

**FAR WEST**  
**MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP**

## **MINUTES**

The second meeting of the Far West Marine Parks Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 10:30 am, 22 November 2010, Ceduna District Council Chambers, 44 O'Loughlin Tce, Ceduna

*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:** Ian Cawood, Reg Davis, Allan Hasseldine, Jonathan Hoffrichter, Jane Lowe, Gus Oestmann, Justin Phillips, Nick Paleologoudis, Allan Suter, Perry Will, Bruce Zippel and Rob Palmer, Chris Catsambalis, Andrew Minns.

**Apologies:** Trent Gregory, Peter Owen.

**DEH staff:** Aude Loisier (Minutes), Simon Clark, Dirk Holman, Alison Wright.

**Proxies:** Justin Phillips (for Trent Gregory), Rob Palmer (for Peter Owen).

**Gallery:** Fifteen members of the public attended.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair Ian Cawood acknowledged the traditional custodians.

**Apologies:** Nil

**Absent:** Simon Firth

### **2. Correspondence**

- Letter from Conservation Council of SA.
- Letter from Minister for Environment and Conservation to the MPLAG Chair Ian Cawood.

### **Actions Arising**

Acceptance Minutes from the meeting held on 8 February: Moved by Allan Suter and seconded by Jonathan Hoffrichter, motion passed.

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
1	All Members	1.1 Review of the Value Statements	Completed	19/03/2010
1	All Members	1.2 Implement Communication Plan	Ongoing	Next Meeting
1	Chair/Executive Officer	1.3 Resolved that the Chair and DEH Regional Conservator investigate the following options as the best method of encouraging community input to obtain both value for money & maximum outcome:  Option 1 - Costs for running an advertisement in the West Coast Sentinel for 2 weeks  Option 2 – Information sheet distributed via an insert in the West Coast Sentinel (including MPLAG members name & contact details).	Cancelled	

With reference to 6.6.4, Alessandro Madonna with recreational fishing knowledge and Justin Phillips with rock lobster industry knowledge are members on the Great Australian Bight MPLAG. Currently there is still no representative for the scale fishery.

Action 1.3: A communication strategy was developed. The two options for promoting the marine parks process were not realized due to changes in the Government's policy on advertising.

#### **Any other business:**

From the previous meeting with the Minister, Justin Phillips highlighted the necessity to have the percentage of sanctuary zones clarified to help in the zoning discussion.

#### **3. Chairs meeting in Adelaide with the Minister:**

- 14 chairs were present
- Ian thought it was a good meeting with some good general discussion including:
  - o Concerns around driving vehicles along the beach in marine parks. The Minister clarified that this was a matter and the responsibility of DTEI.
  - o The chairs discussed with the Minister the displacement of fishermen through the marine park zoning and the consequence of the competition between recreational and commercial fishermen.

- The Minister is committed to finalise the displaced effort question after the community process.
- The minister also emphasised that the zoning of the marine parks had to be adequate to achieve the target more than a set percentage. It could be a minimum or a maximum of sanctuary zones depending on the areas and the park: (The adequacy zoning could be done at state level & network level).
- There was a lot of support for all South Australian waters to be in parks to manage all waters of the state.

Overall it was a good meeting which provided the opportunity for good discussions between the all the MPLAG chairs. Many similar opinions and concerns were shared on a state-wide basis.

#### **4. DENR presentation by Simon Clark:**

The marine park management planning process was explained. Simon highlighted that that the process this MPLAG decided was to skip the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with the SAMPIT information collection

- The meeting is a starting point for MPLAG members to see the initial proposed design of the marine park with dialogue in preparation to provide advice, opinions and comments on zoning. All comments from the community will have to be sent back to DENR by 28th January 2011 for collation before the next meeting.
- Impact statements will go with the draft management plans through the second stage of the public consultation process
- Justin announced that he was not here today to provide information for the zoning on behalf of the Rock Lobster industry. He was not comfortable as an individual to comment today on the zoning and draw on maps. Simon Clark reiterated that members did not have to contribute any comments today as it is only a starting point for discussions and that there will be plenty of opportunities to comment and provide advice during the process.
- The need of multiple use marine parks and what they protect were explained. Simon also explained how habitat and other biophysical features (e.g. sea surface temperature and depths) were used as surrogates to protect whole ecosystems and food webs.
- The pack provided to MPLAG members include:
  - Scenario 1 for sanctuary zones with background information
  - Checklist for zoning (guidelines)
  - Atlas map
  - DENR assistance
- The guidelines for the possible sanctuary zones should include all habitat types and ideally their perimeter should be in the range of 7 to 10 km to be self-sustaining.
- There was general disagreement about the design principles in particular the 7-10 km perimeter guidelines. The question of required percentage by the International Convention on Biodiversity was discussed. It was advised that the percentage is derived from international bench marks.
- Other guidelines recommend having fewer and bigger sanctuary zones. All sanctuary zones should be buffer with habitat protection zones (5km). The marine park council's advice is that sanctuary zones should cover 20-25% of each marine park.

