

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari

Twelfth Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting Summary

Held on 24 & 25 November 2014 at Rotoroa Island, Hauraki Gulf, Auckland, commencing at 9.00am

DAY 1 – 24 NOVEMBER 2014

Before the meeting the SWG visited the following destinations by boat:

- Motuihe Island - Restoration project
- Motuihe Channel – recreational fishing mecca of gulf
- Te Matuku Oyster Farm
- Te Matuku Marine Reserve

Laurie Beamish conducted the Karakia.

1. Chair – Welcome and framing discussion for the day

A welcome was given by the Independent Chair, who also framed the day's proceedings. Apologies received from Katrina, Callum, Tame, Joe and Jake.

2. Presentation – Fit for purpose design principles for MPAs (Clinton Duffy, DOC on behalf of Carolyn Lundquist, NIWA)

The presentation is available on line. It covered the following topics:

- Key concepts for MPA design
- Scientific guidelines for MPA design
- Systematic Conservation Planning

3. Presentation – NZ's Fishery Management Framework: The Fisheries Act 1996 and Spatial Management Tools (John Taunton-Clark, MPI)

The presentation is available on line. It covered the following topics:

- Historical context – resources and management to date
- Overview of current fishery management system
- Fishery management tools and how they are used
- Examples of some tools with spatial elements

Key points:

- Provide for use & ensure sustainability, catch limits are the main tool at scale of QMAs and stocks
- Supporting tools to share, help control, ensure sustainability, address adverse effects

4. Local Options and Possibilities for Marine Protected Areas

Bridget Best - Rotoroa Island:

- Rotoroa Island was owned by the Salvation Army as a drug and alcohol centre which has now been moved inland. The Ploughman Trust was set up and started off as a park and they were approached by the Zoo to put endangered species onto it.

- The vision for the Island has just been signed off and concentrates on education and environment, but it is still open to the public.
- The Next Foundation has been established by the Ploughmans. Education and environment are also the main drivers.
- A proposal for marine protection around Rotoroa Island was produced by Simon Thrush but the Trust is focussing on the land base programmes at this stage.

Paul Walden – Waiheke Island Local Board:

- Developing a Local Board Plan to empower people in the community to get out and do things.
- There is an emotional attachment to being able to take your kids to the beach in an inspirational environment.
- Proposals on the table along the North coastline which had thousands of objections. The Auckland Council owned Regional Park, and Browns Island are prime spots for marine protection. DOC reserves are also areas of high potential.
- We must learn from the past, we have scattered remnants of what was once beautiful native forest.
- Currently mapping out a survey to put out to ratepayers.

Sue Daly, Deputy Chair, Great Barrier Island - Great Barrier’s Position On Marine Protection:

- There has been 25 years of marine protection endeavours that have not given rise to the creation of any reserve.
- The first application for a marine reserve failed to get beyond the draft stage. In light of a review of priorities for Auckland Conservancy, the draft application was put aside and the marine reserve project postponed.
- The second reserve proposal was widely consulted by DoC. DOC’s formal application was for an expanded area of coastline from the Needles to just south of Whakatautuna Point and extending eastwards out to the 12 mile limit, an area of over 50,000 hectares. There was widespread and diverse opposition.
- The 2013 Local Board carried out widespread community consultation on the issue in a partnership with iwi. There was strong support for some form of marine protection being created in the coastal waters around Aotea/Great Barrier and majority support the creation of some marine reserve areas within the above context in areas to be agreed
- The 2014 Local Board agree to continue the process after massive local consultation.

Sue Neureuter - Noises Island Trust

- Presentation on the Noises, islands recognised as a site of very high ecological significance. They are an important seabird breeding site and contain some of the best indigenous vegetation cover of all the inner gulf islands.
- Sue talked to her family’s experience of the loss of diversity of sea and bird life and the impact of increased commercial and recreational fishing and scuba diving.
- Marine reserves aren’t there solely to protect the snapper and crayfish, rather they’re the sanctuaries that protect the vast unnoticed, unnamed masses until such time that we’re wise enough to truly recognise their importance. In the

meantime they provide an invaluable learning tool and a way for us to gain that wisdom. It's possible to turn things around. To view marine protection as an amazing achievement, a gain, and the assurance that we will know what a healthy ecosystem looks like.

Overall summary of community input:

There is a deep sense of loss and a sense of urgency about creating an abundant environment. Agency lead previous attempts have been unsuccessful. There is a strong role for surveys about design and power in developing a vision with a group of stewards and guardians, reaching into society and developing community led plans. There is logic in the reef to rock concept

5. Workshop

A workshop with guests considered design issues including values, needs of future generations, scale, protection measures etc. Good principles should be able to be applied elsewhere.

Concern that the legislation may have changed by the time we get the plan produced. The Minister for the Environment has indicated that there will be a discussion document released soon that may be helpful.

