

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group, held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council on Monday 10 August 2015 commencing at 9.00 am

Present: Clr Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Clr Cynthia Brookes, Clr Peter Jerram (9am - 12pm), Eric Jorgensen, Debbie Stone, Judy Hellstrom, Ken Roush, Kristen Gerard, Linda Booth, Monyeen Wedge, Rob Schuckard, Robin Cox, Ross Withell, Vic Koller

MDC Staff: Alan Johnson, Steve Ulrich (11am - 3pm), Rosie Bartlett (9.00am - 9.30am), Steve Murrin- Marlborough Roads (9.30am – 10am), Pere Hawkins (1.30pm – 2pm)

In Attendance: Yvette Johnson (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Clr Barsanti, Clr Oddie, Clr Andrews, Clr Arbuckle, Clr Bagge, Clr Dawson, Ian Mitchell, Rachel Drake, Raymond Smith, Roy Grose, Alec McNeil, Tim Greenhough, Joe Heberley

2. Action Points from Previous Meeting

- **Follow up with Steve at Marlborough Roads regarding a wilding pines removal programme for road reserves. This follows the previous action point:** Alan Johnson and Councillor Hook

That resident associations propose community led wilding pine programmes for road reserve through the Assets and Services Committee and seek Marlborough Roads support to facilitate permissions by providing a road management plan, safety processes and equipment and whatever signs are required.

This will be covered and discussed with Steve Murrin (see Item 3).

- **Advisement to Council planners that there is concern in the community when people seek relief from the 8 metre setback, and for the planners to have forethought of the implications a structure right on the foreshore might have. Public notified resource consent as opposed to limited notification.** Alan Johnson

This was discussed at the last meeting and the planners are aware of this and the new plan provisions are being updated at this stage.

- **Advise group if Marine Protected Areas discussion paper is received by Council.** Alan Johnson

Steve Ulrich will be covering this with a presentation and will be talking about significant natural areas and protection issues and litigation (see Item 6).

- **Follow up with Councillor Barsanti on efforts to arrange the removal of the log in Moetapu Bay.** Councillor Oddie

The log has since been removed and was a good outcome.

- **Follow up with Ron Sutherland regarding his replacement from the forestry sector to step into the Sounds Advisory Group vacancy created by his resignation.** Alan Johnson

This is in train and Marlborough Forest Association will be meeting this week and sorting out representation at that meeting. Alan has been in contact with Vern Harris and is in contact to get this sorted.

- **Gina to provide a presentation on discharges from boats at the next meeting.** Gina Ferguson

A presentation was completed at a prior meeting with regard to compliances role with discharges and the coastal marine zone. Most of the activities that compliance group and Council are undertaking with regard to discharge is more around education but acting to complaints. There is information on the MDC website with regard to this.

- **Councillor Hook to discuss with Pere Hawes the issue of how to manage the effects of logging truck on the Marlborough Sounds roading network.** Councillor Hook

This will be covered with Steve Murrin and Pere Hawes at a later time during the meeting.

3. Freedom Camping - 2014/15 Season (Rosie Bartlett)

Rosie Bartlett from the Reserves and Amenities Group at Marlborough District Council prepared a presentation on Freedom Camping in the Marlborough Region. Rosie covered some issues with a power point presentation and to talk about a) where the Bylaw review is at and b) what the current situation in Marlborough is at the moment.

- The Freedom Camping definition is 'overnight staying in a vehicle or structure'.
- There is a Bylaw under the freedom camping act which is currently being reviewed and is currently in draft form. The Bylaw process and past history.
 - In 2012 Council adopted a new Bylaw to help control freedom camping in Marlborough. The Bylaw was written under the new Freedom Camping Act. Council requested that this Bylaw be reviewed after being in place for one year.
 - In 2013 Council went to the public to ask if the Bylaw should be changed.
 - In 2014, as a result of this consultation, the current Bylaw was to be changed.
 - A working group was established consisting of Councillors and Council staff to reassess prohibited and designated areas before proposing an amended draft Bylaw. As part of this assessment a trial was implemented over the 2014/15 season to assess new sites and restrictions. The results are as follows:
 - The total of vehicles in the area was 4634 using the designated areas set by Council. A comment was made why Picton had more designated sites than Blenheim. This is due to the fact Picton was a pleasant area to visit than some of the Blenheim sites. Such as: Wynen Street – 6 campers; Blenheim Railway Station – 24 campers. Other sites were Taylor Dam with 173 and the Wairau Diversion with 216.
 - The sites with the highest number of campers were at: Waitohi Domain (Picton) with 2221, Collins Memorial (Koromiko) with 982, A&P Park (Blenheim) with 390, Renwick Domain with 321 and Picton Foreshore with 301 campers.
 - The total trial numbers for Blenheim was 1130 campers and Picton 3504 campers.
 - A workshop was conducted with industry leaders.
 - A working group assessment of prohibited and restricted areas was undertaken.
 - March 2015 the draft Bylaw was presented to the Assets and Services committee.
 - April 2015 the draft Bylaw was presented to Council.

- April-May 2015 the draft Bylaw was put out to the Public using a special consultative procedure.
- May 25 (week of) a hearing for submitters was undertaken.
- May 25 (week of) deliberation. Out of the deliberation, the working group decided to make a few changes.

