

Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari

Ninth Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting Summary Held on 26 August 2014 at NIWA, 41 Market Place. Viaduct Central, Auckland, commencing at 9.00am

1. Karakia/Mihi Whakatau

Joe Davis conducted the Karakia & Gannin Ormsby responded with the Mihi Whakatau.

A welcome was given by the independent Chair. Apologies were received from Katrina, Matt, Tame and Laurie.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The notes summarising the previous meeting were confirmed.

3. Matters arising

It was confirmed that RT Members should be noted as individuals, not organisations.

4. Presentation – Biodiversity value of seabirds and threats to their continued existence (Matt Rayner)

NZ is centre of global seabird diversity, particularly for threatened species. Of 326 species of seabird globally 84 seabirds breed in NZ, 36 of which (42%) breed nowhere else in the world. There are 27 species of seabird breeding in the Gulf.

Historically our understanding of seabird ecology was gathered through at sea observations which have revealed critical differences between species that inhabit the coastal fringe and those that forage on the open seas. More recently new technologies have allowed us to follow seabirds far from land revealing the breadth of movements of our own “local”, enhancing their potential to tell us about marine ecosystems across varying scales from local (the gulf) to global.

Marine nutrient input of seabirds benefitting terrestrial flora and fauna and also offshore ecosystems coming full circle. Such relationships are likely important in the gulf where reef ecology can be influenced by terrestrial nutrient inputs.

There are a wide range of threats to seabirds on land and at sea. Introduced predators remain the key threat and their impacts can often be unpredictable, Island biosecurity issues are critical to protect seabird colonies from reintroduction of predators and pests. Marine pollution can have both direct and indirect impacts. Nearly 2000 birds were killed by oil during the Rena disaster. Managing ships in the gulf and shipping traffic is critical.

The presentation is available on the website

5. Presentation – Recreational fisheries in the Hauraki Gulf (Bruce Hartill, NIWA)

In the Hauraki Gulf most fishing, by far, is recreational fishers. The recreational catch of kahawai and snapper is bigger than the commercial fisheries. Two thirds of fishing in the Gulf is from trailer boats and all of that is fishing rod or line.

Fisher interviews cover areas fished, hours spent fishing, methods used, number of each species caught, fish measured. Aerial surveys show the fishery in a totally different perspective from the back of a boat.

Harvest estimates is a combination of aerial and interview data. Alternative harvest estimates were undertaken by a social survey company, who interviewed 30,000 NZ households and 7,000 fisher panellists over a 12 month period.

The presentation is available on the website

6. Presentation – Effect of Aquaculture in the Hauraki Gulf (Rich Ford, MPI)

Key points:

- Aquaculture impacts are relatively low
- The Hauraki Gulf is not pristine
- Nitrogen discharges are limiting in terms of fish farms

10t of mussels needed to remove the N from 1t of finfish farming (but location crucial). Integrated Multi Trophic Aquaculture is currently in use in Canada, not currently in New Zealand

Aquaculture can be a source of invasive species or a stepping stone. Biosecurity risk cannot be eliminated, it needs to be managed.

Site selection is crucial to minimise ecological effects. Uncertainty in some cases best managed by setting precautionary limits and adaptively managing.

The presentation is available on the website.

7. Panel Discussion between Speakers and SWG Members

8. Mihi Whakatau, Whakawhanaugatanga

The PSG Mana Whenua (MW) representatives Leanne Ngamene, Mook Terrence Hohneck, Karen Wilson and Paul Majurey were welcomed to the meeting. SWG & PSG members introduced themselves.

9. Presentation - Tai Timu Tai Pari – Sea Change - Manawhenua

Leanne Ngamene led the MW presentation to the meeting.

There are 26 iwi hapu that make their homes around the Hauraki Gulf. There is a Treaty of Waitangi backdrop to the project, currently there are negotiations in progress for historical Treaty settlements.

Manawhenua are supportive of a Project Steering Group for the Treaty based Marine Spatial Plan having equal membership. This is a co-governance planning framework, a treaty based partnership in terms of the Crown, community, iwi and hapu.

As well as the science there is a lot of matauranga Māori and both are legitimate views. Clear, shared outcomes that have been discussed by manawhenua and communities are desired. This makes for a richer heritage that we can all benefit from.

Maori perspective stems from an ancestral tradition developed over time with practice which was generally exercised by iwi and hapu living around the Hauraki Gulf. It tended towards an ecosystem based planning approach with resources looked after using Kaitiātanga. Manawhenua have centuries of history in the Hauraki Gulf and it would be foolish not to utilise that knowledge.

The cycle of decision making is not necessarily different, but the values are. These values need to be brought into this plan to develop outcomes that we can all live with. Manawhenua values cannot be subsumed in the complex marine spatial plan discussions, planning and evaluation.

We need effective integration into the Roundtable process and the work that is being done behind the scenes to support the SWG. This requires ongoing manawhenua hui and engagement and also technical support and ongoing participation in planning and implementation

Discussion:

We want to see Maori values reflected everywhere. How do we make this happen? We want to build an integrated response. It would be helpful to have manawhenua in the round tables as currently there isn't the robust debate required. Manawhenua can offer support in this area.

Need to determine how you conceptualise matauranga Māori in the Marine Spatial Plan. Much depends on the aspirations in different local areas, e.g. for tauranga waka. Also hotspots or triggers that give indication of broad areas of interest e.g. waahi tapu.

It is work in progress for consideration by manawhenua to determine what is available in terms of cultural landscape but each iwi/hapu may need to make information available to protect values of manawhenua.

The next 3 months is critical for getting issues identified. Making the knowledge available is one of the challenges. Some can be provided, as long as the OK has been given, others have their own data bases that will only be given to certain people. A cultural landscape can be displayed in the spatial plan if it is decided to do that.

We need to avoid a path of conflict and integrate all the elements now. This is a strategic plan, there will be spatial elements. We have to integrate all perspectives at a local level and at a strategic level.

We have plenty of scientific information, but we need the local iwi input and to relay the conversations that we have already had to the manawhenua.

PSG and SW manawhenua will consult our people and convey how big this project is and come back with the responses. They will let Council officers know of resourcing requirements.

Appreciation was expressed by all for the opportunity to share views

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm with a karakia