  
(c) 1991 The National Business Review

Backers of a scallop farming operation in the Marlborough Sounds claim their proposal has the potential to bring in \$10 million in export earnings and create 250 jobs.

A partnership of five, Squally Cove **Aquaculture**, has applied for an exclusive licence to farm 760 ha of Croisilles Bay under the Marine Farming Act.

Spokesman Brian Skeggs said all five were involved with mussel farming and were looking for a more lucrative product to diversify into. He says with mussel supply exceeding demand on international markets few mussel farmers are making money at the moment.

But before Squally Cove can diversify into scallop farming, the group has to win the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which administers the Act. MAF has to satisfy itself that the proposal does not interfere with commercial or recreational fishing, scientific uses or "public interest". And the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Transport have power of veto over applications.

Already one large scallop farming proposal for the Marlborough Sounds has been turned down by MAF on the grounds it conflicted with existing uses of the area under application.

One of the obstacles facing the Squally Cove group will be that Croisilles Bay is widely used by recreational divers.

The farming method proposed by Squally Cove has been used by MAF in the commercial scallop fishery since 1983. Scallop spats are collected in nylon mesh bags suspended in the water and grown in the bags for three or four months before being distributed on the sea bed.

The Squally Cove group proposes to dive for the mature scallops when they are 18 months to three years old, rather than dredging for them as do conventional fishermen.

MAF's method of scallop population enhancement appears to have been successful in stabilising scallop numbers - and is regarded as instrumental in allowing the scallop quota to rise to 10 tonnes this year from five tonnes last year.

MAF's population enhancement programme is run as a co-operative effort with the commercial fishermen, who fund the operation and fish the seeded areas under a three-year rotational cycle allowing about 1,000 ha to be dredged each year.

With a successful industry-wide effort such as this in train, one of the issues to be addressed in assessing the Squally Cove proposal is whether a particular group should be given exclusive rights to an area of the sea bed.

But Nelson MAF scallop specialist Mike Bull points out that the Squally Cove proposal may improve the industry's knowledge of population enhancement. He says the MAF programme operates only on the most easily seeded sites and granting rights to the private sector which will allow them to develop techniques in one of the more marginal areas could be beneficial.

The Squally Cove proposal is for relatively shallow waters - under 12 metres - whereas most commercial scalloping is in deeper water.

Skeggs acknowledges most of the opposition to the Squally Cove proposal will come from commercial fishermen. But he says the area being eyed by the partnership has produced only around \$50,000 a year in scallops in the past - and the farming proposal could increase that to \$10 million a year.

Initial capital outlay for the project would be about \$1.5 million, on upgraded wharf facilities, boats and a barge, and hiring contract divers. Skeggs says scallops harvested from Croisilles Bay will initially be sent to existing operators for processing but, ultimately, the group plans to build its own factory.

Document natbr00020011124dn7v00dqq

**WARKWORTH FISH FARM GRANTED LICENCE TO FARM KOURA.**

45 words

12 June 1991

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1991 The New Zealand Herald

The Warkworth fish farm owned by Koru **Aquaculture**, which is still waiting for compensation after the Government took over its Australian freshwater crayfish operation, has been granted a licence to farm koura, a New Zealand freshwater crayfish.

Document nzhld00020011124dn6c009at

## **GovERNMENT buying cray farm for research.**

315 words

21 December 1990

New Zealand Herald

22

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Negotiations have begun for the Government to buy the country's only freshwater marron crayfish farm at Warkworth and turn it into a research unit.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The farm, owned by Koru **Aquaculture**, is at the centre of a debate over whether the species should be released for farming throughout the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries wants to use the farm to conduct research into the environmental consequences of introducing the Western Australian species.

Conservation groups have recently stepped up their opposition to introducing marron, claiming the crayfish could damage native species such as the koura if released into natural waterways.

Koru Aquaculture was set up three years ago by a former oyster and mussel farmer, Mr Gray Jamieson.

He has successfully sold several shipments of the quick-growing marron to Japan and some have been sold in local fish shops.

Yesterday the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Kidd, said the research programme at Warkworth farm would be conducted over three years, in consultation with the Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation.

"We are primarily concerned that there is insufficient evidence on the potential impacts of marron on the environment should they become established in the wild," the minister said.

A decision would be made within the three years on whether marron could stay in New Zealand, based on the research at the Koru farm.

If it went in favour of the mainly vegetarian Australian imports, Koru Aquaculture would have the right to buy the farm back.

During the research period no further marron farming or transfer of the species would be allowed.

Mr Jamieson began his venture by importing 21,000 juvenile marron and now has more than 100,000 in ponds behind high-security fencing.

The crayfish were to have come out of quarantine on January 1, ready for distribution to other farmers.

Document nzhd00020011129dmcl002y6

**Alarm at new GOVERNMENT fishing post.**

82 words

2 October 1990

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Freshwater anglers believe the appointment of an **aquaculture** minister may lead to the legalisation of trout farming - a move seen as harmful to wild trout fisheries and related tourism.

The president of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, Mr Theo Simenidis, said Mr Ken Shirley's appointment as minister appeared to signal the Labour Party's intention to legalise trout farming.

He said Mr Shirley was expected to sponsor an Aquaculture Bill allowing trout farming.

Document nzhd00020011128dma200cqg

**NEW MINISTRY POST IS official - after third announcement.**

402 words

25 September 1990

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

For the Prime Minister, Mr Moore, it was a case of third time lucky when he announced a new ministerial portfolio yesterday.

Twice last week he had unofficially named the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, as New Zealand's first Minister of **Aquaculture**.

\*\*FULL\_TEXT The announcements, made off-the-cuff at a public launch of Labour Party policies, were met with general puzzlement.

Beehive officials said later that Mr Shirley had not, in fact, been appointed Minister of Aquaculture. Mr Moore had simply been thinking aloud.

But yesterday Mr Moore had his pet idea approved by the cabinet. A minister responsible for aquaculture would be appointed. Mr Shirley, although outside the cabinet, would take the job. After the election he could win full cabinet status.

Early in the sitting of the cabinet meeting - just before 11 am - the Prime Minister decided he should spread the good news.

From the cabinet room on the Beehive's 10th floor, he dialled radio stations and a newspaper in Nelson to tell them their man, the MP for Tasman, had the job.

Staff in Mr Shirley's office again knew nothing of the appointment, but the minister with the new responsibility had apparently been told.

As Minister of Fisheries Mr Shirley oversees the ministry which already deals with aquaculture.

Yesterday's decision seemed to indicate that the Government intends to pick up on Mr Moore's long-held enthusiasm for developing farming of fish and seafood.

