

**Minutes for Meeting of the
Sounds Advisory Group
held at Marlborough District Council on
Monday, 17 May 2021
commencing 9.30 am**

Present: Clr Faulls, Clr Taylor, Ken Roush, Monyeen Wedge, Ross Withell, Vic Koller, Lynley Perkins, Rick Osborne, Rob Schuckard, Ned Wells (Marine Farming), Dave Hayes (Department of Conservation), Eric Jorgensen, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Jodi Milne (MPI), Mike Bell (Marine Farming – via Zoom)

MDC Staff Attending: Alan Johnson (Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager), Oliver Wade (Environmental Scientist), Juliet Gibbons (Communications Advisor), Luke Grogan (Harbourmaster), Pere Hawes (Environmental Policy Manager), Heli Wade (Te Hoiere Project Manager), Jamie Clark (Compliance Manager Regulatory), Shelley Lines (Environmental Enforcement Officer), Dean Heiford (Support Services Manager), Bernadette Brooklands (Secretary).

1. Welcome

- Clr Taylor noted the passing of the founding member of SAG, Joe Heberley (Snr). Clr Taylor will be leaving this meeting early to attend the funeral this afternoon. It was noted that a condolence card will be sent to Mrs Heberley.

2. Apologies

- Clr Oddie, Emma Hopkinson-Young, Poneke Rene, Trent Rasmussen (MPI) and Gina Ferguson.

3. Confirmation of minutes 15 February 2021

- The minutes of 15 February were taken as read.

4. Actions from the previous meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Jodi Milne (MPI) to update SAG on MPI notifications online	Alan - Jodi
2. Jodi Milne to talk about the Southern Scallop Strategy	Alan - Jodi
3. Impacts of the NPS for fresh water	Pere Hawes
4. Compliance update	Gina Fergusson
5. Review of SAG	Alan Johnson
6. Invite Mike Bell to next SAG meeting	Ned Wells
7. Cissy Bay joining SAG meetings	Clr Faulls
8. Antenno App	Clr Faulls

Action Point 1

- Jodi Milne (MPI) gave an update to SAG on MPI notifications online.
See Item 11 & Appendix C

Action Point 2

- Apologies from Trent Rasmussen from MPI to talk about the Southern Scallop Strategy. Jodi spoke on his behalf.
See Item 11 & Appendix C

Action Point 3

- MDC policy update with Pere Hawes.
See Item 6

Action Point 4

- Compliance update – Apologies from Gina Ferguson (MDC Consents & Compliance Group Manager). Shelley Lines and Jamie Clark spoke on her behalf.
See Item 12

Action Point 5

- Review of SAG with Dean Heiford (MDC Support Services Department Manager).
See Item 15

Action Point 6

- King Shag presentation by Mike Bell (MFA) (via Zoom).
See Item 8 & Appendix A

Action Point 7

- Cissy Bay Community Association request to join SAG. To be discussed further in the meeting under the review of SAG.

Action Point 8

- DOC/MDC Health Compliance Notifications – Antenno App.
See Point 13 & question & answer section Point 12 & Appendix D

5. Harbours & Coastal Science Update – Luke Grogan, Oliver Wade

- Luke advised that Harbours and Coastal Science will now be called the Nautical and Coastal Science Team. This will enable joint resources to be utilised in a more effective way. The clear objectives are maritime safety, how to protect marine sites, operational issues with boats on water and how to encourage people to think about how they use the water and the impact on the environment. Also to encourage the public to think about how their actions in the marine space impacts others. To do this, Harbours need to be engaged with the community to get the conversations moving forward. Integrated management will be the focus to make the Nautical and Coastal Science function to work on what the key issues are in the marine area.
- Oliver spoke of the difficulties around the Sounds and general coastal area, however, the positive outlook of integrated management with Nautical and Coastal Science to band together and work on solutions collaboratively.
- The MDC Science teams still operate together however Oliver is now based in the Picton office and reports to Luke as Harbourmaster for the focus of their group.

Questions/Answers

- It was asked if information would be sent out to the community so they are aware of the new group and what the purpose is. Luke advised they have been working on the objectives and documentation for the Nautical and Coastal Science Team. The documentation should be completed near the end of the year.
- It was asked if the Harbourmaster could invoke powers for environmental protection breaches. Luke advised that at present this may still need to go through Council policy. Pere noted that non-regulatory responses are just as important as regulatory.
- Rob would like an action for next agenda for an update on the State of the Environment 2015 report. It was noted that the environmental reports will still be completed with Oliver continuing to be involved in the Coastal Science Reports. The monitoring programme is based on what the environmental reports discover. Oliver noted that the review is underway for the 2015 report. Pere advised that the next PMEP is 2028. A variety of Oliver's reports can be issued as individual domain reports.