The next steps are:

- Formation of new Bylaw.
 - As a result of the deliberation, the Bylaw will be going out for further public consultation.
 - A date is yet to be advised before the draft Bylaw is sent back to the Assets and Services committee. The working group is to meet with the Picton commercial operators, business groups such as Smart & Connected. Picton is an area of concern and the Picton community needs to be consulted first before any decisions of the redraft are considered.
 - As the redraft will not be ready in time for the new season, the existing Bylaw will still be in place.
 - Bylaw adopted by Council.
 - MDC Website – Freedom Camping Bylaw - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Recreation/Parks-and-Reserves/Camping/Freedom-Camping-Bylaw>
- Legislation only allows certain things to be done and what it enables Council to do. There are three different legislation types that can be used:
 - No Bylaw
 - Freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity in all parts of a district.
 - Local Government Act
 - Freedom camping can be prohibited in all parts of a district, or
 - Freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity but explicitly prohibited in some parts of a district, or
 - Freedom camping is considered to be a prohibited activity but explicitly allowed in some parts of a district.
 - **NO access to instant fines for bylaw breaches.**
 - Freedom Camping Act
 - Freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity but some parts of a district can be designated as prohibited for freedom camping or where restrictions apply.
 - **Access to instant fines for bylaw breaches.**
 - Freedom camping doesn't affect everyone, but those that it does affect have a large level of interest. The Resident Association address list is to be forwarded to Rosie to enable her to keep this group informed.
 - The Tourism Industry Association leads the National Freedom Camping Forum, in which Rosie is the representative for Marlborough. Other members include the NZ Motor Caravan Association, other national bodies and the majority of the campervan companies.
 - A system is run whereby all phone calls, any complaints or viewings are recorded. The working group need to know where the issues are and under the legislation, locations cannot be banned if there is no evidence, therefore all complaints need to be recorded and all these statistics collected.
 - It was clarified that there are issues with freedom camping – positive and negative throughout the district and not just with Picton. Picton is being used as a focus to deal with particular problems – such as camping and ferries.
 - Port Marlborough – freedom camping on marinas was raised and it was clarified that Council can only administer freedom camping fines on Council owned land.
 - The vast majority of the rental campervan companies, with the exception of Wicked, are on board with this fining system. Wicked campers are an Australian based company and do not buy in to the

National Forum or to the responsible camping model. A few managers have come to the Forum, at different times, and they say there is no consistency within their own organisation. There has also been a complaint with regard to the language on the Wicked vans which is quite offensive and this is sitting in the legal system in Australia.

- An overnight stay is the goal, but one of the issues is whether it is contained or not contained. Restrictions under the Bylaw with the permitted activity, allows a certified van must be self-contained for a maximum of 3 days.
- It was raised that there has been camping on the Queen Charlotte Track in tents, which are not contained, for up to a week at a time. The Queen Charlotte Track is administered by DOC and toilets are being looked into and are to be placed at strategic points along the track.
- There is a strong argument for providing places that visitors want to go. Freedom camping sites are listed on:
 - Destination Marlborough
<http://marlboroughnz.com/guides/camping/campervan-sites#guide>
 - Marlborough District Council website
<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Recreation/Parks-and-Reserves/Camping.aspx>
- In summary:
 - More feedback is required and the need to understand:
 - Is responsible camping wanted and;
 - Does Marlborough want to allow the responsible camper?
 - What is being done with the non-compliant – the issue is always going to be there. Whether a Bylaw is in place, there are always going to be people abusing the system versus the no camping.
 - These are questions the working group is working through.
- A question was asked with regard to the two distinct different issues – the self-contained and the non-self-contained. How is this being dealt with through the process?
 - The Reserve Section and Murray Morgan, the Reserves Ranger would prefer to ban non-self-contained and only have self-contained, generally they are the more responsible ones and take care of the environment. The question is 'where would those non-self-contained go? Will resources be put into chasing and infringing as they will still go where they are not meant to be or are toilets to be provided? There are pro and cons for both but this needs to be gauged within the community.
- Rosie had a very special thanks to the Kenepuru and Sounds Central Residents Association and the Double Bay Residents who do an amazing job. They manage the issue of freedom camping in their district and they are very proactive, they are out there knocking on windows asking people to move on, concerned about fires and feeding that information back to the group. A real team effort where the locals have taken the issue on board themselves.
- DOC spoke with regard to land camping and that it is a legitimate activity as long as they are not cutting down vegetation and lighting fires. If visitors can get to the Sounds foreshore reserve then they can camp. On the northern side of the Kenepuru, there is pasture land right up against the coast, private land may need to be crossed but once they get to the reserve land then camping is permitted. Lighting fires, cutting vegetation, digging holes without permission is not allowed. There is a problem however, with public land and freedom camping. Around Marlborough there are around 80 sites that can be used which are free and some, like DOC, are charged. There may be a compromise made between the two that some sites are provided for the non-contained people and they pay their way.
- It was asked if Council could give volunteers some guidelines as to how to approach non-compliant vehicles that are parked illegally and a step by step process on what to say and how to move them on.

