

Minutes – April 2015

Date: 18 April 2015

Venue: Tautuku Fishing Club

Chair: Maree Baker-Galloway



Forum Members

- Fergus Sutherland
- Simon Gilmour
- Neville Peat
- Philippa Agnew
- Edward Ellison
- Nelson Cross
- Ate Heineman
- Chris Hepburn
- Tim Ritchie
- Sue Maturin

DOC

- Ruth Mackenzie – White
- Leeann Ellis
- Greig Funnell
- Sarah Bagnall

MPI

- Tania Cameron

Apologies

- Khyla Russell
- Gail Thompson
- Carol Scott
- Stephanie Blair
- John Henry

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brett Bensemann welcomed the Forum to the Tautuku Fishing Club, and gave a brief history of the fishing club and what made the area special to them. The club has 160 members and their bi-monthly newsletter 'Lure' also gets circulated to a network of other fishing clubs.

Edward Ellison opened the meeting at 9.01am with a Mihi Whakatau.

The chair welcomed the Forum to the meeting and gave an outline of the agenda.

2. Review of previous Minutes

Several amendments to the March minutes were noted:

- Neville is engaging with 6, not 9 councils (page 4).
- Amend the reference to Simon leading a CRA8 meeting, so that it records that Simon attended the meeting rather than led it (page 5).
- Tim Ritchie had met with fisheries officers and talked to key recreational fishers; he also visited a Marine Reserve (page 6).
- Change reference to Gareth Morgan's book so it reads "provides an overview of all types of fishing in New Zealand" (page 6).
- Remove the note about local diving being 'world class' (and leave spectacular) (page 8).
- Remove phrase "amazed by level of recreational fishing" (page 9).
- There was discussion around Stephanie's update on values and uncertainty if she had said a Wahi Tapu precluded a Marine Reserve (page 10)
- Change Simon's note that smaller fish have dropped in market value, to crayfish, specifically (page 10)

Action 195: Chris to obtain copy of the research paper referred to in the science workshop that ranks fishing management systems internationally, giving New Zealand a lower ranking than previously.

Action 196 : Leeann to confirm with Steph what has been recorded in the minutes around her values report on Wahi Tapu sites.

Subject to clarification about Stephanie's statement regarding Wahi Tapu sites, Nelson moved to ratify the minutes and Ate seconded this.

Agreement: The March Forum minutes were confirmed as accurate, pending the agreed amendments.

3. Officials Update

Sarah gave an update on the 2015 Block Offer, which is an annual process used to allocate petroleum permits. The areas announced this year do slightly overlap with the Forum boundary (in the block called 'Great South and Canterbury Basin'). Last year a similar area was offered, but no bids were made. The bidding period closes in October.

The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) do not see a conflict between that process and the role of the Forum. Their view is that, if the industry is following correct guidance (eg the marine mammal protocol), oil and minerals exploration should not impact on the work of the Forum.

Sarah noted that the Forum could invite a representative from MBIE to talk to the Forum at the same time as the oil and gas industry.

Action 197: Leeann to add MBIE to agenda register, to coincide with the same meeting the oil and gas industry attend.

Sarah also gave an update about the Akaroa Marine Reserve – it does not have a generational review in its founding legislation - although this does not preclude a review being done.

Action 198: Ruth to add the tables about conditions for current Marine Reserves and Type II MPAs on to the website.

Tania gave a brief overview of the assessment of previous recreational fishing studies. The main concerns are around biases caused by non-random participation and the sample sizes not being large enough to be able to draw any statistically valid inferences. The issues with previous studies are summarised in a handout provided in today's meeting pack.

Action 199: Greig and Tania to assess if the information from the national panel survey can be used in SeaSketch.

Sue asked if the information on blue cod fisheries presented by Glenn Carbines at the science workshop could be put in SeaSketch.

Action 200: Greig to investigate if data held by Glenn Carbines on blue cod fisheries could be added into SeaSketch.

SeaSketch Update

Greig gave an update on the data layers that have recently been added into SeaSketch.

