

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 26 February 2018 at 9.30 am

Present

Clr Taylor, Steve Ulrich, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Monyeen Wedge, Jonathan Large, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake, Aaron Robinson, Vic Koller, Dave Hayes and Eric Jorgensen

Guest Speakers

Dan Lees (Ministry for Primary Industries)

MDC Staff

Steve Ulrich, Pere Hawes (10.00 am), Gina Ferguson (10.00 am), Jono Underwood (1.45 pm)
Jane Tito (2.00 pm)

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

Apologies

Clr Hook, Clr Oddie, Judy Hellstrom, Alan Johnson

Welcome

Clr Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lynley Perkins (Kristen Gerard's replacement) to the group. Lynley is representing Kenepuru and Pelorus.

Tim noted that the new security measures have stopped one of the fire exits in the Committee Room being able to be used by non-staff. Nadine is going to look into this matter.

1. Actions from the Previous Meeting (18 September 2017)

- Check if there is information on sea level rises available for the Marlborough Sounds -Steve Ulrich
There are tsunami maps available from GNS, but Steve was unable to find any material for sea level rise or coastal inundation. This work is required under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and this was raised at the Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) Hearing on Climate Change last week. There was guidance released by the Government last year. DOC has also released guidance on coastal hazards. Steve thinks that staff will be directed to undertake this work in the near future.
- Liaise with Glyn Waters to organise a communication on Marlborough Roads contractor availability – Steve Murrin
A newsletter has been sent to the members and positive feedback was received.
- Forward design of slip retaining wall on the Archers Road to Linda Booth – Steve Murrin
Memo received by Rebecca and forwarded to the members on 4 October 2017
- Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works – Alan Johnson
This item is deferred to the next meeting as Alan is on leave
- Provide information to the group on an app for freedom campers – Linda Craighead
Jane is going to attend the meeting to discuss this action point in the afternoon

2. Policy Update on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise – Pere Hawes

- Central Government provides guidance to all councils on planning for coastal hazards associated with climate change including sea level rise. The notified MEP relied on information from the relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) available at the time.
- There has since been another IPCC report. Guidance was released in December 2017.
- The MEP Hearing on Climate Change took place in the week beginning 19 February. An addendum taking into consideration the new guidance, was provided to the section 42A report. (The report had been written before the new guidance had been made available in December).
- This information and the information presented by the Climate Karanga is publicly available via the Council's MEP hearings portal. (Link below).
<https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/programmes/ListProgrammeEvents?id=705555>
- The guidance material is available on the MfE website (link below)
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/coastal-hazards-and-climate-change-guidance-local-government>
- The guidance material sets out advice that councils need to plan for the medium to long term and include community engagement.
- New development is separated from existing development.
- Minister Shaw has stated that councils need to plan for the worst case scenario (H+) when planning for new development.

3. MFA Update – Jonathan Large

- Jonathan made a presentation to the group on their Environmental Programme. (Appendix 1)
- There is a downloadable form available from the MFA website which can be completed and sent back to the MFA (link below):
<http://assets.marinefarming.co.nz/Beach%20Debris%20Report%20Form.pdf>
- Please let MFA know (use the 0800 number below) when there is any debris which they need to pick up, this includes mussel floats which you may have collected off a beach yourself. This information will be added to MFA statistics.
MFA ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
0800 433 2747
0800 4DEBRIS
- MFA would like to link their environmental programme in with the wider community.
 - It was noted that the timing of the Big Day Out beach clean needs to take into consideration nesting of threatened shore birds.
 - Linda noted that it would be beneficial to other companies to have a similar environmental programme. The MFA is happy to share the programme if other companies would like to use it to develop their own.
- Vic noted the damage being done to the foreshore by mussel boats. Jonathan noted that MFA continue to put the message out to operators to go slower in high tides. This topic will also be discussed at the MFA workshop in August. Vic is going to try to film the wake and will pass it on to Jonathan.
- The trial of the method of attaching mussel floats without lashings was discussed. This is not proving very successful and another system involving bolts is being investigated.

4. Aquaculture Week – Debbie Stone

- Debbie passed around the flyer for the Aquaculture Week which ties in with the Havelock Mussel and Seafood Festival (this was circulated to the group by email after the meeting).