4. Proposed NES - Plantation Forestry (Alan Johnson/Clr Jerram)

- The NES (National Environment Standard) for plantation forestry has been in preparation for a few years and council has put in a submission to the original NES about two years ago. The Council's view, at that stage, was that the Council perceived the NES as being quite a blunt tool to deal with regional issues, so when a national standard is brought in it standardises processes principally and does allow the local authority to deal with unique issues that happen within the district.
- The Government has had a working party involved which has a whole range of industry sectors involved but also local government. The Ministry of Prime Industries have been the main government agency that has been co-ordinating the process with the NES.
- The proposed NES recently came out and is now out for public consultation and Council has put a submission in.
- Credit goes to MPI and MFE, they have put a lot of new tools in place in the NES, in terms of criteria and how the NES is to work. The general principle with NES is to make most activities permitted activities. This is quite a change in terms of how different regions and districts actually manage the effects from forestry harvesting activities.
- The three tools that are proposed in the NES are:
 - Forestry Susceptible Calculator – this is about erosion risk and steepness. This calculator system triggers the requirement for consents. If you don't need consent, it is permitted activity, as long as the activities are carried within the standards.
 - Unfortunately Council is disappointed that the risk calculator in Marlborough appears to have limited the scale of high risk prone land. This effectively means that the majority of forest activities would be permitted activities. Council has asked for feedback about how the risk proneness has been calculated.
 - Fish Spawning Calculator – this is around native fish habitat and fish species that are in the waterways. This new tool is used to carry out assessments in this area.
 - This is a great tool, but a lot of species have been missed off the list, which are native to Marlborough. The window for spawning activities has also been narrowed down, as different species spawn at different times and different parts of New Zealand, due to temperate changes and variations. This is an issue and has been highlighted by Council's submission.
 - Wilding Pine Calculator – this is a positive tool in that any applicant or forestry company would need to go through an assessment of wilding pines risk based on the species, steepness of country and climate parameters.
 - The only issue with it is given its permitted activity based any decision by the forestry consultant/landowner will be quite subjective in terms of their processes and there no audit function.
- Clr Jerram commented that the current NES came out in 2010 and it was a blunt instrument trying to call the whole country as one. But it still has some safe guards in it and one of those in particular was the erosion susceptibility and the map showed several areas in Marlborough that had very high erosion issues. The geology north of Wairau River is mostly schist base and when it is water logged it falls apart and there is plenty of evidence that this happens. The recent Davidson report highlights what can happen.
- Gisborne City Council has submitted a strong submission as well as most regional Councils.
- Local Government New Zealand has put in a submission on behalf of all Council's as well.
- Restrictions over the past few years have tried to stop logging trucks going through streams and rivers because of the bed disturbance and this NES can't make exclusions. This is another issue in terms of sedimentation. It is important that the Public are made aware.
- In summary – Council has submitted, as well as Judy Hellstrom and others. It is important to support Council in its endeavours with regard to this.

- Questions were asked by the group:

- *Does this affect the Council itself, because they are involved in forestry, so how would this knowledge trickle through to running their own investments as being a forester as well?*

Small steps to try and put the environmental factors into the contracts that the Council has, with both forest managers and with the contractors. It will be up to individual companies to decide how environmentally friendly they want to be.

- *Five years from now, how would that knowledge be recognised in the new trials of harvesting?*

It will have to come down from individual companies saying we want to be more environmentally friendly.

5. Roding (Kristen Gerard/Steve Merrin)

A discussion was had with regard to the ongoing maintenance of the roads along the foreshores in the Sounds. Some questions and points follow:

- Council is changing their stance on bolstering the edges of the foreshores and there is increased erosion along the Sounds foreshores and this is progressing quickly. What is the impact on the roads throughout the Sounds? Two points that are clear is (a) the foreshore road reserve is 20m and (b) the foreshore reserve is fixed on the original survey of land and that as the sea takes it away it doesn't retreat in land it disappears. Therefore what is DOC's stance on losing the foreshore and what happens once the roads completely gone and it is back to private land, are the private land owners going to have to give up their land to form roads, where are we heading?
- Nationally, governments concerned about raising sea levels and as from this year they have given funds called 'Resilience Funding' which is to deal with these sorts of issues.. Any maintenance work that is done to protect the road from sea erosion would need to look at a 30 year outlook.
- Government has asked that wherever possible can the road be retreated back further from the foreshore and get it higher above the sea level.
- The funding that is received for road maintenance, 50% comes from the government and 50% from rate payers, the rules have to be complied with and NZTA have a say as to how the funds are spent.
- There are a few issues around the district, such as the foreshore at Anakiwa, Port Underwood road at Ngakuta and the same issues at Crail Bay/Kenepuru/Golden Bay areas.
- There are issues with the sea attacking the road and there are two ways to fix this, (a) build a barrier to protect it, which is extremely costly or (b) look at options that retreat the road back within foreshore reserve, further away from where the tides attacking it now.
- It is a case by case basis and there is not a set policy. Nationally the policy is to spend the money but it does have to be there in 30 years' time therefore money has to be spent wisely.
- Elie Bay was grass land and DOC gave permission for Marlborough Roads to retreat it further back on Sounds Foreshore Reserve. There are sections in Kenepuru where the legal road is on Sounds Foreshore Reserve, there will be no changes to this in the near future. If it needs to be retreated beyond the Sounds Foreshore Reserve there has to be negotiations between Marlborough Roads and the appropriate land owners.
- Gabion baskets can be used within road reserve. Where roads form on foreshore reserve consent is required if major work is done such as gabion basket walls.
- Retaining walls to break high tide line – resource consent from Council needed.
- Tim Naish from Victoria University came to Council to talk to the Councillors about climate change. A strong key message that came from this meeting was it doesn't matter if you believe in climate change or not, but the sea level is going to rise regardless. The sea level will have an effect on foreshore.
- A meeting with DOC, Iwi and Marlborough Roads would be the next step to discuss certain section of roads to try and keep resource consent costs down, would be beneficial for everyone concerned.

