

14. SHARING OUR SEA

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of an Environment Canterbury discussion document, "Sharing Our Sea", which concerns the management of Canterbury's coastal marine area (CMA). A draft submission has been prepared on the document and the Council's support is sought for this submission. The closing date for submissions is 31 January 2003.

Due to recent changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Regional Councils are required to make decisions on two major issues regarding sea space, these are:

- creating zones for marine farming, and
- a method of charging for occupation of public sea space.

Potential areas for marine farms, known as aquaculture management areas (AMA's), have been identified in consultation with marine farmers and the Regional Council is seeking feedback on the number, size and location of these. The Regional Council is also seeking input on the best way to charge for the use of coastal sea space. Rules concerning these matters will eventually be included in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

It is the second issue, charging for occupation of sea space, with which the submission is primarily concerned. This could directly affect City Council activities and infrastructure within the CMA, as the City Council could potentially be charged for the space occupied by such things as stormwater outlet pipes, seawalls, public boat ramps and jetties, sewer outfall structures including pipes, and the New Brighton Pier.

The RMA (S. 64A) requires that consideration be given to the public and private benefits which arise from the occupation of sea space. The submission supports the waiving of occupation charges for all City Council infrastructure on the grounds that this is installed for the benefit of the public.

A copy of the draft submission is attached.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Council support the lodging of the submission.

Chair's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.