

KANGAROO ISLAND

MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

The second Meeting of the Kangaroo Island Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 1pm on June 3, 2010 in the Seal Bay Board Room at the Aurora Ozone Hotel, Corner of Commercial Street and Chapman Terrace, Kingscote.

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: John Lavers (Acting Chair), Kate Venable (proxy Fraser Vickery), Mary-Alice Ballantine-Swan, Tony Geyer, Che Spruyt, Bruce Weatherspoon, Terry Lehman, Graham Walden, Matthew Ingram, Graham Connell, Bevan Patterson, Cherie Tyley, Ken Rowe

DEH Staff: Phil Hollow, Robyn Morcom, Kate Clements, Bill Haddrill

Proxies: Kate Venable (proxy Fraser Vickery)

Gallery: Two PIRSA Fisheries officers

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Andy Gilfillan, Dr Margi Prideaux

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Correspondence

Catherine Barnett from the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council (SARLAC) submitted a letter to be tabled as correspondence. Phil Hollow will raise issues further into the meeting.

Gary Morgan from Wildcatch Fisheries SA submitted a letter to be tabled as correspondence. Tony Geyer disputed the point made by Gary Morgan that we have well managed fisheries, Tony stated that in crisis situations maybe so, but on a whole they are not proactively managed.

Bruce Weatherspoon commended the job that fisheries are doing.

Graham Walden agreed with Cherie Tyley that there is a lot of information out there which states that SA fish stocks are overall very healthy and we need to remember that.

Mary-Alice asked if SARLAC will provide information prior to when the management plan is done. When will people be compensated? Phil replied that the Displaced Effort Working Group is providing information to the Government and that at some point the commercial industry have stated that it "will buy into the process".

DEH has already received some commercial data through the SAMPIT process.

Andy Gilfillan's letter dot-pointed the concerns/opinions/suggestions of some members who had met separately outside of MPLAG meetings. Phil congratulated Andy on this initiative and commented that time would not permit to go through all points in Andy Gilfillan's letter but that he would provide a written response to the dot points.

Actions: KI MPLAG chair to provide responses to all letters tabled at the meeting.

Phil Hollow to respond to Andy Gillfillan's letter.

5. Confirmation of minutes of MPLAG 1 meeting held 10th February 2010

The minutes of meeting held on 10th February 2010 were signed as an accurate record by the Chair

Amendments

- Ken Rowe left off of Page 3
- Correction on Page 3 - Over 70% of Kangaroo Island's waters is contained in MP.
Cherie Tyley moved the minutes be accepted.
All agreed
- Mary-Alice Ballantine-Swan asked if the last minutes should include the names of the 8-10 people that attended in the gallery. Phil Hollow responded that gallery attendee names had not been collected from the last meeting. A suggestion was made that in future people that wished to make comment from the gallery would be asked if they would like their names and comments recorded before publishing them in the minutes.

6. Action Items and business arising from the minutes

All actions complete from the last meeting,

Action Items from meeting 10th February 2010

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
1	<i>Robyn</i>	Organise opportunities for MPLAG members and members of the public to gain knowledge of and input data into SAMPIT.	Ongoing	Initially by March 31 st 2010 then ongoing for next few months
1	<i>Phil</i>	Consider an opportunity to include a presentation of the MARXAN model for the next meeting.	Will occur at next MPLAG meeting (3)	March 31 st 2010
1	<i>Members</i>	Return comments regarding the Value Statements to DEH via reply paid mail.	Ongoing	March 19 th 2010
1	<i>Phil</i>	Organise arrangements for next meeting.	Completed	April 10 th 2010
1	<i>Phil</i>	Develop an agenda item for each meeting to dispel any rumours that members may have heard.	Completed	April 21 st 2010
1	<i>Phil</i>	Develop the KI Communication Plan (Draft) for consideration by MPLAG members.	Ongoing	April 21 st 2010

7. Agenda Items

Community Feedback

Feedback from Kangaroo Island MPLAG members

There is concern from the public about them continuing access to fishing spots – Tony Geyer

relayed feedback to Robyn Morcom.