- Data on water quality, from the Land, Air, Water Aotearoa site. Sue asked about sites that were deemed anoxic – it was noted that Hawkesbury Lagoon is classified as anoxic and that Southland has more issues with anoxic areas. The Forum agreed that it would be useful to have information about nitrogen levels from sewerage discharges, how this has changed over time, and how levels from point source discharges compared to levels from river runoff (eg from the Clutha). Chris noted the need to understand nutrient levels in the design of marine protected areas (MPAs). Philippa and Tim commented that MPAs could be used as leverage for science advice

and management change. Greig advised that discharge permits are already available on SeaSketch. Chris informed the group that viruses can be more problematic than bacteria in discharges, as they can survive in saltwater.

Action 201: Leeann to add Dr. Kim Currie's research on changes to water quality since the 1990's to the agenda register.

Action 202: Greig/Riki to find out what information from the monitoring of discharges is available for the Forum to use.

Action 203: Project Team to collate information that is available to the Forum about water quality and impacts of discharges.

- Data on bryozoan habitats within the region.
- NIWA holds the data on polychaetes and sponges – Greig has been trying to obtain this information for the Forum.

Action 204: Greig to continue trying to access data on polychaetes and sponges held by NIWA.

- Bird species and breeding locations.
- Survey results – information from the absolute values from the survey results. The next stage is to pull out information from the free text boxes in a meaningful way and there is a DOC planner who will make the assessments on this information.

The chair led the Forum in a brief discussion about what items the Forum thought should be discussed with the Associate Minister of Conservation, Hon. Nicky Wagner, in attendance. It was agreed to run through the Forum updates on engagement undertaken in the previous month.

4. Correspondence

A letter was received from the Hon. Peter Dunne advising that he would like to meet the Forum and proposing a date. The Project Team will liaise with his office to arrange this.

Letters were received from four commercial fishing organisations: CRA8, BCO5, SIEIA¹ and PauaMac5 IncAte and Simon noted that they would be engaging with these organisations again, and would be able to rectify any misunderstandings around the process and engagement opportunities. It was agreed that the letters should receive an acknowledgement and an invitation to meet at a later date.

¹ South Island Eel Industry Association

Action 205: Maree to compose acknowledgements to the commercial fishing organisations who had sent letters (CRA8, BCO5, SIEIA and PauaMac5 Inc).

The chair had also written to the three regional councils requesting they advise the Forum of any coastal permit applications and advising them of the Forum process. It was noted that Otago Regional Council had advised the Forum of two consents.

5. Communications Report

Ruth gave an update on what has been accomplished to date:

- The Forum has received a fair amount of media attention lately – Ruth noted that this was impressive as the Forum are still at the ‘discussion’ stage and she did not expect much coverage until there was more conflict.
- The prize draw for the questionnaire was done and two young women went on a full day Monarch Cruise on the 14th April.
- Kings High School students have been doing a research programme on the benefits of marine protection and have been submitting posters to the Forum.

Action 206: Ruth to determine the teacher responsible for the research programme on marine protection at Kings High School.

- Ruth presented the Forum with two designs for a Forum t-shirt, sought confirmation that people would like t-shirts and advised that she would contact Forum members to confirm sizes.
- The Forum asked Ruth if there is a list of publications available that the Forum could potentially print an ad in. Ruth noted that there is and she has been trying to target those who would provide the most circulation/interest for lowest cost.
- Ruth was also asked if it would be possible to have a series in the Otago Daily Times (ODT), outlining the values represented by each Forum member. Ruth noted that she had approached the ODT earlier about doing this following a similar series run in the NZ Herald on the importance of the marine environment. This suggestion has not been taken up and she advised that she will pursue this again.

Action 207: Ruth to follow up with the ODT about having a feature series on the Forum/values represented by the Forum.

Action 208: Ruth to send Forum members a soft copy of the ad for the public sessions of the Forum meetings, so they can distribute it to their sector groups.

Internal Protocol

The chair asked the Forum for review of a new clause in the Internal Protocol (item 38) around recording engagement. A discussion took place around the practicalities of recording a meeting this way. It was noted that, if you give a talk to a group, then you can simply record that you gave a talk. The record of engagement can be a trigger for recalling information. The Forum raised concerns around recording individuals' names – it can be beneficial to the Forum member for recalling specific details later, but the Forum questioned if it is ethical to record a name. The group agreed that permission would need to be sought or just the demographic of the person can be described.

