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## IN-COMMITTEE SESSION MINUTES

## MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING

16<sup>th</sup> MEETING – 20 & 21 May 2008

In-committee session occurred in the course of the Forum's 20 & 21 May meeting.

### 1. Whitebaiting in Marine Reserves and MPAs

Campbell Robertson advised that, in summary, the Marine Reserves Act does allow for some limited use, although to-date the practice and policy has been 'no take'. He notes that pragmatic solutions need to be sought. For instance, the Forum has already identified a number of estuarine and river mouth sites where whitebaiting does not occur, in other areas boundaries have been amended to provide for activities such as whitebaiting, and there are also the other MPA tools. Campbell said there is the option of special legislation, but in these situations this would need government buy-in.

Bruce Hamilton had been party to discussions with Mike Slater, West Coast Conservator, and advised that there were opportunities to consider the possibility of whitebaiting but preferably not within marine reserves. Rick Barber supported this possibility but Richard Wallace was concerned that if whitebaiting was allowed this would be a commercial activity within a marine reserve, where protection was the purpose. Geoff Rowling considered that the commercial activity would be controlled through the Whitebait Regulations. Campbell Robertson advised the Forum that although a new Marine Reserves Bill was afoot, the Forum should not consider it, as it was far from being enacted.

Bruce Watson wants advice from officials about the whitebait/trout/salmon fisheries. Bruce said it appears now that pragmatic solutions are sought. Eugenie Sage commented that it was disappointing that the situation for those fisheries re marine reserves had not been more clarified. Rick Barber read out sections 4.4 (d)-(g) of the Conservation General Policy, which pertain to the possibility of some limited use. General discussion resulted in the following position being agreed:

- The Forum is to develop its own recommendations and to examine all options;
- It is better to focus attention on areas that are currently no-take for whitebait;
- The Forum to be pragmatic about salmon/trout fishing (the Minister of Conservation supports this view).

### 2. MinFish Fishing Effort Data

Nikki Pindur advised that the maps of fishing effort being developed by MinFish were likely to be only available for use at the Forum meetings, and not to be taken away. Currently, the Ministry information staff were establishing the 'release of data' status of the fishing effort information.

### 3. Sizing of Marine Reserves

At the Forum's request, Don Neale provided the Forum with an overview of scientific information about the sizing of marine reserves, based on his knowledge and reading (note this was not a discussion that had been requested prior to the meeting so was off the cuff). He advised that it is always hard to predict the precise effects of MPA imposition. International experience shows that small reserves will only protect a certain range of species, especially sedentary species and will not protect species that are more mobile. As an example, Don outlined the small (5km long by 1km offshore) Leigh Marine Reserve. This reserve has been extensively monitored over many years, and is the most monitored reserve in New Zealand, while other reserves have a range of monitoring. Some information from monitoring reveals that reef fish such as snapper tended to increase while other species such as kina have decreased. Kelp species have increased as the kina have reduced and kelp forests are now growing.

Stuart Thomson noted information provided at the recent SEAFIC conference that in most other parts of the world MPAs have been set up as species protection rather than habitats and in absence of other marine protection measures and that the Forum should look at what has happened overseas. Don Neale responded that he considers that there are enough New Zealand examples to inform the Forum's work.

Carrol Browne asked whether the original marine habitat at the Leigh Marine Reserve is returning, and Don advised that we don't know as there is not enough 'baseline' data (data collected before the area was impacted and altered by human use).

Don also talked about the small marine reserves have been established in Fiordland to protect specific features, e.g., black coral, and also Pohatu (100 ha or so) in the Banks Peninsula. General scientific conclusions are that smaller reserves work for plants and sedentary/localised species. Other more mobile species such as crays and reef fish need larger marine reserves, i.e., greater than 5kms. Kapiti Marine Reserve would likely be the closest reserve to the West Coast region in terms of substrate. Don also noted that fish species on sandy/cobbly coastlines (such as parts of the West Coast) are typically more mobile; species tend to have preferred sites but will move around according to conditions. Stuart Thomson supported this last point, noting that the presence of species in any locality seemed to relate a lot to the conditions at the time.

