

Southern Shellfisheries Plan

Fisheries Plan Advisory Group Minutes

Meeting 10

2 August 2008

MFish Office (Dunedin)

Present: Peter Moir, Tim Sintes, Ant Piper, Allan McDonald, William Thompson, Tane Gray, David Redshaw, Owen Woods, George Ryan, Henry Couch, Carl Baker, Geoff Mullen, Gail Thompson, Brendan Flack, Santiago Bermeo-Alvear, Siu Montgomery, Owen Springford, Mark Geytenbeek and Hoani Simon. Allen Frazer arrived in the afternoon.

Apologies: Nigel Scott.

Welcome, Updates and What's New?

The meeting opened at 10:30am.

Overview from the last COC3 discussion group meeting

Mark provided an overview of the issues covered at the last COC3 discussion group meeting.

Action: *Mark agreed to circulate notes from the most recent, and future COC3 meetings, to SSP FPAG members.*

Consultants working on the Port Otago's "Next Generation" project have agreed to make a presentation to the COC3 discussion group at their next meeting (scheduled for August 20th 2008, 6pm). An invitation was extended to SSP FPAG members to attend if they were interested.

Agenda item: *It was also suggested that for the next COC3 meeting the Special Permit for Otago Harbour be added as an additional agenda item.*

Refresh on the agreed SS Plan format ... "Principles"

At the last FPAG meeting MFish tabled a template which grouped under 9 principles the ideas captured on the 'Governance', 'Sustainability', 'Utilisation' and 'Protection of the Environment' post-it walls. This template was adopted and it was agreed that sector representatives should meet to draft the 'targets' and 'assessments' under the first 6 principles before the next FPAG meeting. Customary representatives met on 11th July and commercial representatives on 1st August (the outcome from each of these meetings was discussed under separate agenda items, below).

Agenda item: *Recreational principles, targets and assessments will be set at the next FPAG meeting.*

Feedback on wording and format

There were some changes made to the wording of these nine principles. These are yet to be finally decided upon (ie, principles 6 and 8).

Action: *Mark to circulate a copy of changes made to the principles at this meeting, and to seek further alternatives for principles 6 and 8, where consensus has not yet been reached around the use of the words "eco-friendly" and "stewardship" respectively.*

Action: *It was agreed that a glossary of terms should be added to the final SS plan.*

Discussion on Principles #1 and #4 - Customary

The customary principles, targets and assessments were presented to the SSP FPAG, in Nigel Scott's absence, by Henry Couch and Gail Thompson.

For the customary sector, safe access to valued SPP species by Ngai Tahu Whanui (including kaumātua and mokopuna) into the future is the primary focus and desired outcome from this plan.

Some of the concepts behind principle no. 1 were explained, ie, that Ngai Tahu Whanui have a customary right to manage and take shellfish within their takiwā (Ngāi Tahu tribal area). The whakataukī (proverb) "*Mo tātou, ā, mō kā uri āmuri ake nei*" and its importance in this SSP process was explained.

There was some discussion about how tangata tiaki issue customary permits, "so there's kai for tomorrow". For example, Gail talked the group through the information that Awarua require from those seeking customary permits, (and other things that may be taken into consideration) before deciding whether or not to grant a customary permit. Other tangata tiaki described differences/similarities in the ways they issued permits around the takiwā.

Tangata tiaki also discussed some of the shortfalls of the customary permit issuing system, eg, the inability of Tangata tiaki to charge administration fees to applicants. Other issues included highlighting some of the risks for Tangata tiaki (eg, in declining requests for customary permits and also around their ability, in legislation, to issue verbal authorisations).

There were a number of questions which were answered by various tangata tiaki (eg, reporting requirements by MFish around customary authorisations).

Gail and Henry proceeded to explain principle #4 and the associated targets and assessments.

Discussion on Principles #3 and #6 - Commercial

Mark led a discussion around the principles, targets and assessments drafted by commercial representatives the previous day.

Under principle 3, four targets have been set out covering interests such as, maintaining consistent market supply, minimising costs and ensuring that southern shellfisheries continue to develop. There is also a desire amongst commercial fishers to decrease the CPUE 'at the water'.

From the discussion, it was suggested that a fifth target be included relating to maintaining supply to the domestic market.

For most of the assessments, issues were listed by fishery (eg, COC, SUR, PAD and surf clams). Commercial reps also listed under these assessments some of the tools they believe could go some way to addressing problems they are experiencing under the current management of southern shellfisheries.

Under principle 6, three targets have been set out covering the sustainability of the resource, responsible fisheries/fishers and management of shellfisheries by way of 'paddock management' and.

There was some discussion led by Ant about "C.R.C" and the barriers, common across the sectors, in accessing the SS food source (sanitation for example). Sanitation monitoring programmes undertaken by the commercial sector provide valuable information for other fishers and fisheries management – better use can be made of this information.

Action: *MFish to circulate principles 3 and 6, in time for the next meeting.*

Next Meeting: Saturday 6th September 2008 was confirmed as the date for the next meeting, to be held in Dunedin (MFish Office).