- Cllr Faulls noted that the new policies coming through from government such as NPS and 3 Waters are causing a large workload on the Science team on top of what they currently do. Oliver is happy to be contacted for any concerns. Cllr Faulls noted that the public can go into the MDC website and see the minutes of meetings and what policies are and the results of reports.
- It was noted that a large percentage of homes in the Sounds are holiday homes and how will the information be made available to them. Luke advised that currently information does go to some holiday homes to make holiday makers more aware of their responsibility on the water and the general Sounds area. This information will be expanded. There has been thought into how and where this information can be made more accessible for the community and bach and boat owners who live out of town. The information may also go on the Cruise Guide App. <https://cruiseguide.co.nz/>

6. MDC Policy Update – Fresh Water (PMP) – Pere Hawes

- Pere gave an update on the appeals and hearings for the PMP. Please see links below for details.
- Biodiversity pending upcoming national direction review process. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity>
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity/aotearoa-new-zealand-biodiversity-strategy/>
- 51 appeals were received on the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan. The appeal process is an Environment Court run process and correspondence should be directed to them in the first instance. More information on the appeal process can be found on the Environment Court of New Zealand website. The process and results of mediation are confidential. If there is agreement, that agreement is documented in a consent memorandum. Appeals Version of PMP – Pere showed a track change version on the website. See link below. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/decisions-on-the-pmp/pmp-tracked-changes-version>
- Variation 1 and 1A Hearings - The Council has appointed five Commissioners with delegated authority to make decisions on the Variations. The members of the Hearings Panel are: Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Councillor David Oddie, Ms Shonagh Kenderdine, Mr Rawiri Faulkner, Ms Sharon McGarry. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/hearings-on-the-proposed-marlborough-environment-plan>
- The 112 submissions to Variation 1 and 1A submissions have been summarised. The public notice is out next week which starts the further submissions process. There will be 20 working days to make further submissions. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/variations/variation-1-and-1a>

Questions/Answers

- It was asked if there are any updates on the Ocean Policy. Pere reported that he has not seen any.
- Nadine advised that Councillors are against the amalgamation of the three Top of the South plans recommended in the Randerson Project. See link below for the National Policy Statement. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/national-policy-statements>

Questions/Answers

- It was asked if there are any updates on the Ocean Policy. Pere reported that he has not seen any.
- Nadine advised that Councillors are against the TOTS amalgamation proposed by the Randerson Report. See link below for the National Policy Statement. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/national-policy-statements>

A break for morning tea was taken with the meeting resuming at 11.00 am.

7. Land Transition Feasibility Study Update – Eric Jorgenson

- Two workshops were held with Councillor's and several Iwi and then a separate meeting with the staff on transition work and how to go about this. Also did the group still want to address issues and what the scope would be and how to move forward? The group also met with Vern Harris from MFA and Board member Henry.
- Matt Oliver and Eric to complete a report in approximately six weeks' time. The report will lay out a business proposition for a case study. A starting point is location based, exotic forestry and life cycle based.

Questions/Answers

- Cllr Taylor asked if Eric has linked in with John Cunliffe. He confirmed that he has.

8. King Shag Breeding – Mike Bell - MFA

- Mike is the Lead Researcher on the King Shag Project. Mike is currently working on the Chatham Islands and presented to the group via Zoom. His presentation was an update on year two of the three year project. Note: Due to Mike being at the Chatham Islands, a copy of his presentation was not available, however, see link below to read the full Year One and Two Reports and the link for the King Shag Project on MFA website. Appendix A contains information from the MFA website.
https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/site_files/24792/upload_files/WMIL-KingShagResearchProject-YearOneReport.pdf?dl=1
https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/site_files/24792/upload_files/SILMFA-KingShagResearchProject-YearTwoReport.pdf?dl=1
<https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/king-shag-project/>

See Appendix A

Questions/Answers

- Monyeen asked if the foraging areas have been affected by plastic waste. Mike advised that some of the regurgitation showed plastic however, he felt that the plastic more than likely had come from the fish they have eaten. There is no sign of plastics in their nests.
- Oliver asked if Mike will move out of the Sounds to the Nelson area where a roost site had been located. Mike noted that at this stage he would not be.
- Rob asked if the heat map data and GPS data could be shared. Mike said that would be possible once all the data has been collected and analyzed.