Don advised that there are currently about 30 marine reserves around New Zealand, and they are commonly focussed on rocky reefs but do also include sandy bed areas in most reserves. Research in sandy areas around rocky reefs shows that blue cod, for instance, hang around the edges of reefs feeding on species on the sandy bed. Geoff Rowling commented that the presence of healthy kelp and plant life is generally a good indicator that habitats have not been degraded. Areas where kelp and vegetation are absent are possibly where trawling has removed them. Don Neale responded that the West Coast is not naturally a region where kelp species proliferate, only a narrow band of bull kelp usually occurs. This is one of the regionally distinct features of the West Coast region. Therefore a marine reserve imposed in this region would not be likely to generate big kelp beds.

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Kerry Eggeling advised that in the Big Bay to Te Waewae Bay stretch of coastline some 5,000 male crays were tagged and records kept of where they were fished. Two years later he caught one at Arnott Point and others were caught at the Steeples at Westport, while other crays were caught in the tagging area or close by. Don Neale discussed these findings, noting that some species can move around a little or a lot, possibly relating to season, age-class or other reasons. He suspected that depending on MPA design and other matters, paua, crays and blue cod might be expected to increase in a West Coast marine reserve. He further noted that the research at Leigh MR continues to show changes over 30 years, for instance, larger crays act as predators on kina.

Don acknowledged that he thinks monitoring on the West Coast will be more difficult than at Leigh as the water is often less clear. Don cannot say exactly what monitoring would be done; possible monitoring could be a topic for Forum recommendations. Don said, as there will be an increase in the number of marine reserves within New Zealand; it is unlikely that they will all be closely monitored (Don advised he was noting trends and his expectations, not quoting DOC policy). There is likely to be some type of watching brief on every reserve, even if it was an annual fly-over but if a marine reserve is a hot-spot then more compliance or monitoring will likely be done; resources will be prioritised.

Eugenie Sage raised the issue of the use of new technology for fish research rather than traditional dive strategies; is DOC considering new methods? Nikki Pindur responded that DOC/MinFish would likely check the international picture on marine reserve research methods, because there are a lot of MPAs being established around the world and there could be some useful learning. Don Neale advised that other measures do exist, e.g., blue cod line catch/measure/release, such as at Long Island Marine Reserve (Marlborough Sounds). Monitoring by cray potting is another method, such as at Te Tapuwae o Rongokako MR (near Gisborne). Over the 1970s-90s a lot of marine reserve research was species orientated but research is now more habitat focussed, measuring kelp and plants as well. Campbell Robertson advised that DOC does not monitor every single forest in conservation managed land as forest types are well understood and so correlations between areas can be applied, and he would expect a similar approach to marine reserves. Don Neale does expect a baseline data survey for a marine reserve, which needs at least a year before the reserve is enacted. Otherwise 'impact' monitoring can be done, monitoring both inside and outside the reserve area.

Geoff Rowling thinks it is worthwhile to set aside non-use areas for their intrinsic value rather than as a form of species fisheries management. It seems as though some Forum members are approaching marine reserves as protection from a species viewpoint. Don Neale advised that fisheries management, while good at managing species may not be maintaining all the age classes and as in Leigh, they have found that the very large crays have a particular habitat niche. In the science community there is a concept of a 'shifting baseline,' which represents the changes over generations, or over hundreds of years, e.g., whales are now comparatively rare, whereas they used to be abundant (millions of whales). So even fishers with a lifetime of experience still only have a 'snapshot' compared to the hundreds of years of fishing effort in New Zealand waters.

Richard Wallace would like two stages of monitoring, if a candidate site is found to be a healthy area, then why would it need to be protected. Geoff Rowling wants areas protected long before

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they are too degraded, as it is preferable that reserves are in good or positive condition to start with.

#### 4. Near-shore Candidate Selection

Sarah Wilson recapped the work done in the last candidate site selection session, and reminded the Forum that they had been considering looking at likely groups of habitats rather than thinking of running a marine reserve directly off-shore out to the 12m limit. Bruce Watson noted that he had taken Stuart Thomson's point about this design feature to be a 'note of caution' rather than an absolute decision or approach. **Rick Barber requested that all the material about candidate sites be extracted and pulled into a single document, to be an appendix to the meeting minutes.**

Don Neale projected the candidate site selection table and recapped on the various categories. He then projected a new visual, showing the potential candidate sites chosen to date, with data on accessibility and the landward conservation status. Don noted that this mapping had been done at a large scale, and that when the Forum is considering candidate sites in more detail, then more detailed visual information can be provided. Rick Barber advised he would not want marine reserves in totally inaccessible areas, as it would be good for people to be able to visit and experience them. Rick also noted, in relation to the conservation status of landward areas, that the national parks were overdue for review, possibly this review could link into the Forum process. Campbell Robertson made it clear that this was not within the mandate of the Forum and would not be part of this process. Concluding this discussion Don and Bruce Watson were tasked to review the visual representation of the conservation status land to ensure it is as clear as possible.

