

APPROVED



MINUTES

MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING

17<sup>th</sup> MEETING – 17 June 2008

Regular meeting held at the O'Connor Room, Beachfront Hotel beginning at 9.30am and finishing at 5.15pm.

*Present*

Denis Shannahan (Acting Chair), Brad Stenhouse, Stuart Thomson, Ian McKenzie, Bruce Watson, Eugenie Sage, Emily Arthur, Geoff Rowling, Richard Wallace and Rick Barber.

No members of the public attended.

*In Attendance*

Campbell Robertson and Don Neale (Department of Conservation), Scott Williamson and Nicola Pindur (Ministry of Fisheries), Andrea Jackson (Minute Secretary), Sarah Wilson (facilitator). Craig Jones, a commercial fisher with knowledge of deep-water areas was introduced by Stuart Thomson and welcomed by the Acting Chair.

**1.0 Apologies**

Apologies received from Carol Scott, Bruce Hamilton, Carrol Browne and Kerry Eggeling. Apologies to be accepted.

*Apologies Accepted*

**2.0 Agenda confirmation and Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

The meeting agenda was confirmed and no conflicts of interest were declared.

**3.0 Move into committee (around 9.50am)**

Moved Richard Wallace/Rick Barber Carried

**Move out of committee (around 4.45pm)**

Denis Shannahan/Brad Stenhouse Carried

**4.0 Previous Minutes**

The public minutes of 20/21 May were reviewed. In relation to the query on page 2 about Carol Scott's query re whitebait/trout/salmon; Bruce Watson advised he thought it had been agreed that a pragmatic approach would be taken to any sites chosen where any of these species may occur. Minor typo corrected.

Approved with minor amendments Eugenie Sage/Brad Stenhouse Carried

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Public minutes of 2 May were reviewed and Scott Williamson suggested some amendments to his session. Campbell Robertson said that he understood that it had been agreed that observers could be given an opportunity to speak but this would be through the Chair. The minutes were amended accordingly. It became apparent that the set of minutes under consideration were the second to final version and some amendments mooted had already been handled. Andrea agreed to revise these minutes with latest amendments and to re-circulate.

## 5.0 Meeting Dates

The next meeting dates were reconfirmed, they are:

- 29 and 30 July
- 2 and 3 September

## 6.0 General Business - Hector's dolphin set-netting ban

Geoff Rowling had previously requested that official's overview the current situation and allow time for the Forum to discuss the matter. Accordingly, Scott Williamson advised that the Government's decision for the West Coast (Farewell Spit to Awarua Point) is two-fold, as follows:

1. Recreation set-netting out to 2nm is prohibited.
2. Commercial set-netting out to 2nm is prohibited from 1 December to 28 February

Scott further advised that this level of species protection does not meet protection type 1 or 2 of Table 2 of the Marine Protection Guidelines (pg 13). However it would **contribute** towards protection type 2 and probably meet protection type 3.

General discussion followed. Geoff Rowling queried whether set-netting provides MPA type protection as it is not just dolphins that will be protected but other species as well. Big impacts on amateur fishers and will limit fishing for other species. There is no recognition of the impact of Hector's dolphin set-net banning on the Forum process. In response, Nicola Pindur discussed how there are different types of management that give varied forms of protection, for instance the quota management system offers a level of protection to specific species. Other restrictions, that might be specific to fishing methods, can also offer protection. It was noted that in relation to the protection standard, if trawling had been banned for 1-2nm, as has occurred in other areas, then that would count as a MPA measure, but removal of the set-netting method alone does not equal MPA protection (as set out in table 2 of the MPA document). Scott noted that it is clear that the type 1 protection in the Guidelines would not be met and that the proposed recreation prohibition contributes to but does not meet the type 2 protection standard.

Bruce Watson commented that the Forum should acknowledge that the set-netting ban will have a beneficial impact and the Forum should try to describe and recognise the impact. Richard Wallace noted that at this stage there is no need to take into account but further along the Forum process it should be kept in mind. Ian McKenzie and Geoff Rowling made comments about the reality of the situation for the fishing community, which will come home to other Forum members at the public consultation meetings. They said that the public made submissions and some now feel betrayed by the Government and the two Government agencies involved, and thus have no faith in the Forum process now. Eugenie Sage suggested

APPROVED

that a Forum media release noting that the ban was a Government not Forum decision could be worthwhile.

Scott Williamson advised that the Minister's decisions letter should be released soon and that he will have more detail on the rationale for why decisions were made. He agrees that the Forum needs to be mindful of the impact of the set-netting ban and needs to become informed of the Government rationale.

Emily Arthur queried whether in the design of previous marine reserves the issue of trawling had been dealt with, if boundaries had been changed and if there was information available that help the Forum look at trawling use and impacts on this. Nicola Pindur responded that she would ask relevant people within the Ministry and report back.

Scott Williamson, Emily Arthur and Eugenie Sage left the meeting.

Denis Shannahan requested that a **copy of the Minister's decisions on the set-netting ban be tabled at the next Forum meeting**. The discussion wrapped up with a consensus among the Forum members who remained agreeing that the set-netting ban could be considered and taken into account as offering some protection (although people did not see if constituting protection by itself to meet the MPA protection standard). Sarah Wilson clarified that the Forum process and the Hector's dolphin process have significant differences.

Meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Confirmed  
Denis Shannahan  
Acting Chair

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**Papers Tabled**

1. Minutes of 2 May and 20/21 May
2. Table of Candidate Sites to 10m-depth
3. Summary of Initial Decisions: lagoons, tidal flat estuaries, tidal lagoons, river mouths