Che Spruyt commented that things are taking too long in terms of compensation for the Commercial Sector. Most people Che has spoken to are very worried about the outcome. Phil replied that Che should direct this question to the industry representatives on the Displaced Effort Working Group.

Mary-Alice commented that she was disappointed that there was a delay in this meeting.

Ken Rowe commented that he was keen to see outcomes from SAMPIT and the level of where Marine Park projects are up to. His observations are that regions are at varying levels with the Marine Parks process. Phil commented that all 13 MPLAGs across the state are working on the same issues.

Ken Rowe expressed that the public are concerned that everything is decided already and that Kangaroo Island MPLAG will not have any impact or help in the process of determining Marine Parks. Phil responded that the establishment of MPLAGs was to ensure communities had ample opportunity for input.

There is a suggestion that all MPLAG chairs meet with the Minister. There have been four Ministers for Environment and Conservation recently. The whole of the State needs to be on the same wavelength where marine parks are concerned.

Tony Geyer commented that the Chair should go off armed with information from Kangaroo Island MPLAG and should represent the broader thoughts of the group. Cherie Tyley reiterated the same and stated that the Chair should not be putting their own personal slant on any information taken to the Minister.

Action: Phil to promote a state-wide meeting of MPLAG Chairs through the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH).

7. Sharing SAMPIT Information

Matthew Ingram commented that there was some scepticism within the community about highlighting their fishing hotspots on SAMPIT. The community are unsure where the marine parks process is at – more advertising is needed to generate continued public interest.

Robyn Morcom commented that prior to the first MPLAG meeting an article was run to announce the members of Kangaroo Island MPLAG and that the time and location of both MPLAG meetings had been advertised in the Islander. Robyn invited people to provide ideas as to how we could gather more community input.

Cherie Tyley stated that fishing methods change frequently. There is still information circulating about the danger to seals due to bait straps, however this information is outdated. Information that is pre-2000 is being used; scientific findings must be up to date. Often local information is correct and appropriate, whereas scientific information is outdated.

Mary-Alice Ballantine-Swan asked if it is up to the fishing industry to let public know about the up to date technology that they use.

Cherie Tyley commented that scientists regularly travel on fishing vessels conducting research and they are responsible for making the results of their research available to the public.

Kate Venable commented that sometimes the fishing industry is a little secretive. Researchers have not been allowed to access vessels to gather as much data as they should be collecting.

Terry Lehman made comment that researchers are doing the research but not reporting the findings of their studies. There is a lack of reporting to the public.

Bruce Weatherspoon pointed out that the process of community engagement has been hard. Bruce agreed to be a member of Kangaroo Island MPLAG as he wanted to be a voice for the community, his observations are that people want to see the boundaries in place but are reluctant to make comments.

Phil Hollow stated that community feedback is crucial as Kangaroo Island MPLAG will have to make comment on the limited amount of information that has been gathered through the SAMPIT from the public.

Tony Geyer commented that SAMPIT didn't reflect any of Gavin Solley's interests in charter fishing on the north coast. Robyn will be discussing this with Gavin and will capture his data. Che Spruyt said that Gavin Solley will have to provide his hotspots as his clientele will not be able to provide the GPS coordinates.

Cherie Tyley was concerned that SAMPIT did not show how often spots were fished. Phil said this information can be accessed.

Ken Rowe stated that the snapshot of data given is so small and that the fishing activity is so under represented. There is information lacking from visitors and fishers that don't reside on Kangaroo Island.

Bevan Patterson asked if there was any commercial effort? The data in SAMPIT is both commercial and recreational.

Mary-Alice Ballantine-Swan asked about the two letters that had been tabled. Was this information input into SAMPIT?

Che Spruyt made comment that he had only seen three crayfish boats and three recreational boats up the western end of the island in 10 years. It was recognised that there was no representation from the western end of the island at Kangaroo Island MPLAG. One factor may be that there are not many places to launch boats up that end of the island.

Robyn & Phil handed out 4 KI Marine Parks Maps. The group divided into four small groups and were asked to verify data, report on any fishing activities, and to fill in any gaps based on observations and/or local knowledge of the area.

Action: Phil and Robyn will collate the information that Kangaroo Island MPLAG provided and circulate.

Phil pointed out that it is likely that SAMPIT will be around for some time to come and that people should continue to input data.

7.1 Identifying local management issues

Bruce Weatherspoon asked if draft management plans could be changed. Tony Geyer commented that outer boundaries can not be changed unless they go through parliament.

Ken Rowe asked if the boundaries were changed would it have to go through community consultation. Phil responded that any changes to the outer boundaries must go out for full community consultation with a review of the management plan and then be passed by both houses of parliament.

Cherie Tyley asked if the impact study proved that there was an environmental or social impact on an area then could the zone be moved. Could rolling sanctuary zones be moved on a rotational basis? Robyn responded that this is not the purpose of marine parks. Sanctuary zones are intended to be in place permanently for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, like national parks on the land. However, if there is good reason to move a sanctuary zone, based on evidence, it could be done but would require full consultation.

Ken Rowe asked what if Kangaroo Island MPLAG does not accept the 14 Design principles. There are members from the community that are not accepting of the principles. Ken is concerned that he has to report to the public and gain consensus. Phil responded that the design principles are not up for debate. They are based on national and international guidelines and are encapsulated in the *Marine Parks Act 2007*, that was debated for 2.5 years from 2005 and finally passed both houses of parliament.

Mary-Alice Ballantine-Swan asked if the user guide and maps will come out concurrently with a management plan.

Risk Analysis – all members to have a look at the information *Kangaroo Island Marine and Estuarine Threats*.

Marine Parks are not just being designed around threats. Che commented that he read that all major seal colonies are under threat. Robyn responded that most seal colonies are listed as threatened and that some form of fishing has posed problems - entanglements, food competition/ resource extraction. Bill Haddrill or Phil can provide information on pelagic and benthic feeding habits of seals on Kangaroo Island if anyone is interested.

Tony Geyer mentioned the threat of the European fan worm and the potential impact they will have on scale fishing on Kangaroo Island. Terry Lehmann mentioned that in WA and NSW they have European fan worms, they multiply very quickly and smother the habitat for fish stocks. Phil commented that sanctuary zones are more about protecting good quality examples of all the different habitats in the region. The community should be looking for sanctuary zones within the marine parks which were free of threats if possible. Park design is responsive to threats but not focussed on them.

ACTION: *Kangaroo Island MPLAG members to complete the six worksheets provided and return them to Robyn. Members are to identify areas of concerns, threats, impacts and opportunities.*

Mary-Alice asked if there should be a workshop organised prior to the next meeting. Robyn said that members are welcome to get together and Robyn or Phil can join and provide clarification and help talk through management issues. All issues should be logged no matter how small, or the nature of the observation, all of the local issues are important.

There is already a broad knowledge of the threats that exist but further local information is required ie dogs on park. Che suggested that we need more local fisheries officers to help implement management issues.

Che asked how many parks officers to fisheries officers? Bill Haddrill responded there are approx 100 DEH Employees in the Region: 60 Full Time Employees (of which 7 are Rangers), 40 casual staff.

Che asked how many full time fisheries officers there were on the island? There should be more fisheries officers, representation and resourcing. How will marine parks be policed in the future when funding is being pulled and illegal fishing activities take place? Che pointed out that the introduction of marine parks may encourage illegal marine parks activities. Che made mention of abalone poaching that is already happening in remote areas.

7.2 Preparing for zoning

At MPLAG Meeting 3, Robyn and Phil will bring preliminary zoning scenarios to Kangaroo Island MPLAG members. A presentation will be provided to explain the suggested choice of possible sanctuary zones. The option DEH will present will have used SAMPIT data and will be based on the 14 design principles.

Graham Walden expressed concern that he is unable to provide comment to the public if he

is unsure on the percentage of marine park area (ie economic, or geographic area) will be in a sanctuary zone. The Government has said that no more than 5% of the economic value of commercial catch will be displaced.

Tony Geyer believes there is a lack of information out about why these parks are being formed. Other countries have had Marine Parks for 30 years, yet people think that we are the instigators. Tony thinks there should be more information about international marine parks made available to the community.

Tony Geyer commented that other countries around the world have Marine Parks. Cherie responded that some places such as Thailand have them, but they are not managed or monitored.

Bruce Weatherspoon commented that he thought the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders special privileges may not sit well with members of the community. Bill Haddrill spoke of ILUA – Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Government and Indigenous groups.

ACTION: *Kangaroo Island MPLAG to read through design principles document and be aware of policy commitments.*

Tony Geyer read about mud cockle harvesting at Coffin Bay but nothing about Kingscote. Some locals had expressed interest in this activity. Phil commented that there was a specific SA Government policy commitment given regarding the Coffin Bay mud cockle harvesting.

Bruce Weatherspoon commented that Kangaroo Island MPLAG need to reinforce that the draft zoning will go out for community comment and that there is scope for change. Phil agreed and commented that DEH is committed to ensuring that MPLAG members don't shoulder the burden of zoning arrangements but that members understand their role which is to advise. The SA Government is ultimately responsible for zoning arrangements.

Graham Walden commented that when things go out in draft that some Kangaroo Island MPLAG members won't necessarily agree with it. The plans will be in draft form only and the general public still have the ability to comment and suggest change.

Matthew Ingram mentioned that Kangaroo Island MPLAG need to keep encouraging representative samples from the community. When spots are suggested, that may be lost to no-take zones, still have to encourage people to speak up and recommend others.

Graham Walden said that Kangaroo Island MPLAG will need evidence, facts and research to support decisions and proposed draft.

Ken Rowe thinks that a minimalist approach to marine park sizing and boundaries will be a good start to keeping the community happy.

Mary-Alice asked about time lines for the next meeting and was interested to know when there would be some lines on a map and a management plan. Robyn responded draft management plans would go out for public consultation early 2011.

ACTION: *Robyn to circulate the Marine Park Management Planning Process to group members.*

Bruce Weatherspoon asked why we needed to put on the top of our agenda a tribute to the indigenous people. John Lavers responded that in all Government meetings that he attends this is Government policy and needs to be acknowledged. Phil responded it was a commitment from our Department and DEH wants to acknowledge our traditional owners and their heritage.

7.3 Ongoing communications

Phil asked that members consider opportunities to add names to the Communication

Plan.

7.4 Questions from the gallery: nil

8. Record of meeting

- The Kangaroo Island MPLAG is empowered with the knowledge required to draft zoning scenarios that the Minister will distribute for community and stakeholder consultation.
- If there is media contact we need to encourage people to enter data into SAMPIT.
- Working documents on local issues (put contact phone numbers), this could provide positive opportunities and outcomes.

ACTION: *Phil and John to develop a record of meeting statement*

Next meeting: TBA Late July / Early August (preferred)

Meeting Closed at 5pm

..... **Date**

Chair

Action Items from meeting 3 June 2010

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
2	<i>Phil</i>	Promote a state-wide meeting of Chairs through DEH.	<i>Completed</i>	
2	<i>Chair / DEH</i>	KI MPLAG Chair to provide responses to all letters tabled at the meeting.	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2	<i>Phil and Robyn</i>	Collate the information that KI MPLAG members provided on SAMPIT and circulate.	<i>Completed</i>	
2	<i>LAG members</i>	KI MPLAG members to complete the six worksheets provided and return them to Robyn. Members are to identify areas of concerns, threats, impacts and opportunities.	<i>ongoing</i>	
2	<i>KI MPLAG members</i>	KI MPLAG to read through design principle document and be aware of policy commitments.	<i>ongoing</i>	
2	<i>Robyn</i>	Circulate the Marine Park Management Planning Process to KILAG members.	<i>Completed</i>	<i>10/6/10</i>
2	<i>Phil / John</i>	Develop a record of meeting statement	<i>Completed</i>	<i>10/6/10</i>