Don Neale then projected a table showing the substrate content of the near-shore environment (gravel/sand/rocky), as well as estuarine and marine categories. It was noted that intertidal and subtidal substrate have a number of links, including fisheries, so it may be beneficial to consider them together. Stuart Thomson advised that the use in the 10m and the 30m depth zones are quite different, so it could be good to consider areas out to 10m during the near-shore assessment. Bruce Watson supported this view, to consider a first cut to go out to 10m, and then look later beyond to the 30m depth limit. Rick Barber clarified that the zone would be measured from the MLWS. Stuart Thomson advised that the 10m area could be defined as the 'breaking waters' and the 30m as the non-breaking inshore waters. Bruce Watson suggested a new category be added to the table: "accessibility, by land or by sea. Kerry Eggeling advised the seaward accessibility could be rated.

Rick Barber wants the assessment of possible sites to include cultural use, and when more detailed consideration of site occurs then he stated a cultural assessment is needed. Eugenie Sage noted that she had thought that **Scott Williamson was to discuss a Cultural Impact Assessment with Rick and Richard, and she also noted the potential use of taiapure as a possible protection mechanism.** Rick further clarified that it had been agreed previously with Scott that a cultural use appendix was appropriate rather than a CIA. Richard Wallace suggested an assessment from the sea inwards towards the land. In response to a query about marine reserve design, Eugenie mentioned that the forum had received a photocopy of a lot of useful articles on marine reserve design **Nikki Pindur advised she would send to Rick and Richard the package of articles on marine reserves (previously circulated to the Forum members).** Carol Scott advised that some useful papers were presented at the

recent SEAFIC conference, and she agreed to obtain them for circulation to the Forum members.

Sarah Wilson summarised the discussion; the Forum has raised two options for the near-shore assessment:

- a) MLWS-10m, then from 10m-30m
- b) MLWS-30m

The options are for MPAs or marine reserves, and marine reserves could have a limited take component. Brad Stenhouse suggested that in some areas the 20m line was a better demarcation, as it is generally the inshore trawl line, while in other areas the 30m depth limit might be close to shore. He thinks the Forum just need to get into the assessment process and see how it falls out. Finally it was agreed that the Forum would consider sites from MLWS out to the 30m depth limit (option b). The process would be two-step, with less accessible areas considered first, then accessible areas.

### 2.1 Candidate Site Selection – MLWS to 30m (Less accessible)

Don Neale assisted the Forum by showing a variety of information, and the assessment criteria were discussed extensively. It was decided to commence the assessment with Map 14, at the bottom of the region (due to absence of Ian McKenzie to provide information on the Buller area).

#### Candidate sites – Map 14

Discussion: Stuart Thomson noted that possible MPAs in the southern part of the region need to be consulted with the Milford Sound fishers as they are cray potting in the locale. Bruce Watson suggested a possible site (Gorge River to Hackett River) as having a good range of habitat and including a candidate estuary plus it is not a very accessible area. Eugenie Sage thinks this area should be larger to cover the Fiordland crested penguin colony sites. A suggestion was that this area could extend to Browne Island or Browns Refuge (muttonbirds). Don Neale noted that the marine stacks and offshore islands would add well to the biodiversity as they add well to biodiversity of a possible MPA. The potential grouping of habitats is good.

Stuart Thomson advised that trawling occurs in this area at about 50m depth, as well as cray potting, and Rick Barber noted some illegal fishing too, and Kerry Eggeling tourism and wildlife watching. Rick Barber advised that some 50% of the fishers in this locale could be exercising customary fishing rights. Stuart Thomson noted that the area chosen includes good areas of reef, which is not shown in the Forum's Report (the area is shown as un-surveyed). He thinks the full range of habitats would be present, for this section of the coast. Eugenie Sage queried the quality of the reef in various section of the map 14. Stuart Thomson advised that there are no real differences in the reef quality either south or in the Brown Island to Barn Island area.

