

CONFIRMED**MINUTES****MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING****5th MEETING 16th December 2005**

Regular meeting held at the Scenic Circle Hotel Franz Josef beginning at 9am. Public Forum at meeting between 1.00 and 1.30pm

Present

Peter Coburn (Chairperson), Bruce Hamilton, Ian McKenzie, Stuart Thomson, Anne Hall, Bruce Watson, Te Whene Weepu, Kerry Eggeling, Carrol Browne, Eugenie Sage, Dennis Shanahan, Geoff Rowling, Brad Stenhouse, Helen Rasmussen.

In attendance

Murray Reedy (Manager Marine Protection Project) Nicola Pindur (Ministry of Fisheries), Ian Gill (Minute Secretary, Department of Conservation), David Eastwood (Department of Conservation Hokitika),

Peter Coburn welcomed Anne Hall to the meeting in the absence of Emily Arthur and invited her to join in the discussion. Murray Reedy introduced Ian Gill and David Eastwood.

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Carol Scott and Emily Arthur

Moved that apologies be accepted Geoff Rowling/Denis Shanahan	Carried unanimously
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2.0 Agenda Confirmation, Timetable and Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3.0 Confirmation of minutes of 17 August 2005

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the meeting of 5 October 2005, having been previously circulated to the Forum members, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting, subject to any alterations.

After clarification the following alterations were agreed

- 8.2 Geoff Rowling / unallocated monies from a recreation fishery research fund that Cheryl Hart is a member of.
- 6 Nicola Pindur / that minutes contain sufficient detail to record discussion on MPA Policy matters. The Chair also noted that members could request the minute secretary to record the detail of any matter should it be required.

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Geoff Rowling/Bruce Watson

Carried unanimously

Eugenie Sage noted her appreciation of Janet Orchard's work and indicated she would write to Janet on behalf of the forum to wish her a speedy recovery.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 Review of Regional Coastal Plan. (sub committee to report)

4.2 Status of MPA policy

A Cabinet decision on the MPA Policy and Strategy was expected shortly. Murray reported that progress was such that the Policy was likely to be announced before the next Forum meeting.

4.3 Update on the classification system and expected output

Nicola referred to the recent classification workshop and reported that it was likely that a classification framework report may be available for consultation around March.

Geoff provided a summary of the scientific basis of the classification system which defined bio-geographic regions by identifying significant changes in habitat, (substrate, depth and wave/tidal energy). It appeared that the West Coast would have its own bio-geographic region (one of eight nationally)

Eugene asked if the Ngai Tahu Takiwa (DOC 2004 report) model could be used in the interim while the classification system remained under development.

Murray commented that enough was known or would become clear about inshore classification modelling over the next few months to enable the Forum to get on with its work once the first round of community meetings had been concluded (Feb 2006)

Some discussion ensued about the timetable required to break down the bio-geographical regions into a workable scale that would enable the Forum to progress its evaluations. Geoff felt that the system provided useful information about broad boundaries that would enable the forum to apply existing knowledge and accepted scientific models to progress work on the West Coast.

Peter noted that the Government's timetable for this work was about 8 months behind schedule and this was a source of some frustration.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 Hector's Dolphin

Murray spoke to a Media release from Jim Anderton and Chris Carter regarding set-net related hectors dolphin deaths in South Westland. Anne Hall advised that a further dolphin had apparently died in set net at Okarito. Eugenie asked for a discussion to be held on hectors at the next meeting.

Peter reported that a Ministerial Task Force had been established to examine the risks posed to Hector's and Maui dolphin, in his view this topic was not a key focus for the forum and was best left to the Ministerial Advisory group that had been set up to deal with it. Brad noted that the media release from the Ministers of Conservation and Fisheries indicated that priority was being given to the preparation of a risk management plan and a Ministerial Advisory Group was already working on the matter.

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Eugenie commented that hectors should not be beyond the brief of the Forum because Hectors dolphins were subject to legislative protection and that particular piece of legislation may be one of the tools used on the west coast to secure integrated marine protection.

Recreation and commercial fisher representatives on the forum universally decried the irresponsible behaviour of some fishers noting that education may be a better tool in combating bad fishing practise than regulation.

It was agreed that DOC should provide a briefing to the forum on Hector's at a level sufficient to outline the status and habitat requirements of the species as it had been the case for the whitebait and eel fisheries.

Action: Murray to arrange a presentation from DOC/Mfish on the habitat and population status of Hector's dolphin, this presentation could be scheduled later in 2006 when the Forum meets at Hokitika or Greymouth.

5.2 Mfish resources

During the period correspondence had been received from Scott Williamson outlining the resourcing difficulties experienced by Mfish and the likelihood that in the absence of an approved MPA policy this would impact on Mfish ability to participate in the Forum process effectively.

Several members of the Forum had responded to this letter by email and the Chairperson had taken the matter up directly with the local MP and with Mfish. Peter noted that Mfish was a key participant in the Forum process and it needed to be fully engaged in the process. There was a risk that some may construe that Mfish was a reluctant partner while DOC was carrying the full cost of resourcing the work of the Forum. Geoff noted that when the Government makes a decision to progress a policy the respective agencies should be prepared to engage fully.