- Tasman District Council completed a few years ago a very extensive report called the Wriggle Report on the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy. A 'vulnerability assessment' of the inlet was prepared for Tasman District Council by Wriggle Coastal Management Consultants. Here is the link to this report <http://nelson.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies-policies/strategies-plans-policies-reports-and-studies-a-z/waimea-inlet-management-strategy/>

6. Wilding Pine Control (On Road Reserve) Update (Rob Cox/Steve Merrin)

- There was discussion with regard to the Kenepuru area getting a voluntary gang together to deal with the wilding pines coming away on the side of road. With Health & Safety Laws it is very difficult now to get the voluntary working groups. If a voluntary group is the way to progress then a STMS is required on site, which is a qualified person to do the traffic management. Marlborough Roads commented that they do extensive training in traffic management; therefore they may be able to put volunteers through the 3 day course. As the volunteers don't have third party insurance there can be a few issues. Alternatively, Marlborough Roads obtains a quote from one of their contractors.
- It would be purely hand cutting rather than chainsaws; therefore the tree size would be 150mm diameter. There are requirements for a road safety plan and health & safety plan, which could be a standard plan because vests, hand saws, lolly pop signs, would be specified.
- The objective is to get rid of the trees while they're small, leave the big trees, which would be more economic and less inconvenience.
- The community has an interest to actually make sure the road reserve stays the road reserve and it should have native trees. It is a common statement that 'budgets are tight' but the community can do a lot of this work. Marlborough Roads can undertake the traffic control. This will need formalising with a step by step document, procedures and a requirement list. The communities that are keen to take this further are Kenepuru, Central Sounds and Moetapu Bay.
- A pathway forward may be to approach Council or Councillors to be involved to help facilitate and co-ordinate this project.
- The Sounds Restoration Trust takes a very realistic attitude to it all but they are trying to avoid risk in relation to vines, trees close to sheds and the water. They are looking to reduce the burden of the trees close to the water by talking to the Harbour Master.
- To poison wilding pines on the foreshore reserve, permission is needed from land owner.

7. Local Government – Representation Review

- The Local Government submission is to dispense with the ward structure. Therefore, there is a need for the Sounds Advisory Group to provide feedback to councillors. If there were no ward councillors then there will be little representation in those rural areas apart
- The formal consultation process will be done before the end of the year. Once the formal consultations come out, the group will be notified.
- As well as losing wards, there is a possibility due to this Sounds ward is marginal in terms of having three councillors in terms of the numbers, therefore a councillor may be lost.
- The point of difference, which is quite clear, is that rural and sounds councillors get the phone calls from the public as opposed to Blenheim public phoning the office. There is a very distinctive way to those rural councillors relating to the community than an urban councillor. These councillors are far more engaged in terms of time, energy, mileage to travel, but the engagement is vital to the position of councillor.
- There is more information about the representation system on the Local Government Commission website - <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/representations-reviews/>

8. Captain Cook 250 Year Anniversary (Peter Jerram/Robin Cox)

- On 16 January 2020 it will be the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook arriving in Ship Cove. It is going to be a major event nationwide. Ship Cove was the fifth place that Captain Cook landed in and Gisborne, where he first landed are two years ahead with their planning. They have set up the Te Ha (the breath) Trust and the reason for this is the bringing of two peoples together.

- There will be tall ships from all over the world to come, the Endeavour replica will be going to Gisborne, but is unlikely that she will make it to Marlborough.
- A meeting was held last Friday between council, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Conservation, iwi leaders, Heritage New Zealand and various Marlborough heritage organisations. The meetings were held for ministry officials to gauge the level of interest from Marlborough organisations to be part of the anniversary celebrations. The Council will be the facilitator for this event.
- The Ministry of Culture and Heritage gave a presentation on their agenda, called a Tier 1 Event, which means it is high on their list of things that they want to be part of. This will be going to cabinet who will assign a large amount of money for it to happen.
- The group of the Te Ha Trust document have seen themselves as leading this nationwide. There is some conflict between them and the Ministry and this has not yet been resolved. Council will be arranging for a spokesperson from the Te Ha Trust to come and talk with the steering group committee. The group's aim is to set up a Trust which will manage the affairs.
- Ship Cove was a very popular spot for Captain Cook and he visited this spot time and time again. This event will enable new tracks to be put on Cooks Lookout and to other places that he visited and to commemorate some of these sites.
- Four iwi were involved from Rangitane, Ngati Toa, Ngati Kuia and Te Atiawa tribes. Of those, three were involved in the interpretations. Direct descendants of those Maori were still living in the region and would be approached as part of the celebrations.
- There are also tier 1 and tier 2 Events. In 2018 the Tuamarina incident commemoration and a WW1 event will be held.

9. MDC Update and Coastal Programmes (Alan Johnson/Steve Urlich)

Steve handed out to the members:

- Pelorus Sound Hydrodynamic Models Report to the Environment Committee 23 July 2015
- A biophysical model for the Marlborough Sounds Part 2: Pelorus Sound
- Davison Environmental - Significant marine site survey and monitoring programme summary 2014-15

Steve spoke about the Coastal section in the Marlborough District Council's website. He ran through a few sections that are of interest to the group.

- <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Community-Involvement/Sounds-Advisory-Group.aspx>

A page has been created for the SAG group and currently there are no details of the current membership. If the members are happy to have their contact details on this page, please let Alan or Yvette know and we can arrange this to happen. The contact details that we think would be helpful are the member's name and email address. There is also a link to the various minutes from the past. Please distribute this link to your community.