Action 209: Maree to update Item 38 in the Internal Protocol to reflect that the interviewee's permission needs to be sought by the Forum member.

Action 210: Leeann to update the Record of Engagement Form, so that is a reminder to the Forum member to seek permission to record the interviewee's name; and also add a section to record demographic information.

6. Values

General informal discussion on values members have learned/observed over the preceding month

Associate Minister of Conservation, Hon. Nicky Wagner

The Associate Minister of Conservation, Hon. Nicky Wagner joined the meeting at this point. The Minister introduced herself and thanked the Forum for the work they are doing, acknowledging from her work with Te Korowai how difficult that work can be. The Forum then introduced themselves to the Minister, who stayed at the meeting until after lunch.

7. Members update

Maree: Attended the Otago Conservation Board meeting and gave a presentation on the work of the Forum. The Board members advised Maree that they are keen to be involved. She is still waiting to hear back from the Southland and Canterbury Conservation Boards.

Maree was also contacted by two journalists since the previous meeting and completed an interview for access radio.

Chris: Most of his time was spent coordinating the science workshop. He has been involved in the sustainable seas national science challenge, which injects \$30 million into ecosystems based management in the marine environment.

Action 211: Maree to create a letter of thanks to the Marine Science Department and associated scientists for contributing to the Science Workshop.

Simon: The three commercial representatives from the commercial sector met with major stakeholders. There were a number of views around the table, with one being to 'just put in a marine reserve and get it over with'. Representatives from Environment Southland noted that fishing is the 2nd most important primary producer. If fishing is going to be displaced, then something needs to be done to address the property rights. Nick Smith raised the notion of compensation when proposing recreational fishing parks. This was a major feature of discussion in the commercial sector and the overall view is that you can't displace fishing without offering compensation.

They (the commercial fishing representatives) also met with the fishers. Whilst the attendance was low, some key fishers were there. They talked about the changes to fishing activity (e.g. move from trawling to potting blue cod) and generally were supportive of protecting bryozoan beds.

Ate: Attended meetings with Simon.

Went to the Otago Underwater Club where they talked about the impact of salmon releases and if salmon compete for food with penguins.

Ate had meetings with Port Chalmers and Timaru fishers. He was surprised at the level of acceptance that something would happen and the overall receptiveness to this.

Nelson: Attended the Kakanui Fishing Club meeting. There were over 100 people in attendance, who were largely apprehensive. The general comments were amenable to some form of protection as long as the need can be shown and provided it was somewhere else [not Kakanui]. Nelson noted that the science workshop provided a basis for providing proof of the need for protection and the benefits it can offer.

Nelson also noted that a lot of fishers don't belong to clubs and we need to consider how to involve these people.

Nelson is attending another FMA 3 & 5 Recreational Fishing Forum in May and would like some of his Forum colleagues to accompany him. He also scheduled to attend the Measley Beach fishing club.

Sue: Has had personal matters to attend to, but is scheduled to: give a talk to the local Forest & Bird (F & B) branch, give a talk at the F&B AGM in Upper Clutha, visit Tahuna School and the Otago Dive School, and have an article in the newsletter for Southern F&B.

She is going to undertake a sea bird trip to look for sea birds at Taiaroa Head.

Edward: Has not undertaken a lot of direct engagement. He has been considering how to follow up from the mail out, as he has received no direct feedback, and knows face to face is best. He is discussing with Rūnanga chairs about how to progress and is considering another more personal e-mail. Edward anticipates that his calendar should free up [to allow more focus on engagement for the Forum] over the next month.

Fergus: Sent out email updates (to regional tourism operators, and the local community – most response has come from people he has contact with, otherwise there has not been a lot of response).

He attended the Nugget Point Fishing competition – found that people were generally agreeable to putting in marine protection in the form of lowering bag limits. There was also comment made about effects of large foreign vessels off shore and charter vessels in North Otago taking more than needed.

