

Minutes – March 2015

Date: 14 March 2015

Venue: Catlins Area School

Chair: Maree Baker-Galloway

Attendees:

Forum Members

- Fergus Sutherland
- Carol Scott
- Simon Gilmour
- Gail Thompson
- Stephanie Blair
- Neville Peat
- Nelson Cross
- Ate Heineman
- Chris Hepburn
- Tim Ritchie
- Sue Maturin

DOC

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

MPI

- Tania Cameron
- Mark Geytenbeek

Apologies

- Khyla Russell
- John Henry
- Edward Ellison
- Philippa Agnew

1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephanie Blair opened the Forum meeting at 9.04am with a mihi whakatau.

The chair welcomed the Forum to the meeting and gave an outline of the agenda. She also asked if the weekly newsletters being sent by the project team were useful. The Forum members noted they find them useful.



2. Review of previous Minutes

Two spelling amendments on pages 6 and 7 were noted.

A reword of the first bullet point, under “role of the Forum” (Item 11 page 9), was requested and the Forum discussed how best to change this. It was agreed to replace it with “Agree to a level of Marine Protection”.

Clarification was sought about the last line of item 9, page 9. It was agreed to make this clearer by replacing the words “are sharing the draft (?) report with the public, at that point” with “notify the draft recommendations”.

It was also noted that the project team had been in contact with Nigel Scott about the Forum meeting dates.

Fergus moved to ratify the minutes and Steph seconded this.

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

3. Matters arising: actions

The Forum reviewed the progress of the action registers. The chair specifically reminded the Forum of actions 145 (considering areas to show Forum colleagues) and 149 (sharing information on consents through Leeann/Ruth via the newsletter).

4. Officials Update

The communications advisor, Ruth, gave an update on the progress of engagement kits – it was noted that these will be bespoke and the project team will put the resources together upon request.

The chair acknowledged the work that Sarah Bagnall and Tania Cameron had put into developing information about restrictions on existing marine reserves. She advised the Forum that they should be familiar with this document as it provides some information about how tools might be tailored by them to create an MPA.

Action 169: Tania and Sarah to proofread “conditions of existing marine reserves”, correct errors and include information on the Akaroa Marine Reserve restrictions and review clause.

Action 170: Ruth to add the documents “Conditions of existing marine reserves” and “Table of existing Type II MPA” to the SEMP website.

The Forum then discussed the processes undertaken at Fiordland and Kaikoura, and discussed the merit of having the groups involved in those processes present to the Forum. The Forum agreed each member should contact their equivalent stakeholder representative on Te Korowai (Kaikoura) and the Fiordland Marine Guardians to see what they could learn from their experiences. It was also noted that presentations/stories from these processes could be used to educate the public about the current process.

Action 171: Leeann to put reports about the processes from Fiordland, Kaikoura and the West Coast on the FTP site, and send a reminder in the newsletter.

Action 172: Officials to provide the Forum with a list of contact information from the people involved in the Kaikoura, West Coast and Fiordland processes.

Action 173: Forum members are to contact their respective stakeholder representatives from Te Korowai, Fiordland and the West Coast to investigate what was successful from those processes.

Action 174: Ruth to engage with Chris, Gail and Carol to record stories from previous processes that can be used to educate the public about those processes and the resulting recommendations and associated restrictions.

The chair enquired about the protection level of the Catlins Coast Marine Mammal Sanctuary. Officials advised that it has restrictions on set-nets and trawling. Marine mammal sanctuaries have no set rules, restrictions are determined by the Minister and usually relate to specific gear restrictions.

Action 175: Greig to confirm how far out the marine mammal sanctuary extends.

Sarah advised that there is nothing to update on the Marine Reserves legislation review – Ministers and Officials are still updating the consultation document and have not yet decided when it will be released.

Action 176: Sarah to provide the Forum with further information about co-management of marine reserves (in particular, the Rongokako example).

Tania noted that she met with the MPI Dunedin compliance officers. She and Leeann will be arranging for them to have SEMPf packs they and honorary fisheries officers can distribute to members of the public when out in the field.