As Minister of Overseas Trade and Marketing he suggested that the Trade Development Board investigate the potential benefits of the industry.

The board's report, published in June last year, found that the country could earn up to \$250 million a year from aquaculture by the year 2010.

In April this year Mr Shirley highlighted aquaculture as offering a whole new dimension for the fishing industry and the country's economy.

The Opposition conservation spokesman, Mr Denis Marshall, said last night that Mr Shirley had wanted to introduce a private member's bill to Parliament to legalise trout farming but had dropped the idea when he became a minister.

It was likely that he and Mr Moore would turn to the Trade Development Board's report, which saw trout farming as having "good market potential."

Mr Marshall said that could place the country's world-famous trout fishing industry in danger.

Document nzhd00020011128dm9p00fkv

## Unforgiving electorate looking for the goods. (2 of 2)

484 words  
7 September 1990  
National Business Review  
8  
English  
(c) 1990 The National Business Review

If New Zealand is to go anywhere, it must put far greater depth into its capacity to earn wealth. We must build up the export infrastructure and overall ability of enterprise to earn foreign exchange.

There is just one way to do that: Innovation. Step-by-step innovation is the key to New Zealand manufacturing, agriculture (agritech, biotech, horticulture, **aquaculture**, forestry) establishing a new and improved comparative advantage against global competition.

The Moore administration will not walk away from Rogernomics. That is one safe prediction. Instead, in the short time it has, there may be moves to "add value"; or, to use another piece of Moorespeak, to put some "heart" into Rogernomics, to "energise" it.

Moore's policy announcements will likely aim to apply "Kiwi ingenuity" to add value to the economy; that is, to expand the export sector by promoting new enterprise.

Innovation is not a word that figured much under Rogernomics. But constant innovation is at the heart of the agendas. It is part of Moorespeak. So are terms like "Gatt", "global economy", "international competitiveness". Much will be heard of these in the next few weeks.

There are some key terms in Moorespeak to watch out for: Energise: Pull your fingers out, mates, and make things happen. Public servants, especially will be under test.

Our people: The people in pubs who gave Labour victory in 1984 and are owed deliverance.

Battlers: Middle New Zealand - the voters tipping towards Jim Bolger.

Moore will be a foil for Bolger, perhaps. Both are genial, enthusiastic, conservative in style. Both are pragmatists. Unlike the Ruth Richardsons and David Caygills who tend to be ideologues driven by economic objectives, rather than a sense of people's "welfare".

Moore has many ideas; getting connection has not been easy in the past. He has little time in the short term, but has a long-term prospect of stitching together a coalition of interests aimed for the mid-1990s. It will likely be a coalition based on the idea of a "managed economy"; governments are elected to manage, and that includes the Reserve Bank.

Bolger is more a manager than a politician driven by ideas. He is a "battler", and that makes him non-threatening to a lot of New Zealanders, but leaves a questionmark as to how innovative his ministry would be.

The huge bloc of undecided voters is still ripe for the plucking, and one of the triggers to release them will be the sense of "innovation" they detect in Labour or National.

New Zealand is a country that has much going for it. What it is seeking is a leadership with the co-operative commitment to make it all happen. And that's what the next eight weeks are all about.

Tony Garnier, a marketing and communications consultant, was an executive assistant to Mike Moore in 1987-89.

Document natbr00020011128dm9700aot

**WALLACEVILLE Catfish may end up in Australia.**

250 words

16 August 1990

New Zealand Herald

15

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Catfish bred at Wallaceville for a proposed **aquaculture** industry in the Far North could go to New South Wales if the New Zealand Government decides they are an environmentally hazardous species.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** Sixty thousand catfish ova were imported from "America and hatched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as the nucleus of a joint venture between Northland (Presbyterian) Support Services and the Muriwhenua Incorporation to provide employment for about 380 people'e in the Far North.

The executive officer for Northland Support, Mr Gary Poole, of Kerikeri, said ova were imported to overcome quarantine and customs problems.

The ministry had undertaken the original environmental impact assessment.

With the catfish ready for removal north, a further environmental assessment by Professor C R Townsend, head of the zoology department of Otago University, and Mr M J Winterbourn, of the Canterbury University Zoology Department, pointed to environmental risks.

Mr Poole said that initial studies by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries led to the project going ahead, but the former Minister of Trade and Industry also provided \$48,000 for a feasibility study into the project.

Mr Poole questioned the qualifications of those making the latest assessment: "I wonder if they have even seen a catfish."

Since indications from the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Shirley, that the catfish fingerlings might have to be destroyed, Mr Poole said, an inquiry had been received from Australia about the possibility of farming them in New South Wales.

Document nzhd00020011128dm8g009y9

## **US firm defends mussel patent.**

377 words

6 August 1990

National Business Review

3

English

(c) 1990 The National Business Review

The American company at the centre of a row with the mussel industry says its controversial patent of a commonly used cooking process is fair and genuine.

San Francisco-based **Aquaculture** Inc is trying to squeeze royalties from the industry over a process it patented last year. But its actions have angered exporters in the fledgling industry who claim the company is exploiting a process known to the industry for more than 10 years (NBR 3/8/90).

The Fishing Industry Board is now trying to overturn the New Zealand patent on the cooking and freezing process which extends the shelf-life of mussels exported in their whole shell.

But Aquaculture president Dick Dorset strongly rejected the industry's claims, maintaining the company was the first to invent a technique that had great potential to improve the marketing of mussels.

He described claims by disgruntled mussel processors that the company was only trying to make a living out of patents as "incredible". He said the company's mainline was the production of a mussel extract powder, Neptone, used to treat arthritis, adding that Aquaculture's turnover was "modest".

But asked if the company had developed patents before, Dorset said "our people have been very much involved in patents in various processes". He pointed out, however, the mussel patent was the only one it now held.

But Dorset said Aquaculture was keen to extend its involvement in this country beyond the patent. It set up a subsidiary here last year and was now negotiating a joint venture to process and export mussels.

He maintained the patent was critical to ensure a quality product as the industry had suffered from poor quality control in the past.

But he said no-one considered the process before he held discussions with a New Zealand scientist and processor in 1983. Aquaculture then hired the scientist, Massey University food technologist Neil Boyd, in 1985 to crack the problem of radically extending the shelf-life of cooked mussels.

But industry sources said no discovery of a unique process was made, pointing out that Boyd had worked as a supervisor on a DSIR research project over the summer of 1984/85 which had succeeded in refining the commonly used technique.

