



Aquaculture Reform in New Zealand

**Sustainable solutions
through a national policy statement**

Jim Sinner

Sustainable Business Group Manager

Cawthron Institute

9 June 2009

RESEARCH BASED SOLUTIONS

Outline

- Aquaculture's potential
- Barriers to progress
- Possible role of an EPA

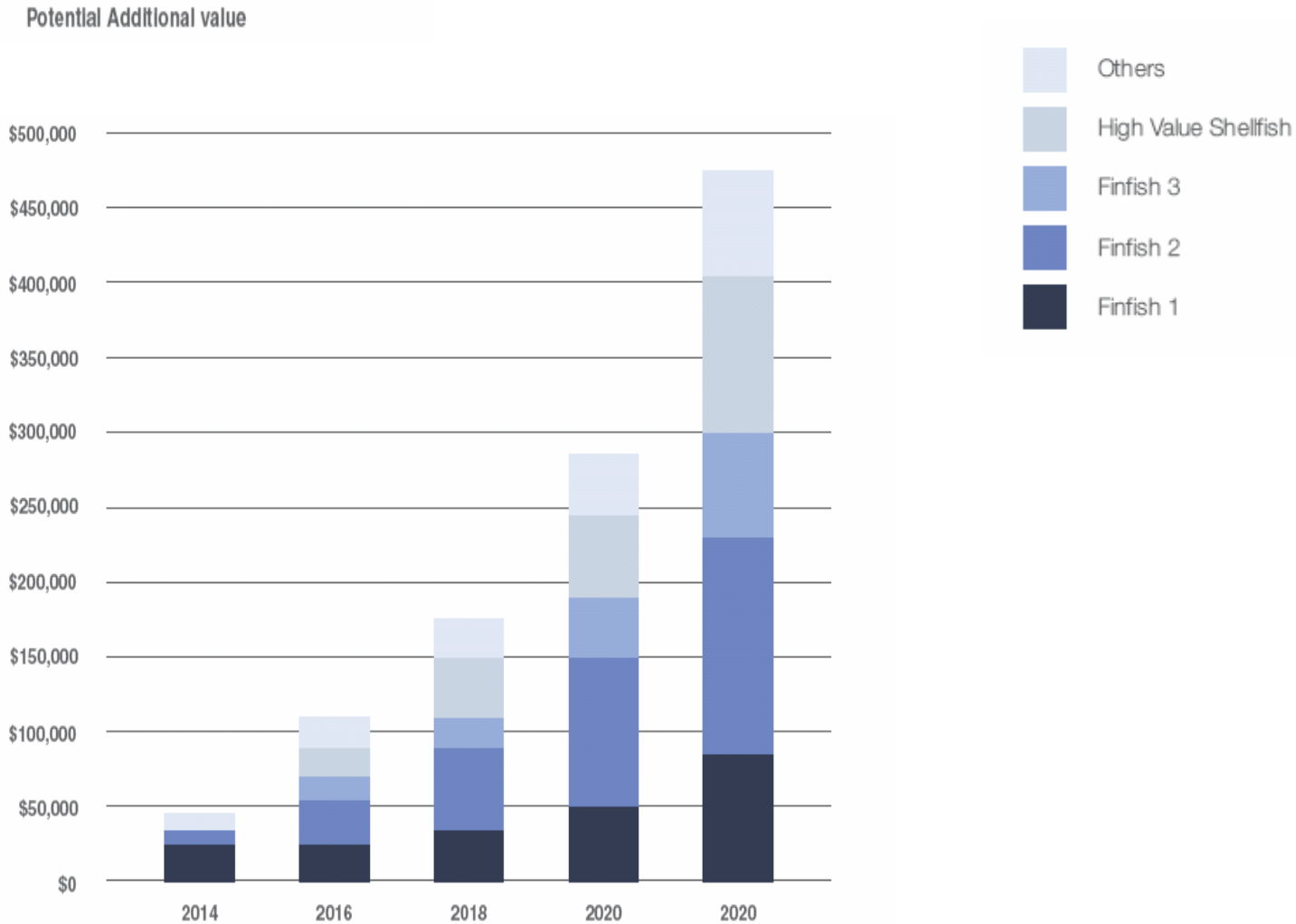


Barriers can be addressed via NPS and NES, administered by a new EPA

Sustainable food

- Growing global middle class seeking animal protein
 - Compare e.g. dairy & pork
- Shellfish
 - Filter feeders
 - Harvesting nutrients from land runoff
- Finfish
 - Feed supply needs to be resolved long term
 - Nutrient input can be managed in conjunction with shellfish

Harvesting New Zealand's Aquaculture Potential



Barriers to Progress

- Lack of new space
- Lack of security
- Inconsistency across New Zealand
- Inflexibility
- Lack of voice in government

Other Issues

- **Settlement with Maori**
- **Effects on Fishing**
- **Coastal occupation charges**

Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Why? RCs unwilling to bear the political and financial costs of the ~5 yrs it takes to get an AMA approved.

A New Aquaculture Act

- Aquaculture Commission (appointed)
- Coastal zoning for aquaculture
- Allocate coastal space (mechanism?)
- Decision criteria?

Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Aquaculture Development Corporation

- State-owned enterprise
- Applies for private plan change for AMAs
- Leases space to industry
- Bears financial risk
- Has planning and aquaculture expertise

Policy Solutions to “A Lack of New Space”

Aquaculture National Policy Statement (NPS)

- Designate AMAs in major regions
- Specify allocation process
- Discretionary activity in the regions
- Initial short-term consent
- Rules on transferability to stop speculation

Policy Solutions to “A Lack of Security”

Aquaculture Act

- Establish an occupation right
- Right of renewal if “good behaviour”

Aquaculture NPS

- Specify length of consent
- Specify conditions for renewal
- Users already have protection against “gazumption”

Policy Solutions to “Inconsistency Across NZ”

Aquaculture Act

- Aquaculture Comm sets policies and criteria

Aquaculture NPS

- National objectives, policies, and “rules”
- Nat’l env’l standards
- Supported by central agency
- Reduces costs of RMA process

“Lack of Voice” in Government

- **Aquaculture Act**
 - Independent agency within an existing government agency

- **Aquaculture NPS**
 - Agency dedicated to aquaculture provides advice on NPS

Policy Solutions to “Inflexibility”

Aquaculture Act

- Delegated power to Ministry of Fisheries for minor changes to existing permits

Aquaculture NPS

- Specify changes deemed “minor”
- Non-notified
- Delegated to EPA or other agency

Other Issues

- **Coastal occupation charges**
 - Revenue from leases
- **Settlement with Maori**
 - Revenue or space
- **Effects on Fishing**
 - Industry needs to resolve where effects are more than minor, and how to address

Role of an EPA

- **National Policy Statement**
 - Run process w/ RCs
 - w/ aquaculture agency
- **National Environmental Standards**
 - Establish conditions for environmental effects
- **Considering minor changes**
 - Small boundary adjustments
 - Change in species if effects similar

The Advantages of a National Policy Statement

- Aquaculture remains integrated with RMA
- One set of criteria and case law
- Less time required to achieve reforms
- Less risk of failure – RMA is known entity
- EPA can play useful role