5. King Salmon Relocation Report – Dan Lees (MPI)

- The work done on this project by Eric, Judy and Rob was acknowledged by Dan and Nadine.
- Dan made a PowerPoint presentation to the group (Appendix 2).
- A meeting is going to take place with the Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Conservation and Council.
- MPI is going to model the hydrodynamic effects scenario recommended by the Panel.
- The sites that have been recommended will be monitored for two years before salmon farms are shifted, and it has been recommended that there is three years between each stage.
- Dan clarified the differences between the section 360 and Schedule 1 processes. (Shorter submission times, no right of appeal through the Environment Court and the Minister make the final decision).
- Dan was asked if the process was consistent with Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act). Dan noted that the independent panel assessed this and considered that it was consistent with the Act.
- Dan posed a question to the group. “What do members think of the outcome and how it should be progressed?”
 - Pere clarified that the Marine Farming Provisions were removed from the notified MEP and instead a process similar to the Salmon Working Group process is being used to advise Council on spatial allocation and operational requirements for marine farming. The community will be consulted in terms of the outcome. Allocation of space for salmon farming is outside of the scope of the current aquaculture review for now.
 - Ken is concerned with the use of the s360 process instead of following the usual procedures.
 - Eric noted that the working group was not given enough scope to consider new technologies. The process to advise the Minister was thorough. Eric noted that it would be better to look at fin fish farming generically when planning, and include all aquaculture provisions and the effect of all the activities on the broader environment.
 - Rob disagreed with Dan’s comment that the process has been taken to make salmon farming management better when the process was actually undertaken to increase production and to grow salmon farming.
 - Ross noted that data on environmental effects on Kopaua had only just begun when this process was started and asked Dan what is happening now with the rising water temperatures.
 - Dan noted that the site at Tio Point has cooler water temperatures but that Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere is warmer. MPI have not been able to find suitable sites outside of Marlborough. The technology to move off shore is not available yet.

Pere withdrew from the meeting at 11.30 am.

6. Compliance Monitoring Update – Gina Ferguson (Compliance Manager – MDC)

- Gina presented an excel spreadsheet showing the NZKS salmon farm sites (including the proposed relocation sites); how they are measuring against their consent conditions and how they would measure against best management practises.
- The Best Management Practice Guidelines (BMPG) parameters identified are benthic enrichment and copper and zinc. A benthic environment enrichment stage of 5 is the limit farms do not want to exceed. If this stage is exceeded there are alert stages until 5.6 (de-stocking).
- Gina noted that as the consents have all been granted at different times, they all have slightly different consent conditions. The earliest ones have no conditions and the latest include the BMPG in their conditions. Only conditions that form part of the consent can be taken into account when deciding if the farm is compliant.
- Gina noted that of the three sites not highlighted by the Panel for possible relocation; Forsyth Bay has a high benthic enrichment and has been fallowed and the other two have alert responses.
- Gina is going to investigate the notification process followed for the change of Ruakaka Bay from shellfish to fin fish and inform Moneyn of the details.
- BMPG is used as a tool by the Compliance team to help assess enrichment. Link to the guidelines below:
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2014/Environment%202014%20List/Item_6_27_November_2014_Best_Practice_Guidelines_for_Salmon_Farm_Management.pdf
- Gina also shared information on the farms consents in comparison to BMPG copper and zinc parameters. She noted that older consents do not have these parameters as part of their consents, but that if they did, four out of the five older consents have levels high enough that a management response would be needed to reduce their zinc or copper deposits. She noted that copper comes from the anti-fouling agent (which is not used anymore) and zinc from the feed. Three sites have very low levels of the metals.
- Dan noted that recovering the waste from the sea bed and waste capture before it reaches the sea floor, is being researched.
- Steve noted that Version 2 of the Best Practice Guidelines will shortly be published. Gina clarified that consents which refer to Version 1 in their conditions will continue be monitored against that version.
- **Gina and Dan withdrew from the meeting at lunch.**

7. DOC Update – Dave Hayes

- Dave gave an update to the group. (Appendix 3).
- A myrtle rust information sheet has been attached (Appendix 4) and was also circulated to the group after the meeting.
- Dave was asked about the discontinued Perano Whaling Station whale spotting programme. He noted that a large amount of data has now been collected and is being analysed.
- The change in government may mean that DOC will attend more resource management hearings in the future.
- DOC has received an application for a life size model of a whale to be installed at Perano Whaling Station.

8. Marinas Berthage Fee Rise – Kristen Gerard

- Deferred to the next meeting.

9. Forestry Update – Aaron Robinson

- The recent cyclones have caused some damage especially in the Northbank area.
- National Environmental Standards for Planation Forestry (NES – PF) will come into effect on 1 May 2018. A workshop by MPI is being held on 22 March.
- Aaron has noticed improvements in harvesting systems. A tethered type machine is being used more often especially in smaller private forests; this is improving safety and production and reducing tracking.
- Aaron noted that a lot of forests will be coming into maturity in a few years, but doesn't think it will mean there will be more harvested each year.
- Aaron was asked if he knew anything about the barge site at Waitaria, but clarified that he had no new information.

10. Off-site Meeting – Monyeen Wedge

- Discussion took place on a suitable venue for the off-site meeting. Suggestions included French Pass and Central Kenepuru. More discussion by staff with communities will be held to decide where the off-site meeting should be held.
- It was suggested that it may be timely to visit the question of what the role of SAG is. After some discussion it was decided to put this question on to the agenda of the next meeting.

11. Marine Futures Update – Eric Jorgensen

- When the Ministers from MPI come to Marlborough, they will be meeting with the Marine Futures Association and Council to discuss the collaborative integrated process.
- Discussion on what the direction of the Marine Futures organisation should be, took place.

Jonathan Large and Debbie Stone withdrew from the meeting.

12. General Business

Mooring consents – Judy Hellstrom – deferred to next meeting.

Rabbit Pest Control in the Sounds – Vic Koller

- Vic noted that there is a large problem of rabbits in Double and Moetapu Bays. Jono Underwood was able to clarify methods that can be used for rabbit control but noted that not all methods would be suitable for the area which Vic needs to control which is grassy with bush margins:
 - Spotlight shooting (dependent on location and may not be always be safe).
 - Fumigation can be used if the rabbits are using warrens, which probably won't apply in a situation where the rabbits are sheltering in bush.
 - A new strain of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Virus Disease (RHDV1-K5) is likely to be introduced to New Zealand; however this will probably be trialled in more open farm areas and may not be that successful in high rainfall areas such as the Marlborough Sounds.
 - Toxins (Pindone) can be used, depending on community support and also rabbit numbers. The toxin is able to be purchased off the shelf. The idea is to pre-feed in bait stations to get the rabbits used to the stations before introducing the poison for six or seven days. The poison is a slow release anti-coagulant which builds up over time killing the rabbit. Carcasses are not usually seen.

Jono didn't have data on whether weka have been killed by the poison but noted that they would have to feed on the gut contents/organs for a long period of time before being

affected. He suggested setting up the bait stations so that weka are not able to access them. He noted that Pindone has been implicated in some secondary kills of harrier hawks in the South Island high country. There is an antidote available if an animal is accidentally poisoned. The Pindone guidance rules are available on Council's website. (Link below).

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Biosecurity/Feral%20Rabbit%20list/UserGuidelineForRabbitControlWithPindonePelletsInMarlborough.pdf>

- Jono clarified that there has been an early stage research project for the control of rabbits with second generation anti-coagulants coumatetralyl and coumatyl (or sometimes called C+C).
- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) has been notified. Submissions close on 23 March. It includes a proposed new programme for the control of Mediterranean fan worm. (Link to the RPMP proposal below):
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity/regional-pest-management-strategy-review>
- Jono noted that the RPMP does not cover everything that Council does, but is a tool to help with highest priority programmes. Jono has hard copies of the document available on request. Contact Jono on 520 7400 or Jono.Underwood@marlborough.govt.nz

Progress on Roadman Proposal – Vic Koller

- Nadine read out an email from Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads) confirming that a Sounds road crew will be trialled from the end of March 2018 until June 2019. This crew will cover the whole of the Sounds.
- The group would like Steve to attend a meeting soon to provide a roading update.
- The Sounds Councillors have pushed for a permanent increase in the roading budget through the Long Term Plan (LTP) process. Submissions are open for the LTP from 6 April to 11 May 2018. See link below for information on the process:
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/news?item=id:217hbzlu17q9shthyja>

Aaron Robinson withdrew from the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Response of Freedom Camping Action Point (Sept 2017) - Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager – MDC

- Jane clarified that it has not been practical to introduce an app as not all freedom campers are using online systems. However Council is looking at other options and investigating the possibility of showing what areas are available for freedom camping on its website and making booking on-line available.
- The Council Rangers have done a great job over the summer and have moved on people when necessary. There has been an approximate 35% increase in freedom campers this year but there have been fewer complaints. There have been fewer infringements issued this year than in previous years.
- Councillor Sloan will be attending a meeting on freedom camping with the new Minister for Tourism Kelvin Davis. Jane agreed to come and give an update on results at the next meeting.
- Ross noted that more no-camping signs at Portage would be helpful. Jane is going to investigate this.

Jane and Dave Hayes withdrew from the meeting at 2.30 pm.

Future Agenda Item: Salmon Relocation Process – role and basis of SAG members input - Rob Schuckard

- This item will be rolled over to the next meeting.

Feedback on Sounds Advice Newsletter

- There was disappointment that the newsletter arrived by email on 22 December, it would be preferred if the newsletter was distributed in the first week of December.
- Information on what to do in an earthquake would have been useful. Linda noted that her community set up a scenario with the help of Civil Defence; who made a booklet with information including the Tsunami inundation map, and fire and emergency information. The Community Co-ordinator for Civil Defence is Catherine Coates. Catherine.Coates@marlborough.govt.nz
- Other than that the newsletter was informative. Hard copies of the newsletter are available. Please contact Rebecca.waldron@marlborough.govt.nz

13. Other Matters

Next meeting agenda items:

- Climate change data
- Marlborough Roads update
- Tōtaranui 250

Sedimentation of Mahau Sound

- Vic commented that after a rainfall Mahau Sound is coloured brown with sedimentation. Steve noted that sedimentation rates have risen by 5-20% since pre-European times and that the main contributor is the Pelorus/Te Hoiere and Kaituna Rivers. Sedimentation coring has been undertaken in the Mahau Sound and the Havelock Estuary to fingerprint what is contributing to the sedimentation. Results will be available in March 2019.
- Steve is advocating for an integrated approach including bigger setbacks and a replanting management plan which takes into account retiring steep erosion-prone faces and gullies.
- Steve suggested that a concept similar to the West Coast Development Trust might work in Marlborough for the blocks that would become uneconomic because of a replanting management plan. This topic was discussed further and it was decided to put on the next agenda.

Ex-cyclone Gita Media Release

- Linda noted that the media release by Stuff suggesting residents evacuate the Marlborough Sounds was too extreme. Clr Taylor apologised on behalf of Council for this mistake and is going to provide feedback on the group's behalf.

14. Actions from the Meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Check out legality of door to the rear of Committee Room being labelled as an exit when it is not accessible for non-staff	Clr Taylor
2. Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works	Alan Johnson
3. Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay	Gina Ferguson
4. Investigate the no camping signage at Portage	Jane Tito
5. Provide feedback on behalf of SAG on the Stuff press release to evacuate the Sounds (ex-Cyclone Gita)	Clr Taylor

The next meeting date has not yet been decided and will be held off site.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

Record No: 1857489

Appendix 1

MFA Environmental Programme



Top of the South Environment Programme

Environment & Compliance Committee
Marine Farming Association



Areas Covered

The Top of the South Environment Programme incorporates the activities of marine farmers operating in the Golden Bay, Tasman Bay and Marlborough Districts

Guiding Principles

- To minimise the impact of marine farming activities on the wider environment and community in which we operate
- To minimise generic concerns which from time to time may be expressed by other stakeholders and users of the Marlborough Sounds, Golden Bay and Tasman Bay




History

- The MFA has had an active Environment Programme in Marlborough since the 1990's.
- The programme was extended to include Golden Bay and Tasman Bay in 2010
- The programme is managed by a subcommittee of the MFA, the MFA Environment & Compliance Committee



Key Objectives

Debris

- Minimise the risk of debris lost overboard from industry vessels
- Minimise the risk of debris lost from marine farms
- Minimise the impact of debris on the beaches
- Improve data collection and reporting on the debris collected

Noise

- Minimise the noise levels from marine farming activities




Key Objectives

Pollution & Emissions

- Minimise the pollution and emissions from marine farming activities

Waste

- Minimise the level of waste taken to landfill from marine farming activities



Current Activities

Workshops – held every two years with skippers & crews to provide training, update on results and obtain feedback and new ideas.

Vessel packs – industry vessel crews have been trained on the industry SOP's and COP's.