Document natbr00020011128dm86006c9

## **Mussel trade steamed up over US claim.**

540 words

3 August 1990

National Business Review

3

English

(c) 1990 The National Business Review

Expansion of the fledgling mussel industry is being threatened by an American company's demand for royalties from a patent over a commonly-used cooking process.

New Zealand mussel scientists, processors and exporters accuse San Francisco-based **Aquaculture Inc** of patenting a process that has long been used by the industry. One said it was like patenting boiling an egg.

Others said the US company was trying to "live by litigation" in pushing ahead with its claim.

The Fishing Industry Board has taken up the battle on behalf of processors and is now trying to revoke a New Zealand patent on the process awarded to Aquaculture last year. The DSIR is also backing the campaign.

The company is small importer and processor of mussel products and has had a long association with the industry. But it has already angered many in the industry after a long court wrangle over the rights to a mussel by-product saw a Kiwi company go to the wall this year.

The Court of Appeal awarded Aquaculture \$1.5 million in damages, upholding the company's claim that the original owners of McFarlane Laboratories had ripped off the formula for a mussel extract powder used to treat arthritis. Aquaculture is now pursuing a similar claim against the company's new owners.

The industry suspects Aquaculture is trying to pull a similar trick in patenting a cooking and freezing technique which extends the shelf-life of mussels exported in their whole shell.

The process only accounts for a small slice of the industry's annual exports of \$30 million. But with demand for many mussel products plateauing, the process has potential to vastly expand exports.

The industry argues the process should not have been patented as the technique was commonly known well before 1985, when Aquaculture alleges it hatched the process.

And some suggest Aquaculture's patent is flawed as it includes incomplete material gathered from DSIR research into the process in 1984.

Blenheim processor Marlborough Perna, formerly a division of NZ Salmon, was the first to receive notice from Aquaculture that it was infringing the patent by failing to pay royalties on exports of wholeshell mussels.

Chief executive John Neylon said there was nothing in the process that was any different from what the industry has been doing for years. HE said the process was "refined" by the DSIR's research in 1984.

The company only began commercial production of wholeshell last year and Neylon said Aquaculture was tipped off when the product appeared at the Chicago food fair then.

Sandfords mussel division manager Don Mitchell said Aquaculture's actions were quite ludicrous. "They seem to be a company that generates revenue by litigation rather than doing anything."

He said if the company won, it would be a blow to the industry at a time when profits were being squeezed by low prices and intense competition.

He said if the company won, it would be a blow to the industry at a time when profits were being squeezed by low prices and intense competition.

Aquaculture president Dick Dorst strongly rejected the suspicions of the industry, saying his company had simply tapped an opportunity not considered by anyone before.

Document natbr00020011128dm8300620

#### **Four sign marron farm deal with Koru.**

344 words

6 July 1990

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

New Zealand's freshwater crayfish industry received a boost this week with four growers signing up to farm marron.

Koru **Aquaculture**, a private company, runs a marron farm in Warkworth which has been breeding the crustaceans.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** It is now offering juvenile marron for sale and has already signed on four prospective growers.

Another 20 has seen enough of the venture to start looking at contracts, says the general manager of Koru Aquaculture, Mr Mark Templeton.

Juvenile marron will be sold under two arrangements to cater for those growers buying for breeding purposes or for grow-out for the market.

Growers will start getting their juvenile marron by March 1991.

Koru Aquaculture has already sent several live shipments to Japan where they arrived in good condition and were well received, said Mr Templeton.

Initially marron supplies will be available on the domestic market in 1992, he said.

But he adds that there was a big demand for live marron in Asia, in such countries as Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

Europe was another export market but one which preferred a cooked product.

Mr Templeton said the European fresh water crayfish industry took a knock back because of a plague which does not affect the New Zealand variety.

"The industry is slowly recovering but the demand far outweighs the supply," said Mr Templeton.

The marron are a native of Western Australia and farms there are exporting them to Asia for prices ranging from \$A25 to \$A35 a kilogram.

Marron to Europe achieved even higher prices because the product was cooked and processed, commanding from \$A45 to sometimes \$A50 a kilogram.

"It's very much a top end of the market product."

Another factor which could increase the value of marron, said Mr Templeton, was that the New Zealand water lobster quota was being cut in half.

Mr Templeton said about 8 to 10 tonnes of marron would be produced in New Zealand in 1992 and primarily they would be working to get established on the local market.

Document nzhld00020011128dm760084f

## **Fishing groups air coastal management fears.**

256 words

17 May 1990

New Zealand Herald

6

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

Marine farming, an industry with the potential to earn \$250 million in 20 years' time, will be seriously undermined by coastal management provisions in the new Resource Management Bill, according to fishing industry groups.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** In a submission to a parliamentary select committee considering the bill, the **Aquaculture** Federation said research was under way to assess the feasibility of farming papua, rock lobster, marron, fresh and saltwater prawns, dredge oysters, catfish and seaweeds.

Development could provide jobs in rural areas and increase overseas earnings. A recent Trade Development Board study had estimated marine farming could generate \$250 million a year by 2010 but realising that would require making more coastal land available, the submission said.

However, the bill required the Minister of Conservation to maintain the natural character of the coast as well as being an advocate for resource conservation as required by the Conservation Act.

"It is our view that there would be little or no marine farming development according to the provisions of the Resource Management Bill," the federation said.

It suggested the minister's decision-making powers on coastal use should be subject to independent appeal.

The Fishing Industry Board also criticised the "excessive" powers given to the Conservation Minister and endorsed concerns about the effect on aquaculture.

Not only would the ministers formulate regional coastal policy statements but regional councils would be required to consult the minister in drawing up regional coastal plans and could then be forced to amend them if the minister disapproved.

Document nzhd00020011128dm5h003fq

### **Fisheries Minister lines up priorities.**

384 words

9 February 1990

National Business Review

5

English

(c) 1990 The National Business Review

Pushing through policies for the fledgling **aquaculture** industry and battling for more resources for research are priorities for new Fisheries Minister Ken Shirley.

The Tasman MP will be sworn in to the new job today. His appointment in the recent Cabinet shake-up was quickly endorsed by the fishing industry who have long had to share a minister with the agriculture portfolio.

Fishing had been overshadowed by agriculture, conceded Shirley in an interview with National Business Review. "I think inevitably it has been seen as a poor relation of agriculture, but fishing is a poor relation of no one. It stands strongly in its own right."

In fact fishing's export earnings are fast closing in on some primary products. In the December 1989 year, earnings of \$507 million matched timber exports and were only \$50 million below butter's earnings.

