

CONFIRMED

MINUTES MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING 1ST MEETING, GREYMOUTH, 20 APRIL 2005

PRESENT

Peter Coburn (Interim Chairperson), Bruce Hamilton, Ian McKenzie, Stuart Thomson, Emily Arthur, Bruce Watson, Te Whe Weepu, Kerry Eggeling, Carrol Browne, Eugenie Sage, Kara Edwards.

IN ATTENDANCE

Murray Reedy (Manager Marine Protection Project), Chris Hickford (Community Relations Manager)*, Don Neale (TSO Marine), Janet Orchard (Board Support Officer), Murray Hosking (Marine Conservation Unit, Head Office)*, Jeremy Helson (Ministry of Fisheries, Wellington), Nicola Pindur (Ministry of Fisheries), David Stapleton (Greymouth Port Authority)

* Denotes partial attendance

Peter Coburn welcomed everybody to the meeting and asked Chris Hickford to address the group on behalf of the Department. Chris Hickford explained that the purpose of the forum was to find a way to protect marine values on the West Coast with appropriate mechanisms. The forum members represented a range of values and its task was to establish any common ground and to set a way forward. The welcome was followed by round of introductions. Later Rick Barber joined the meeting.

1.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from Geoff Rowling (MP Forum), Eric Simmons (MP Forum), Richard Wallace (Te Runanga o Makāwhio), Tony Kokshoorn (Mayor of Greymouth), and Mike Slater (Conservator). Chris Hickford and Murray Hosking advised the forum that they would need to leave the meeting early.

2.0 Agenda Confirmation, Timetable and Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no other items to be added to the agenda.

Murray Reedy explained some of the background papers on marine protection and marine biodiversity that had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Bruce Watson asked about the technical reference group. This would be covered under Item 6.0.

The meeting agreed to work to a finish time of 5.00pm.

3.0 Context Setting

3.1 Introduction to the West Coast Marine Protection Project

Murray Reedy explained the reasons why the forum had been established. Marine protection was of intense interest to people and as there were a number of communities of interest it had been decided to set up a forum to recommend means of protecting marine values. The Department wanted this process to be as open as possible and that was the challenge for the Forum as well. The Forum would need to be strategic, would need to understand what values needed to be protected and why. Murray Reedy said that marine biodiversity was not always understood and there were also gaps in knowledge of marine biodiversity. The Forum would need to use an integrated approach to marine protection, facilitate discussion and evaluate

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scientific advice to achieve a result which was consistent with the Government's Biodiversity Strategy.

Peter Coburn said that it was important that members were clear about the purpose of the Forum was and be positive and not restricted by what has gone on before.

3.2 National Context for Marine Conservation

Murray Hosking from the Marine Conservation Unit in Head Office was invited to explain the national context for marine protection. He talked about the advance made in protecting terrestrial values but said that marine protection was about 20 -40 years behind. He gave a presentation which covered facts about the marine environment, some of the values associated with the marine environment, the threats to the marine environment, how the marine environment would be protected and the benefits of marine protection. These were related to the objectives in the Biodiversity Strategy. A copy of his presentation was made available to forum members.

Bruce Watson asked what some of the protection mechanisms involved and said that it would be useful if the Forum could be provided with definitions of the various types of protection available. Eugenie Sage recommended that when the Forum met with the public Murray Hosking should be invited to give his presentation again. Some members were concerned that they might be 'bogged down' with scientific knowledge but the Chairperson said that it would be up to the Forum to decide how 'bogged down' it got.

Kerry Eggeling asked why the Forum should be concerned with marine protection when fish species were protected to some extent by quota system. Peter Coburn said that the forum needed to think beyond individual fish species and concentrate on the ecosystems and the things that made them unique. The Forum would need to find out what the unique marine environments were on the West Coast and make judgements from there.

Bruce Watson asked if the marine environment included estuaries because they were areas that were highly affected and probably should be part of an integrated approach. He pointed out that some marine species were freshwater species as well. Jeremy Helson said that estuaries were included in the marine environment. Estuaries were affected significantly by land-based effects in addition to fishing, and as such could be dealt with using Resource Management Act tools, as well as Fisheries Act tools. It is anticipated that both will contribute to the Marine Protected Area Policy and therefore the West Coast Marine Protection Project.