- **Tell Your Story** - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Community-Involvement/Tennyson-Inlet-Fishing.aspx>

There is one 'Tell Your Story' loaded on the webpage with regard to the Tennyson Inlet in the 1950s fishing memories – this is an extract from '*Dinghy to Daimler and Beyond: A History of Tennyson Inlet and the Archer Family, by Betty Archer (Published 2010)*'.

- There is a coastal feed form under 'Tell Your Story' tab - <https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/online-services/new/CoastalFeedback/step/1>

This form is for people to record their memories regarding the environmental changes that have been noticed in the Sounds or coastal Marlborough over the years. Once the form is completed a copy will go to the provider, one to Steve and then into a MDC folder within the filing network. There is a privacy statement and whether the Council can use the information in publications. This is a great tool to capture people's remembrances and become part of the story.

- Coastal Ecosystems – <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems.aspx> - this section covers the Sounds Water Quality, Hydrodynamic Models, Significant Marine Sites and Estuaries.
- Reports and Special Investigations – <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Reports.aspx#Hydrodynamic>
- Significant Marine Sites - this shows Rob's presentation on Ecologically Significant Marine Sites in Marlborough 2015 Monitoring Report - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems/Significant-Marine-Sites.aspx>
- Marine Farming – this section covers Farming, Biosecurity, Mussel Farms and Salmon Farms - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Marine-Farming.aspx>
 - Mussel Farms – link to Marine Farming Association website - **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
- Monitoring and Research – this section covers Coastal Monitoring Strategy, Scientific Investigations and Ship Wake Monitoring.
- All reports once approved through the Environment Committee, will be put on the website.

Significant Marine Sites Presentation

This can be viewed on the MDC website - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems/Significant-Marine-Sites.aspx>

The topics covered were:

- What are significant sites?
- Increase in significant site areas
- Declines of significant sites
- Summary of 2014-15 monitoring
- Pressure on significant sites
- Sediment from forestry – Hitaua Bay, Tory Channel
- Where to from here?

Hydrodynamic Model Presentation

This can be viewed on the MDC website - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Coastal-Ecosystems/Hydrodynamic-Models.aspx>

The hydrodynamic model simulates the interactions of depth, currents, tide, temperature, salinity, wind, water quality, phytoplankton, zooplankton, seabed chemistry, mussel farms and fish farms.

This was road tested through the environment court and had been presented a week prior to the Environment Committee and has been accepted by Council.

Topics covered:

- Why have a model?
- Definitions on Phytoplankton, Zooplankton, Baseline, Denitrification, Biophysical
- Physical movement in the Sound
- Tidal volumes
- Circulation patterns
- Flushing times
- Part 2 of the model: Biology
- Model limitations
- Scenario testing – what happens if we alter ...
- Differences in zooplankton abundance
- Next steps – questions, further modelling
- Differences in chlorophyll – fish farm effects

Dean Heiford spoke to the group, after lunch, about the process around consultation with the community on regard to local government representation on the sounds ward. Community are intended to be advised of the timeframes for any submission

10. RPS Update (Pere Hawes)

- It is now nearing completion of the draft document; most of the draft RPS chapters have been live on the website since March 2013 which includes provisions that manage activities in the coastal marine area and other aspects like landscape, natural character, water quality, those values are set over a high priority.
- The policy work has been completed and what is being focussed on this year is water allocation and use, which is more of an issue in south Marlborough, but still important in Rai and Pelorus and some Sounds settlements. This has been an extensive consultative process.
- Most of the draft rules for the coastal marine area are completed. Two proposals that the Council went out to the community on in August last year, which were coastal occupancy charges and marine farming provisions. These have been considered by Trevor's committee and they have reached a position in terms of what is going into a draft plan and at this stage that still includes a proposal for coastal occupancy charges and also a consenting regime for marine farming.
- There has been wide spread concern about the control activity status onto the re-consenting of existing farms. The concerns raised by those responded dealt with an allocation of perpetuity for a controlled activity and related to an inability to deal with accumulative effects, should future monitoring establish the nature of those cumulative effects.
- In addition there were certain communities that highlighted issues in terms of farms in particular locations and all that feedback can be viewed on the MDC website - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents/Review-Process-So-Far.aspx#Early>
- At this stage there is not information to actively manage accumulative effects on marine farming in the coastal environment. It's just about the effects of marine farming; it's also effects of other activities in the rural environment that do end up in the coastal marine area. Therefore, it is actually a priority in terms of information collected for the next plan and will be in good stead at the next review to use that information to address accumulative effects.
- When the correct channels are notified of the proposed plan that is not consultation. That is the opportunity for any member of the community to make a formal submission on that proposal. By making a submission you have the rights to be heard at the hearing and Council's got to issue a formal decision on that submission.
- It was suggested that a one page document be produced for the general public in how to go about writing a submission and the process.
- The timeframe is to complete the draft by September. Council wants to start hearing the submissions before the local body elections in October next year, and three months at least for submissions where the timeframe is a bit tight. There are ways to deal with this by appointing commissioners to go beyond the term of Councils, but as long as the process is started.

11. DOC Update (Robin Cox)

This is a summary of the work DOC has been involved with since the last meeting of the Sounds Advisory Group held on the 16th February 2015. This period covers the tail end of the busy summer period bringing with it the increased risk of fire, possible shortage of water and sites showing signs of overuse and wear. Although reports indicate high visitor numbers to DOC sites these visitors were not affected by water shortages. Fires in the north of Marlborough affected motorists rather than visitors to the DOC estate.