In the last 10 years fishing has enjoyed rapid growth with industry experts tipping its current \$1 billion turnover to double by the year 2000. But uncertainty generated by wrangles over Maori fishing rights and the disruption caused by the quota management system have held back investment in recent years.

With the passing of the Maori Fisheries Act late last year and industry acceptance of the new proportional quota system, fishing was poised for faster growth than any other export industry Shirley said. After battles of the past few years the new minister is keen to prove the government's commitment to the industry. "The government does believe in the industry the sea is our biggest farm and we are sitting on some of the richest fishing resources in the world."

But he admits the government has not done its job in assessing the country's fish stocks. "Over the last 10 years the industry has grown rapidly and there has not been enough commitment to research."

The industry was long pressured the government to allocate more resources and the situation was underlined by the recent cuts to orange roughy quota after scientists discovered stocks of the industry's biggest export earner were growing more slowly than first thought.

Shirley intends pushing for more research funds, and points out the government has earmarked \$25 million for a new fisheries vessel to replace the DSIR's ageing James Cook.

Document natbr00020011127dm29000ym

## **Freshwater crayfish farm planning big expansion.**

435 words  
2 February 1990  
New Zealand Herald  
8  
English  
(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

A fish farming company plans to rear up to 50,000 marron, or freshwater crayfish, on each of 12 farms next year.

Koru **Aquaculture**, which set up a breeding farm at Warkworth three years ago, received a fish farming licence from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two weeks before Christmas.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** It allows the company to sell young stock rather than just the fully grown marron, which are native to Western Australia.

The company's managing director, Mr Gray Jamieson, said that when the licence came into effect in January next year, Koru Aquaculture hoped to have 12 marron rearing farms established around the country, and there were plans to include a further 20 farmers in a contract venture in 1992.

Farmer who had approached the company about marron farming came from a variety of different areas and were involved in many types of farming, he said.

Canterbury, Otago and the West Coast of the South Island could see marron rearing established as an industry in the future.

"The economics are not proven to the same extent that they are in Warkworth, but we are encouraging farmers to carry out their own tests," Mr Jamieson said.

While low winter temperature could prove a problem in the South Island there would be no difficulties for most of the year in meeting the marron's preferred 6 deg C to 30 deg C environment.

Farmers who are interested in rearing marron were at present running deer, sheep and cattle.

"And we also have some people who are keen to buy land and set up the operation from scratch."

Up to 40 prospective marron farmers will visit the Warkworth breeding complex tomorrow.

Mr Jamieson said the Trade Development Board had identified marron as having major trade potential by the year 2000, so Koru Aquaculture's main aim was to breed the necessary numbers of young stock to satisfy demand.

The company would supply them - and their food - to the satellite farms when they were up to six weeks to three months old.

At 12 months of age the stock would be bought back and marketed by the company.

Koru Aquaculture was working with the Trade Development Board and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to establish a marketing authority.

"Japan is the big market, but there is plenty of potential in Europe as they are big freshwater crayfish eaters," he said.

The news is not so good for New Zealand crayfish gourmets.

While a small amount is being sold on the domestic market the big shipments are destined for overseas.

Document nzhld00020011127dm22000dw

## **Koru Aquaculture gets grip on promising industry.**

882 words

17 November 1989

New Zealand Herald

10

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

After three years of battles to set up a freshwater crayfish industry in New Zealand, a Warkworth company is set to produce more than 200,000 young marron next year.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** "We have had a lot of hassle but now we are hers it's great," said the manager of Koru **Aquaculture**, Mr Paul Decker. "We are just about at the champers stage."

The first stock were imported from Western Australia, their native habitat, and Queensland in 1987.

"We wanted to diversify the genepool," he said.

But Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries concerns about possible disease carried by the marron caused the death of three-quarters of the original 20,000 imported because of stress caused by draining their pools every two weeks.

Mr Decker was involved in marron farming in Australia and admits that he did not realise how much controversy among the environmental lobby would be caused by the importation.

"I wouldn't go through it all again," he said. "But once you dig a hole deep enough you've just got to keep on digging."

The development and stocking of the 2.5ha site at Warkworth has cost more than \$1.3 million.

There are 25,000 cu m of water in 26 ponds.

"Not only did we have to make sure our stock stays in, we had to be certain the environment stays out," Mr Decker said.

The ponds are surrounded by high netting fences and an electric wire to keep rats and eels at bay.

Netting completely covers the ponds to keep out likely inflight predators such as shags.

One unwelcome visitor that has not yet been banished from the ponds is the tadpole.

"They eat the same food as the marron so we are looking at introducing perch or rudd to eat them," he said.

"It would be better if we could do without the tadpoles, and the frogs' croaking sometimes drives me nuts."

Feed for the marron, which comes into the ponds from the hatchery at six months of age is a half-and-half blend of natural growth and a special introduced ration.

They will eat Kikuyu and mercer grass which grows on the sides of the ponds if they drop in the water.

Because they eat only about 5 per cent of their bodyweight a week, a diet of 40kg of carrots, potatoes and pelleted food costing around \$30 keeps them happy.

Every marron celebrates its birthday on New Year's Day, so at present Koru Aquaculture has 5,000 two-year-olds, 10,000 one-year-olds and 20,000 who first birthday had yet to arrive.

Already an ideal weight of 100g at 18 months of age has been achieved, so the plan is now to keep the breeding stock and set up a number of sharefarming ventures.

"Marron don't breed until they are 34 months old so we will have to keep around 10,000 as breeding stock," Mr Decker said.

He likens the new industry to chicken farming, where animals are sold for their meat before they reach sexual maturity.

With marron there is sound reason for this strategy because up to this age they are quite hardy.

"They are tough enough for the first 18 months," he said.

"But then they reach puberty and everything about their environment has to be more perfect."

Now that marron are out of their quarantine period Koru Agriculture sees the freshwater crayfish as a new industry for Northland.

"It has the potential to be a boomer," Mr Decker said.

He is a small shareholder in the company along with the owner of the property, Mr John Turner, who breeds Angus cattle, and an accountant, Mr Charles Netzier.

The two other partners are the managing director, Mr Gray Jamieson, and his brother Paul.

Their intention is to look for farmers in the Warkworth area who will take the marron from the hatchery and rear them through to the marketing stage.

Marron thrive in temperatures from 6 deg C to 30 deg C, so they see Northland as being ideally suited.

"It's ideal for hobby farmers," Mr Decker said. "You can put marron in quite a small complex, and they are not labour intensive.

"The only costs are feed, labour and power."

With 1,500 marron a pond, or five to the square metres, a final harvest of 400g a square metre can be expected at 18 months.