Kerry Eggeling/Stuart Thomson advised that from Jackson/Cascade Point to Awarua Point is one of the main cray potting zones, especially around Awarua Point. Therefore they recommend a MPA rather than a marine reserve; otherwise there would be a big issue with users. Rick Barber thinks that MPA's may be better than marine reserves due to implementation problems. Geoff Rowling advised that Barn Bay/Cascade River is a high use locale.

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Bruce Watson suggested a reduction in the proposed size of the area, from the southern end of Longridge Point to Browns Island. Stuart Thomson suggested Longridge Point to Bonar Knob, and possibly include Longridge Beach if more sand substrate is required. Richard Wallace suggested Awarua Point to Bonar Knob.

In conclusion, candidate areas were proposed, being:

- Browne Island-Hackett River, Ryan's Creek to Bonar Knob, or
- Awarua Point to Bonar Knob.

## Candidate sites – Map 13

Eugenie Sage suggests an area Jackson Head to Smoothwater Bay, as it is a penguin colony area with good visitor access and local eco-tourism. After discussion it was agreed any site around Jackson Head should only extend into the bay as far as the creek north of the wharf. Depth out to 30m may not be suitable in this area; Kerry Eggeling advised that this locale is a cray potting area especially with recreational fishers (90% recreational). Brad Stenhouse advised that Smoothwater Bay is a good beach to snorkel off.

Comment [dmn1]: Or Ocean Beach?

Bruce Watson suggests the Forum consider Cascade River around to Cascade Point. Rick Barber could have a marine reserve with maitaitai that allows local regulations, which could allow types of limited uses. Bruce Watson noted the fact that Jackson Head/Bay is a high recreation use area may make it a good site for a MPA to stop it being degraded and allow it to be a recovery area. Stuart Thomson advised that Cascade Point is both recreational and commercial fishery, but less than the Jackson area due to the greater distance from anchorages. Trawling comes into 40m depth. Eugenie Sage mentioned the uniqueness of the coastal bluff sequence, with sand dunes and estuary to the south. Kerry Eggeling noted the large seal colony.

In conclusion, candidate areas were proposed, being:

- Cascade Point or Smoothwater Bay to Jacksons Head (around to the creek north of the Jackson Bay wharf), or
- The north bank of the Cascade River around to Cascade Bluff or Whisky Creek.

## Candidate sites – Map 12

It was noted that Open Bay Islands have numerous fauna that is already protected. The islands are only accessible by boat or helicopter. Ngai Tahu ownership was also noted. Eugenie Sage noted that the islands have high natural values, it a wildlife refuge, the largest islands in the region, and adding them is a good chance for connectivity of habitats. Don Neale advised that if any place on the West Coast is 'distinctive' in terms of habitat then it is the Open Bay Islands. Stuart Thomson noted uses as being eco-tourism/fishing (trawling, set netting and lining) plus poaching.

In conclusion, an area from Popotai Island to Bignell Reef was circled.

## Candidate sites – Map 11

Kerry Eggeling suggested the area from Waterfall Creek to Paringa River. Noted the area is inaccessible by land but good access by sea from Moeraki and Bruce Bay. There is commercial use, recreational cray diving & fishing and cultural use. Why not focus on river candidate sites, other members advised that rivers providing good access as the main reason

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not to focus on them, also often high use areas. The suggestion of an extension of the proposed area to Hanata Island was raised but not picked up.

In conclusion, an area from Waterfall Creek to Paringa River was circled. An extension out to Hanata Island is to be reconsidered at a future meeting.

## Candidate sites – Map 10

No sites on this sector map were proposed.

## Candidate sites – Map 9

Bruce Watson suggested an area from Waiho Beach to 3 Mile Beach and Waitahi Bluff to Kohuamarua Bluff. Kerry Eggeling suggested that an extension of the area to Okarito Lagoon (excepting the lagoon mouth due to whitebaiting) as this would capture the major beaches and flouy rivers. Don Neale noted that the 3 Mile and 5 Mile beaches are 'sandy gravel' beaches. Rick Barber advised that people could walk along the long sandy beaches in this area. Bruce Watson noted the big dominant flouy rivers, lagoons and sandbars, with big sandy beaches. Okarito Lagoon is special in its own right and the spit is also worthy of protecting. Noted that the beach uses include mussels, cockles and surf-casting. Stuart Thomson noted the rocky headlands along this stretch, some known to have crays, other not known but likely to have crays. The township area should be excluded from any site. Kerry Eggeling noted that trawlers come into around 10m in this section of the coast.