Staff

The conservation service manager position based in Picton has been filled on a temporary basis for almost a year. This is almost certain to continue until the end of August when a reshuffle of the Department is likely to be completed. The main changes locally will be:

- Although Partnership Managers positions will still be part of the organisation they will have limited involvement in the regions. Instead they will respond to National Office.

- There will be 4 regions in both the North and South Islands. This means there will be a Conservation Service Director based in Nelson. The super large region of Nelson Marlborough West Coast will be split following the old boundaries of the previous organisation.
- The Conservation Service Managers will remain the same so the positions at Picton and South Marlborough will remain very similar to how they were operated under the pilot trialled by the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Region earlier this year. The partnership staff will now again report to the local on site manager.

For most of the time Roy Grose has been acting as Conservation Service Director based in Hokitika, Jo Gould has been acting in the Picton position. However for the month of July, Rex Ambler from National Office filled the position. Jo Gould is due back for August and then the relieving is anticipated to end as the final structure becomes established.

Other staff movements have been:

- Chris Birmingham has transferred from Maud Island back to Te Anau and his old position has been filled on a temporary basis by Frank Higgott. Filling this position permanently is now underway.
- Frank Rosie a bio security ranger based in Picton has transferred to Twizel. This position is also in the process of being filled permanently
- Margot Farrier, the senior ranger for recreation and historic based in Picton, is working in Renwick as a partnership ranger. Leanne Flynn is filling this position until Margot's secondment ends. Ruby Collier an ex ranger trainee from NMIT has received a temporary position to maintain staff numbers.
- Although not based in the Sounds, Brian Paton has left the Department to become the emergency services manager for the Marlborough District Council. Since the disestablishment of the Marlborough North Rural Fire District in 2012, Brian became the main contact for the many fire forces based in the Sounds. His quiet and helpful style will be missed by all those he came in contact with.

Recreation

A list of recreational activity undertaken by the Department since February follows:

- This summer the many DOC camp sites in the Sounds have almost been trouble free. For most of the busy period volunteer camp ground hosts have been based at Kenepuru Heads, Camp Bay, Cow Shed Bay and Nydia Lodge. Local residents have undertaken this role at Elaine Bay, Whatamongo Bay and French Pass. This almost constant presence resulted in a higher standard of cleanliness, less vandalism and a compliance with fees.
- Toilets have an important role in reducing visitor impacts. Containment toilets must be pumped out and this has been done for those in the Queen Charlotte Sound and this involves a septic tank truck and a barge. It is intended to replace the 2000L holding tank at Ruakaka with a 4000L tank to reduce the frequency of pump outs.
- A start has been made to replace the main Momorangi ablution block at the rear of the camp ground. This follows on from the replacement of the two smaller ablution blocks close to the coast that worked well during the summer.
- After the summer the long term managers of Pelorus Bridge, Stephanie and Craig Neal, left and were replaced by Paula Kerslake and Jonathon Hopkins. They are lucky to have a quiet period to become familiar with the operation of the site.
- A new waste water system installed at Whatamongo worked well during the summer. Usage at this site dropped off this summer, probably because of the freedom camping sites in Picton.
- The Queen Charlotte Track upgrade for the 2014/15 year has been completed. This more or less upgraded the track between Tawa Saddle and Furneaux, replacing wherever possible removing bridges for culverts to reduce inspections.
- Very early discussions are being held with the new owner of the Kaiuma subdivision. It appears the proposed marina is about to start and the new owner is keen to relocate the start of the Nydia Track. It seems that a water taxi based in Kaiuma Bay is very likely.
- A group of 4 volunteers accompanied by a staff member spent a week maintaining the newly created reserve at the Perano whaling station

- Volunteers helped departmental staff paint the lookout tower on Motuara Island.
- Some large native trees identified as a hazard at the popular Pelorus Bridge Reserve have been fallen.
- An Outward Bound Watch repainted the Black Rock Shelter on the Queen Charlotte Track.
- In addition to these more unique tasks, staff have been involved with the more mundane tasks such as maintaining campsites, spraying tracks and removing windfalls from the Pelorus, Mt Fell and the Nydia Tracks. The Queen Charlotte track was sprayed where required.

Biodiversity

After the complicated operations involved with the Battle for our Birds and mice eradication on Maud, biodiversity staff have been involved with the more normal tasks. A summary of these follows:

- Quarantining is now a major function be it for Rowi teams bring kiwi to Motuara, volunteers or work teams going to Takapourewa or army personnel visiting an island on exercise.
- The annual cod survey involving volunteers has been undertaken as has the annual Long Island survey.
- Little spotted Kiwi were transferred from Long Island to Cape Kidnappers in April.
- The annual whale survey was undertaken from the 13th June to the 11th July with the involvement of ex whalers among the volunteers. This year, the 11th year of the survey, resulted in several firsts; one of only 4 white hump whales seen in the world, the most hump back whales seen in a day - 27 and the most humpbacks seen in a season - 137 with the next highest being 106 in 2012. With results like this, and the publicity gained it is very possible that OMV will continue the sponsorship.
- Monitoring for mice continues on Maud with toxic baits in bait stations. This will continue to the end of October when the permit expires. No mice have been found. It is most unlikely that Takahe will be brought back to the island in time for the normal summer trips.
- Monitoring of rats following the battle for the Birds project has continued. Results are:

	Mt Stanely (Operational Area)	Editor Hill (Control Area)
November	12%	?
March	23%	60%
May	32%	56%

The 1080 signs around the Battle for the Birds operational area have now been removed.