9. Te Hoiere Restoration Project Update – Heli Wade (Te Hoiere Project Manager)

- Heli presented her Te Hoiere Project PowerPoint presentation. For further information see Council website.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/te-hoiere-pelorus-catchment-restoration-project>

See Appendix B

10. DOC Update – Dave Hayes (DOC)

Recreation

- Good domestic use of campsites and further afield in Titarangi. The occupation numbers were down at Kenepuru area and Whatamongo Bay camp sites.
- Repairing of a bridge on the Ship Cove Waterfall track due to a large slip. The bridge will be replaced with a culvert and the track will be closed while the work is carried out.
- Toilet upgrades on both sides of the Pelorus Bridge.
- Repairing of bridge that goes over the Rai on the towers and anchors.
- Nydia Bay bathroom facilities have had a full upgrade and the track that goes up by the wharf has been tarsealed.
- Governors Bay and Komototo track and picnic area upgrades made possible with the support of Outward Bound.

- The annual sea week work was completed in Pelorus/Te Hoiere and Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui with DOC staff.

Biodiversity

- DOC has completed the two year monitoring programme in the Long Island Marine Reserve. This involved a team of divers doing base line monitoring and adding data to the data set. This data shows what is inside and outside of the reserve.
- 40 Saddleback/tīeke were taken off Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary and taken by helicopter to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary and were released behind the predator proof fence.
- A lizard survey was carried out in the Waitohi and Titirangi area with green geckos located.
- The native frog survey on the islands proved successful with a previously marked frog being recognised from 24 years ago.
- Stoat and rat detection dogs have been through the predator free islands with no pests found.
- Only a handful of Spartina grass found in the Inner Pelorus and Havelock estuary area. Two detection dogs have now been trained to detect Spartina grass. They indicated to an area that may contain rhizomes so this area will be re-checked again next season.
- Moawhitu Wetland on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island still ongoing and in its fifth year. It is positive to see native species flourishing again. Trainee ranger groups, various volunteers and paid contractors have been replanting thousands of trees. The target is 15 thousand trees.
- The work at the Havelock site where Plague skinks were previously located is ongoing. No skinks located over the summer season, however, this will be monitored again next year.
- Rat and possum bait to be hand laid at Penzance Bay and Duncan Bay.
- Doc has been busy with deer control and reports of large deer numbers throughout the Sounds. Doc have been involved in the development of the use of thermal imaging which will be an easier way to keep numbers down via a chopper.
 - Three deer were culled on Te Pākeka/Maud Island.
 - Blumine Island/Oruawairua 30 deer were removed the previous year. 23 further deer were culled within two days.
 - In Queen Charlotte/Tōtaranui Sound 21 deer were culled.
- Several predator free islands are being used as Kiwi nurseries for our rarest Kiwi, the Rowi. 20 were successfully removed from Blumine Island/Oruawairua and relocated back to Ōkārīto.

Community

- Renewal of Sounds foreshore reserves is ongoing.
- Miranda Van Der Lyn is a new staff member.
- Takapourewa/Stephens Island annual programme of work with the frog and weed survey showed a positive outcome with Tradescantia being eradicated from the island.

Questions/Answers

- Locals would like to keep deer off their properties and the reserves. Bay of Many Coves received a grant to look at pests. Eric looking at ways to receive a grant for the culling of pests in his area. DOC is working on ways for deer to be culled in a safe manner near residential areas.

A lunch break was taken with the meeting recommencing at 1.10 pm.

11. Fisheries Update – Jodi Milne (MPI)

- Jodi gave her presentation on the Southern Scallop Survey and algal bloom notifications.
- Please see Appendix C for all the information and links to the MPI website for the various documents and information links.

See Appendix C

Questions/Answers

- Jodi to follow up if toxins that are harmful to wildlife are also put on the alert list or are they only added to the list if they pose a danger to human consumption.

