

FRANKLIN HARBOR

MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

The second meeting of the Franklin Harbor Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 1pm on 31 May 2010 in the Franklin Harbour Institute, Main Street, Cowell.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose lands we are meeting upon today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here.

Members present: Eddie Elleway (Chair), Ashley Smith, Scott Arnold, John DeGeglio, Robert Siegmann, Chris Wakelin, Dale Chopin, Julie Schiller, Johanna Sampson.

Supporting staff: Simon Clark (Executive Officer, Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH)), Louise Jones (GIS Analyst), Dirk Holman (Project Officer) and Sandy McFarlane (Secretary).

Gallery: Marcus DeGeglio, Graham Harrowfield, Bryan Green, Brenton Osborne, Conrad Hornhardt

Apologies: Mark Cant

1. Welcome

Chair Eddie Elleway welcomed DEH staff, members and gallery to the second Franklin Harbor MPLAG.

John DeGeglio moved that the minutes of the last meeting were true and correct. Seconded by Dale Chopin.

2. Correspondence

From Wildcatch Fisheries and South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council (SARLAC), stating their position on the marine parks process.

Petition from residents and tourists of Eyre Peninsula regarding a ban on netting in Franklin Harbor entrance, via Jill Brooks (2006), was shown to the MPLAG. DEH advised that this was a fisheries issue which is managed by PIRSA.

3. DEH Executive Officer

- Simon Clark welcomed members and gallery.
- He apologised to the net scale fishermen that timing had not allowed an out of sessions meeting.

4. Agenda Items

4.1. Community feedback

Julie Schiller:

- Spoken to Mark Churchett (Cowell Area School aquaculture program manager). He was to meet with Cowell Area School principal (Jan Potter) and draft a letter

stating the school's position for this meeting, but hasn't yet.

- Little or no advertising of SAMPIT. No hardcopies available, especially to those community people who are not technologically savvy. She proposed more time be given for SAMPIT surveys.

Robert Seigmann:

- Did not have much response from people. Some people said they fish the whole area.

John DeGeglio:

- A lot of people do not want to fill in the SAMPIT survey.

Ashley Smith:

- A lot of people do not want to give up their information.

Chris Wakelin:

- People are confused, fear what might happen in the future and wonder what the government's real intentions are.

Scott Arnold:

- Oyster guys have a negative attitude towards the marine parks.

4.2. Sharing SAMPIT information

- 51 mentions of SAMPIT in media generated by MPLAG members since our first meeting.
- 43 SAMPIT entries from Franklin Harbour (98% from recreational users).
- MPLAGs to provide comment on:
 - accuracy of data entered
 - gaps in known information
 - priority areas – higher and lower importance.
- After analysing SAMPIT survey results, members agreed that the data on the maps generally represented areas of community use.
- Additional suggestions included:
 - Areas such as the Entrance, Lucky Bay hotspot fishing areas, the Dredge and Sky fishing drops, Port Gibbon, Picnic Creek/Schultz Beach are high use fishing areas.
 - The bottom of the harbour and mangroves could possibly be Sanctuary Zones, they are known to be breeding areas.
 - Avoid potential marina site in Franklin Harbor (between Cowell and Windmill Beach).
 - Suggested possible Sanctuary Zone in the harbour, in the middle of the oyster leases.
 - Harbour was an old crab fishery, but crabs have not been seen lately.
 - Higher fishing activity on the coast north of Gibbon Point is because of beach access.
 - More fishing effort than is reflected in SAMPIT in the northern area of Franklin Harbour
 - The saltmarsh/mangrove areas of Franklin Harbor (north side of the entrance) could be a Sanctuary Zone, but not Germein Point (right at the entrance) because of beach and boat fishing.
 - The whole of the entrance to Franklin Harbor is an important fishing area
 - The patch of macroalgae on sand south of Lucky Bay is called the Sky and is an important fishing spot.
 - The southern boundary of the park could be a possible protected area.
 - The single high use cell in Lucky Bay (15163) is called the Dredge and is an important fishing site. A dredge was sunk there.
 - There are three net fishers that use the Lucky bay waters (under 5m).

- One fishes Lucky Bay to about Shoalwater point.
- Two net fishers fish north of Lucky Bay to the top of the park.
- Used to be 47 net fishers in the area and now there are 7/8.

4.3. Marine park management planning – input from LAGS

- A management plan will be developed for all parks. An example of management plans and user guides were shown to the group. There will be 19 marine park management plans.
- Management plans will consist of zoning and other management strategies.
- A user guide for community use will be developed so that MPLAG members will be able to apply and assess zoning scenarios against the design principles.
- Management strategies will need to meet objectives of Act which were discussed.
- The policy commitments for Franklin Harbor Marine Park were discussed.

4.4. Ongoing communication

Simon asked how MPLAG members went communicating with target groups from the last meeting.