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Environmental Certification Programme -



- Introduced in 2016 as a result of an initiative from vessel crews
- Vessels are required to be passed as compliant as per the requirements of the industry Standard Operating Procedures
- Marine farms are required to be passed as compliant as per the requirements of the industry Standard Operating Procedures
- Companies must be an active participant in beach clean ups
- Companies must adhere to industry SOP's and COP's

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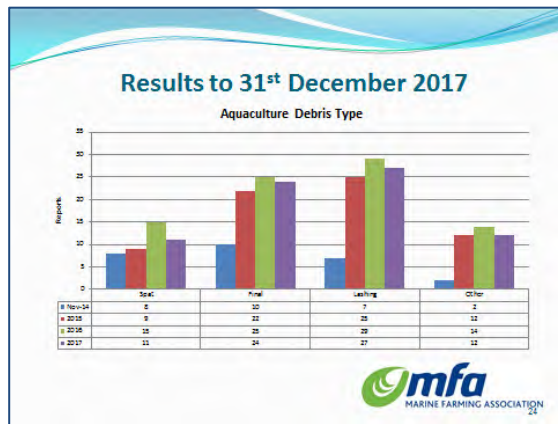
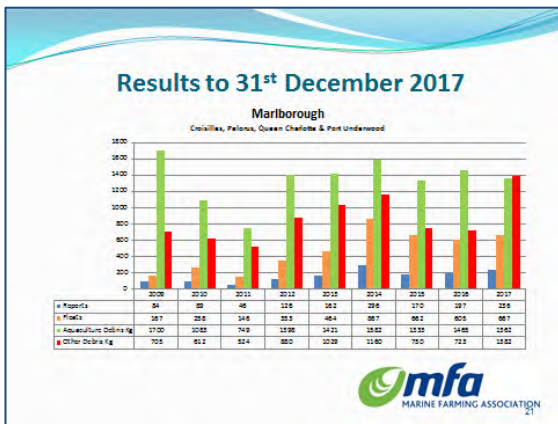
Environmental Certification Programme -



- 16 applications received to date – 9 companies have been awarded Environmental Certification.
 - Clearwater Mussels Limited
 - Sanford Limited
 - Ngai Tahu Aquaculture Services Limited
 - Port Aquaculture Limited
 - United Fisheries Limited
 - Marlborough Oysters Limited
 - Kono NZ LP
 - Port Underwood Contracting Limited
 - Perna Contracting Limited



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2018 Activities

- Focus on Environmental Certification Programme
- Continuing audits on companies already certified
- Increasing focus on Industry Standard Operating Procedures – including producing induction/training video for 'on water' crews
- Continuing year round beach cleans and rosters
- Continuing Industry Big Day Out (beach clean) – December each year
- Community Involvement?



Appendix 2

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Marlborough Salmon Relocation Proposal

Release of the independent Advisory Panel report

Growing and Protecting New Zealand

www.mpi.govt.nz

Introduction

MDC and MPI have worked closely over the last three years to help improve the management of salmon farming:

- Jointly funding the new hydrodynamic models for the Sounds
- Development of the BMP benthic guidelines
- The proposal to relocate up to six of the eleven existing salmon farms in the Sounds to higher flow sites (MSWG)
- Beginning work on the new BMP water quality guidelines

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Marlborough could benefit from relocating some existing salmon farms to more suitable locations

We know more about salmon farming than we did even 2 years ago. We already manage salmon farming to a high standard, but should always try to improve.

Consistent Consent Conditions + **Consistent Monitoring** + **Consistent Management**

Continued environmental improvement | Monitoring technology | Feed efficiency | Waste capture | Future efficient operations

Consultation and the Panel's report

In January 2017, the Minister for Primary Industries consulted with the public and iwi authorities on a proposal to use the RMA aquaculture regulation-making powers to amend the regional coastal plan to relocate up to six existing farms.

To ensure a good public process, the Minister established an independent advisory panel to hold public hearings, consider all comments received, test the available information, and provide a recommendations report to the Minister.

The Panel presented its final report and recommendations to the Minister in August ahead of the elections.

Minister Nash, the new Minister of Fisheries (responsible for aquaculture) has now received the report and agreed to its public release on 14 February.