Maree introduced Mark. He talked about the MPI Recreational Fisheries Forum and how he can support Tim and Nelson in engaging with recreational fishers.

5. Correspondence

A letter was sent to the Associate Minister of Conservation, inviting her to attend a Forum meeting. A further letter was sent to the Minister of Conservation, notifying her that the Forum would be happy to have her attend the Forum meeting in September and that the Forum had written to the associate Minister of Conservation, as well.

The Associate Minister of Conservation's private secretary had contacted the project team to advise that Nicky Wagner would be available to attend a Forum meeting. The private secretary also advised that she would contact the Chair to confirm.

6. Members update

Neville: Attended the SeaWeek presentation at Otago Museum with Edward – about 25-30 people were present. He has also been working with Ruth to develop his engagement plan. He is working on local government engagement with 6 councils – the chair is attending a mayoral forum of the 9 councils in May.

Sue: Worked with Ruth and the chair to compose an article that was sent to Forest and Bird members and leaders of other environmental groups. Sue noted that she has received feedback about the online survey being difficult to access for those in rural areas without broadband. She then gave a summary of the management of the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Sue advised she will need a good supply of paper surveys.

Action 177: Sue to send a summary of the Galapagos Marine Reserve management and its use of management zones to Ruth for the newsletter.

Stephanie (Steph): Agreed with Sue about feedback on difficulty of accessing online survey with people preferring to talk face to face. Steph has engaged with whanau through a waka ama event in Invercargill, Trustee meetings at Bluff, and with visiting iwi from North Island. The Mahinga Kai forum has been postponed again (until 9 May). A further stock assessment of the Waikawa Mātaitai Reserve will be happening soon, offering another opportunity to discuss the SEMPf process with the scientists/students involved. Steph noted that it is almost tītī season, and most Ngāi Tahu activities will be halted, and asked that the survey be extended. She asked for a supply of paper surveys.

Sue agreed that there would be benefit to extending the life of the survey.

Action 178: Leeann to ensure Steph has engagement resources available.

Action 179: Ruth to consider extending the Forum Survey beyond the date of the prize draw.

Gail: Gail put in her apologies for the April meeting as she will be mutton birding. She advised the Forum of an opportunity to attend the Bluff Oyster Festival in May. She also noted that Ngāi Tahu are working with MPI on identifying sites suitable for aquaculture. Ngāi Tahu has an application under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 in relation to areas around the Tītī Islands. The application is mid-process – if approved, this will give Ngāi Tahu customary marine title and may set a precedent for similar action around other parts of the coast. Gail noted the long seasonal closures of the three mātaihai reserves at the Tītī islands in the context of the protection standard, and asked, if they don't meet the standard, why not? She advised that the Southland Conservation Board have expressed interest in having the chair attend a Board meeting And that Nigel was holding a regional Mahinga Kai Committee meeting and the SEMPf would be on the agenda.

Action 180: Officials to find out what a Marine and Coastal Area claim for recognition of Customary Marine Title would mean for a MPA.

Action 181: Officials to assess the three tītī islands mātaihai reserves (Horomamae, Pikomamaku and Kaihuka) against the protection standard to determine if they qualify for Type 2 MPA status or not.

Gail noted she is part of the Korowai Trust, and queried if this was a conflict of interest. The chair noted that a conflict of interest was more about financial/direct benefits.

Simon: Attended a Cray 8 Executive meeting – general response was that they have already done their bit during the Fiordland process (giving up areas) and would oppose any complete closures the SEMPf might propose within the CRA8 fisheries management area. Though, they accept something less than a complete closure might not impact their fisheries. Simon, with Ate and Carol, are hosting a meeting in Bluff on the 16th – local MPs will be in attendance. Simon has also been engaging with the organisers of the Brighton Fishing Competition and planning a meeting with commercial fishers at Timaru.

Nelson: Has been having one-on-one conversations and is setting up meetings with local fishing clubs. There is another MPI, FMA 3 & 5 Recreational Fishing Forum meeting in May – Nelson suggested other Forum members attend to share the views of different sectors. Comments he has been hearing acknowledgment that there is a need for conservation of some sort, but the weather already limiting fishing activity, and that a reduction in bag

limits is preferred to closure. Nelson is waiting for an invitation from the Oamaru Fishing Club.