Marron are larger meat producers than saltwater crayfish, their tails being 45 per cent meat and their claws 15 per cent, compared with 42 per cent overall for the saltwater variety.

Mr Decker said the taste was the same.

"Marron have crisp, clear white flesh which goes a beautiful fluorescent red when it's cooked."

By 1991 it is planned to have an export packhouse built on the farm.

Already some surplus males have been sent to Japan and have attracted prices from \$33 to \$38 a kilogram.

"We probably won't be selling the marron in New Zealand until the end of 1991," Mr Decker said.

"The biggest overseas markets look to be Europe and the United States.

"The markets are enormous, and at the moment producers just can't produce enough to satisfy demand."

Document nzhd00020011130dlbh001wb

## **Kiwi Marine Farms proposes Pacific oyster test.**

338 words

7 September 1989

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

A Nelson **aquaculture** company has applied for an experimental permit to assess the potential of Pacific oyster farming in the Marlborough Sounds.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** Kiwi Marine Farms Ltd, a company associated with Kiwi Mussels, plans growing trials in inter-tidal and sub-tidal areas in various parts to the sounds.

If approved by the fisheries arm of the Ministry of Agriculture, the farms will be the first Pacific oyster operations in the South Island.

The company's development manager, Mr Tim Edwards, said the project was experimental to enable research on the viability of the farming venture over the next 15 months.

Mr Edwards, a marine biologist, said Pacific oysters would first be grown through the rack culture method used in the successful Northland industry.

Oysters will be place on trays or bags on top of racks which are exposed at low tide.

The company will also try a hanging culture method - cultivating Pacific oysters on long lines similar to those used for mussel farming.

Mr Edwards said hanging culture was a more appropriate method than rack culture in the Marlborough Sounds because of the limited number of intertidal areas.

He said Pacific oyster farming was "typically labour intensive" and had more jobs a hectare than mussel farming.

Wild Pacific oyster stock established in the Nelson-Marlborough region in the late 1970s and some extensive populations had developed over the past 10 years.

Mr Edwards said there were potential biological problems to be investigated before full-scale oyster farming took place.

A parasitic mudwork had been discovered in some areas in Northland sites unsuitable for oyster farming.

Growing condition and growth and mortality rates also had to be determined.

If the permits are approved, the company hopes to set up the trial areas next month.

Kiwi Mussels was a pioneer of the mussel processing industry through its Kiwi Clam product. It operates two factories at Havelock and Rai Valley.

The Managing director, Mr John Turner, said aquaculture had enormous export potential.

Document nzhd00020011129dl9700jaq

## **Trout plan: "DOC ignored its own experts" charge.**

526 words  
31 August 1989  
National Business Review  
2  
English  
(c) 1989 The National Business Review

The Department of Conservation suppressed or ignored the opinions of some of its own trout specialists in its report on the consequences of trout farming, reliable sources said yesterday.

The DOC report, released yesterday by Conservation Minister Philip Woollaston, raised several objections to a proposed member's bill from Tasman MP Ken Shirley that would legalise trout farming as part of a drive to create a \$200 million export **aquaculture** industry within 20 years.

But sources said much stronger objections to the scheme raised by DOC trout specialists in Rotorua never saw the light of day, with department officials trying to exclude those specialists from the discussion that led to the report and preventing them from seeing draft copies of the study.

Murray Hosking, DOC's deputy director general for resource protection, denied that any key views had been excluded from the preparation of the report.

He said the report was essentially a summary of discussions in two meetings of DOC staff - in Rotorua on July 20 and in Wellington on July 21 - and that the DOC head office consulted all staff whom it felt could comment on the impact of trout farming on New Zealand's existing wild trout.

"I'm not aware of any division of opinion within the department," Hosking said.

Three DOC trout specialists in Rotorua refused to comment, saying they had been told they would be fired if they talked to the media.

But members of the ad hoc Coalition Against Trout Farming charged, and an NBR investigation has confirmed, that those specialists believe they were unfairly excluded. "Key DOC fisheries management specialists were not involved in the report," said Theo Simeonidis, head of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers and a member of the Coalition.

"The report was compiled in a short period of time, and although it does highlight certain problems raised by trout farming, it glosses them over."

Opponents of the trout farming plan, who include anglers and conservation councils, say trout farms could introduce new diseases into indigenous fish stocks, reduce the fish available to anglers - and hence national income from recreational fishing, estimated at \$33 million a year from Lake Taupo alone, and increase poaching.

The DOC report discounted some of the fears about disease, but agreed trout farming would encourage poaching. It also cast doubt on the economic benefits of the scheme.

Nonetheless, Ken Shirley yesterday called the report "favourable" and said it "dispelled much of the emotive rhetoric that opponents of trout farming have generated."

Shirley said the problem of increased poaching could be dealt with by more stringent enforcement of anti-poaching laws.

Anglers and conservationists argued that the Department of Conservation's and Woollaston's neutral stance on trout farming abrogated their obligations to act as advocated for the conservation of wildlife.

But Woollaston said "I don't have the responsibility to act on behalf of the angling community," and added that the report, which he called "balanced and factual," was intended simply to be "a contribution to the debate" over the desirability of trout farming, and not to be a position paper.

Document natbr00020011129d18v00eit

## **Fish farming advocates hit back at their critics.**

345 words

7 July 1989

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

Proponents of fish farming have hit back at their critics, saying major employment opportunities will be lost if **aquaculture** ventures are obstructed.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The **aquaculture** industry has been under attack from recreational fishermen and environmentalists since the release of a trade development board study recommending faster procedures for approving new ventures.

The Acclimatisation Society vowed this week to fight a proposed law to allow trout farming.

But the author of the controversial report, Mr Nick Jarman, said he was not worried that the recreational fishermen had gone on the offensive.

Speaking in Thames, he said the strength of the anglers' lobby had diminished since it helped to overturn legislation allowing trout farming in 1971.

Arguments about contamination of fish stocks and problems had been proved wrong, with salmon farming and recreational salmon fishing happily co-existing for years despite anglers' worries when the farms were set up.

"The arguments were in fact proven wrong for one entire operation, so why would you listen to another set of argument?"

On the question of introducing exotic species such as channel catfish, Mr Jarman said the aquaculture industry did not want to import problems such as those associated with the introduction of gorse and rabbits.

However, low-risk ventures should be allowed to proceed if the thousands of jobs the industry could provide were to be realised.

"It might take 100 years to make sure there is no impact from catfish, but what are you going to do with the people for 100 years?"