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Summary of Panel report

- Relocation is a good resource management initiative.
- Recommended that three of the relocation sites were suitable. Three were not.
- Described which three existing salmon farms should be relocated.
- Noted the division in the community on this issue.
- Noted iwi concerns about the process and aquaculture settlement.

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The recommended site 'swaps'

Waihinau to Richmond Sth | Ruakaka to Horseshoe | Otanerau to Tio Point

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The recommended sites for relocation

Site	Recommended to proceed?	Issues		
		Landscape	Cultural	Navigation
Richmond Bay South	✓			
Horseshoe Bay	✓			
Tio Point	✓		Benefits to Te Atiāra	Not significant
Blowhole Point North	✗		Primary issue	Secondary issue
Blowhole Point South	✗	Primary issue	Secondary issue	
Waitata Mid-channel	✗	Contributing factor	Contributing factor	Contributing factor

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Key messages from the Minister of Fisheries

Mr Nash is yet to form a view on the Panel report findings. He has released the report in order to update all interested parties.

"I am making the report public to enable the people and groups who made submissions to study it while I consider the next steps. I also want to thank the members of the Advisory Panel for their work."

"I am some months from making a final decision," Mr Nash said. "I intend to discuss the report with a number of people, agencies and iwi who are following this issue closely."

"In particular, I intend to work closely with the Marlborough District Council around the best process from here. I also intend to ensure the voices of all iwi in the area are heard. Further, I will allow time for the Ministry for Primary Industries to undertake scientific work around water quality and to test policy and legal advice."

"The management of aquaculture in the Marlborough Sounds is an issue where all interests are best served by the Crown working alongside local government and iwi to find the best outcome," Mr Nash said.

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Appendix 3



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Department of Conservation activities and issues of interest from the last six months, including conservation work done by others.

Recreation and Historic

Queen Charlotte Track

- Work on reroute of the track out of Ship Cove is progressing. The tender process to identify a contractor is nearly complete.
- DOC is undertaking a visitor satisfaction survey on QCT. Responses from 500 track users have been gathered. Survey analysis will assist with future decision making regarding the track.
- Staff have completed work on a section of track between Mistletoe Bay and Torea Saddle repairing water damage. This work was funded by Queen Charlotte Track Landowner Cooperative access fees.

French Pass campsite

- A rock 'seawall' has been installed at French Pass to deal with erosion issues impacting the campground. The seawall has held up well to recent storm surges.

Summer season

- Based on camping revenue and staff observations to date; our visitor numbers are up at larger campsites in the Sounds. Extra paid staff (as well as volunteers) were in place over height of summer to manage this.
- Sounds staff have dealt with a fair share of sewage emergencies but fortunately have been able to remedy the situation in short notice.

Jacobs Bay Jetty

- DOC is continuing to work through possible outside funding solutions to restore the jetty. The jetty will remain closed until this can be resolved.

Perano Whaling Station

- Picton staff undertook a restoration and maintenance day at the whaling station to ensure ongoing protection of historic equipment.

Recent Storms

- Recent storm events have resulted in large amounts of debris above the normal waterline esp. in Pelorus Sound. Some extra clearing of windfalls has been necessary but overall, we have gotten away with relatively light damage.

Biodiversity

Blumine mouse incursion

- Only one mouse was finally captured 1.7km from where the tracking card sign was detected during routine island biosecurity surveillance monitoring in July 2017 (positive mouse tracking on several inked tracking cards). No further sign of mice on the island was discovered following exhaustive detection device checking and multiple visits by rodent detection dogs.
- Management of this incursion event cost just short of \$40,000. This highlights the unplanned cost of managing island biosecurity once an incursion has been detected, notwithstanding the normal monthly costs of biosecurity surveillance.

- This also highlights the change in an islands values over time through initial pest removal, the introduction of protected species i.e. orange fronted parakeet. This is particularly the case when the islands, such as Blumine are classified as Scenic Reserve and have open access to the public. Over time their management can have conflicting demands of greater biosecurity risk due to increased visits by the public because of the unique wildlife there and DOC's desire to offer these species adequate, long term protection.

Blumine Island Orange Fronted Parakeet monitoring:

- A team of DOC staff carried out monitoring of this island population of birds earlier in the year and the population is doing well. This is the only remaining New Zealand island population of this nationally critical species.

Staff Changes

- DOC is continuing recruitment for an islands supervisor (responsible for staff supervision at both Te Pākeka/Maud Takapourewa/Stephens Island) and our island quarantine process (checking of individuals gear prior to visits to closed islands or group gear to open islands if the trips are DOC supported).