12. MDC Compliance Update – Jamie Clark (MDC Compliance Manager) & Shelley Lines (MDC Environmental Protection Officer)

- Jamie Clark and Shelley Lines spoke on behalf of Gina who was unavailable today.
- The Portage Hotel – Compliance working with the hotel company, DOC and community regarding issues around disposal and wastewater fields.
- Two new staff members will be employed to assist with the large workload that the MDC Compliance section currently holds.
- See links below for the NES freshwater standards and the link to the MDC Compliance Service for useful information on compliance issues.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/compliance-service/national-environmental-standards-for-freshwater-nes-f>
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/compliance-service>

Questions/Answers

- Clr Faulls enquired if notifications can be uploaded onto the Antenno App for information such as Cow Shed Bay. Jamie will look into this and advise Clr Faulls.
- Shelley advised that if people see non-compliance, to take a photo, ring Council and make a complaint. All complaints are confidential.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/contact-us>
- Clr Faulls enquired if a notice or information package could be circulated to the residents associations to advise when there is an issue in the area and then once again when the issue has been dealt with.
- Salmon farming best practice guidelines status for resource consenting - As Gina Ferguson is not available at this meeting, Jamie Clark will speak with Gina Ferguson and Anna Eatherley and provide the information back to the group.

13. DOC/MDC health Compliance Notifications – Antenno App

- See point 12 question and answers section and Appendix D
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenno>

14. Community/Industry Representatives Update – SAG Members

Duncan Bay -Linda Booth:

- Lack of maintenance after the road has been continually painted. E.g. the contractor marks the road with white paint for repairs and then nothing happens to repairs.
- Covenants are not being adhered to once a property sells.
 - Alan advised that Council do not enforce covenants.
 - Clr Faulls will give Linda the contact details for a person who specialises in covenants.
- What is going to happen to green waste in the communities? The community is awaiting their Resource Consent decision on the disposal of green waste.
- Linda concerned about the time it takes for emergency call outs as there is no coverage for cell phones or pagers in their area.

Te Whanganui/Port Underwood - Ken Roush:

- The road has been regraded after summer. There is a washout that has been present for several months.
 - Clr Faulls advised that the Sounds/Ward Councillors are happy to advise Marlborough Roads.

Kenepuru & Central Sounds – Ross Withell:

- Portage - The owners have secured and removed all unsafe components and this year aim to rebuild the jetty in line with the resource consent.
- The roads are in good condition and all repairs completed.

Okiwi Bay - Tim Greenhough:

- Road markings wearing off too quickly.
- What is the outcome of the fatality that the Harbourmaster investigated?
 - Clr Faulls to look into this.

Pelorus/Te Hoiere and Northern Kenepuru - Lynley Perkins:

- The Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds/ Te Hoiere have been busy with baches and holidays homes being utilised. The residents would like clarity around the fee charged for tourism and where this money goes.
 - Clr Faulls to investigate.
- Lack of cell phone coverage.
 - Clr Faulls to investigate.
- The area is busy with new builds and turnover of real estate.
- The floating jetty at Te Mahia Bay is working well and is popular with the locals.
- Wattle growth on the Tennyson Inlet Road.

Sounds Integrated Management Group - Eric Jorgensen:

- Eric informed the group on the Jobs for Nature Programme (Wilding Pine) in the outer Pelorus Sound/ Te Hoiere and outer Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/jobs-for-nature/>
<http://soundsrestoration.org.nz/>
- The Sustainable Seas is going through its final review.
- Work in conjunction with MPI on where fish species are targeted together.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/science/fisheries-science-research/about-our-fisheries-research/>
- Congratulations to Ned Wells and his team at MFA for the Cawthron Environment Award for Environment Impact Projects.
- Eric and the team of the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust won the Supreme Award and the Landscape and Habitat Enhancement Award at the 2021 Marlborough Environmental Awards for the community action on wilding pine control.
<https://www.cmea.org.nz/supreme-award>

See Appendix E

MFA -Ned Wells:

- MFA have won an award for mussel bed restoration for environment impact projects at the 2021 Marlborough Environmental Awards. See link below to the MFA website to read article on the mussels or read Ned's April newsletter for full details.
<https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/mussel-bed-restoration/>
[https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/site_files/24792/upload_files/blog/MFA-NLApril2021_Final\(1\).pdf?dl=1](https://www.marinefarming.co.nz/site_files/24792/upload_files/blog/MFA-NLApril2021_Final(1).pdf?dl=1)
<https://www.cmea.org.nz/marine-category-winner>

See Appendix E

- Ned congratulated Eric and his team for their awards at the 2021 Marlborough Environmental Awards.
- An agenda item will be noted for the next meeting on plastic residues in the environment with Oliver and Ned.

Moetapu Residents Assn in the Mahau Sound - Victor Koller:

- The tarseal has been repaired on the damaged section of road.