- MPLAG members were against set percentages (25%) as a target. There were questions regarding the quality of the guidelines issued by the Scientific Working Group (SWG).
- Ian Cawood said that from the Chair meeting with the Minister there was an understanding that the percentage would vary from park to another (network concept). The Chair was worried that if the MPLAG put efforts in working with the guidelines to comply with government, the SWG will still not listen to the advice.
- Rob Palmer followed by adding that it would be important for scientist like Peter Fairweather to come and explain 1) the science behind the marine park to the MPLAG members and 2) why there is a commitment of Australia and SA governments to follow international standards.
- Allan Suter then said that the MPLAG members need to see in writing what is this international commitment as such target would not reach the 5% or less impact on local economies.
- The information used for the zoning included fish habitats, Australian sea lion sites, shoreline categories, shorebirds, estuaries , socio-economic information and habitat / ecosystem types. Only 9 persons from the Ceduna area added information through SAMPIT towards the zoning process.
- Justin Phillips asked how the information provided by the community was ground-truthed? Simon explained that maps of such information (charts) could be shown to MPLAG meeting to find out from the local knowledge whether that information was correct. Other MPLAGs verified the SAMPIT information at MPLAG meeting 2. 6% of high fishing zones (identified in SAMPIT) known from the West Coast were overlaid by sanctuary zones, highlighting the fact that the majority of data was recreational fishing information.

Allan Suter advised that the current zoning would affect 40-50% of Abalone fishery, 40-50% of Rock Lobster fishery and 30-40% of marine scale fishery.

Justin Phillips accepts that the zoning shown at the meeting is only a starting point but he was amazed that DENR couldn't start at something more realistic. Allan Suter added that with the current zoning the commercial fishing would be over, the recreational fishery would shift in commercial zones.

Justin Phillips also mentioned that it was ok to have marine parks but these couldn't be tokenistic: it is clear that if there is no money in the budget for commercial fishing compensation, thus there would be not funding for assessment, monitoring and management of marine parks which is of concern too.

Jane Lowe asked how DENR could provide such zoning maps given that DENR doesn't have accurate data. Simon acknowledges that the information is not complete and this is why the experience from the MPLAG was an important contribution and we need to work together.

Gus Oestmann asked why the MPLAG couldn't use the maps they started to draw at the first meeting as a starting point? Simon replied that what was presented today as a starting point was in accordance with scientific international standards; the zones are flexible and require community input. Bruce concluded by saying that the Minister said that "let's be flexible" so

Bruce suggested to put the zoning presented to the side. This was supported by other members of the MPLAG.

Dirk and Simon asked the MPLAG members how could they changed the zones to make it them fit with less than 5% economic impact on the wild catch fishery and achieve the conservation outcomes.

**Action:** DENR to clarify the Government's commitments to International Treaties and National commitments.

The Chair followed by acknowledging that the MPLAG should identify what should be included in sanctuary zones to fit with the government commitment and international commitments, but the sanctuary zones also need to represent what is good for the local community.

Invited from the gallery: Albert Whittle from the gallery commented that the Ceduna MPLAG had no input at meeting 2. His rock lobster committee had input in his MPLAG and they were not happy with the preliminary sanctuary zones too. However, they are interested in the long term sustainability of the marine environment, so they are committed to re-work the preliminary sanctuary zoning plan with all stake-holders. Albert Whittle proposed that having seasonal closures could work but that it would be difficult to sign off on an area for the rock lobster fishing industry because good fishing areas varies from year to year. He finished by saying that stakeholders should take the process forward and be pro-active rather than reactive by working across industries and be transparent with each other to present the government with their proposed zones. He also spoke about maybe using the VMS to work across the different groups.

The Chair concluded by saying that maybe the MPLAG could work on the zoning without being "too heavy" on the guidelines whilst trying to achieve a design that people could live with.