The trade development board's manager, Mr Ian Mustchin, said his organisation's view that aquaculture would be worth \$250 million in export earnings by the year 2010 was probably an underestimate.

While opposition to fish farming had been expressed, he said politicians such as the Minister of External Relations and Trade, Mr Moore, were right behind the industry.

Mr Mustchin, also speaking in Thames, said more legislation freeing up the industry was expected to come from the Government's resource management law reform programme.

Document nzhd00020011129dl7700fo7

**Caution urged in aquaculture.**

143 words

23 June 1989

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

The parliamentary commissioner for the environment, Helen Hughes, yesterday said the Government should cool its enthusiasm for rapid **aquaculture** development.

She told the Wellington North Rotary Club that new **aquaculture** ventures "must be consistent with the principles of sustainable development."

"In terms of minimising ecological risk, let's farm what we already have before importing more new species.

"New Zealand has a great deal of experience with regard to costs and benefits of introduced species such as rabbits, gorse, blackberry, goats.

"Any species introduced in New Zealand will escape." The government quickly said it would do whatever it could do to remove obstacles the board claimed were blocking the introduction of species and new ventures.

Mrs Hughes said she was surprised that ministers should blame bureaucrats for the delays. "bureaucrats implement policies and legislation for which ministers have responsibility."

Document nzhlid00020011129dl6n00e30

### **Boost for aquaculture.**

267 words

20 June 1989

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

**Aquaculture** received a two-pronged boost yesterday that seems certain to arouse the ire of the powerful trout fishing lobby.

The Government announced that it will sweep away bureaucratic barriers in the fishing and **aquaculture** sectors.

\*\*FULL\_TEXT Also yesterday a special trade development board study was release recommending that the Government reopen the debate on trout farming.

The report says the country can no longer afford a blanket prohibition on trout farming.

Details of the Government's moves to cut red tape for fishing and aquaculture were released in a joint press statement by the Minister for the Environment, Mr Palmer, the Minister of Fisheries, Mr Moyle, and the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woollaston.

the changes are to be part of a new costal management system.

Lucrative aquaculture developments could go ahead within predetermined environmental safeguards, with lengthy bureaucratic holdups a thing of the past, the ministers said.

Under the changes, regional councils, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Department of Conservation will pinpoint areas where aquaculture is allowed.

The president of the Federation of Fresh Water Anglers, Mr Theo Simeonidis, described the report by the trade board as the work of "a variety of vested interests".

"You might remember that Mr Duncan MacIntyre who last proposed trout farming lost his seat in the 1972 elections," Mr Simeonidis said.

"This seems like a sticking plaster job by a beleaguered Government. We will be making sure the politicians are aware of their actions."

Mr Simeonidis said the freshwater anglers lobby had been instrumental in "certain people in key electorates losing their seats" in 1972.

Document nzhd00020011129dl6k00dal

## Aquaculture progress sinks in "bureaucratic minefield". (1 of 2)

912 words  
20 June 1989  
New Zealand Herald  
9  
English  
(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

We gave up hunting cows and sheep 1000 years ago, but we still insist on hunting fish.

The wild fishery cannot be exploited to extinction. But the **aquaculture** industries offer a way to help overall fisheries earnings - now worth \$722 million a year - break the billion-dollar barrier.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** There is nothing new about the concept of aquaculture. In some parts of Asia it has been practised for 1000 years or more. Nor is it a new concept in New Zealand. The pre-European Maori farmed fish, and by the early 20th century European settlers had successfully brought salmon and trout to local waters.

Experimental farming of mussels in the Hauraki Gulf began in late 1960s. Of the 404 mussel farming leases and licences issued since then, more than 60 have gone to the Auckland area, 38 to Coromandel, and 20 to Mahurangi, the Hauraki Gulf and Waheke.

Most of the country's oyster farming leases and licences have been issued in Auckland and Northland.

In spite of its lengthy incubation in this country, aquaculture has only in recent years emerged as a significant earner of foreign exchange, through exports of green-shell mussels, quinnat salmon and Pacific oysters.

Total exports of aquacultured products grew 45 per cent in 1986, 30 per cent in 1987 and a further 45 per cent in 1988 to reach \$40 million, amounting to 6.5 per cent of New Zealand's total fish exports.

The overall value of fish and seafood exports from New Zealand has increased dramatically over the last 10 years, reflecting the tremendous growth of the New Zealand fishing industry since the declaration of the Exclusive Economic Zone in 1978.

Farmed exports increased at almost two and a half times the rate of other fish and seafood products over the last five years. Domestic demand is also growing for farmed fish, particularly mussels.

The emergence of the fish-farming industry is part of a global trend, which has seen worldwide aquacultural production grow at an annual rate of 4.25 per cent since 1983. Production increased from 10.5 million tonnes in 1985 to an estimated 11.5 million tonnes in 1987.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, farmed fish products will account for one-fifth of total world demand for fish by the end of the century. Ten per cent of the United States fish market will be aquacultured by 1990.

It is estimated that aquacultural production will reach 22.2 million tonnes by the turn of the century - almost double today's level. This will lift its share of total fisheries production from 13 per cent to about 25 per cent.

The Trade Development Board study estimates that New Zealand's export earnings from aquacultured products could total \$250 million a year by the year 2010. Overseas markets exist which could readily absorb even greater increases in production.

Aquaculture covers a wide range of activities and species. Parents who buy a goldfish for their children are buying a product of aquaculture no less than the Japanese cook who buys a dried and pressed leaf of seaweed to flavour rice.

In between are shellfish - including mussels, oysters, paua, scallops - lobsters and prawns and finfish like salmon, trout and snapper.

Fish farming techniques are no less varied. Shellfish can be grown on ropes or other structures, or simply seeded on to seabeds. Finfish can be raised to pan size in ponds grown in larger seacages or ocean-ranched.

Aquaculture is an industry that lends itself to the sort of management methods New Zealand has used so successfully in more than a century of land-based farming.

The fish or shellfish farmer has a lot in common with any other type of farmer. He or she needs secure tenure and rights to a body of water, rather than a block of land. But apart from that difference, the other techniques required for success are similar.

Although our aquacultural production has grown substantially in recent years, our output remains extremely small in world terms. This is in spite of the fact that New Zealand with its extensive coastline and numerous clean rivers, is ideal for aquaculture.

We already have much of the infrastructure needed to handle successfully a wide and growing range of aquacultural products.

The rapid growth of the fishing industry over the past 10 years has led to a marked expansion of processing facilities. Most need little modification for handling aquacultural products.

