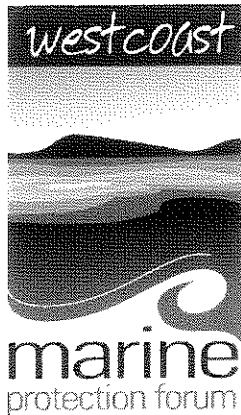


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MINUTES

MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING

14th MEETING – 7 and 8 April 2008

Regular meeting held at the St John Station, Hokitika beginning at 9.30am on 7 April 2008 and finished on 3pm on 8 April 2008.

Present

Bruce Hamilton (Chair), Brad Stenhouse, Denis Shannahan, Stuart Thomson, Carol Scott, Ian McKenzie, Emily Arthur, Bruce Watson, Eugenie Sage, Rick Barber, Richard Wallace and Carrol Browne.

No members of the public attended.

In Attendance

Campbell Robertson and Don Neale (Department of Conservation), Scott Williamson (Ministry of Fisheries), Andrea Jackson (Minute Secretary), Sarah Wilson (facilitator).

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Geoff Rowling and Kerry Eggeling. Nicola Pindur is on leave. Apologies to be accepted.

Moved – Carrol Browne/Carol Scott

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 Approval of Minutes of 20 March 2008

The minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2008 had been circulated and no amendments had been received. Carol Scott tabled some amendments in relation to her comments and these were accepted. Accordingly it was proposed that the minutes be formally approved, as revised by amendments tabled by Carol Scott.

Moved – Rick Barber/Denis Shannahan

Carried

4.0 Matters Arising

Eugenie Sage advised that she is not ready to make a presentation on behalf of her sector, and Carol Scott advised the same. It was agreed that these presentations would be made at a future meeting.

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5.0 Correspondence

5.1 *Inwards* – no correspondence received.

5.2 *Outwards* – no correspondence sent.

6.0 *In-committee Process*

Eugenie Sage sought clarification of the recording of minutes for the Forum's in-committee work. Andrea advised that process had previously been agreed that she record the minutes in a separate document, to be circulated for amendments as usual, but that the in-committee document would be held on file and not posted on the web-site.

Carrol Browne/Carol Scott moved that the Forum move in-committee. Carried

On 8 April, before the end of the meeting day, the meeting was paused:

Eugenie Sage/Emily Arthur moved that the Forum move out of the in-committee session. Carried

7.0 Forum Process

It was reconfirmed that the Forum's next meeting is to be held on 2 May 2008. Between times the Department of Conservation is to summarise the Forum's decisions made so far.

The discussion moved onto how habitats other than river mouths would be considered. Should all habitats throughout all segments be considered? Another option raised was to consider beaches and rocky coasts from north to south, followed by shallow depths north to south. Fishers noted that dealing with 'rocky coasts' habitats was getting into the rock lobster fishery.

Stuart Thomson noted that 90% of the Greymouth and Westport fisheries use bottom methods, so the MPA measures that remove bottom fishing will have a big impact on fishers. Carol Scott noted that exclusion areas could impact on fishing gear towlines, which would be an issue for the fishing industry. Brad Stenhouse noted that marine protection does need connectivity between on-shore and offshore habitats. After the initial choice of possible habitats then the use assessment should be done. He suggested that the Forum look at beaches, then add estuaries, and move to offshore habitats. Campbell Robertson raised the idea of marking candidate sites on the West Coast maps once the estuaries/beaches/rocky coast habitats have been identified; this would then result in highlighting possible groups of candidate sites that could move into "clusters" of habitats. Carol Scott noted that the whole of the West Coast is used by the commercial fishing industry. Next time she hopes to be able to illustrate the fishing done by the industry (by species and area) at the next meeting. Rick Barber mentioned that although he represents the runanga, he is also a recreational fisher, and that other members of the Forum are probably in a similar position.

Scot Williamson tested the idea of the Forum working without officials for a while, as possibly there was an issue of trust between sectors. There was no up-take of this idea. Sarah Wilson noted that the Forum had been working well together, and been sharing information on site selection over the two-day meeting.