Chris Wakelin:

- Concern that once government policies are in place, the government might discreetly make more changes (ie extend marine parks). Simon replied that the parks have a 10 year review and any changes will have to go through public consultation. Additionally, the current Minister for Environment and Heritage has committed to amending the process so that any changes are required to be approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Ashley Smith:

- Public still wary. Need more public explanation. He suggested explanation of different marine park zones be placed in the newspaper.
- Suggested tackle the survey from a different angle, ie ask which areas should be in the zone.

Eddie Elleway:

- Suggested SAMPIT survey result map be given to the public to view and be reassured that fishing areas are safe.

Brian Green:

- Suggested place maps on public noticeboards. Most people think the park is already drawn up and that they don't get a say. Simon replied that they are proposed zones only.

John DeGeglio:

- Found the SAMPIT map hard to follow.

Robert Siegmann:

- Is overwhelmed by the paperwork given to MPLAG members. It as suggested that people require different information needs, so the information provided to assist members in their decision making, however it is up to each member how they use or not use it.

Dale Chopin:

- Concern about policing. We never see fisheries officers here. Big issue – nine state Marine Parks, 10 officers currently.

Julie Schiller:

- Concern that the general public are not aware of the marine park proposals. There was no advertisement of this meeting. Simon replied that they will ensure notices are placed around town for the next meeting and that hopefully the ban on advertising will be lifted soon.
- Need to advertise the marine park website. Simon accepted the suggestion and will take back to the DEH.

Jo Sampson:

- Suggested the wording of marine parks be changed from 'proposal' to 'public

ideas' when consulting the public. She suggested placing the SAMPIT result map in the *Eyre Peninsula Tribune* newspaper and/or school newsletter. A need to keep the public aware, ie. inform how many people actually did the survey too. Simon responded that we can record areas which the public would like to be protected.

Robert Siegmann:

- Suggested Marine Park proposal public information be placed in the *On Deck* magazine publication which gets sent to all boat owners.

4.5. Communication Plan

Member	Who will be contacted	Methodology	Achieved	Notes
Eddie Elleway	Franklin Harbour District Council	Meeting	Yes	Will talk to a reporter from the EP Tribune.
	Port Gibbon Progress Association	Meeting	No	
	Boat Ramp committee through Council	Through Council	Yes	Suggested have SAMPIT survey result maps posted in IGA, council office, library – for public consultation
Ashley Smith	Charter operators (Cowell and Arno Bay)	Informal	Yes	Not interested in entering data into SAMPIT
	Recreational fishers	Informal	Yes	
Chris Wakelin	Cowell oyster growers	Informal	Yes	Looked at website with a few people.
	Recreational fishers	Informal	Yes	
Mark Cant	Eyre Regional Development Board	Meeting	NA	
	Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association	Meeting	NA	
	Fisheries and Aquaculture Target Team	Meeting	NA	
Julie Schiller	Recreational fishers	Informal	Yes	People not trusting to enter fishing data.
	School - Aquaculture program	Mark Churchett – program coordinator	Yes	
Dale Chopin	Franklin Harbour Development Group	Meeting	Yes	
	Chamber of Commerce	Informal	Yes	
		Caravan park distribute SAMPIT maps	Yes	Tourists not interested.
Scott Arnold	Other oyster growers	Informal	Yes	Not comfortable with marine parks.
	Recreational Fishers/divers	Informal	No	
John De Giglio	Commercial interests – Lucky Bay and Cowell	Informal	Yes	
	Lucky Bay Shack owners	Website/Letters	Yes	
Robert Siegmann	Luck Bay Residence	Informal and committee		Lack of interest as people believe that it has already been

				decided.
DEH	Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board	Meeting	Scheduled to provide an update.	
	Kimba Council/ Lucky Bay shacks	Contact Kimba Council	No	
	PIRSA Fisheries	Informal	Yes	
	Cowell Ute Muster 13 March	Information Stall	No	Not enough resources on the days.
	Crab Festival 6 March 2,500 participants	Information Stall	No	

5. Questions from the gallery:

Graham Harrowfield:

- There is not much area around the Cowell region where professional net scale fishers can operate.
- Concerns about unexplained changes in marine environments.
- Seasons determine where you fish, so marine park Sanctuary Zones will negatively influence scale net professionals.
- There are a lot less professional net scale fishers now. Who's catching all the fish?
- There is a need to protect the sea bottom. This affects the fish.
- Concerned that habitats need to be monitored in order to preserve for the future ie. seagrass lines.
- Suggested the Sanctuary Zones are established in the harbour.
- Eddie suggested Graham puts his proposals in writing for the next meeting.

Ashley:

- Would like a link of environmental (ie. habitat) maps sent out to MPLAG members.

The Chair thanked all in attendance.

6. Record of meeting

- General consensus that the government advertising ban is frustrating the community consultation process.
- Concerns raised about future compliance management of marine parks.
- SAMPIT data reviewed and information added.
- Key tasks of members to distribute information to wider public and encourage input into the process.

7. Next meeting

To be advised.

.....Date.....
Chair

Action Items as at 31st May 2010

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
2	All Members	Provide DEH with management issues relating to the Franklin Harbor Marine Park		25 June 2010