- The high tech predator exclusion trail by ZIP (Zero Invasive Pests) at Bottle Rock continues. Permission is being sought to apply baits with a marker chemical outside the defensive live to see if animals with the marker are found inside the defended area. Findings from this trial area will be used nationally.
- The hunting team has now hunted Arapawa Island, Mt Stokes and Ship Cove. They are now working in the Tennyson
- Old man beard control has been undertaken at Moawhitu (Durville Island) and on Maud Island
- The two planting trips to Takapourewa involving volunteers have now been completed. With the declining area available these trips are likely to be scaled back.
- Derek Brown who was involved in the initial attempts to eradicate Tradescantia returned to Takapourewa and found few plants. At the same time other staff removed a succulent from the coastal cliffs.
- The annual transfer of young Rowi Kiwi from the West Coast to Motuara took place on the 5th June. A VIP group sponsored by Destination Marlborough had the good fortune to take part.

- Thanks to a wayward group, their contribution paid the transport costs of an Outward Bound Watch to maintain the monitoring tracks on Blumine Island.
- Improved water supplies for the wildlife on Long Island were provided by cleaning out the old military water tanks and placing screens over them.

Partnerships

The Department of Conservation is very lucky to have many groups involved in conservation in the Sounds. This list is an attempt to make you aware of them and rejoice in the keenness of these people and organisations to be involved in our very special part of the world.

- The Sounds Restoration Trust continues with the eradication of wilding pines on public and freehold land. Over the last few months the remaining visible pines on Kaipupu Point have been eliminated. Most of the pines on the lower eastern side of Ngakuta Bay have been eliminated in anticipation of the Link Pathway being formed.
- The Link Pathway Trust is making rapid progress. A contractor has largely completed the section between Wedge Point and Ngakuta Bay. Two significant archaeological sites remain intact and add some interest to this old bridle track. Some great views of the Queen Charlotte Sound are possible as the track winds through mainly regenerating forest. The section of track between the Kaituna River and Cullen's Point is also almost complete. The funds made available by Council and Canterbury Community Trust has certainly assisted with this rapid progress. King Salmon have contributed \$10,000 for interpretation along the track.
- The AGM of the Mistletoe Bay Trust was a bit of the changing of the guard. The Chairman from the establishment of the Trust, Simon Heath, stood down as chairperson to be replaced by Jon Cunliffe. Foundation Trustee, Vic Koller, also stood down but will remain available to assist if and when required. His replacement is Ron Findlater.
- New managers, Sharon and Casey Livingston are now well established and have already received a booking from their old school in Wellington.
- The waste water treatment plant has been relocated from close to the coast to a new location behind the accommodation buildings.
- Not only is OMV involved in the sponsorship of the whale survey, they are also involved with Ngati Koata in the rehabilitation of the wetlands at Moawhitu. Approximately 12,000 plants have been planted at Moawhitu this winter as a result of this assistance.
- Kathmandu are sponsoring Interpretation at Momorangi Bay. It is hoped to have most of the interpretation panels in place by the summer.
- Yealands Wines are sponsoring interpretation on the Queen Charlotte Track over the next 3 years. After consultation with the interested groups a draft interpretation plan has been prepared and comments are being sought.
- Several land owners are undertaking pine control on their own land or on land in their bay. This is normally done where the area in question is not a priority for the Sounds Restoration Trust. In most cases chemical is made available and some cases a motorised drill is loaned for short periods. During spring more work will be done in Erie and South East Bay.
- Later in the year the army is holding an international exercise in the Top of the South. The only site DOC is involved with in the Sounds at this stage will be Titirangi which will involve a beach landing of engineers. While on site they will undertake some conservation tasks and may even erect a pou on Takapouwera. The archaeological sites will be excluded from camping and earth works during the army exercise at Titirangi.
- Kaipupu Point Mainland Island is still benefiting from the efforts of many volunteers. Most of this effort is concentrated on pest eradication and monitoring. In the last 6 months they have caught 1 possum and 1 stoat. A very comprehensive recording system has been introduced which clearly shows where the pest problems are. From the Kaipupu project there is a group of people thinking about creating a halo around Kaipupu. This is lowering the pest numbers around Picton in an area still to be decided and this will give the birds that spread from Kaipupu a better chance of survival.
- Pathway is still in the running for DOC funding this year.