Rick Barber queried whether the commercial fishers support marine reserves or MPAs at all as a concept. Stuart Thomson responded that there was some degree of support but that serious concerns were held about maintaining the viability of the industry as well. Carol Scott noted

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that the Ministers would also have to consider information that the commercial industry gives to Ministers. She is not totally confident that she will be able to agree to MPAs in fishing zones. Stuart Thomson noted that the impact of MPAs may only be on a few commercial fishers, but for those people it could be a major impact. Carol Scott also advised that she is not confident she will have all the necessary commercial fishing data to help identify the least cost sites for commercial fishers. Denis Shannahan suggested that commercial fishing representatives could be given the right to abstain on final MPA decisions but it would be helpful if they could provide as much information as possible so the Forum can identify least cost sites. Sarah Wilson summarised Denis' suggested outcomes for fishing representatives as being:

- a) Provide information for least cost MPAs
- b) Ability to abstain from decision-making

Bruce Watson noted that it would be preferable if private use rights could be purchased to give the opportunity to remove the one or two fishers in many possible sites from the picture. Scott Williamson advised that this issue has been well traversed by Government and the decision has been made not to compensate fishers, and instead for least cost areas to be chosen.

In discussion what would be required for future work the Forum requested that Don Neale split the 14 segment maps into sub-segments that relate to choosing beaches and rocky coasts. Don advised that together with Gary Eason and Bruce Watson, he has worked on revising the mapping colours and coding. Hopefully the Department will issue a CD of the revised maps within 2-3 weeks.

7.1 Consultation with Stakeholders

Sarah Wilson queried the Forum about the status of the current work undertaken by the Forum, and how widely it can be consulted with stakeholders. Bruce Hamilton noted that this work has been done in-committee, and that people would need to be clear that sites considered are only potential candidates. Bruce Watson thinks that the work is too preliminary to consult. Bruce Hamilton summarised the discussion as being that the candidate site work was not at a suitable stage for detailed consultation with stakeholders, only a general information update should be provided. General discussion followed, and it was agreed that representatives could ask people what they want and why, but not to put forward specific areas as potential sites.

Bruce Watson queried and Campbell Robertson responded that the whitebait regulations relationship to MPAs is to be investigated and will be reported back to the Forum.

Rick Barber noted that it would be good to have a press release to update the public about the current status of the Forum's progress. Eugenie Sage noted that a recent press release from Felicity Wong at DOC Head Office was not completely helpful. Campbell Robertson noted that Head Office had not sought the input of local staff. Eugenie went on to request that the unhelpfulness of the press release be fed back to Head Office. Bruce Hamilton noted that local press is interested and should be updated. Rick Barber requested to see a draft press release and Bruce Hamilton agreed to circulate it.

Scott Williamson advised that he would extract the key pages from the Challenger Fishing Plan for information to be provided at the next meeting. Bruce Hamilton noted that he has linkages with the deep-sea fishing group and he has discussed their involvement with the Forum and thinks it is a good idea to include a representative of that sector from now on. Carol Scott suggests a representative from SEAFIC. Eugenie Sage advised that an additional

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representative from the fishing sector would need to be balanced by another conservation representative involved in deep water conservation. Carol Scott clarified that she thought the SEAFIC person would be in an advisory role, not a full voting member. Carol Scott asked if she was able to consult with the deep-water group and test what they would like to do, and the Forum agreed to this approach.

Bruce Watson noted that he thought the Forum was seeking to reach a consensus about the choice of MPAs but if this were not achieved, then the Forum would not proceed to a 'voting' method but instead would provide the report to Ministers in a majority/minority format. There was general agreement that this was the decision that had been previously reached by the Forum.

8.0 Consultation Sub-committee Process

Carrol Browne noted that she had had the discussion paper relating to the work of the Consultation Sub-committee circulated shortly before the meeting. There is no time to consider this topic at this meeting, but she requested that Forum members read the paper and email any comments to her. She also requested that this topic be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

This was the final topic for discussion and Bruce Hamilton closed the meeting at 3pm by thanking Sarah Wilson for her great work as facilitator, as well as Don Neale and Gary Eason for their technical work.

Confirmed
Bruce Hamilton
Chairperson

Papers Tabled

1. Draft minutes of Forum meeting of 20 March 2008
2. Package of material prepared by DOC –
 - a) Spreadsheet of tidal flat, tidal estuaries and river mouths
 - b) Detailed maps of the four estuaries in a 'reserve' category
 - c) An inventory of existing MPA management tools ('gap analysis')
 - d) An explanation of the West Coast Marine classification maps