He has also been taking tourists out to experience the coast and always gets positive feedback.

Fergus noted that yellow-eyed penguin health appears to be improving.

Philippa: Has tried to generate interest in the Forum among the penguin community. She attended the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust AGM. Ruth and Philippa have been working to put a flyer in the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust newsletter. Philippa has been trying to generate interest in using SeaSketch – she is hoping that once they can view the data they will be more receptive to the tool.

The meeting with Tourism Waitaki was postponed.

She had the opportunity to visit Leigh Marine Reserve

Tim: Will have to travel to talk to people now, as has covered the local area. He emailed some questions to Tania and Sarah around developing recreational fishing parks as an incentive for those who will lose fishing spots and would like the Forum to discuss this.

Neville: Feels that local government is where the most people can be reached if communications are sorted and is looking at using local government communication tools.

He has organised a session at the next mayoral forum (which Maree will attend).

Neville noted that this is the time to make a real effort to get the message of the Forum public and reach as many people as possible.

8. Planning the Public Session

The chair gave an outline of how the public session would work and sought feedback from the Forum as to how successful they view these sessions as being.

Comments from Forum:

- Information from the science workshop should be incorporated into the message as a way to explain why the process was taking place.
- Need to reinforce that any recommendations made will be based on best evidence.
- Are we getting what we want from these sessions and what is the objective? We have not been getting a lot of information from the public at these sessions – do we need to rethink?
- We are addressing a new group at each meeting and need to offer the same opportunity to them (even if we have experienced the same messages repeatedly).
- It would be good to show simple concepts from science workshops (e.g the increased level of fecundity, and higher chance of survival of larval stage from older larger fish, and the notion of connectivity and the need for larval fish to have somewhere to settle.)
- Notion of connectivity – decreasing catch isn't enough to save the fishery.
- It's not just about fisheries protection – we are looking at habitats.
- “Who doesn't want more fish in the sea?”
- “Marine Reserves almost certainly create spill over for both larvae and mature fish.”
- This process is not a 'maybe' and recommendations will be made.
- Convey the importance of time – changes occur over 100 years, not just within a person's memory.

It was noted that the Forum members would need to consciously become educators. At this stage, there is still a lot that the Forum want to learn from the public.

A brief discussion took place about the success of the break-out sessions – it was noted that only minimal information is being provided in these sessions. It was suggested that the public are cautious about identifying fishing spots so openly.

Action 212: Greig and Maree to include some slides from the science workshop into the Forum presentation, to show some of the things being learnt by the Forum.

9. SEMP Science Workshop

South-East Marine Protection Forum –April Minutes
Roopu Manaaki ki Toka

A discussion took place about how information that is not in SeaSketch can be presented to the public. There was general agreement that the science workshop should have happened at the beginning of the process, as it was felt to be beneficial. This will be noted as a learning for next time.

A wide ranging discussion took place about the involvement of the scientists in the MPA process Chris suggested a science advisory panel, which could be available to the Forum for guidance. This was supported by other Forum members.

Action 213: Chris and Greig to brainstorm how a science advisory board could work and put a proposal to the Governance Group in April.

Action 214: Chris, Greig, Philippa and Tim to draft a brief about how a science advisory board would operate.

The Forum discussed topics that were not included in the science workshop, that they would like to learn about if a future workshop was scheduled.

- Shellfish
- Mapping
- Land/Sea connection
- Physical changes
- Deeper reefs
- Fish stock (this is available in the Plenary, at a broad level).
- Fish ecology

Action 215: Leeann to add another day to the July Forum meeting in Dunedin, for an additional science workshop.

Action 216: Tania to lift out regionally relevant fish stocks from the Plenary.

Action 217: Tania to forward the link to Morrison et al: *Habitats and areas of particular significance for coastal finfish fisheries management in New Zealand: A review of concepts and life history knowledge, and suggestions for future research.*

Having a similar workshop day on mātauranga Maori was then discussed. It was agreed that understanding mātauranga Maori deserved an additional day.

Action 218: Edward and Leeann to investigate having a Mātauranga Maori session with the June Forum meeting.

The meeting was closed at 2.45pm.