- Seawall protection – It was asked if Council create a standard plan for a retaining wall without residents having to hire an engineer.
 - Clr Fauls advised Pere Hawes is aware of this.

MFIA – Rick Osbourne:

- Timber link sawmill closed in Blenheim. It may be used as a movie location

Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui - Monyeen Wedge:

- Decline of penguin and dolphins in the area.
- Reports of people illegally fishing in Double Cove despite the signs being up.
- Wild pigs and goats an issue.

French Pass Residents Assn - Rob Schuckard:

- The upgrade of the road at the upper ridge of Elaine and Okiwi Bay has been completed.
- The goat cull has not culled out all the goats from the Upper Ronga Saddle area.
- Old Man's Beard and Mombasa grass located on French Pass Road.

Questions/Answers

- Alan advised the groups that the Council's environment grants are coming up (August) and the encouraged community groups are able to apply for funding for the pest and plant control and restoration activities.
- Dave Hayes from DOC made a note of the plant and animal pests mentioned by all the parties.

15. Review of SAG – Dean Heiford & Alan Johnson (MDC)

- Council is undertaking a wider representation review this year, which is required every six years under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and Local Electoral Amendment Act 2002. A population formula determines the number of Councillors to be elected for each ward. The review includes a decision on whether Councillors (not including the Mayor), are elected by the electors of the district as a whole or through a ward structure, or through a combination of both. From there any ward structure needs to be identified and the number of members agreed upon. On Friday 21 May a meeting is to be held to decide if there is to be a Māori Ward for Marlborough. People on the Māori electoral roll in Marlborough will be able to vote for a candidate elected at large across the district.
- The SAG discussion document is still open if any other members wish to add further comments. Please email Alan with your comments.
- The decision of accepting further community groups into SAG will be an ongoing discussion due to lack of time at today's meeting.
- Dean asked if any of the community groups have succession planning in place. How can the community groups inspire their members to assist with the work so it is not the same members doing all the tasks?

Questions/Answers

- Monyeen asked if community boards could have any power. Dean advised that Council would need to have a discussion before this was decided.
- Rob shared his view on issues around conflict by using community members on technical workshops and support and transparency about their roles.
 - Alan has asked for Rob to put his thoughts into an email and any other members may do so as well.

16. General Discussion (other items)

- Lynley suggested that some members who have reliable internet coverage may wish to attend the SAG meetings via Zoom instead of in-person.
- Clr Fauls congratulated Ned and Eric on their 2021 Marlborough Environmental Awards.

Pere Hawes joined the meeting at 9.47 am & left at 2.14 pm. Nadine left meeting at 12.40 pm. Lynley Perkins from 10.47 am. Jamie Clark and Shelley Lines joined the meeting at 1.30 pm. Heli Wade joined the meeting at 11.00 am and left at 12.50 pm. Juliet Gibbons and Luke Grogan left the meeting at 11.00 am. Oliver Wade left the meeting at 1.00 pm. Dean Heiford joined the meeting at 2.14 pm. Mike Bell via Zoom 11.00 am – 11.25am.

Dates for 2021 meetings

- 9 August
- 15 November

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Action	Person Responsible
1. Update on the 2015 report.	Pere Hawes
2. Do the shellfish toxin notifications only relate to humans or is it also relevant to wildlife?	Jodi Milne
3. Can MDC Compliance notifications to go on Antenno App for Sounds residents to access.	Clr Faulls/Jamie Clark
4. Salmon Farming best practice guidelines status for Resource Consent.	Jamie Clark /Gina Ferguson
5. Report on plastic residue in the environment.	Oliver Wade/Alan Johnson/Ned Wells
6. Standardisation of design for seawall retaining walls.	Pere Hawes/Clr Faulls
7. For the next meeting the first item of business will be the update on SAG.	Alan/Clr Faulls
8. How many members would prefer to attend remotely via Zoom?	Alan/Clr Faulls
9. Continuation of discussion on other Community Associations attending the SAG meetings.	Alan/Clr Faulls
10. Rob to put his thoughts into an email in relation to process and procedures for using community representatives on formal/technical working groups assisting MDC policy.	Rob Schuckard
11. Lack of cell phone coverage in Tennyson Inlet area.	Clr Faulls
12. The Kenepuru and Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere area residents would like clarity around the fee charged for tourism	Clr Faulls
13. What is the outcome of the Okiwi bay fatality that was investigated?	Clr Faulls/Luke Grogan
14. Provide Linda Booth the contact details for the covenant specialist.	Clr Faulls

Appendix A – King Shag



The New Zealand King Shag (*Leucocarbo carunculatus*) is a rare species of marine cormorant found only in the Marlborough Sounds. The total population comprises of around 800 birds who breed on only ten tiny rock outcrops scattered throughout the Outer Sounds. Despite often nesting close to the water's edge in exposed locations, the population is thought to have remained relatively stable for the last 50 years.