Moved that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards correspondence be approved.

Moved Dennis Shannahan/ Geoff Rowling

carried unanimously

6.0 Sub Committee Reports

6.1 Progress report on development of reporting model

Bruce Watson said the sub-committee would be working through the information received from Don Neale and this would be circulated to forum members. It was envisaged that the sub-committee would have formulated a recommendation to present at the forums next meeting.

Don had developed a draft table of contents for the reporting model and had proposed to map at a scale of 1:50,000. A draft map had been produced which showed terrestrial use information alongside marine information.

Nicola spoke about the option of integrating the Mfish/Government NABIS mapping system for marine information which could be made publicly accessible through the Internet and could be configured to portray different protection profiles. She undertook to speak to the Mfish NABIS co-ordinator to ask if DOC's terrestrial data files could be accommodated by NABIS.

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Action: Don and Nicola to liaise early in the New Year with respective advice from NABIS and DOC GIS technical experts to agree on a mapping format

6.2 Review of the Regional Coastal Plan

Bruce Watson (on behalf of Carrol Browne, sub-committee convenor) said he had been in touch with West Coast Regional Council planning staff and had been advised that the Forum had until June 2006 to make any submissions on the WCRC Coastal Plan. In any event the CP review was an interim review which allowed time for the forum to consider any submission it might wish to make. Dennis Shannahan noted that submissions would not be considered by the Regional Council until June.

Peter noted that the plan currently is not easy to understand and sometimes lacks rules to give effect to otherwise good policy statements.

Kerry said local authorities often made plans by identifying issues and risk as expressions of policy while leaving the details to other management processes. Helen Rasmussen commented that she had been involved in the development of the plan and noted that in matters of this scale there was a need to avoid detail.

Eugenie agreed with Peter and said the result of a process like this was a plan that identifies high values in the Coastal Marine Area but was weak on rules to mitigate adverse effects (such as noise and inappropriate use of sensitive wetlands)

7.0 Context Setting

7.1 Status of West Coast Whitebait and Eel Fisheries (David Eastwood)

David Eastwood spoke to the Forum about the habitat requirements of the freshwater/marine species found in the whitebait and eel fisheries.

Peter thanked David for briefing the Forum on these important species within the West Coast marine environment.

8.0 Science and Research

8.1 Recreational fishing research update

Geoff Rowling spoke on the recreational fisher Mfish funded research and reported that the research project would commence in February.

Nicola reported that the research tender process had closed. Mfish senior scientist Peter Todd would decide on the outcome of the tenders before Christmas.

Eugenie noted that the final report needs to provide information on the intensity of use for different areas as well as species targeted and quantities caught. This view was reinforced by Bruce Hamilton.

Action: Murray on behalf of the Forum to write to Peter Todd to seek to have the following outputs included in the research objectives.

- **Intensity of use**
- **Relative popularity of areas**
- **Number of fish taken by area**

8.2 Other proposals

A paper was tabled by the Department of Conservation's marine specialist Don Neale regarding three potential West Coast marine science/research proposals. All involved writing

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up West Coast specific outcomes from research that had been undertaken previously on the West Coast as part of a wider national research project.

Geoff Rowling said he was happy with the proposals and felt they had merit but he suggested that on the West Coast the scientific focus needed to be widened beyond rocky reef habitats. Peter said the information could be potentially useful to the forum and the wider community and that the department should proceed.

9.0 Issues Arising from the Public Meeting

Eugenie had voluntarily taken notes from the public meeting held on 15th December 2005 and would forward these to Murray. Members noted that people had travelled some distance to attend and that many of the issues raised had also been raised at previous public meetings. Although people were suspicious of the Marine Protected Area initiative most people were reassured when told that the West Coast process would ensure that people would be consulted before decisions were taken.

There was a discussion about the public consultation process. Members held strong views that no options for integrated marine protection would be recommended by the Forum unless they had first been discussed with West Coast communities of interest. The meeting at Haast in late February 2006 would conclude the first phase of the Forum's work (meeting people and explaining the process and how people could participate). The next phase would involve assessment and evaluation of the MPA Policy and the implementation tools. Probably this phase would be held somewhere central. When the classification framework, protection tools and inventory of existing tools were available it was likely that outcomes could be written up. A report would be prepared for pre-circulation to West Coast communities and a further round of public meetings would be held.

10.0 Issues Arising from the Field Trip

There were no matters arising from the field trip to Okarito lagoon. Peter thanked Anne Hall and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Ian James and Philippe Gerbeaux

11.0 Administration

11.1 Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 21st and 22nd of February at Haast. Kerry and Murray to discuss field trip options.

Action: Murray Reedy to set up arrangements with DOC Area Manager Fox Glacier and liaise with Kerry.

12.0 Public and Media Information

There being no further business Peter Coburn thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1.45pm

Confirmed
Bruce Hamilton
Chairperson