Members agreed that it would be useful for somebody from the West Coast Regional Council with responsibility for coastal policy to come along to a meeting and brief them. Murray Reedy said that the territorial authorities had been approached to provide a representative on the forum but that they had not determined who that person would be. The Forum felt strongly that it was important that there was representative from the territorial authorities on the Forum. Kerry Eggeling offered to follow this up with the District Council.

Moved that a letter be written to the West Coast Regional Council requesting that it provide a representative from the Territorial Authorities on the Forum.
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Watson/Eggeling

05/001

Carried

Action: Murray Reedy
Kerry Eggeling

The Forum felt that it was also important that somebody from the Regional Council should attend meetings to provide expertise on coastal planning matters.

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Discussion then took place about the representation on the Forum. Bruce Watson felt that it would be more useful to have representatives from the West Coast fishing groups instead of people coming from Nelson. Rick Barber said that he was representing FMC and that they had an interest in recreation and coastal issues and he would be willing to be involved. Murray Reedy agreed to talk to Rick about this.

Action: Murray Reedy

Peter Coburn felt that it was important that the Forum was not too large and that a better way might be to bring people in as they are required.

Eugenie Sage queried the fact the Forum would be only reporting back to the Conservator and felt that the report should go to the Ministry of Fisheries as well. This issue would be considered under Item 4.2. Carrol Browne asked about how the public would be involved and that would be dealt with under Item 7. Kara Edwards told the Forum that it was not the first group to look at options for marine protection and that the Friends of Fiordland would be a useful group to contact.

3.3 MPA – An Integrated Approach

Jeremy Helson, Ministry of Fisheries then gave a presentation on the MPA Policy Statement and Implementation Plan. He said that this strategy and implementation plan had resulted from Part 3.6 of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy which operated at the habitat and ecosystem level rather than at the individual species level. He explained about the ‘top down and bottom up’ process that fed into national and local processes, generic and network principles, the selection of sites and tools. The national process involved government priorities, establishing standards, ensuring consistent use of classifications, and inventory. The regional and local emphasis was on building relationships with resource users and collecting regional information to inform site and tool selection. A copy of his presentation was to be made available to the Forum.

Action: Murray Reedy

Eugenie Sage asked what changes might occur to the MPA as a result of the submission process. Jeremy said that the policy had been redrafted as a result of submissions and would be referred to the Minister. David Stapleton said that the MPA would be useful to mitigate risk as often the risks unknown. There would need to be a representative network with various levels of use permitted and that the aim would be to protect the marine resource so that there were representative areas of habitat. Emily Arthur said that a precautionary approach was best especially as levels of knowledge were low. Stuart Thomson felt that marine areas were being protected because the Government required it and asked whether there was a need for it and how successful would it be for the future. Murray Hosking said that it would be like the existing terrestrial units. Areas of land were protected to ensure there was a comprehensive range of habitats to protect the full range of terrestrial biodiversity and that it was important to do the same with marine habitats and ecosystems.

6.0 Technical Support

Murray Reedy explained that the aim of the Technical Support Unit would be to provide the Forum with immediate access to good advice. The panel would include representatives from Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Fisheries, and a marine scientist. Members were generally supportive of the idea. Carrol Browne said that she was unclear about the process the Forum would use to choose how to deal with recommendations made by the scientists/technical panel since they would have the scientific facts and will presumably make recommendations to the Forum based on their scientific value. Murray Reedy said that Panel would provide the forum with advice to inform discussions and provide a solid basis to reach conclusions. Bruce Watson said that the

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science would need to be at a level that could be understood. He realised that what the group came up with in the end would need to be informed before any statutory process started. He felt that it would be good for the forum to have a presentation of what was known about the marine environment on the West Coast. Murray Hosking reminded the forum that they would need to work within the legislative framework for whatever form of protection was decided. Peter Coburn said that the technical group would be only one of many inputs and that it would be a practical and useful input.

4.0 Meeting Procedures and Protocols

4.1 Confirmation of Chair Arrangements

Peter Coburn explained that he was only the interim chairperson and that at some stage in the future the Forum would need to elect a chairperson. It was suggested that this could be done at the third meeting of the forum.

Moved that Peter Coburn remain as Interim Chairperson until an election is held at the third meeting of the Forum.
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Sage/Hamilton

05/002

Carried

4.2 Terms of Reference

Murray Reedy asked members if they had any comments to make about the Draft Terms of Reference.