King Shag are very different to the other species of shags found in the Sounds, especially the more familiar Pied Shag which is attracted to boats and chases released fish hoping for an easy meal. King Shag are very wary, they never approach boats and will fly away if you get too close. A guide to spotting and identifying King Shag can be found below.

They predominantly feed on benthic (bottom dwelling) fish species and have been recorded diving to depths of over 60m. This is amazing for a bird that can also fly pretty well!

Little is known about the ecology of King Shag and historically a lack of understanding on how the birds interact with aquaculture had been used to oppose resource consents. With this in mind, the Marine Farming Association (MFA) formed the King Shag Working Group which includes representatives from the aquaculture industry, the Ministry for Primary Industries, Iwi, Marlborough District Council and the Department of Conservation.

In 2019, MFA partnered with Seaford Innovations Limited and industry members to fund an extensive research programme on King Shag. The three-year project includes chick banding and GPS tracking of adults birds and has delivered some amazing results, most of which are 'new to science'. So far we have discovered that King Shag have very individual foraging behaviour, with some birds preferring shallow water over a soft bottom, while others prefer to dive deep around reef structures. Just like us, they all seem to have their preferred fishing spots.

The GPS data is also showing birds quite happily feeding within or near marine farms and that all birds will stop off on mussels farms to digest their meal after feeding. This banding and tracking work is complemented by population census work funded by New Zealand King Salmon; and colony surveys, eDNA analysis and otolith research funded by MPI and DoC.

NOTE: King Shag at colonies or roost sites are very susceptible to disturbance and any boats approaching too close will cause a mass stampede as the birds escape. This can cause breeding failure as nests are trampled, or gulls predate on unguarded eggs and small chicks. You can do your part to help King Shag by remaining more than 200m away from any colony.

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS ICONIC KING SHAG

HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM – HOW TO HELP PROTECT THEM

	Description	How to identify which species
	<p>KING SHAGS King Shags are a rare seabird, which is endemic to Marlborough they are generally located in the Outer Sounds. Colonies nest on rocky outcrop and roost on other rocky points & on mussel floats. The King Shag does not nest or roost in trees, they are very wary & rarely seen in close proximity to boats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black & white plumage which is browner in juvenile birds • White wing patch, especially noticeable when in flight • Black feathers on head reaching below bill giving the appearance of a darker head compared to a Pied Shag • Pink legs & feet • Tends to swim away from you flicking its head from side to side
	<p>PIED SHAG Pied Shags are found throughout the sounds. Their nesting colonies are typically found in trees close to or overhanging the sea. The Pied Shag roosts in other trees or on rocky points & on mussel floats. They are relatively approachable. Birds readily follow boats especially when fishing or harvesting mussels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black & white plumage, brown in juvenile birds • No white wing-patch • Back completely black or brown • Black feathers only on upper head making birds appear more pale-headed than King Shag • Black legs & feet
	<p>SPOTTED SHAG Spotted Shags are found throughout the Sounds. Higher numbers are found in the Outer Sounds. The Spotted Shag nests in small colonies and in small pockets & caves in the steep cliffs. Quiet & approachable bird. Does not usually approach boats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey plumage • Yellow legs & feet
	<p>LITTLE SHAG Small Shags are found throughout the Sounds in small numbers. Little Shags nest in trees, often in Colonies with Pied Shags. Relatively flighty, and does not usually approach boats. Commonly seen within mussel farms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Size • Variable amount of white on breast of birds, ranging from birds with full white breast to those with just a white chin • Short yellow bill • Black legs & feet
	<p>BLACK SHAG The Black Shags are found throughout the Sounds in small numbers, they are common in the Inner Sounds & around the harbours of D'Urville Island. The Black Shag nests in small colonies in trees. Often in lagoons or lakes back from the sea.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large size (Similar size to King & Pied Shag) • Fully black plumage • Browner in Juvenile birds • Black legs & feet