12. Integrated Management Programme Update (Eric Jorgensen)

- Since February 2015, there have been three public forums. Through the first two forums, which were well attended, with the first forum having 80+ people, the second forum having 42 people and the third forum having 40 people.
- The first two forums were focussed on what the group was trying to achieve. A document has been drafted around function and process and coming from this is how a structure may start to look for a group that wants to integrated management for the Sounds.
- Around structure it is believed there is a clear desire from the community for this work to be done and for integrated management to pull together and take an ecosystem base approach for managing the Sounds through a collaborative process where all stake holders are engaged including the government agencies. There is a very clear mandate from the community for the Trust to drive that work forward.
- A number of groups throughout NZ have disbanded due to influencing factors. The Hauraki group - were driven by a Regional Council and were given two years to complete it. The MPA processes in Otago are starting again due to the facilitator for that process had been given some specific outcomes to achieve. After some public meetings a new facilitator needed to be engaged and the process started again. Wharves of Auckland – that process has been rolling ahead quite quickly, but quite a specific set of stakeholders involved in that process.
- What has been learnt is it is very important in how you set up the stakeholder working group. At the beginning of the year after the first three meetings, the stakeholder working group would be established with 14 stakeholders, therefore the group is stepping back from that and two extra forums will be run. The first forum was held yesterday, whereby people will be able to stay engaged in the process.
- As this is all worked through, a structure is created to support the processes which are the stakeholder working group. Sitting over this is a governance group which will be made up of the trust for a trustee representing the trust and recognising that this is implementing the objectives of the Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust. This group is to provide guidance and funding and is not there to veto any solutions that the stakeholder working group may come up with.
- It is envisaged that Council, MFE, MPI, DOC will have a role in the governance group. Sitting out to the side to support the stakeholder working group, where intricate and detailed discussions, will be an advisory group made up of scientists to provide the information that is needed.
- Funding is required and Council on the basis that more funding can be obtained from central government offered another \$15,000 this year in addition to the current funding.
- The group will receive funding from the Community Conservation Partnership Fund.
- In terms of stakeholder representation, all groups were at the forum yesterday apart from the shellfish agriculture representatives.
- Central government seems to be moving towards a collaborative approach and wanting to. So it is important to help them get there, that is a positive outcome. It is critical to have a broad community of stakeholders involved and building that trust up.
- The participants from yesterday's forum sat together in groups and spoke about the issues that they were experiencing in the Sounds. Those have now been taken and put together in their own logical groupings and these will be taken away and analysis on these will be carried out.
- All the issues have now been identified, lets add some information and work out the activities driving these issues, who are the people undertaking these issues, who are the people affected by these issues and who is responsible for managing this from a regulatory and industry prospective.
- In the fishing industry there are a couple of fisheries that are industry managed and unfortunately the scallop industry is very bad and the crayfish is extremely good.
- Amongst all the issues at the moment there are two or three projects that industry are wanting to lead which are at the core of ecosystem based management. One of these is the paua industry and trying to understand why there has been a lost or not of important habitat to paua and that's seaweed, and if so what is the driver behind this. Secondly, there are areas that have not been fished commercially

for crayfish for quite some time and there is no rebuilding of the crayfish numbers. What is the drive behind this, are the crayfish there and if so why are they not going in the pots. If they haven't rebuilt, why, because clearly it isn't fishing related and there maybe something happening in the habitat or another predator species building up.

- There are some interesting side effects in terms of marine mammal protection zone, particularly down south of the area why by there has been a boom in the number of rig. When the rig has been caught on hooks, a lot of juvenile crayfish is being found in the gut. This is an area where the crayfish are starting to show some declines.
- Coastal Science Strategy – the group is very keen to talk with Steve Ulrich and how the group can drive this forward.
- A new marine protector areas bill will be around benthic (seabed) protection, valued species protection, recreational fishing park and marine & reserves. This bill will be put into legislation next year.

13. General Discussion (other items)

- January 2020 the 100th year anniversary of Hopai Sports will be celebrated. The Hopai Sports Day is a Sounds tradition which held its first event in the 1920's and is a great day for entertainment, health competition and good old-fashioned fun.
- There is a cat pest issue around the gathering place for the vehicles at the ferries. The cats are domestic and their owners let them out of the car before going onto the ferry. Some cats appear to be coming from the ferry marshalling yards and this is next to Kaipupu Point.
- It was stated that from the Picton DOC office and also nationally that DOC is planning to dispose of quad bikes by December 2015 for its staff. Nationally 200 quad bikes will be disposed of and replaced with 80 LUV (Light Utility Vehicles).
- Lochmara, this winter, has an issue with a lot of rabbits dying. The question was asked if there is anything, apart from RCV, that may be killing these rabbits. It was commented that the rabbit can get a nail infection which goes through the burrows quite quickly. Port Underwood had the same problem last year. The RHD may also be having an impact.
- Cowshed Bay had a high occupancy rate over the last summer season, particularly with school camps and were camped on the road side. DOC commented that they had heard of some school groups and those groups did not create a problem. DOC campsites cannot be booked apart from Momorangi or Pelorus Bridge sites, all others are first come first served.
- Heritage Trust – ANZAC popup museum – Cynthia Brooks (cynthiabrooksmdc@gmail.com) mobile exhibit, designed and created and adapted for the area which it's in. In door venue. Gathering stories for it, WW1, family stories. November in Wairau Valley Hall.

14. Positive Feedback

- Judy commented on all the positive issues around the table today have all been very important and has learnt a great deal about the wider aspects of each of those issues.
- Robin commented that he was very impressed with the coastal programmes and the information going forward will be available for people to make decisions on. It is a very good talking point to talk to the other members of the industry.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held off site on Monday 9 November 2015. Location is to be advised. One option would be Okiwi Bay

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

**Agenda items should be sent to
Yvette Johnson (e-mail Yvette.Johnson@marlborough.govt.nz)
by Friday 23 October 2015**

Action	Responsibility
An address list for the Resident Association to be emailed to Rosie Bartlett.	Rosie to contact Lyn Reeves
A document to be drawn up with regard to volunteers harvesting young wilding pines stating the requirements and the process required.	Robin Cox/Victor
SAG Terms of Reference to be created and loaded on to the website.	Alan/Yvette
All members to decide whether they would like their contact details (name and email address) on the SAG page on the MDC website.	All Members

Record No: 15164478