DoC has a new conservation strategy that shows they will work around the islands focussing on the inner islands. Need to get buy in from the community to make this process work. It supports the shift to sustainable tourism in the economy. Needs protection measures.

The chair thanked the guests for their input during the day.

6. SWG Reflection

Rather than rely on the 'baubles' of a few small areas of high protection the entire Hauraki Gulf needs to be protected with some areas of extra protection.

A table needs to be done showing which could be addressed by MPAs and which could be addressed by the fisheries legislation preventing damaging harvest methods recreational and commercial. Cross agency liaison is important.

Principle is improving the gulf, MPAs as reservoirs of biodiversity, connecting people to understand the importance of the gulf, education and science, enhancing the mauri.

DAY 2 – 25 NOVEMBER 2014

7. Reprise of Day 1

Summary:

- MPA areas can have value, but they are not a total solution they must be recognised as showing examples rather than a solution in themselves. We need

to address the situation in all of the Gulf e.g. benthic protection area for the whole of the Gulf with no bottom contact

- Community need to be involved in determining sites. Public perception is that we want to put MPAs and we won't be able to catch fish
- Fisheries management tools can be a form of marine protection.
- There needs to be better science and monitoring of the benefits. It would be useful to get a study done on the benefits achieved by the cable zone (no fishing, no trawling, and no anchoring).
- There is still value in no take reserves

8. Presentation – People, Growth and the Gulf: Aspects of population growth – Hauraki Gulf 2014 and beyond (Rachael Milicich, Statistics NZ)

The presentation is available on line

Summary:

1.8 million people living within 50km of the Hauraki Gulf, and 2.2 million people living within 50km of the Hauraki Gulf catchment. In addition, there are likely to be up to roughly 100,000 visitors in this general Auckland-Waikato area on any given day. By 2031, projections indicate roughly 2.3 million people living within 50km of the Hauraki Gulf, and 2.7 million people living within 50km of the Hauraki Gulf water catchment.

There are diverse patterns with population growth. Ethnic population projections indicate that the broad Asian, Pacific and Māori populations will all increase their share of the New Zealand population because of their faster growth rates. Their shares are likely to increase across all age groups and geographic areas.

9. Presentation – Planning for growth in the Auckland Region (Suzanne Weld, Auckland Council)

The presentation is available on line

Summary:

The Auckland Plan is Auckland's high-level vision and strategy for the next 30 years. The Auckland Plan's 30 Year Development Strategy sets out some of the goals and objectives as to how and where Auckland should grow.

Over 30 years, the growing population should ideally be accommodated in metropolitan, town and local centres with some infill of existing suburbs. Up to 40% will go into identified rural areas

Any new growth areas needed to be near existing urban settlements with the ability to connect into existing or planned infrastructure networks.

10. Presentation – Longer term climatic changes (Rick Liefing, Waikato Region)

The presentation is available on line

Summary:

- More certainty about Climate Change, not if but when

- Some uncertainty in effects – on oceans, flooding, coastal hazards
- Global issue, but local/regional management and guidance can make a difference
- Issue is the impact on extremes e.g. rainfall

SWG only discussions

11. Confirmation of Meeting Notes

Notes summarising the previous meeting were confirmed.

12. Maturanga Maori Roundtable

The Maturanga Maori Roundtable Scope was tabled at the meeting and agreed. Nick to work with the co-chairs on how this Roundtable will feed back into the SWG.

13. Post December

The next step is the meeting in Whitianga. All RTs will prepare a presentation to the SWG on their findings.

The end of February meeting will start to pull it all together into the MSP and by the March meeting an 80% draft should be available. By 30 June the plan is available and passed to the SWG.

We have 5 days coverage in the Herald in December. This is likely to be repeated in March and June.

All media needs to be run past Nick prior to release.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2nd & 3rd February 2015 and will include all Roundtable members.

The meeting concluded at 1.05pm.

Documents available at the Meeting:

- Meeting Notes from SWG11
- Key Concepts in Marine Protected Area Design – Carolyn Lundquist (NIWA)
- NZ's Fishery Management Framework: The Fisheries Act 1996 & Spatial Management Tools – John Taunton-Clark (MPI)
- People, growth and the Gulf: Aspects of population growth – Hauraki Gulf 2014 and beyond – Rachael Milicich (Statistics NZ)
- Planning for Growth in Auckland: How will it affect the Hauraki Gulf? – Suzanne Weld (Auckland Council)
- Climate Change – Rick Liefting (Waikato Region)
- Maturanga Maori Roundtable Scope
- Roundtable Progress Diagram
- Te Matuku Marine Reserve, Waiheke Island – Department of Conservation
- 1st Release Data Layers (status 20 Nov 2014) – candidate list for release of maps to public on SeaSketch