In conclusion, an area from Waiho Beach to Waitahi Bluff (possibly excluding Okarito township beach) was proposed.

## Candidate sites – Map 8

Richard Wallace declared a cultural interest in this sector. Stuart Thomson advised that there is a large area of flat-fishing, coming into about 10m depth. It was suggested an area of Abut Head to Wanganui Bluff, as an alternative to the Map 9 area selection, being a very similar collection of habitats. Campbell Robertson advised that it could be a good idea to have redundancy in candidate habitat choice, and the Forum can then choose the least coast option. Carrol Browne noted the decision could be based on the most gain in biodiversity. Eugenie Sage noted that it is also good to have 'replication' as per the Guidelines. Bruce Watson noted that there would be more whitebait issues in this stretch.

In conclusion, an area from Abut Head to Wanganui Bluff was proposed (with a possible extension up from Waitahi Bluff).

## Candidate sites – Maps 6 and 7

It was noted that these are all accessible areas with values not too different to those already picked up. Rick Barber advised that Ngai Tahu are investigating a mataitai reserve area for this sector.

No candidate sites were proposed.

## Candidate sites – Map 5

It was noted that although the Paparoa area is generally accessible, some isolated localities are less accessible. Rick Barber noted the cultural importance of the area from Rapahoe to Limestone Creek/Pahautane for kai moana especially. Areas or pockets covered by mataitai

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reserves could be good. Eugenie Sage suggested that for the more accessible areas of the coast maybe the MPAs have to be smaller, and Don Neale noted that implementation would certainly be easier if that was the case. Bruce Watson suggested flagging a 'demonstration area', and whether a cobble beach would be useful to include e.g., Barrytown flats. Others suggested various options;

- Rick Barber – Dolomite Point;
- Emily Arthur – Truman Track or Pororari Lagoon to Perpendicular Point;
- Eugenie Sage – Barrytown flats.

These candidate sites were 'parked' until the assessment of accessible sites (step two).

### Candidate sites – Map 4

Eugenie Sage mooted an area from Bromielaw Creek to Needle Point, including Tiropahi River. Bruce Hamilton noted it is quite an isolated area. Other options raised were Charleston to the Tiropahi River mouth. It was noted that information on uses is not adequate for final decision-making as Ian McKenzie is not present.

In conclusion an area from Charleston to the Tiropahi River mouth or Whitehorse Creek was proposed.

### Candidate sites – Map 3

Bruce Watson suggested a 'demonstration area' for public education and appreciation areas around Westport or Buller, and then the Heaphy River/ Kahurangi coastline for a decent sized MPA.

A 'demonstration area' at either Cape Foulwind or at the Buller River area was proposed.

### Candidate sites – Map 2

No candidate sites were proposed.

### Candidate sites – Map 1

Bruce Watson suggested an area immediately south and north of the Heaphy River, excluding the Heaphy River mouth as it is well used. Rick Barber noted that Ngai Tahu use the river mouth area, and also that Mawhera Incorporation land is present. Denis Shannahan suggested that the area extend up to the Kahurangi Point, and Eugenie Sage supported it. Rick Barber noted that there could be a big issue with compliance. Stuart Thomson noted that cray fishers operate around Kahurangi Point and shoals and other users. Geoff Rowling did not support the inclusion of the area just to the south of Kahurangi Point, due to the recreational cray fishing in that area. Rick Barber advised that paua poaching is rife on this area of coast, which is why a maitaitai is mooted and that Korean vessels fish illegally in this area; therefore he strongly supports the site going as far as Kahurangi Point. Carol Scott queried why such a large area was mooted.

Candidate sites proposed were either to the north and south of the Heaphy River, or from the north of the Heaphy River all the way to Kahurangi Point. In conclusion, an area from Kahurangi Point to Crayfish Point was proposed.

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## 2.2 Candidate Site Selection – MLWS to 30m (Accessible)

### Candidate sites – Maps 14 and 13

Potential sites in these sectors were not mooted as the coastline is generally less accessible by land.

