

NIWA Natural Solutions

NIWA Natural Solutions was established to generate commercial opportunities from products of NIWA's science. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of NIWA. It bridges the early-stage development and finance gap by actively participating in the commercialisation process by:

- identifying product opportunities;
- undertaking technology and commercial feasibility analysis;
- funding product and market development;
- creating and implementing partnerships and other commercial arrangements.

New species for aquaculture

Aquaculture is a key science area for NIWA. An important component of our R&D is the development of culture techniques for species that are not currently being cultured. NIWA Natural Solutions has the vital role of commercialising such species. The aim is to establish new production activities and then to focus on complementing flesh production with products such as high value ingredients for the nutraceutical and cosmaceutical industries.

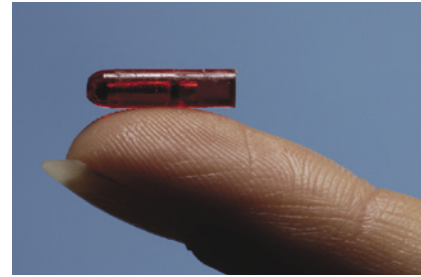
Establishing a new kingfish aquaculture industry in New Zealand is a key priority, and our world class aquaculture facility at Bream Bay provides the basis for us to build momentum in this industry. We are also developing culture techniques for other species, as well as assisting NIWA with paua and salmon hatchery activities.



Innovative RFID tags

Ensid Technologies, a joint venture with a New Zealand industry partner, is the pioneer of plastic RFID (radio frequency identification) transponder tags, using its patented plastic infusion technology. The company was established to commercialise the food safe plastic transponder tags developed by NIWA for use in a Ministry of Fisheries snapper stock assessment project.

With Swiss-based Sokymat SA, the world's largest supplier of RFID tags, as a key strategic partner and manufacturer of the plastic transponder tags for Ensid, the focus is on developing export sales for both animal and industrial uses.



Cara Brosnahan with samples tested for marine natural products.

Marine natural products

The combination of NIWA's marine science expertise, and the fact that about 80% of marine species found in New Zealand and Australia are unique to Australasia, has led to the development of a number of partnerships to commercialise marine natural products in areas such as cosmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and biopharmaceuticals.



Smart, clean, and green

A new industrial market is emerging for products that kill noxious weeds by using naturally occurring fungal pathogens that are host specific, do not leave toxic residues, and are completely biodegradable. These are the so-called mycoherbicides, and we are developing products to solve some of the invasive aquatic weed problems that are estimated to cost New Zealand \$20–30 million each year.

great services