Carol: Gave an update at the Southern Inshore Fisheries Board meeting. She is attending the NZ Federation of Commercial Fishermen's conference in May and is enquiring as to whether she can put up a SEMPf display (she will take banners cards, fact sheets etc). Carole said that commercial fishers need to sit around tables with maps over the next few months.

Action 182: Ruth and Leeann to provide Carol resources needed for engagement meetings

Fergus: Sent an information pack to the Regional Tourism Operators (RTOs) including Venture Southland, Dunedin and Timaru, and there is a possibility he can speak to groups of tour operators. Fergus also emailed the community about the Forum meeting today and displayed posters advertising the public session.

Action 183: Fergus to send SEMPf information packs to Destination Queenstown and Destination Fiordland.

Simon queried if establishing a marine reserve would lead to more focused tourism, to which Fergus replied that he believed it would and it would provide good economic value to the region.

Tim: Attended the FMA3 & 5 Recreational Fishing Forum where he introduced himself and the South-East Marine Protection Forum. He is continuing to meet with key recreational fishers (and fisheries officers). He visited Poor Knights Marine Reserve. Tim recommended Gareth Morgan's book "Hook, Line and Blinkers" to the Forum – he feels it provides an overview of all types of fishing in New Zealand.

Tim noted to the Forum that he is donating the fees from the Forum to a charity of his choice.

Chris: Visited the Leigh and Poor Knights Marine Reserves. He noted Nick Sheers research demonstrating that crayfish numbers are falling in the marine reserve and that they struggle to catch crayfish outside the reserve to compare with those inside. Chris updated the East Otago Taiāpure Committee on the progress of the Forum, he advised the Forum that the East Otago Taiāpure fishers survey and analysis on bag limits is being released. He noted there is a similar survey for Kaka Point. Chris has also been planning the SEMPf science workshop (will update later in meeting), and visited the Mōeraki Mataitai.

Action 184: Chris to send Leeann the results of the East Otago Taiāpure fishers survey, including analysis of bag limits, for inclusion in the SEMPF newsletter.

Gail then asked how the public outside of the Forum boundaries were being kept informed.

Action 185: Ruth to update the Communications plan to include a section on engaging with those outside the Forum boundaries.

Ate: Has been having one-on-one conversations; he rang all the local commercial fishers to tell them about this Forum meeting and he dropped pamphlets off to the commercial fishers at Timaru (and will do for other areas too). He noted that the Otago Daily Times has a new environmental reporter.

Sue then questioned if the material gathered from previous attempts to establish marine protection in the Otago region was available to the Forum (e.g. summaries of public submissions). The officials noted that it is all on file and, if the Forum request it, it can be provided.

Action 186: Officials are to provide a list to the Forum of all information available from previous efforts to establish marine protection in the region.

7. Communications Report

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

- There are now 213 friends of the Forum on Facebook and the first real dialogue occurred on the page.
- There have been a couple of news stories around marine protection: one from the [NZ Herald](#); and one about the [Poor Knights Marine Reserve](#). An article was also in the [Otago Daily Times](#) following the February Forum meeting.
- There was a call for volunteers to man stalls at engagement events: Dunedin Farmers Market day (with Enviroschools); Blueskin A&P Show (with MPI); Otago University Students Association (OUSA) Market day; and Nugget Point Fishing Competition.
- Ruth advised that she was creating bespoke engagement kits for Forum members, tailored to their individual engagement needs.
- A rack card (4"x9" promotional flyer) is being created for the tourism sector.

- An ad will be in the May/June Mana magazine (which she is initially working with Edward on before sending it other Ngāi Tahu members of the Forum)
- Representatives from the Clutha Leader and Otago Daily Times will be present at the Public Session following the Forum meeting.
- SeaSketch is not currently in the sector engagement plans, as no-one has identified it as a tool. If the Forum requires any assistance with this they can contact Greig for advice on how to use it during engagement.
- Ruth reminded the Forum about the record of engagement document, created to ensure there is a record of the meetings Forum members attend/hold.

Action 187: Leeann and Ruth to send each Forum member a supply of surveys and record of engagement forms.