We also have several advantages, including cleanness, relative freedom from pollution, a reputation as a producer of highclass foodstuffs, and in many cases season availability at times when production from sources closer to the market are limited or non-existent.

Our high quality fresh and marine waters are capable of sustaining increased production of those species being farmed, and of supporting a wider range of other species whose potential is being considered.

It is critical that New Zealand recognises the opportunities aquaculture presents, and that we develop a strategy which will enable the potential to be realised.

The most significant specific opportunities for growth identified in the study involve existing industries - particularly greenshell mussels and salmon and, to a lesser extent, pacific oysters.

Exciting possibilities also exist in a number of other forms of aquaculture, some of which are under way or planned. These include paua, flat oysters, rock lobster, seaweed, trout, abalone, channel catfish, prawns and marron.

Document nzhlid00020011129dl6k00dah

## **Aquaculture progress sinks in "bureaucratic minefield". (2 of 2)**

841 words

20 June 1989

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

Some of these ventures will undoubtedly fail. But each has the potential to succeed and be the forerunner of another major development in the aquacultural sector.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** In the next two to three years, export receipts are expected to double solely on the basis of expanded effort by existing operations.

The potential is immense - possibly the best prospect for development the country possesses. Capable of strengthening the economy in the same way as agriculture did throughout much of New Zealand's history.

I hope the Trade Development Board study forms the basis of a push to get bureaucrats, red tape and single-issue folk who go round with their chins on their chests out of the way of an exciting industry.

Problems caused by overlapping statutes and fragmentation of authority have been identified as serious impediments to aquaculture's potential. It has become increasingly difficult and incredibly time-consuming for fish farmers to obtain licences.

The report notes that the bureaucratic minefield has stopped potential ventures getting off the ground. Had these ventures proceeded, some would have failed, but others would have succeeded, generating benefits for New Zealand.

They did not proceed because aquacultural development is not being encouraged. MAFFish has not been given the power to promote development actively. Instead, it is required to support the variety of agencies involved which are more intent on showing why aquaculture should not develop.

Coupled with deficiencies in the marine farming legislation, this leads to inordinate delays in granting licences to the few able to manoeuvre their way through the planning nightmare.

Laws passed in 1971, with oyster-farming in mind, are not good enough in 1989 when the country faces vast development opportunities.

To make the most of the aquaculture potential, New Zealanders are going to have to revisit some issues we made the wrong decisions on in the 1960s and 1970s for the sake of political expediency.

The study recommends that the controversial issue of trout-farming be reopened. Parliamentary select committees gave trout-farming the green light in 1962 and 1970. It was made legal in 1971, but the law was subsequently reversed.

New technology, like quarantine rearing of breeding stock and new farming methods, mean many of the old arguments - including fears of farmed fish escaping to the wild, disease, poaching and pollution - have to be re-examined.

The farming of rainbow trout is widely practised in many parts of the world, with total production in 1985 exceeding 150,000 tonnes. Countries producing more than 1000 tonnes a year in that year included the United States, Japan, Austria, France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, East Germany, Britain, Turkey, Finland, West Germany, Greece and Portugal. By 1987, commercial production in Australia had also exceeded 1000 tonnes a year.

The opposition of trout fishermen is, in practical terms, no more valid now than it was at the time it was demonstrated to be unfounded by two successive select committees. The development of commercial salmon farming has not been to the detriment of recreational anglers of that fish.

The possibility of sea cage rearing and of freshwater fish farming of trout, is equally unlikely to have any impact on the recreational taking of that fish.

New Zealand can no longer afford a blanket prohibition on a development which could greatly benefit the country in terms of export earnings and job creation.

The Trade Development Board report on aquaculture is a direct challenge to the fishing industry, recreational fishing people, scientists, bureaucrats and legislators.

Developments will happen which, in comparison with most other growth opportunities, have only minor environmental problems. They will generate substantial overseas funds, requiring the employment of a considerable number of skilled and unskilled workers, often in areas where other employment opportunities are limited.

The development of small-scale fish farming could benefit people in depressed rural regions. The study notes that many areas with high unemployment rates offer excellent aquaculture prospects.

The report concludes that aquacultural development can and does coexist with environmental, recreational and sporting interests. Indeed, the preservation of New Zealand's clean-green image is a vital component of the industry's international marketing strategy.

If New Zealand ignores the challenge and opportunities presented by aquaculture, or persists in creating impediments which will prevent it being met, then we will have a lost a chance to improve our economic situation by means which are highly compatible with our lifestyle and our social attitudes, beliefs and expectations.

New Zealanders have to decide whether they are serious about seizing massive export opportunities with job-rich ideas, which will not harm our environment, but will exploit our strengths.

When we look at what is stopping aquaculture development we find it is ourselves. I think we have listened too much to those who crowning ambition is to fully satisfy the big doom and gloom market which, at times, grossly misleads the public and wrecks opportunity for the country.

We must have the wit to get out of our own way.

Document nzhlid00020011129dl6k00dag

**Marine farm review opposed.**

129 words

20 March 1989

New Zealand Herald

12

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

The Auckland Regional Authority will be asked tonight not to carry out a review of its present policy on **aquaculture**.

The ARA member for Papatoetoe, Mr Allan Brewster, will present a notice of motion to the authority opposing marine farming in the Hauraki Gulf.

Last month the ARA planning committee called for a review of the authority policy on aquaculture and an investigation of the aquaculture possibilities in the Auckland region.

Authority policy opposes any marine farming in the Waitemata Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf and seeks the establishment of a marine recreational park in the inner gulf.

In his notice of motion, Mr Brewster proposes that areas other than the gulf, where marine farming may be possible without harming the environment, should be investigated.

Document nzhd00020011129dl3k008nb

## **ARA Will Look into Aquaculture.**

418 words  
25 February 1989  
New Zealand Herald  
3  
English  
(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

The Auckland Regional Authority will investigate **aquaculture** possibilities in its area, in spite of a policy of working towards a marine park in the Hauraki Gulf.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** The authority's planning committee resolved yesterday to review its present policies on **aquaculture** after a report from its planning manager, Mr Henri van Roon, on new developments in the industry.

The committee decided that, if appropriate, it would look into ways of planning for aquaculture in a way that protected recreational and cultural values.

A committee member, Mr Allan Brewster, voted against the move, saying the public would oppose farming in the harbour and aquaculture went against the ARA's marine park policy.

"You cannot have areas of the seabed set aside for commercial exploitation when you want to develop a marine park," he said.

"Tourism in the Hauraki Gulf will certainly create more jobs than would a marine farm."

