

# CONFIRMED



## MINUTES

### MARINE PROTECTION FORUM MEETING

4<sup>th</sup> MEETING 5 OCTOBER 2005

Regular meeting held at the Hokitika Golf Clubrooms, Hokitika beginning at 9am. Public Forum at meeting between 1.00 and 1.30pm

#### Present

Peter Coburn (Interim Chairperson), Bruce Hamilton, Ian McKenzie, Stuart Thomson, Emily Arthur, Bruce Watson, Te Whene Weepu, Kerry Eggeling, Carrol Browne, Eugenie Sage, Dennis Shanaham, Geoff Rowling.

#### In attendance

Murray Reedy (Manager Marine Protection Project) \*Chris Hickford (Community Relations Manager) Nicola Pindur (Ministry of Fisheries), June Bradley (Minute Secretary, Department of Conservation), Sheryl Hart (NZ Recreational Fishing Council) , Laura Allum (Department of Conservation Canterbury), \*Ben Hutana (Te Runanga O Nagti Waewae), Lisa Russell (Te Runanga O Nagti Waewae).

\* Denotes part attendance

#### Karakia

Ben Hutana opened the meeting with a karakia and waiata.

Peter Coburn welcomed Ben and Lisa to the meeting and invited them to join in the discussion. Peter also welcomed Sheryl Hart and Laura Allum.

#### 1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Carol Scott and Brad Stenhouse

Moved that apologies be accepted  
 Geoff Rowling/Denis Shanahan Carried unanimously

#### 2.0 Election of Chairperson

Bruce Hamilton nominated Peter Coburn as Chairperson of the Marine Protection Forum. There were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson. A vote was held. Forum members thanked Peter for accepting the role.

Moved that Peter Coburn be appointed Chairperson  
 Bruce Hamilton/Kerry Eggeling Carried unanimously

#### 3.0 Agenda Confirmation, Timetable and Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared. The following items were added to the agenda

- MPA status 7.2

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- Recreational Fishing Research 8.2
- Public consultation process 8.4

## 4.0 Confirmation of minutes of 17 August 2005

Peter Coburn noted that circulation of the draft unconfirmed minutes should provide members with the chance to correct or clarify points of interest or items of discussion. The minutes could not provide a verbatim record of the discussion but members could ask the Minute Secretary to note any particular point for the record during the meeting.

## 5.0 Matters Arising

### Website. 4.2 page 3

Murray Reedy reported that the web site had received over 1000 hits in the 2 month period prior to this meeting. Two submission requests received, (1) To be on mail list (2) Purpose of forum

### Models of Technical Reporting and Information 7.2 page 5

Peter Coburn noted that the discussion on this topic in Westport had an adverse spin off and reminded officials and members of the risk that information can be misconstrued or used out of context.

To a question from Bruce Watson, Murray Reedy reported that more work needed to be done on the reporting framework. A national DOC and Mfish science/technical workshop on site selection criteria is proposed for November subject to the MPA policy process. Murray Reedy noted that he intended to nominate Don Neale to attend the workshop.

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of 17 August 2005, having been circulated, be approved as a true and correct record.

Geoff Rowling/ Kerry Eggeling carried unanimously

## Correspondence

### Review of Regional Coastal Plan

Murray Reedy reported that a letter had been sent to the West Coast Regional Council indicating the wish of the Forum to be a party to any review of the West Coast Regional Coastal Plan. The subsequent submission had been made by the Department of Conservation on behalf of the Forum. Eugenie Sage noted that the Forum had a particular interest in the RCP as a protection tool and ought to have an independent voice on the matter.

After discussion it was agreed that a further letter should be sent to the WCRC to emphasise the importance of the RCP as a protection tool in the Forums "tool kit" for integrated marine protection.

Murray Reedy noted that Lily Sadler from the WCRC would be along at 10.30 to make a presentation on the Regional Coastal Plan. Eugenie Sage proposed that further discussion on this topic be held until after that presentation.

## Action: Murray to write further to WCRC on the matter of the RCP

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Nicola Pindur requested 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.