### Candidate sites – Map 12

Eugenie Sage mooted the area around Ship Creek, as there are lots of values present and there is an estuary candidate site, also Jacksons Bay/Neils Beach as it seems to be a Hector's dolphin breeding/calving area. Rick Barber supports Hector's dolphin protection. Geoff Rowling agreed that Jackson Bay is an important locality for Hector's dolphin but thinks the Hector's Dolphin Management Plan should cover it. The Forum could revisit the matter if the Hector's Dolphin Management Plan does not raise it. Eugenie Sage was concerned that the Hector's Dolphin Management Plan may not deliver the necessary results. Campbell Robertson noted that the focus on the national standards guidelines is biodiversity not species protection, and thus single species protection should not be a reason for an MPA/marine reserve. Eugenie Sage considers somewhere in Jackson Bay is a good biodiversity candidate, as it is one of the most sheltered bays on the West Coast. Don Neale noted that "exposure" is one of the criteria in the national standards, but it is not well defined in policy. The West Coast is generally an exposed coastline, and if any part of the West Coast is regarded as sheltered then Jacksons Bay is one, along with portions of other bays and the lee sides of some headlands and rock stacks.

In addition to the rocky area then maybe the area could cover Okuru River to Hannah's Clearing. Stuart Thomson advised that trawling can occur up to 5m depth offshore, a marine reserve or MPA would need to be defined by depth not area. Kerry Eggeling noted that the sheltered zone is really only Jackson Head to the Arawhata River, possibly somewhat sheltered further around to the Waiatoto River and maybe out to 5m depth. Stuart Thomson suggested that instead Smoothwater Bay would be a better choice of a sheltered gravelly beach. Don Neale noted that they are different places; Smoothwater Bay is a reef edge gravelly beach and the others are not, while both sites are sheltered. Eugenie Sage suggested that the area from the Arawhata River to the Waiatoto River be proposed, as gravelly sheltered beach zone (a minority proposal).

Candidate sites were proposed:

- Arawhata River to the Waiatoto River out to the 5m depth as a minority proposal, or Smoothwater Bay;
- Whakapohai River mouth to Jackson Bay;
- Ship Creek locale.

### Candidate sites – Map 11

Ship Creek to Arnott Point was discussed, and Kerry Eggeling advised that this zone seems to be premium Hector's dolphin habitat. There seems to be a flow of warm air, very shallow and turbid waters. Don Neale noted that recreational fishing occurs in the Ship Creek area and mussel beds exist. Rick Barber advised that there are three major ancient urupa and huge cultural value at Heretaniwha Point. He suggested a possible site being from Cook Bluff to Karangarua Bluff. Don Neale advised that from Heretaniwha Point to Greymouth is a fairly consistent habitat pattern and habitats close to the shoreline. Areas marked off yesterday would cover this sequence and for replication purposes too.

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The candidate site proposed was from the north bank of the Waita River to Arnott Point.

Candidate sites – Map 10

Carrol Browne mooted an area from Scotchman's Bluff to Gillespies Point/Kohaihai is a possible site. Campbell Robertson confirmed with Carrol Brown that Gillespies Beach is the main beach that can easily be accessed by locals with road access and therefore may be an important recreational fishing area. Rick Barber mooted the Shearer Swamp locality, as it is a managed coastal area.

The candidate site proposed was from Scotchmans Bluff to Galway Point (18 kms).

Candidate sites – Maps 9, 8

No further candidate sites proposed.

Candidate sites – Map 7

Eugenie Sage suggested an area from Mahinapua Creek or the south bank of the Hokitika River to Mananui Bush. The Forum agreed to note this area an option but to defer any further discussion until Bruce Watson was present. Rick Barber noted that there is a possible mataitai reserve to be placed from Ross south, to protect mussel beds.

Candidate option was circled - Mahinapua Creek or the south bank of the Hokitika River to Mananui Bush.

Candidate sites – Map 6

Denis Shannahan mooted an area from the north of the Taramakau River to Saltwater Creek. Rick Barber advised that pa and nohoanga sites are located in this zone. Surf-casting is a big use and a multiple-use management group has been formed for protection and also managed use of the locality, Guardians of Paroa Beach Group. Dogs and 4 wheel-drives are also a threat. This locality would suit a MPA rather than marine reserve.

A candidate site was proposed, from the north bank of the Taramakau River to Saltwater Creek, as an MPA only.