Neville noted that he saw an ad in the Otago Daily Times and queried if there is a budget available for extra resources. Officials confirmed that there is funding for tools needed for engagement (e.g. promotional material) – Forum members need to discuss this with Ruth.

8. Values

The chair introduced a new agenda item, aimed to allow Forum members to share what they have learnt about the coast during their engagement process. At this stage, the information is not aimed at starting debate about what is perceived as a value, so facts should be focused.

Ate: There is a need to be careful of creating an over-expectation in the public, by comparing other areas to here (e.g. Poor Knights) as they have different ecosystems. In Ate's experience, the South-East region has a lot of brown and the fish often blend into the kelp, making it visually less spectacular. Tim noted that he found diving in the South-East region to be spectacular. Fergus said overseas visitors were blown away by what they saw here.

Chris: Identified two major issues: kelp and paua. Paua is the number one concern for locals and the East Otago Taiāpure Committee has focused on restoring this (bag limits, exclusion periods, reseeding). The Committee is now starting to see small paua back in the shallows. He said the East Otago Taiāpure Committee is also keen to think 'outside the box' – e.g. suggesting further restrictions around gear that can be used for paua diving (SCUBA is already prohibited).

The East Otago Taiāpure Committee has also put a ban on harvesting of habitat forming kelp, as it has now been proven that that kelp won't grow back if it is cut in certain ways or

at certain times. MPI officials noted here that cutting kelp is illegal recreationally and there are strict rules for cutting kelp commercially. There are issues with compliance of harvesting free-floating kelp, as it is difficult to determine if the kelp was actually free flowing, or cut by the boat propeller, then gathered. The rules for cutting kelp are currently under review.

Tim: Has been amazed to find out how much diving goes on and where. There are lot of people living in this region because of the marine environment and the recreational opportunities available.

Fergus: Noted the importance of the marine environment to tourism to the Otago coast (and that tourism is the second largest financial earner for New Zealand). International tourists are amazed at both the views and the variety of marine mammals that reside here.

He also informed the Forum about an international penguin conference he attended, which announced penguin species (with the exception of emperors) are in decline and that penguins are an indicator species for the health of the oceans.

Carol: Noted that the marine environment is important for commercial fisheries, and commercial fishers are interested in the environment too and particularly interested to hear about issues facing kelp.

Carol talked about the investment by commercial operators in research and work looking at mitigation of impacts of trawling – seabird management plans for on board fishing vessels.

She would also like to educate people about the quota management system – Southern Inshore Fisheries spends over \$100k on species research, so information about fish stocks can be factored into fishing plans.

Nelson: Nelson talked about his personal values and how, for him, there is no greater value than a day in the water, with good friends, catching a feed. He would like to see this maintained for generations to come.

Nelson asked that people remember that they are dealing with wild animals, not domesticated. And he said he has concerns about the impact of tourism on the marine environment which is being “loved to death”; he mentioned wild birds being in decline (eg penguins at Nugget Point).

Simon: There can be difficulty in introducing marine protection as it can displace effort and have a negative impact on other areas.

Simon also reiterated the importance of protecting habitat (e.g. kelp).

Crayfish have dropped in market value, so larger fish are now being caught, which changes the balance of the marine environment. He then talked about how fishing spots within the region have changed.

Gail: Noted the need for continued customary access to kelp and the coast as an important source of mahinga kai. She talked about the importance of wahi tapu in the region.

She raised the importance of looking at how the land impacts the quality of sea life. She also raised concerns about water quality and how areas are below shellfish gathering standard.

Gail also said that there is a strong view that seals need to be managed.

<p>Action 188: Greig to follow up with Riki about how data on land/sea interface is presented in SeaSketch such as water quality monitoring from rivers.</p>

Steph: Identified the significance of freshwater on marine environment (especially in relation to intensive farming).

Steph also addressed importance of wahi tapu areas (sites used by ancestors, sites where koiwi (ancestral remains) are being exposed due to coastal erosion, and sites where ancestors were buried (either on land or at sea)). She noted how the sites were all connected. She said that a wahi tapu would preclude a marine reserve.

