

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari

Tenth Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting Summary
Held on 30 September 2014 at Ecoquest, 1204 East Coast Rd, Whakatiwai,
commencing at 9.00am

1. Karakia

Laurie Beamish conducted the Karakia.

A welcome was given by the Independent Chair. Apologies received from Joe and Lucy and Laurie from midday.

2. Confirmation of Meeting Notes

Notes summarising the previous meeting were confirmed.

3. Matters arising

Manawhenua discussions will be covered in the session this afternoon.

4. Chair – Framing the discussion for the day

The Chair framed the day's proceedings. He noted that there would be a further discussion in the afternoon, but asked the manawhenua members of the SWG present to give an update on progress.

The manawhenua members of the SWG and the PSG are trying to connect with 26 iwi groups in an attempt to get a perspective of what is important in the Gulf to the manawhenua.

There have been two hui so far, one in Auckland and one in Thames. Two further hui are planned for October and November. Completing the necessary meetings with all the iwi within the time frames is going to be very challenging but progress is being made. A separate manawhenua roundtable and how it might feed back to the process is being discussed.

5. State of our Gulf Report Introduction

Tim Higham thanked the meeting for the time to present the report and introduced Shane Kelly. The report has been reviewed extensively. He felt the best use of time at the meeting was to discuss the implications of the report.

6. Presentation – Recap on Historical State of the Gulf (Shane Kelly)

This presentation covered the history and impact of human occupation on the Gulf ecosystem.

It is available on the website

7. Presentation – Pressures on the Gulf (Shane Kelly)

Auckland is the fastest growing region in the country – 60% of New Zealand's population growth is expected to be in the Auckland region. With a need for a further 400,000 new dwellings there is more pressure on roading, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.

The coastal development key driver is holiday homes. There are increasing demand for boats and moorings.

The Hauraki Plains is a very intensively farmed area, with decline in farming intensity in Rodney, Manukau-Papakura and Franklin. The Auckland region has recorded a decline in the flow of nutrients to the Gulf as a result of this change.

Pressures are currently high and are increasing and compounding.

The presentation is available on the website.

8. Presentation – Current State of the Gulf (Shane Kelly)

Snapper is an important species for harvesting and for the ecosystem. From 1900 to the 1980s snapper spawning stock declined to 10% of original levels. It has now increased and stabilised at about 20%, but 40% is the level specified by the Harvest Strategy Standard.

Crayfish are considered to be managed sustainably with 30% of original spawning stock but it has gone from being the third most important benthic invertebrate in the Hauraki Gulf to the least important. The services provided by old, larger breeding females are now missing from the ecosystem.

Bottom trawling and scallop dredging has occurred over a wide area with historic and ongoing effects.

Sediment quality guidelines are frequently exceeded in urban estuaries with long development history. Heavy metal contaminants are largely an urban issue, particularly around older urban settlements. Copper and lead is showing slow improvement but zinc is worsening.

Suspended sediment concentrations indicate an increase in levels. The Hauraki catchment is a major source of sediment to the Gulf, also the Wairau River and the Mahurangi.

Invasive species are a serious threat to ecosystem and economy. They are difficult, if not impossible to control once established.

The Hauraki Gulf contains one of the few resident populations of Bryde's Whales with 46 resident out of a total population of about 250 mature whales. 44 have been killed since 1989, about half of which were by ship strike. Conservation status of 4 seabird species declined and one improved since 2011. There are serious concerns about the fairy tern with 40 left and only 12 breeding pairs. There are also concerns

regarding the decline in NZ storm petrels, black petrels and flesh-footed shearwaters.

The presentation is available on the website.

9. Presentation – Recent Management Responses (Shane Kelly)

A lot of progress has been made on the land, but not for the marine area. Only 0.3% of the Gulf marine area is protected and some of the reserves are not well sited.

There is a broad alignment between MPI's overarching policy for managing fisheries (Fisheries 2030) and the objectives of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (HGMPA) which has to be considered in fisheries decisions, but there is no legal requirement to give effect to it.

Seven deeds of settlement have been signed between tangata whenua and the Crown in the area covered by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act and an agreement in principle has been signed between Hauraki iwi and the Crown. Co-governance is improving with some positive changes.

Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council plans seek to reduce the effects of land based activities on freshwater and coastal systems. At present specific standards, targets or bottom lines are not provided.

The presentation is available on the website.

10. Panel Discussion

Tim Higham introduced Rod Oram who was invited to discuss the economics of the Gulf and Gary Taylor who would be reflecting on the policy context of report.

Rod Oram gave a presentation entitled "Our next revolution – Rethinking value and ecosystems". The presentation is available on the website

Gary Taylor spoke on the processes and thinking the Environmental Defence Society has been involved in. The presentation is available on the website

11. Manawhenua Update

The manawhenua members are developing a plan for wider iwi engagement with hui in November. This will involve SWG and PSG manawhenua members.

A matauranga Maori roundtable (MMRT) is proposed which includes SWG and PSG members.

Dr Shaun Awatere has been engaged to work with the MMRT.

12. IRP Update – First Review Report

The report was circulated prior the meeting and is available on the website. Overall the SWG believed it was a very positive report.

13. RT Report Back

A Co-Chair from each roundtable gave a brief summary of what has been covered at the various meetings and what they have planned for future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm.