



Marlborough Marine Futures

Newsletter December 2014

Project Overview

We are encouraging citizens and stakeholders with an interest in the future of the Marlborough marine environment to join in developing local leadership in the management of the area.

On 8 and 22 March 2015 we will be bringing stakeholders together to form a Stakeholder Working Group for the Marlborough marine environment. The people who need to be in the room are those with energy, time, connection and breadth of thinking to engage in the hard work of generating lasting solutions to the marine issues of our region.

The Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust is taking an independent lead to get things going and to secure the resources and commitment needed for a good process. It is promoting maintenance of ecological integrity as the basis of creating a rich, abundant and sustainable future for the Marlborough marine area. The Trust has engaged professionals from Phoenix Facilitation with a track record of achieving results in complex social, technical and political situations. In these newsletters we will introduce you to the members of the Trust and the facilitation team.

The Trust has identified many opportunities exist to greatly improve the Marlborough marine environment. At this moment the cod fishery is depleted and some commercial fisheries are under pressure. The region has 80% of the country's marine farming and this has been the subject of extensive legal action. We have just one marine reserve, and no Maori fishing reserves.

We think that effective citizen leadership is lacking in many central and regional government processes proposed or underway. There is huge need for effective integration of these and of collaboration with the local communities and stakeholders. We are proposing that far sighted citizens and stakeholders step up into this role. We believe that affected parties have much in common, and far more to gain by working together than they might lose.

Taking a leaf from the Marlborough District Council we will work with them and with other agencies to create a *smart and connected* environment to support the efforts of the Stakeholder Working Group. We want to make it easy for you to make sense of the whole, to have your say, and to add value. This means connecting up existing processes; initiating those that are interdependent but are not currently operating in a timely way; and operating in a collaborative model.

Please visit our website at <https://www.marlmarinefutures.co.nz> or email info@marlmarinefutures.co.nz for more information or to go on our mailing list.

About the Sounds



Hydrodynamic Models of the Sounds

Marlborough District Council is building up a picture of what is happening in the waters of the Queen Charlotte Sound with the help of NIWA scientists and their supercomputer.

Water quality monitoring of nutrients, phytoplankton and seawater chemistry by Council every month is proving to be important for understanding how the Sounds ecosystems work.

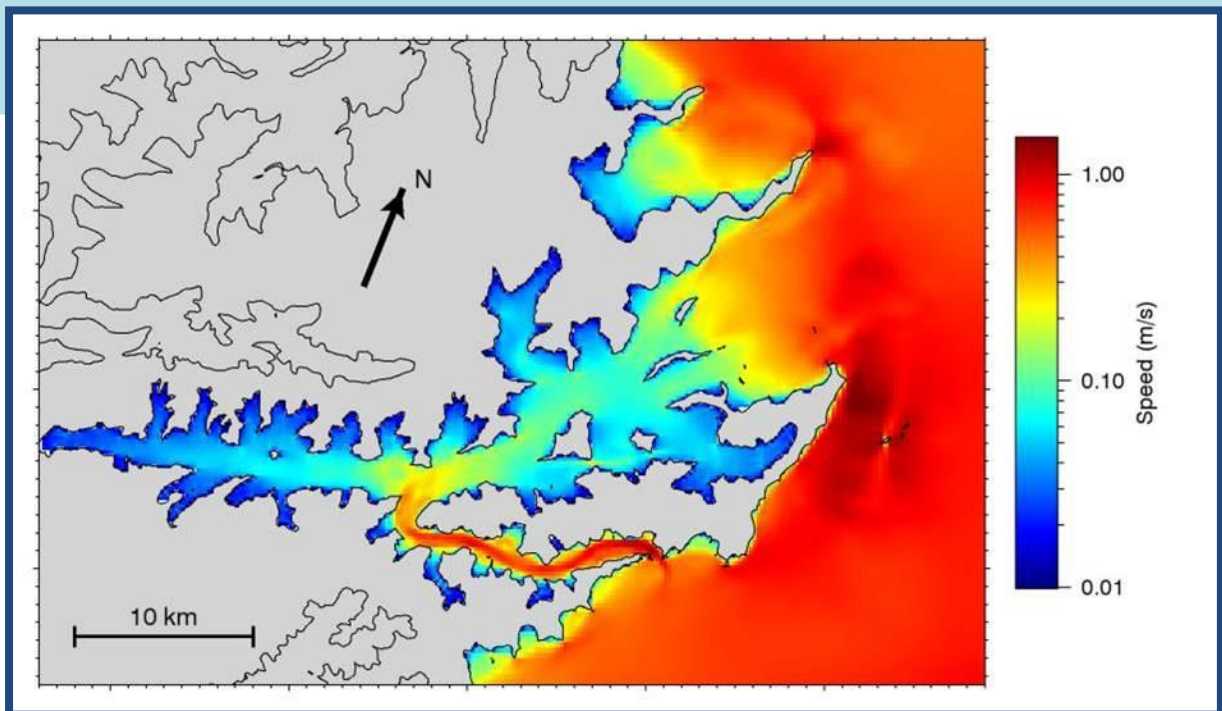
Hydrodynamic models simulate how the tides and currents flush in and out of the Sounds, how nutrients come and go and the ecological effects of marine farming and land-uses.

The recently completed Queen Charlotte model has confirmed what many fishermen, boaties and Sound residents have always believed – Tory Channel is like a vital artery connecting Queen Charlotte Sound with Cook Strait to refresh and flush out the water and nutrients.

The diagram of current speeds below shows how quickly and powerfully water moves in and out of Tory Channel. If we imagined that Queen Charlotte Sound was emptied of all its 9.9 billion cubic metres of water, Tory Channel would refill it in about 3.8 days at spring tide!

At this stage, the modelling also shows that the effects of marine farming are unlikely to fundamentally change the Queen Charlotte Sound ecosystem.

The Pelorus Sound model is due to be completed in early 2015. It will be explained by NIWA scientists (along with the Queen Charlotte model) in workshops to be held in March involving Council, industry, Iwi and community members from the Sounds Advisory Group.



MORE INFO

For more information contact Dr Steve Ulrich,
Marlborough District Council coastal scientist
steve.ulrich@marlborough.govt.nz or 03 520 7400



Trustee Profile

Spotlight on Eric Jorgensen

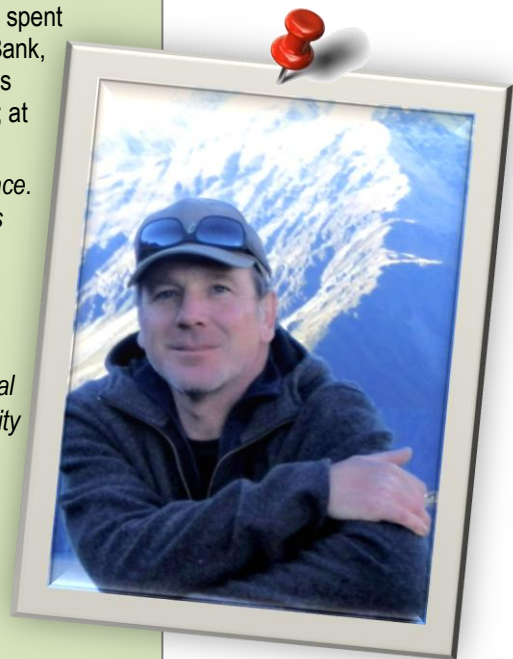
I grew up boating, fishing and exploring the Sounds. I never really understood how those experiences had become such a part of me and how grounded I was to the Sounds, but the longer I spent away the more I felt I needed to return home; return to my turangawaewae. Returning home in 2000 I started to appreciate the things that I used to take for granted, or didn't even notice in the first instance. And with that came an understanding that those experiences I had as a young person were in fact diminishing for future generations at an alarming rate.

Born and raised in Waikawa Bay Eric and his partner have been living in Port Underwood for close to 15 years. After leaving school he had a brief stint in Picton deck handing on a long line fishing boat. Then he joined the Bank of New Zealand in Wellington and after some years moved to the parent company National Australia Bank in Melbourne. In early 2000 he returned to Marlborough. He spent the next year providing management consulting services to companies such as the National Bank, New Zealand Milk and ENZA. Finally realising his passions now lay elsewhere, Eric cut his ties with the corporate world to concentrate on fishing, free diving, chasing lambs and playing golf; at least that was the plan...

I understand that ever since people first came to the Sounds we have had an effect on the place. So for the Sounds environmental and landscape change is no new thing. But my perception is that the rate of change is ever increasing; there are simply more people and more industries every day looking to utilise some aspect of the Sounds. But the resources are finite and we don't fully understand the short and long term cumulative impacts of our activities on the environment nor, perhaps, even the other users.

Everyone, citizens and agencies alike, all say the Sounds are a jewel in the crown or a national icon yet the management of that jewel was fragmented (in some cases obstructed), the amenity values of the Sounds are poorly accounted for. Dr Kay Booth's comment "Natural resource management in the Marlborough Sounds Marine Area faces 'wicked' problems in a 'messy' world. 'Wicked' problems are situations with multiple and competing goals, and uncertainty about cause and effect relationships. This means that there is no single right answer. A 'messy' context describes situations where problems are interconnected – solving one problem will affect another" really resonates with me.

I believe that local communities can be much more informed over the state of the environment and the causes and effects of change. Armed with such knowledge those same communities can and should have a much greater influence over what happens within the commons that we all share; the Marlborough Sounds. One of the first things to facilitate that happening is the community showing that they are willing and able to participate and engage with central government agencies in a professional and objective manner. We need to understand we are all in this together; everything we do affects something and someone else. Let's think more about that as we plan for the future.



You're Invited!

You are invited to participate in the formation of a Stakeholder Working Group for the Marlborough marine environment

People are coming together to create solutions to the big issues facing the Marlborough marine environment. If you want to be part of shaping the future this is for you. Step one is forming a Stakeholder Working Group. This Group will integrate community and stakeholder interests in marine use and protection measures. Our seminar on 8 March 2015 will explain what is involved and discuss what can be achieved. Members of the Stakeholder Working Group will be chosen by those at the meeting on 22 March.

If you think this is for you please contact us and register. There will be no charge for attending these events.

When: *8 March 2015 - 9.00am to 4.00pm - all welcome, registration required for catering purposes.*

22 March 2015 - 9.00am to 4.00pm - numbers limited, registration required.

Venue: *Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park, 181 Waikawa Road, Picton*

Register at info@marlmarinefutures.co.nz

For more information see our website at www.marlmarinefutures.co.nz or phone Rachael on 021 957 515

