

DOUBTLESS BAY MARINE PROTECTION GROUP
Inc. Soc.

Te Roopu Whakahauora o Tokerau

Minutes of Meeting 18th Feb 08.

Present

John Kenderdine, Yvonne Steinemann, Anthea Goodwin, Philippa Moran, Richard Robbins, Vince Kerr.

Chair JK

Minutes read and accepted.

Matters arising.

Special thanks to Caroline Smith for offer for printing summary document.

Apologies

Steven Tansey.

Map

Dwayne gave feed back from Victor Holloway, re map and Maori names. Our group knows that Awapoko should apparently by Awapoka.

Maori names for: Fairway Reef, Berghan Point, Knuckle Point, Brodies Creek, The Albert's were considered to be essential for inclusion by the group. We would like to promote these names as part of local knowledge.

There is not a lot of room on the map for many names. Dwayne has asked Rob Ulrich for assistance who is looking at some as well. Margaret Mutu , through Victor Holloway suggested that we need an updated map and said Te Whanau Moana/Te Rorohuri went through this exercise some while back, and the map needs updating.

Richard Robbins said he will make contact with Sandra Heihei as he recalls that she had a map that had a lot of place names in Maori.

Marine Protected Areas --Vince Kerr.

The Government has come up with a map and a method that divides the country into bioregions - Classification and a protection standards have been signed off by parliament.

An implementation standard was never negotiated with the key stake holders –i.e communities, although one was written

We are in the Northeast bioregion which goes from Ahipara to East Cape. No real guide lines/targets as to things such as marine reserves. i.e. no suggestion of size of reserves, numbers or types of habitats, The policy effectively does not have teeth..

DOC with Paul Buisson are looking at opportunities for monitoring reef fish in Northland . Potentially Doubtless Bay area is a site to be monitored.

Hauraki gulf is not a bioregion, it is part of the North East bioregion, yet it is potential one of 4 funded “bioregions” that will be implemented (Auckland Islands, West coast and Otago) being the other 3 areas. Something may be achieved, but for our area up here it may not achieve much. The gulf has many reserves already.

Vince is lobbying DoC to work at a local level with community groups and iwi/hapu

ASB Trust have set up a fund for Maori initiative for environmental projects.

Applications need to be in by early April.

We should check with Victor Holloway on this Is this an opportunity?

Suggestions for possible projects –water quality within Doubtless Bay, including streams. This could include Seechi disk monitoring, coliform monitoring, Phosphates and nitrates, and Dissolved oxygen, Temp, pH, Septic tanks as a community project proactive approach.

We know that there are pollution problems at Taipa Estuary, Cable Bay and Coopers Beach at various times in the year. Parapara Marae and Aurere people are also very concerned at their awa with the sewage plant above it. This stream and estuary would be a very important one for the community to monitor.

The expertise for testing water is in Doubtless Bay through Andreas Kurmann of Envirolab, in Taipa.

Mountains to Sea Trust.

If there was some reason that we need to umbrella this type of project, the Mountains to Sea Trust has the process in place to be able to do this.

Sea week.

Vince Kerr (Marine Biologist) has two presentations.

20 years of Marine Reserves in Northland

Back to our roots; Cultural conservation methods used in the Pacific

And Marine discussions

NOTE: Vince Kerr has been confirmed to speak at the Mangonui Cruising Club on the evening of 6th March– see flyer.

Also confirmed for Taipa Area School – 6th March – presentations throughout the day, to primary, intermediate and senior levels.

He will also be on Te hike radio and TV

Questionnaire DWAYNE/ANDRE. GET THIS PRINTED AND TO DOC FOR comment.

Website – Can link a registered primary domain through the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. Would need to think and register a domain name. Yvonne to network our ideas as soon as possible so we can get it set up. We have at least 10 excellent local documents we could put on the website now, plus newspaper articles etc.

Charitable trust status – ongoing – being processed

Bank account – Started and ongoing (Stephen, Philippa and Dwayne)

Seaweek Corporate invite from EMR This is a fundraiser for the Experiencing Marine Reserves Trust.

\$88 a ticket - 7th March at A'fare, Lower Dent Street, Whangarei. 11 am – 2 pm

Corporate Lunch Fundraiser & Marine Leadership Competition

The Department of Conservation and Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust are

organizing the lunch to celebrate Seaweek with business people.

With special guest speakers and presentations

Don Robertson - stories and photos from Blake Expeditions

Jeroen Jongejans - Dive! Tutukaka

Russell Harris - the R Tucker Thompson Trust

Dr Roger Grace – Marine Biologist

Venue: A'fare, Whangarei

Date: 7th March, 11am - 2pm

Cost \$88

Proceeds go towards the Seaweek Marine Leadership Competition for two Year 8 or higher students on a 7 day youth sailing adventure with R Tucker Thompson Trust and two Year 8 or higher students on an Open Water Scuba Dive Course with Dive!

This competition is open to Northland students only.

Contact Samara for tickets or entry forms info@emr.org.nz (09) 433 8205

www.emr.org.nz (resources - seaweek)

Next meeting

2nd Monday of the month – 7 pm at Taipa Area School science block (downstairs).
All welcome.

10th March

14th April

12th May

9th June

Included is a email from Vince about MPA's (Marine Protected Areas), with links to the MPA documents concerned.

'This email was sent to members of our group from Vince commenting in a private capacity and is not to be taken as associated with a DOC communication'.

“Today the Govt has announced the release of an MPA Implementation document. This is not a draft - it is the real thing. The overriding importance of this document is that it ‘sets in motion’ the MPA process. That’s the good news I guess. The bad news is that there is still no clear statement of the role of marine reserves in the MPA network. What is said about this is rather unclear and if anything will make it very difficult for the Forums to implement network design principles. The released version is extremely disappointing in terms of the Marine Reserves target as it flies in the face of scientific consensus, international practice, and requested changes from the consultation for this document where both fishing interests and conservationists argued for a target for Marine Reserves to be made clear.

Ironically also this week Uganda just announced their first MPA in Lake Victoria – well freshwater PA – so I guess we will now occupy a global position somewhere behind Uganda in aquatic conservation performance.

I invite you all to skim the documents now on line and come to your own conclusions on all this.

Please note that if the Govt takes a position where the mandate to create an effective protected area network is left unstated or worse undermined, then under NZ legislation, NGO's Iwi/hapu groups and community groups have every right to pursue conservation initiatives under the Marine Reserves Act and the Fisheries Act. The MPA policy only really has any weight in directing Govt Departments and certainly can not override existing legislative processes".

The Marine Protected Areas: Classification, Protection Standard and Implementation Guidelines is now available on the Biodiversity site:

http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/seas/biodiversity/protected/mpa_policy.html

Also updated are the FAQs:

http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/seas/biodiversity/protected/mpa_qa.html