- Page 1 & 2 – Jeremy Helson asked that ‘and the principles’ be added after ‘Strategy’ in the first paragraph of Section 2, page 1 and again in point 4 on page 2.
- Page 1 – Section 2 - David Stapleton suggested that other objectives from the NZ Biodiversity Strategy be added.
- Page 3 – 1st Paragraph – Change ‘the Treaty Office of’ to ‘Te Runanga o’
- Bruce Watson suggested the inclusion of education, appreciation and enjoyment of the marine environment in the document. Any relevant amendments to the MPA would need to be included.
- Forum Scope – Forum members were unsure of the scope of the area in which they should be interested. Members asked that a map that showed northern and southern boundaries, and defined the Department’s and Regional Council’s interest be provided. Jeremy Helson said that the focus of the forum should be on the inshore area as offshore would be beyond the scope and the expertise of the group. Murray Hosking advised that the Forum would need to decide what its community of interest was and also when (in terms of distance from the coast), it would run out of solid information on which to base recommendations. Peter Coburn agreed that there were some issues that were beyond the Forum and could only be dealt with on a national level. Murray Reedy said that the scope would be reworded to include information on boundaries. The Forum generally accepted that the focus of the group would be on the inshore area. Bruce Watson said that the forum could go outside the inshore area when there was an issue about which they had good information.
- Page 2 – paragraph 3 – Add ‘and the Minister of Fisheries’ to the third bullet point.
- Target for Protection - Kerry Eggeling asked whether the target was protecting 10% of the marine environment or the coastline. Murray Reedy said that it would be about making the best judgements based on experience, knowledge and the urgency of need for protection. Solutions would be made that would advance protection and increase knowledge.

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be revised and circulated to the Forum for comment.

Action: Murray Reedy
Forum Members

Role Description

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People agreed that it was important that they worked together constructively towards a consensus wherever possible. They recommended that the role description and terms of reference be combined.

Action: Murray Reedy

There was also a need to refer to the principles set out in the MPA in the fourth bullet point.

4.3 Meeting Procedure

Members agreed that they would follow normal meeting procedure. Proceedings should not be too formal but more formal procedures could be used when needed.

4.4 Rules for Attendance

It was agreed that where a member was representing an organisation and they were unable to attend, that another person from that organisation could attend in their place. The replacement would have full rights. Members agreed that it was important that there be a representative from the Ministry of Fisheries at each meeting. Ideally this should be Jeremy Helson for continuity and the Forum offered to write to the Ministry of Fisheries if necessary.

Recommendations for a quorum were also discussed.

Moved that the recommended number for a quorum for decisions by the Forum be 8 members.	Watson/Eggeling	05/003	Carried
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It was also agreed that meetings could still take place if a quorum was not reached but these would be information sessions and no formal decisions could be made on behalf of the Forum.

4.5 Meeting Schedules and Venues

Meeting venues were discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Forum to meet in Greymouth for the next meeting until it had worked out procedures etc. After that it was agreed that the Forum should meet at other places to allow members of the public to attend. A public forum would be held at each meeting to allow people attend presentations or talk to the Forum about matters relating to marine protection. No time limit was set as it was important to engage the public and it would depend on what was planned for the public session.

Murray Reedy told the forum that a domain name had been purchased and that information would be put on that, including newsletters. There would also be an email address. Bruce Watson suggested that it would be useful for the Forum to have a series of presentations to increase their knowledge of the marine area on the West Coast. Information about the types of marine protection available would be useful. An overview of the scientific knowledge would be useful at the June meeting. A presentation giving the situation with fishing (recreational, commercial, whitebait, clubs etc) could be given at the August meeting. A future idea would be an update on Hector's dolphin and other marine mammals. Don Neale's presentation was held over until the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Greymouth on 8 June at the Ashley Motor Lodge and the August meeting would be on 17 August in Westport. Meetings would start at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm.

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5.0 Administration

5.1 Fees and Reimbursement packages

Murray Reedy said that members had been given information about fees and allowances in their packages and if there were any questions they could contact Janet Orchard.

5.2 Project Management and Secretarial Support

Moved that the Department of Conservation provide project management and secretarial support to the Forum.

Sage/Watson

05/004

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7.0 Public and Media Information

It was agreed that communication with the public was important but that it needed to be managed so that Forum members had the same understanding of issues and any resolutions. It was agreed that the Chairperson would be the spokesperson for the Forum and that a press release would be provided after each meeting.

Kerry Eggeling asked that the Southland Times be added to the list of newspapers to be circulated.

The Chairperson thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.20pm.

Confirmed 8 June 2005

Peter Coburn
Interim Chairperson