

## **Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari**

### **Second Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) meeting summary**

**9.00, 12 February 2014 at EcoQuest, Kaiaua**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting commenced with a mihi and karakia from the mana whenua and a welcome from EcoQuest followed by introductions by the SWG, Independent Chair, Facilitator, guest speakers and support staff from the councils.

#### **2. Notes of the last meeting**

The format and general style of the meeting notes was approved. Printed copies should be available at future meetings. The approved notes will be loaded to the website and be available for distribution to all stakeholders. The link should be sent to SWG members to facilitate this.

In discussion the following points were confirmed

- The Intention of the SWG is to develop a spatial plan but it is not a planning authority. The plan needs to be implementable and therefore needs to have general public support, local government, central government and political support
- The SWG and the Chair need to ensure the agencies are committed to the process and implementation of the plan.
- The SWG need to be aware of what else is going on in parallel plans and processes and have a partnership relationship where this can provide mutual benefit.
- The SWG recognises that this is a new approach and we need to be transparent and purposeful in what we do.

#### **3. Matters arising**

##### **▪ SWG Terms of reference**

The revised draft was discussed and further modified. Changes are to be made and then the document approved at the next meeting for submission to the Project Steering Group.

##### **▪ Vision and protocols**

Minor changes to be made to the proposed summary (the Greater Hauraki Gulf) and then to be approved at the next meeting

##### **▪ PSG**

Current composition distributed and is available on the website

##### **▪ Role of the EAG**

The previously circulated paper was discussed. The SWG is to be circulated with a list of people allocated to the Expert Advisory Group and their time commitment. Resourcing this group is a key issue so it would be helpful to know what they can contribute. It would be a shame if the SWG effectiveness was limited by low budgets or red tape.

The SWG should try to centralise requests through Paula and advise her if you have a contact or resource that can be used etc. The role of the PSG is to ensure information has been reviewed and assumptions checked. The SWG will determine what information they want sourced.

There are inherent risks in breaking new ground and it is inevitable errors may be made. All should be alert to open acceptance

The principle is to attach knowledge to issues and proposed solutions so that the public can confirm that the SWG have used the appropriate bases for their deliberations.

We will be developing best practice but it would be still useful to understand what current best practice in Marine Spatial Planning looks like

The review process will be determined by the PSG from 4 options that have been suggested. The SWG expressed a view that there needs to be connection between the EAG and review groups to avoid surprises.

The mana whenua representatives need technical support for developing matauranga Maori input. This to be addressed outside this meeting.

#### 4. Technical and background presentations

- **Tim Higham, Hauraki Gulf Forum (HGF)** (Responses to SWG questions and SWG input are also included).

Tim's address explained where the state of the gulf report comes from (the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act) and what it means. The next state of the gulf report is due in 6 months. Symbolically the red indicators which are negative fill a large box; orange indicators which are not well defined fill a medium box; and green indicators which are positive fill a small box.

There is an obvious disconnect between what the HGF aspires to and what we are overseeing as citizens / management agencies. The levers of success the SWG needs to understand in developing an effective Marine Spatial Plan are a partnership with mana whenua and using science to understand an eco-system based joined up framework.

The three drivers of the gulf are:

- Managing inputs from the land at a level that doesn't incrementally degrade the marine space
- Managing fish stocks which are too low, with no migration path to a more optimal level
- Increasing the area that we leave alone to regenerate and recover – all areas are subject to intense pressures

The SWG needs to look at these three drivers, push the boundaries to make changes and will need to be focussed, determined and ambitious.

Land base activity and its impact on the gulf seems difficult to resolve. The plan needs to send a clear message that land users should pursue alternatives to existing practices and the consequences outlined in the plan should be top of mind. There will need to be deep changes to the way that things are done, but we can send a clear signal as to what the issue is, and incentivise alternate solutions.

The gulf used to get its nitrates from marine sources and now it gets it from river run sources. It enriches the environment and encourages growth. The amount is increasing each year and there'll be a consequence somewhere along the line. No one is sure what it is, perhaps the SWG needs to ask the question as natural systems can flip when they reach a certain point.

Although not directly relevant it would be useful for the SWG to see the WRC report on the cost to fix Lake Taupo run off issues.

Water moves in cells of water, mana whenua have 5 different seas within tikapa moana – we need to understand this and also the different types of water – water that can sustain life, water that can't etc.

Fish stocks are currently managed at 20% of what virgin biomass would have been. A 40% fish stock is optimal and creates the maximum economic yield. Other areas are as low as 8% - which is why you need to be careful if you try to push fishing out of the greater gulf.

The main factor that impacts on fish stock apart from take are water quality. Short term sacrifices may be needed in order for long term gain. Information on water quality on fish stocks should be available e.g. –NIWA and MPI habitat and water quality impact on fish stocks on the west coast.

0.3% of the Gulf is marine reserve which is fully protected, but there's a whole range of opportunities to create regenerative space. There are more closed areas than the state of the gulf report captures (restrictions due to cables etc.)

There are more ways of determining health of the gulf than fish stocks e.g. swimming, collecting shellfish, enjoying the beaches etc. The HGF are also investigating whether there has been any positive or other changes and has anything that they've done made a difference that will make a difference to the gulf.

## **5. Round table feedback**

Ecological productivity of the Gulf; Water quality, land use; Biodiversity, healthy eco system, bio security, mauri; Commercial and business activities (human activities).

There was a huge amount of overlap between the round tables, round table participants were unsure as to whether the best representatives were in attendance, and to ensure that the whole group has an understanding of the topics, the group discussed the idea of doing the top level of round table discussions (i.e. breaking down topics to find the issues) as a whole group.

Decision made to all come together at the next SWG meeting (26 February) to discuss the first round table topic – ecological productivity. If anyone has a particular part of 'ecological productivity' they would like to see discussed, send them through to the facilitator.

The clear message that we need to ensure consistency with the work that the Hauraki Gulf Forum is doing. They have pinpointed as their key issues out of the State of the Gulf report.

## **6. Communications and Engagement**

First six months is listening mode. Approximately 20 listening posts being established to obtain oral community based feedback. A survey through AUT using Sea Sketch is being launched.

Working to retain contact with people that become involved with the project from the start and adding new ones throughout the process to ensure that we carry them as a community surrounding the SWG right through to the end. Need to understand and build relationships with anyone or any group that can help or hinder the process.

Within the first 6 months, the following will be happening: Round tables, Listening posts, New State of the Gulf report, AUT survey, an initiative from the Tindall Foundation / WWF 'love our gulf'

Specific requests by the SWG to participate in listening posts or have additional ones to be made to Kaaren including for mana whenua. The list to be sent to the SWG.

SeaSketch will be ready in March and will be presented to the SWG then, along w some basic training. If the SWG wants to get other people involved and SeaSketch isn't ready, direct them to the Sea Change website ([seachange.org](http://seachange.org)) where they can register their interest and then will be contacted when SeaSketch is ready

Involvement with local boards will be managed by the agencies. We have an agency liaison representative.

Media profiles – group consensus that everyone will provide a picture and two lines on why they are involved for the website.

## **7. Next Meetings and close**

Future meetings except the February meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of the month. Diary invitations will be sent out. The February meeting is the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The first 6 months of the project plan ends 30 June 2014, this is the listening information gathering phase and all base information should be collected by then. The options development and feedback on options runs from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014. The plan making part of the project runs from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015.

The meeting closed with a karakia