Mr Brewster said an abandoned mussel farm at Man O' War Bay, off Waiheke Island, was now an "eyesore."

He compared using a section of the sea for aquaculture to taking part of the Auckland Domain for agriculture.

Mr Van Roon wrote the report on aquaculture after attending a national conference on the subject.

He said the industry appeared poised for major expansion, some of which would occur in the Auckland region.

"Changes in the economics of production, technological improvements and the possible introduction of new species are opening up many new possibilities," he said.

"In terms of economic benefits, job creation and export earnings, aquaculture is seen to have great potential."

Mr van Roon said that up until now only oysters, mussels and salmon had been farmed commercially, but the cultivation of paua, crayfish, koura, red gurnard, dolphin fish and mullet were seen as strong possibilities.

New forms of aquaculture had the potential to avoid conflict with recreation and other activities, he said. Changes included sea-bottom cultivation or tank culture instead of occupying foreshore space.

"Aquaculture and conservation do not have to be incompatible if well planned and managed," he said.

"A reasoned and balanced approach by conservation agencies such as the Department of Conservation is essential if the development of the industry is not to be stifled or retarded."

Mr van Roon said Auckland was in a unique position to take up aquaculture opportunities.

The ARA will liaise with the tangata whenua, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Conservation Department and the Fishing Industry Board to clarify the aquaculture possibilities.

Document nzhd00020011129dl2p006nm

**Salmond Smith Biolab annual report.**

296 words

13 August 1988

New Zealand Herald

5

English

(c) 1988 The New Zealand Herald

The Salmond Smith Biolab Ltd food group has continued to cement its close relationships with the local fishermen of the Chatham Islands including those of Maori descent in anticipation of a ruling on Maori fishing rights claims.

The company says in its annual report that it believed there is considerable scope for **aquaculture**, properly reached and managed, to develop in New Zealand.

The food division with sales of \$23m in the year to March 31, largely export sales, is giving emphasis to high-value specialty foods especially seafood, and is targeting stronger currency markets such as Japan, West Germany and Britain.

Production of the company's fresh water salmon facility is expected to rise from 156 tonnes last year to 245 this year and beyond 200 in the following year.

A joint venture to produce giant fresh-water prawns is expected to return a harvest later this year.

The easing of import duties has benefitted the group's consumer products division which produced \$45m in sales last year.

The report says one-off imports of Asian plastics became less of a problem with consumers appearing to prefer the ready availability and styling of quality New Zealand-made products.

The group's medical and scientific activities have maintained their market dominated in New Zealand where new technology is being introduced at a high rate.

The managing director, Mr T W Smith, says liquidity is high on the company's list of priorities and the directors are confident of further progress this year.

As reported the company earned \$3,597,000, in its March 31 year (1987, \$5,869,000), from sales of \$108.8m (\$113.2m).

Total assets were steady at \$70.6m (\$69m) while shareholders' funds were \$39.1m (\$37.2m).

Document nzhlid00020011203dk8d008c1

**Listed Christchurch goat and aquaculture company Crowe Corporation has been taken over by a small Christchurch finance company with a rather romantic name and a new angle on such acquisitions.**

205 words

15 April 1988

New Zealand Herald

3

English

(c) 1988 The New Zealand Herald

The finance firm, Hong Kong Pacific Merchant Finance Ltd, has obtained a controlling 51 per cent stake in Crowe by acquiring proxies for the shares, rather than buying them.

Four Crowe directors have resigned, Hong Kong Pacific advised the stock exchange yesterday. Two Hong Kong Pacific directors, Mr C M Turner and Mrs G V Wilson have been appointed directors of Crowe.

Mr Turner would not say whether his company intended buying shares over which it had control.

He said the acquisition of the proxies came late last week and there had been no time to consider the next step.

Hong Kong Pacific intended ensuring Crowe remained a strong and viable company, he said.

Mr Turner said that although he had some farming interests which included goats, he was more involved in the financial sector.

The four directors to resign from the Crowe board were Messrs Trevor Scott (chairman), Peter Leeming, Ian Hurst and a Mr Stock, a recent appointee to the board.

Mr Turner said Hong Kong Pacific intended to appoint further directors soon.

Document nzhd00020011203dk4f00473

## **Crowe Corporation - AGM.**

319 words

5 December 1987

New Zealand Herald

4

English

(c) 1987 The New Zealand Herald

Crowe Corporation Ltd, a Christchurch-based listed goat and **aquaculture** company, will trade profitably in the half-year to December 31, the chairman, Mr Trevor Scott, said yesterday.

**\*\*FULL\_TEXT** Group profit in the period would substantially exceed the NZ\$140,000 profit forecast for the year ending June 1988 made in Crowe Corporation's listing document last summer.

"If the present profit trend continues the company should have a satisfactory result for the full year," Mr Scott told about 55 shareholders at the annual meeting in Christchurch.

As reported, the company incurred a loss after tax of NZ\$376,000 for the 15 months to last June 30, compared with a loss of NZ\$814,000 forecast at listing.

Tax losses would be available to the company in 1988, but the major impetus for the increase is coming from the company's expanded activities in goat farming, Mr Scott said.

In recognition of the volatile nature of the livestock market, Crowe Corp in the September year wrote off 10% (NZ\$323,000) of the market value of the base herd.

Since balance date, said Mr Scott, the company had provided a further provision of 5% for the present quarter.

By the completion of the June year "stock will be valued at approximately 30-40 under market value."

Mr Scott said the pure-bred Angoras in Britain were recorded at cost which was substantially less than market value.

He emphasised that Crowe Corp was in a very strong financial position to progress with its activities. It had cash and receivables totalling about NZ\$2m of which the greater proportion was in cash.

The chief executive of Crowe Corp, Mr Tony Crowe, said the highlight of the year was the export by air of a record quantity of grade does to Britain. The 1800 goats flown in two consignments doubled the number of fibre goats in Britain.

Document nzhd00020011205dj5000nu

**Wilson Neill chairman optimistic about Barwon Farmlands succeeding in bid for San Miguel Corporation.**

99 words

25 March 1987

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1987 The New Zealand Herald

Mr C F Herbert, the chairman of Wilson Neill Ltd, which has a 24 per cent stake in Barwon Farmlands Ltd, says he is optimistic about the chances of Barwon succeeding with its bid for 31 per cent of Philippine brewer San Miguel Corporation.

San Miguel also has a packaging product division and refining, agriculture and **aquaculture** interests.

In the 1985 year it had sales of US\$550 million and profit after tax of US\$25 million.

Ariadne Australia holds 30 per cent of Barwon.

Document nzhld00020011204dj3p002qf