Moved that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards correspondence be approved.  
 Moved Bruce Watson/ Geoff Rowling carried unanimously

## 7.0 Context Setting

### 7.1 Regional Coastal Plan

Lillie Sadler, from the West Coast Regional Council, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the Regional Coastal Plan.

The presentation covered the purpose of the mid term (5yr) review and explained what timetable and process, how the plan worked, its policies and rules, activities permitted and otherwise and the management areas and adverse effects provisions of the RCP.

Discussion centred on the ability of the WCRC to enforce RCP rules and on the compliance provisions of the RCP given that members were familiar with a number of non-complying local situations. Dennis Shannahan said that the WCRC was aware of situations where land uses were impacting on the marine-coastal area and was working to get cost effective solutions in place. He noted that some of these solutions required time and resources.

Lillie Sadler concluded her presentation by asking the Forum to consider how effective the RCP had been in achieving the objectives of the RMA during the first 5years.

At this point the Forum held a discussion about how best to provide comment to the WCRC on the RCP. Eugenie Sage proposed that a subcommittee be set up to draft a submission. Bruce Watson and others also spoke in support of this. It was agreed that a subcommittee of the following Forum members would be set up: Carol Brown (Convenor), Bruce Watson, Eugenie Sage, Emily Arthur, and Te Whe Weepu. Nicola Pindur indicated an interest in participating subject to Mfish agreement.

It was agreed that the task of the subcommittee was “to review the effectiveness of the RCP with a view as to how it might best contribute to integrated marine protection on the West Coast”

It was further agreed that the follow protocol would apply to the work of any subcommittee

1. Convenor to notify all Forum members of the subcommittee’s intention to meet, the time and place of that meeting and the purpose of that meeting.
2. Convenor to ensure that the draft outcomes of subcommittee meetings are circulated to all Forum members
3. Convenor to ensure that comments, clarifications and corrections are addressed and the consolidated report is presented to the full Forum for ratification.

### 7.2 Status of MPA policy and development of site selection criteria

Murray Reedy lead a discussion on the status of policy development and other technical work required to advance the Government’s objectives for MPA’s. Several matters have combined to delay the policy development and there is no clear indication yet as to how long this might

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last. The availability of the MPA policy was a key factor in the progress of work on site selection criteria.

Notwithstanding this delay Murray Reedy said that the Forum could continue its work with communities and stakeholders to explain the West Coast process and the objectives of the MPA if members thought it useful.

Discussion took place on how the Forum might adjust its timetable to accommodate the delay that has arisen with Policy development. Peter Coburn said that the Forum had options available to it, and that he proposed to ask the Local MP about progress with the Policy. Murray Reedy said that Officials anticipated some clarity on the matter within the next few weeks at which point options would be clearer.

Carol Browne said that it was important that Forum members continued to have the support of Ministers for the work that had been started. Emily Arthur also noted that irrespective of the delay the Forum could only continue to strive to get the best possible result for local people.

Peter Coburn concluded the discussion saying that he would speak to the local MP about progress in light of the delay with policy development and Murray Reedy undertook to discuss options with DOC people working at the “Officials” level in Wellington.

## **8.0 Technical Reporting**

### **8.1 Revised reporting framework**

Murray Reedy said that delays with policy development had affected progress with the development of the reporting framework that Don Neale was working on. This was primarily because the detail of site selection and classification was not resolved and although not central to Don’s work it did influence the way that information might be assembled.

Bruce Watson and Eugenie Sage spoke of the need for a pragmatic approach to the way that information was assembled and reported. Bruce Watson said that he had experience of similar processes and was keen to work with the Department on this topic. He advised that there was a lot of useful resource information and data already held by the Department of Conservation and other local bodies that is not accessible. An idea he had would be to setup a small sub-group to work with DOC and other local bodies to sift and capture information relevant the Forums’ report.

Peter Coburn proposed that Murray Reedy, Bruce Watson and Eugenie Sage discuss options over lunch and report back.

When this matter was reported back it was agreed that Bruce and Department staff would meet to discuss technical details and design a reporting model based on mapping coastal units at 1:50,000 utilizing topos, hydrological maps and aerial photography.

Nicola Pindur noted that Mfish had a mapping tool called NABIS that would also provide a useful platform for identifying layers.