**IF YOU ARE APPROACHING A KING SHAG OR A KING SHAG COLONY – YOU SHOULD
REDUCE SPEED, REDUCE NOISE & KEEP YOUR DISTANCE (at least 200 metres)**

Appendix B – Te Hoiere

TE HOIERE/PELORUS PROJECT

*‘Haere, kakea te ara poka hou’
‘go and ascend the newly trodden path’*



Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

The Project was initiated under the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT), Te Tau Ihu (top of the South Island) formed by of all the Councils, 8 of the 9 iwi and DOC. The KMTT alliance focus is on landscape-scale conservation projects that have environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits



Project area and phases



Project purpose

The Te Hoiere Project brings together the community and the supporting partner agencies to look after Pelorus-Te Hoiere catchments from bush-clad tops to the sea – ki uta ki tai.

Project drivers

*MfE Exemplar Catchment’ as part of the ‘At-Risk Catchment’ programme
One of Department of Conservations Ngā Awa Priority Rivers
National and regional legislative and kaitiakitanga responsibilities*

Project aims

*Improve water quality
Protect and enhance biodiversity
Provide whanau and the community opportunities on their land
Leave the land in a better state for our kids an their children*

Funding



How are we going to get there?



The ICEP... What?

Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan
 Stock take of current stuff in the catchments
 Community engagement to find out concerns and aspiration that can be turned to actions

Community engagement



Baseline monitoring

To Hoiere Linkwater Sampling Sites



Early win opportunities

- Planting and maintenance
- Weed and predator control
- Workshops
- Baseline monitoring



Photo courtesy of Chris Piper

How can you get involved?

... your thoughts? What form could your involvement take?



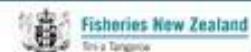


Actions from the last SAG meeting

- Update the group on MPI notifications online
- The Southern Scallop Strategy

General updates

- April sustainability round decisions
- Upcoming consultation



Algal bloom – notifications online

- <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/subscribe-to-mpi/>

Shellfish biotoxin alerts

- Biotoxin alerts are sent out to this subscriber list as soon as MPI gets notified by the lab of high results.
- www.mpi.govt.nz/shellfish
- Council and Public Health Units are notified. Public Health Units then notify local medical practitioners and iwi health contacts.
- The marine radio announces the MPI notification.

[s://w mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/recreational-](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/recreational-)





The Southern Scallop Strategy Marlborough Sounds 2020

- In 2018, the then Minister of Fisheries, Hon. Stuart Nash, requested a multi-sector stakeholder group be created to help Fisheries New Zealand develop recommendations, and integrated research and management plans for the southern scallop fishery.
- The Southern Scallop Working Group (SSWG) brings together tangata whenua, commercial, recreational fishing and community interests, as well as scientists and Fisheries New Zealand.
- After extensive engagement, the SSWG developed the Southern Scallop Strategy Marlborough Sounds. The Strategy was approved by the Minister of Fisheries in 2020.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/41932-Southern-Scallop-Strategy-Marlborough-Sounds>



 Fisheries New Zealand
Tiri a Tangata


Implementation Plan

The SSWG has developed an implementation plan for the Marlborough Sounds' Southern Scallop strategy.

The implementation plan is a working document that provides more detailed guidance on how the aim and objectives of the strategy will be met. It will be reviewed and updated over time to reflect progress towards achieving the objectives of the strategy.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/44902-Implementation-plan-Southern-Scallop-Strategy-Marlborough-Sounds>



 Fisheries New Zealand
Tiri a Tangata

Latest southern scallop survey results

- The latest survey (conducted in May 2020) indicates that scallop numbers in SCA 7 are still too low to support sustainable fishing. The southern scallop fishery remains closed. Further biomass surveys will be carried out later this year to re-assess the status of the scallop stock.
- To read the most recent SCA 7 survey research report, and to stay updated on any changes to the fishery, please see our southern scallop fishery webpage:
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries/the-southern-scallop-fishery-sca-7/>
- New research is being carried out this year to support the implementation of the Strategy, including looking at cumulative effects of different stressors and sampling non-commercial scallop beds.
- The SSWG is aware of local differences (some areas are stable/rebuilding others are depleted/not recovering) and considering how best to manage this.