Candidate sites – Map 5

Kerry Eggeling thought the idea for a site around the Punakaiki area was to have a small area close to where many people go. Don Neale noted that this locale is a high-use for recreation fishers because of an extended area of accessible rocky reefs, as well as high-use by schools for education. He considers that whereas a large marine reserve would not be supported a smaller MPA area might be, as it would aid education efforts in the locality. Brad Stenhouse advised that Seal Island/Woodpecker Bay is a high-use dive site. Rick Barber advised that this is another area for mataitai reserves to stop trawling, and then Ngai Tahu could look at other measures such as rahui or by-law. The community could take their concerns to Ngai Tahu in their management role. Kerry Eggeling suggested an area of Trumans Track to Perpendicular Point. Brad Stenhouse noted that the beach at Trumans Track is not friendly for children; Twelve Mile area is better for them. Rick Barber noted that customary mussel gathering at Twelve Mile.

Two options were identified: Trumans Track locale, and Twelve Mile Bluff locale (probably extending to Motukiekie Rocks).

Eugenie Sage would prefer a larger area to acknowledge the special limestone geology/landforms, and suggested extending the area down the coast to Nikau Reserve to include a stretch of cobble beach. Stuart Thomson advised that extending an MPA out to 20m was unlikely to be a problem for fishers around Dolomite Point. Rick Barber queried the status of pounamu fossicking within marine reserves, and in response **it was agreed that DOC would investigate and report back.**

Possible candidate sites were identified as being:

- Trumans Track to Perpendicular Point
- Twelve Mile Bluff
- Dolomite Point
- Barrytown Flats

#### Candidate sites – Map 4

Eugenie Sage suggested an area from Cape Foulwind to 'Penguin Beach', being a fur seal rookery and accessible for the public as a good 'demonstration' area. Don Neale advised that surf-casting occurred at The Gap, diving at the Steeples and paua was present. Two options were explored, being an area extending from either The Gap or Cape Foulwind down the coast to Penguin Beach, out to the 10 m depth limit. Eugenie Sage supported the extension to The Gap, as otherwise the area would be too small. The Steeples locale was discussed, with Don Neale advising that it has very rich biodiversity down to about 30 m, but it was acknowledged by the Forum that this was also a very high-use area. Discussion encompassed the idea that the Steeples zone could be covered by a buffer mechanism involving MPA tools, with a marine reserve covering the core candidate site. The final discussion was not finalised at this meeting, as Ian McKenzie was not present.

Another idea raised was an area from the mouth of the Okari Lagoon to the north of the Totara River, to provide for an area of sandy beach habitat in the northern part of the region. The mouth of the Okari Lagoon would need to be excluded, as it is a high-use area.

Candidate sites proposed as being:

- Okari Lagoon (excluding mouth) to the north bank of the Totara River,
- The Gap or Cape Foulwind to part way down Penguin Beach.

#### Candidate sites – Map 3

Discussion centred around the inclusion of cobble beach and sandy beach habitat. Eugenie Sage suggested from Hector to Nikau, and Kerry Eggeling suggested from Dean Stream instead of Hector.

Candidate site agreed as being Mokihinui River or Nikau down to Hector.

#### Candidate sites – Map 2

Sandy beach habitat was considered, possibly from the south bank of Karamea River to Little Wanganui River. Don Neale and Rick Barber advised that there are important archaeological middens along this section of coast and old toheroa shells have been found.

Candidate site proposed as being the south side of the Karamea River through to the north side of the Little Wanganui River.

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Candidate sites – Map 1

Eugenie Sage suggested Kahurangi Point all the way down to Crayfish Point, extending along much of the national park coastline to complement the park, and to show bold conservation vision. Stuart Thomson noted that around Kahurangi Point are three cray fishers and a marine reserve around the Point would be a big issue for them; this matter needs to be investigated and Ian McKenzie's input sought. Richard Wallace advised that a mataitai reserve could be used to cover the small portion of the proposed area, around the Point.

Candidate site proposed as being Crayfish Point to Kahurangi Point.

Sarah Wilson summed up by advising that Don Neale could assemble the possible candidate sites on Maps in a tabular format, with the addition of habitat type information, so that the Forum can check the coverage of habitats.

As the session was concluded, the Forum agreed to move out of committee.

Moved Kerry Eggeling/Eugenie Sage

Carried

Confirmed  
Bruce Hamilton  
Chairperson