D'Urville / Moawhitu Wetland

- Hydrological monitoring devices (water level gauges) have been installed at Moawhitu and will provide valuable information needed for the ongoing restoration work. This was related to the site being identified as one of DOC's freshwater stretch goals – ultimately receiving additional funding.
- Further, indications are that a Freshwater Improvement Fund bid (through Ministry for the Environment) to be jointly managed by Ngati Koata and DOC will also improve this important wetland habitat on D'Urville.

Whales

- A large dead whale was reported drifting off the western coast of D'Urville Island. This eventually floated through Cook Strait, last seen somewhere off Cape Palliser.
- A dead whale was reported in Port Ligar, this was found entangled in mussel lines (no indications yet why it died). It was moved to a seldom visited beach to decay naturally. It may very well be the whale seen in the Tennyson Inlet area on a number of previous occasions.

Wasps

- DOC is planning to carry out wasp control at a number of Sounds sites, some with the help of Sanford's staff as part of the Fairfax Wasp Wipeout programme. Generally, wasp activity has been patchy over the district, with some sites having very low numbers.

Tuatara to Puangiangi Island

- Through the support of Ngati Koata representatives Otago University (Alison Cree) arranged the transfer of 7 captive bred tuatara to be moved to Puangiangi Island, a privately owned island off D'Urville Island (owned by Barry Dent).

Myrtle Rust

- There have been no sightings of Myrtle Rust in this region but concern remains high due to sightings in Wellington. Key staff have been trained across the region to identify and respond correctly. DOC has also undertaken seed collection of vulnerable species in the region to establish a viable seed bank.

Predator Free 2050

- A Top of the South trapping workshop was held December 3rd. This was hosted by Nelson Nature and Brook Sanctuary with support from DOC and attended by approx. 115 people.

Spartina

- A seasonal team have been employed to monitor estuarine areas in the inner Pelorus Sound. So far they have found spartina in an area that previously was not thought to contain spartina but overall there are now very few plants and the goal of eradication is still thought to be achievable.

Community

Queen Charlotte Interpretation

- Web-friendly interpretation to complement the interpretation panels has been completed <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/marlborough/places/queen-charlotte-sound-totaranui-area/things-to-do/tracks/queen-charlotte-track/queen-charlotte-track-stories/>.

Motuara Island interpretation

- Totaranui 250 Trust has sponsored the development of interpretation on Motuara Island. Sonia Frimmel from What's the Story has been engaged to do the work and a site visit with iwi and the Trust was undertaken.

SMART: Marine Mammal Training

- The Annual SMART course in Picton was hosted and well attended with 25 operators and aquaculture staff.

Conservation Week

- Four events were hosted by DOC and community groups last October, sadly only one of these (Kaipupu visits) was well attended. The time of year was very busy with other events.

Summer Explorer Programme

- The summer programme is underway with 22 events planned; to date most events have been well attended. 16 events were organised by seven of our community partners.

Sea Week

- DOC is coordinating a Massive Marlborough Clean-up as part of Seaweek. A number of community groups, businesses and clubs are participating in events around the region. DOC staff will be joined by Sanford's staff to undertake clean up around the Sounds on 28 February. MDC is supporting the event.
- A rock 'seawall' has been installed at French Pass to deal with erosion issues impacting the campground. The seawall has held up well to recent storm surges.

Appendix 4

Myrtle Rust Information

Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that severely attacks plants in the myrtle family including pōhutukawa, mānuka and rātā. It is now in New Zealand.

Look out for myrtle rust and contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66 if you see it.

What to do if you see myrtle rust

- Don't touch!
- Don't collect samples as this might spread the disease.
- If you can, take a photo of the rust and the plant it's on.
- Phone MPI's exotic pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66.
- If you accidentally come in contact with the affected plant or the rust, bag your clothing and wash clothes, bags and shoes/boots when you get home.



How the disease begins and forms - new yellow pustules and small brown spots



The lesions get bigger and produce masses of bright yellow spores

Your reports of suspected cases are vital in helping determine where myrtle rust is in New Zealand, how far it has spread and whether eradication, containment, or even slowing the spread is feasible.

The earlier we find out about any New Zealand infection, the greater our chance of doing something about it.

For more details please visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/myrtle-rust>