Sue: Raised the importance of the coast for seabirds – with New Zealand being the richest in the world and the South-East region having a higher diversity of seabirds than any other and the need to consider the whole food chain.

She noted the importance of having protected areas with ease of access for the public, and the need to look at where bird colonies were historically and where they could be in the future.

She noted the amount of diving that goes on and the ability to see the diversity of species and habitat.

She also noted the importance of having areas that are no-take for research, educational and tourism purposes.

Neville: People are a terrestrial species that ignore most marine biodiversity, while 80% of biodiversity occurs in the marine environment. The Forum's region has much diversity that is not found further north. He noted the value of the Otago Peninsula for birds because of the food resources that are there and that a lot of the marine mammals are located in this region, also because of their food supply.

Neville also agreed that kelp forests are a contributor to the health of the ecosystems.

The Chair thanked the Forum for their contributions, and advised that this session will happen at each Forum meeting.

9. Planning the Public Session

The chair gave a summary of how the public session will be run and asked the local Forum members for advice on managing potential conflict. It was noted that setting ground rules at the start would be beneficial (e.g. time limits, respecting others opinions).

The Forum had a conversation around whether the previous attempts to establish marine protection should be referenced. It was agreed that it should only briefly be acknowledged and the emphasis should be that this is a completely different process, that this process extends from Timaru to Waipapa Point, and that this community is not being singled out – consultation is happening up and down the coast.

The Forum then discussed whether the August meeting should be held in Balclutha or Kaka Point – it was agreed that it should remain in Balclutha.

10. Habitat Classification

Greig Funnell gave a presentation about how the MPA habitat classification system works. The system does not produce a ‘real’ biologically derived habitat map, as we do not have the information needed, so heuristic principles are applied. The classification system uses depth, exposure and substrate to differentiate between areas. Greig stressed the importance of remembering that the resulting habitat types used by the classification system are not equivalent to ‘real’ habitats.

Habitats are part of a network. The Forum needs to consider them as such.

There is still work to be done on the habitat classification for the South-East region. There are 44 habitat types in the New Zealand MPA classification system, but we have not determined how many occur in the South-East region and in sufficient quantities to warrant inclusion in the planning process. We also need to identify significant sites, such as already mentioned kelp beds.

Greig will be working with the DOC marine science team to complete the picture.

<p>Action 189: Chris to send Greig information on Landsat images of water features (e.g. currents).</p>
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Action 190: Greig to meet with Ate to identify more detail about the habitats in the South-East region.

The Forum were reminded that if they identify something incorrect or missing on SeaSketch to contact Greig (especially if there is concrete evidence to confirm). Part of the reason for public consultation, is to ground-truth the information the Forum will be using that's in SeaSketch.

11. Recording Engagement

The chair discussed the importance of recording information about engagement sessions. There are several reasons this needs to happen:

- As a reminder about what was heard;
- As evidence of the conversations – being able to confirm the information; and
- As a record of information used in decision making when writing recommendations.

The Forum discussed if the participants should have a chance to review what is being recorded – it was agreed this is useful for certain contexts (e.g. one-on-one conversations) and the Forum members could use their own judgement about this.

It was also noted that notes of an engagement can be completed following a session, which might allow for more organic conversation.

Action 191: Maree to draft an internal protocol relating to recording engagement sessions and send to Leeann Ellis for inclusion in the next Forum meeting pack.

The Forum discussed the note at the top of the engagement form, that states “Part of the recommendation process will be providing the Ministers guidance about who was consulted and how.” It was agreed to remove this note, due to differing opinions of what consultation means.

Action 192 : Leeann to remove the note at the top of the Record of Engagement Form.

12. SEMPF Science Forum

Chris gave an update on the planning of the science workshop for April. He has identified four goals for the session:

- Give Forum members key contacts for scientific expertise on issues as they arise;
- Brief Forum members on what is known (and unknown) in the South-East Marine area;

- Design considerations to help maximise benefits of management changes; and
- Information on vulnerable species, habitats and sites, and options for better management of these.

He gave an outline of the presenters and topics he has planned to date and sought feedback from the Forum.

The Forum meeting was closed at 2.30pm