### **Lunch: 12-12.50pm**

**Action:** The Far West Coast MPLAG reject the current proposal presented by DENR and adopt the map produced during the Working Group Process (06/06/2009) as the starting point for designing the marine park. Rob Palmer objected to this motion.

Moved: Perry Will Seconded: Gus Oestmann

The Chair invited members to re-visit the maps of the 6/6/2009. Two maps given to the Minister, one by the recreational and industry fishing groups and another map with larger sanctuary zones provided by the conservation group. The Chair suggested using those maps trying to implement the DENR guidelines and making it work for the community.

Justin Phillips clarified that all interest groups should come together. DENR added that in fact the MPLAG was one way to have input in the zoning.

The Chair reiterated that it wasn't a requirement to comment on the zoning but some people (including people from the Gallery) traveled from far to come to attend the meeting may wish to contribute. Allan Suter suggested that perhaps a meeting outside of this would be appropriate for the people fishing offshore.

**4.1 Action:** Allan Suter to provide the letter of the government commitment to the Sardine industry to Paul Watson (Gallery). The zone SZ13 of the old map 6/6/09 was of concern for the Sardine industry.

The Chair indicated that the MPLAG needed input from the fishing industry Alliance meeting on Thursday 25/11/2010 in order to progress the zoning.

A question was raised to determine where the Habitat protection zones (HPZ) will be placed? DENR clarified that first the sanctuary zones needed to be designed in the first instance followed by designing the HPZ buffer. HPZ. Allan Suter said this was contrary to what was said in the working group meetings (2009) where it was mentioned that if the sanctuary zones have to decrease then to compensate the HPZ could increase. The Chair agreed that it was important to discuss the sanctuary zones with HPZ.

Rob Palmer reminded the members that the regulations of the HPZ were different to what was first proposed and thus HPZ are not as important anymore and thus not as critical. However, Simon emphasised that the HPZ's new regulation will not change the current management. It will only be an overlay. Consequently netting bans will still apply even if overlaid by HPZ.

Bruce Zippel commented that the HPZ should have been included in the presented zoning and that the members of the MPLAG need to know the regulation in order to comment on the zoning.

**Action:** DENR to notify MPLAG members be notified of any future changes to draft regulations.

Allan Suter said that the rules have changed with no consultation on the regulations on HPZ and thus the zoning process should continue with the previous commitment, with respect to netting being allowed in HPZ.

## **5. Where to from here:**

All information will have to be in before the 28th of January. The information will be collated to revise the zoning and presented at the next MPLAG meeting before going to the Minister.

Question from Allan Suter: At what point will the economic and social impact assessments be provided?

Simon Clark: Draft Impact statements can not be finalized until this rezoning process has been completed for the second stage in the process which involves full public consultation.

Jane Lowe is concerned to have these impacts done by government agencies only (e.g. DTEI) and also stressed that it could not be a desktop study only. Information from the community had to be gathered to undertake such impact assessments.

Justine Phillips raised the point that if Displaced Effort wasn't resolved then the 28<sup>th</sup> becomes an issue because they won't provide any information.

**ACTION:** DENR to provide an outline of how the impact statements will be developed.

## **6. Record of Meeting:**

**Motion:** The MPLAG wishes to express their extreme disappointment to the quality of the starting point for the preliminary sanctuary zones proposed by DENR and the worthiness of the information provided.

Moved: Allan Suter; Seconded Gus Oestmann. Pass with one against, Rob Palmer.

**Record of meeting**

- The MPLAG met and discussed but rejected the sanctuary proposal. The MPLAG will go back to the community and formulate their own sanctuary proposals.
- The MPLAG wants to know what will be the compensation to the industry under the Marine Park Act. Or else the industry will not be able to comment on the presented sanctuary zones.
- The design principles and proposed guidelines underpinning the marine park design haven't been signed off by the industries and thus the industry cannot use such tools to work on the zoning.
- What has the Australian government signed off on with the International Commitment? What is the 10%? This MPLAG wishes to see this information in writing. Such information would help progress the zoning process of SA marine parks.

**The Chair thanked everyone for coming including the Gallery**

**Meeting closes at 2.30pm.**

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
3	All Members	1.2 Implement Communication Plan	Ongoing	Next Meeting
3	DENR	DENR to clarify the Government commitments to international treaties and National commitments.		
3	DENR	Provide and outline of how the impact statements will be developed.		
3	DENR	Advise MPLAG members of any changes to current activity and uses regulations.		
3	Allan Suter	To provide the letter of the government commitment to the Sardine industry to Paul Watson (Gallery)		