General updates

The Minister for Oceans and Fisheries made the following decisions on stocks reviewed for the April sustainability round:

- Rock lobster - CRA 5 (Canterbury/Marlborough)
Maintain the TAC at 514 tonnes.
Maintain the TACC at 350 tonnes.
Maintain allowances for Māori customary fishing and recreational fishing at 40 and 87 tonnes, respectively.
Maintain the allowance for all other sources of mortality caused by fishing at 37 tonnes.
 - Elephant fish - ELE 7 (West Coast South Island, Top of the South)
Maintain the TAC at 127 tonnes.
Maintain the TACC at 102 tonnes.
Maintain the allowances for Māori customary fishing and recreational fishing at 5 and 10 tonnes, respectively.
Maintain the allowance for all other sources of mortality caused by fishing at 10 tonnes.
- <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-2021-april-round/>



General updates cont.

- Fisheries New Zealand is in the final stages of determining stocks for the October 2020 sustainability round.
- Public consultation is scheduled for mid-June.
- <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations>



Appendix D – Antenno App

Antenno



Notifications - to you, from Council

Antenno is a free mobile app that sends you notifications and alerts about places you care about in Marlborough. Nelson City Council is also using Antenno, so don't forget to include any places of interest to you in Nelson.

Antenno is simple and easy to use and no personal information or log on details are required. No need to check multiple sources of information either – Antenno sends information directly to you.

Examples of what Antenno might alert you to:

- Southern Valleys irrigation updates for Southern Valleys customers
- Changes to refuse and recycling collections
- Road closures
- Water/wastewater outages and shutdowns
- Updates about emergency event



Reports - from you, to Council

Antenno can also be used to immediately tell Council about things that need fixing, or give us feedback, direct through the app.

Seen some graffiti, found a pot hole, or have a new idea? Open Antenno, go to 'Your reports' and add a report to tell us about it. Don't worry if you're offline; you can add the details to Antenno, and send it when you're back online.

To use Antenno

All you need to do is install the app from the App Store or Google Play and save places you care about, such as your home, work, rental property or school. Antenno will notify you when something relevant to your chosen place(s) arises.

Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones.

Antenno is free!

Install Antenno now

iPhone users

[Download Antenno from the App Store here](#)

or use your phone to search for Antenno in the App Store.

Android users

[Download Antenno from Google Play here](#)

or use your phone to search for Antenno on Google Play.

Antenno FAQs

Antenno Feedback Form

Get Council Meeting Notifications With Antenno

Download Antenno to get notifications about upcoming Council meetings on your phone.

MARINE AWARD 2021



MARINE FARMING ASSOCIATION

Winner: Marine Award
Sponsored by Port Marlborough

Marine farmers have joined forces with universities and other agencies in their research project to restore the wild mussel beds of Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound.

The seafloor here was once rich with mussel beds, providing kai moana, a nursery for fish, as well as filtering sediment and stabilising the seabed.

Dredging and overfishing wiped out the beds 40 years ago and the Marine Farming Association is now working to get them back.

Collaborating with scientists from Auckland University and NIWA they are trialing different methods, placing tonnes of live mussels in plots on the seafloor to grow and spread.

At other sites, waste mussel shells are used to create reefs for live mussels to latch on to, providing a growing platform while reducing the waste stream.

This project is an inspiring example of marine restoration, mussel farmer engagement and community education. It also shows how industry groups can give back to the environment they operate in.



Rose Prendeville (Port Marlborough, centre) with Emilee Benjamin and Ned Wells (Marine Farming Association)

SUPREME AWARD 2021



MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS RESTORATION TRUST

Winner: Supreme Award sponsored by Marlborough Research Centre and Plant & Food

Winner: Landscape and Habitat Enhancement Award sponsored by Morgans Road Nursery

The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust's wilding pine programme has had a huge impact on the landscape of the Sounds as they work to restore native bush.

Wilding pines are an unintended consequence of trees planted for shelter, erosion control and commercial forestry. They grow fast and take over regenerating native bush, reduce biodiversity, and change the look of the natural ridgelines.

Working with Sounds landowners, Council, Government agencies and sponsors, the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust raises funds to hire contractors to get rid of the wildings. The crews work through the undergrowth to drill each tree and inject herbicide, or spot-spraying is done by helicopter. As the trees die and break down, the native bush and natural skyline returns.

The Trust is working across a wide area of the Sounds, from Tory Channel to D'Urville Island. The judges were impressed by the Trust's ability to connect with the community and raise funds and in-kind donations. Their strong track record leads to high credibility with the community and funding agencies.



Supreme winners with, from left, Gerald Hope and Edwin Pitts (Marlborough Research Centre), Andrew Macalister, Isabella Lee and Eric Jorgensen (Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust), and Dion Mundy (Plant & Food)