A subcommittee comprised of Bruce Watson (convenor), Dennis Shannahan, Ian McKenzie and Bruce Hamilton was set up. Murray Reedy undertook to set up the initial meeting with Don Neale and DOC technical staff at a time convenient to Bruce Watson.

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Nicola Pindur spoke on the short notice initiative taken to set up a research contract to collect information that could not be addressed in the NIWA contract report on West Coast Fisheries.

The objective of the research is to:

1. Identify/characterise recreational fishers on the West Coast
2. Collate democratic information

The research report would not be available for about twelve months from the commencement of the contract.

Eugenie Sage noted that ideally Forum members should be consulted on projects of this nature or at least circulated with contract documents and research objectives in advance of decisions being taken and contracts documents issued. Nicola Pindur pointed out that the circumstances and funding criteria had constrained the time available and scope of what could be achieved. Geoff Rowling said that he and Don Neale had met with Nicola and Peter Todd in Nelson to go over the research bid. Geoff noted further that in fact the bid was being made on the Mfish recreational fishing research fund, and the criteria for access to funds were very specific. Mfish had offered the Forum a very tangible opportunity to collect relevant and useful information. The need for recreational fisher research was raised by Geoff at the Westport meeting and it was a significant benefit to achieve funding under the circumstances.

Sheryl Hart said that in fact the funds were unallocated monies from a recreation fishery research fund that she is a member of. The window of opportunity had been very small but Nicola and Geoff had seen the opportunity and taken it.

Bruce Hamilton noted a general concern that while not decrying initiatives of this nature it would be better if the Forum members should be apprised of what was intended in a timely way. Murray Reedy said that research needs would become clearer as the work of the Forum progressed, clarifying areas of priority and options for funding. He said that Mfish and DOC had initiated research projects from Departmental and Ministry funds that were directly relevant to the work of the Forum and which would be useful.

The Forum requested copy of objectives and also requested communication and opportunity to be kept involved.

**Action: Nicola to circulate objectives of details of research project****9.0 Issues Arising from the Public Meeting**

Notes were recorded from the public meeting held on 4 October 2005 and are attached. There was a discussion about the objectives of the public meetings. Carol Browne considered that people who attended the public meetings should have the opportunity to raise issues that were important to them and wanted to ensure that provision was made for this. Emily Arthur said that in her experience focus groups had been a successful way to get feedback.

Forum members acknowledged the benefit of the free and frank approach taken at the Public meetings given that the primary purpose of the meetings is to truthfully address people's concerns and answer their questions.

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At the time of the second round of community meetings it is hoped that people will know about the Forum and how they can participate. Peter Coburn said that would be the appropriate time to focus on issues.

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## **10.0 Issues Arising from the Field Trip**

Bruce Watson reported briefly on the field trip saying that despite the weather it had provided a good insight into issues in the marine coastal area. Emily Arthur endorsed the benefit of field trips. Some members remarked that they had not received any follow up notice of arrangements and were unaware it was to occur.

## **11.0 Report back on Liaison Meetings**

Peter Coburn invited members to report on meetings they had either initiated or participated in. A number of people commented briefly on the informal meetings and gatherings that they had attended.

## **12.0 Administration**

### **12.1 Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December at Franz Josef. The field trip would be at Okarito on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Nicola Pindur noted that her attendance at the next meeting was contingent on the MPA policy release. Peter Coburn noted that Mfish were a key partner in the work of the Forum and hoped that Mfish would continue to support the Forum irrespective of the release of the Policy. It was strongly felt by members that Mfish had to ensure they resourced staff for the forum or risk the process not being undertaken with the best information and advice that's available.

Murray Reedy advised that he will make arrangements for Franz Josef Area staff to work with Carrol Browne on arrangements and logistics in the lead up to the next meeting.

**Action: Murray Reedy to set up support arrangements with Area Manager Franz Josef**

## **13.0 General Business**

Bruce Watson suggested that the forum look at how whitebait is managed on West Coast.

## **14.0 Public and Media Information**

Circulation of minutes and attach newspaper articles.

There being no further business Peter Coburn thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2.45pm

Confirmed 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005

Peter Coburn  
Chairperson