

LOWER EYRE PENINSULA

MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Lower Eyre Peninsula Marine Park Local Advisory Group was held on Wednesday, 4 May 2011 at the Ravendale Community Sports Centre, 40 Stamford Terrace, Port Lincoln.

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: Danny Bartlett, Kerryn McEwan, Phillip Porter, Brian Saunders, Steve Moriarty, Bill Ford, Albert Whittle, Norm Pope, Andrew Wright

Proxies: David Backen for David Sherry

DENR staff: Dirk Holman, Jon Emmett, Shelley Harrison, Louise Smith, Claire Charlton

Gallery: 25 members of the gallery (names tabled)

1. Welcome

- The Chair, Danny Bartlett welcomed the group and thanked members and gallery for attending. He reminded the group that this meeting would be the final opportunity for MPLAGs to provide formal zoning advice to the Government. Danny suggested that if possible consensus advice would be preferable, or members should at least seek to minimise the number of options.
- Danny emphasised the need for members to use the meeting time constructively and avoid debating process issues. Danny asked the MPLAG to try and achieve a zoning proposal which struck a balance between social, environmental and economic values.
- Dirk Holman (Executive Officer) thanked the members for their attendance, and provided a brief overview of proceedings for the meeting. Dirk also introduced support staff and some of the information provided to the group.

2. Apologies/absent

- *Apologies:* Brenton Growden
- *Absent:* Carol Gayle, Terry Scott, Bill Stenson

3. Other Business

- Steve Moriarty raised an issue in regard to the Scientific Working Group's (SWG) response to Professor Kearney's views of DENR's *Science shows marine park benefits* fact sheet. He stated that the SWG were employed by DENR so were producing a biased opinion. Jon Emmett clarified that the SWG were independent scientists who were not employed by DENR but volunteered their time to be on the group.
- Bill Ford raised concerns that the MPLAG map produced from meeting 4 was confusing due to the numerous zoning options on it.
- Dirk Holman informed the group that information days would be held across the state in the near future. The purpose will be to present the final MPLAG zoning scenarios to regional communities. The public will have the opportunity to provide submissions during the public consultation period around November, where draft management plans, including zoning, and economic, social and environmental impact statements will be available.

4. Minutes and actions arising from previous meeting

- No alterations to the minutes were made, and as such were ratified.

Actions arising from meeting 4

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
3	DENR	Replacement for Dirk Holman with a representative from the Lincoln Marine Science Centre	Not completed due to insufficient interest	May 4 2011
4	DENR	The Chair/DENR to request the location of the desalination plants from SA Water through Minister Caica before the sanctuary zones are established in this marine park.	Incomplete	

5. Correspondence

- A letter from the Conservation Council of SA, offering MPLAG members advice in relation to the core MPA design principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR) was tabled.
- Danny Bartlett made all email communiqués to the MPLAG available in hard copy for members to view.

6. Today's meeting and Ministers advice to MPLAG members

- Dirk thanked MPLAG members for their ongoing contributions, and explained today's meeting was the final opportunity for MPLAG members to offer zoning advice via the MPLAG process. The marine parks process, including the public consultation phase, were also explained.
- Guidelines and messages from the Minister for Environment and Conservation (MEC) to MPLAG members were communicated, stating he is seeking a competent and balanced outcome with minimum displacement.

- Dirk explained that although this meeting had been identified as an opportunity to review peak stakeholder advice, no stakeholders had offered any zoning advice at this stage. Some MPLAG members linked to the commercial fishing industry conveyed they were under the impression that stakeholders would be approached by DENR and met with individually. In addition, some members felt that many stakeholders had chosen not to participate because they believed displaced effort and compensation had not yet been resolved.
- Jon Emmett explained that stakeholders were written to in November 2010 advising them of timelines for their input. Following MPLAG meeting 4 DENR contacted and met with all peak stakeholder groups to encourage their advice. This included a meeting with Wildcatch Fisheries SA/Alliance. DENR Chief Executive Allan Holmes had also communicated with Alliance Chair Mr Gary Morgan regarding the timelines for peak stakeholders to provide input. The fishing industry had also received a letter from the Minister further clarifying arrangements for managing displaced commercial effort, which some industry members agreed provided greater reassurance than previously.
- Albert Whittle stated that he felt everyone had had ample time to provide information to DENR, and that he had worked very hard with many individual commercial fishers to gather information. Albert used this information to design sanctuary zones with minimal displacement.
- Jon Emmett suggested that issues between the commercial fishing sector and government could not be resolved by this MPLAG and should not distract members from the purpose of today's meeting. Danny Bartlett asked that members focus on identifying areas for sanctuary zones which also have low impact socially and economically.
- Dirk reiterated the Minister's advice to MPLAG members to use their local knowledge to design a robust zoning proposal which addresses the 14 design principles whilst minimising displacement by considering areas of low fishing value for conservation.

7. Member's feedback from the local community

MPLAG Members	Views/feedback from the MPLAG members
Danny Bartlett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Port Lincoln City Council had put a motion forward to formally reject DENR's preliminary zoning scenarios on the basis that they had a very large social and economic impact.
Kerryn McEwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerryn stated she was happy to have had the opportunity to put forward zoning advice. • She expressed that she was hoping a more adequate proposal addressing the design principles could be generated at this meeting.
Phillip Porter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phillip stated that in his belief, the MPLAG can build on sanctuary zones proposed at MPLAG meeting 4 and increase habitat representativeness.
Brian Saunders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian expressed his appreciation of affording sanctuary zone level protection to some areas, particularly in the Coffin Bay region.
David Backen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David was of the opinion the MPLAG is neglecting the

(proxy for David Sherry)	<p>scientific and environmental aims due to conflicting individual interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was also concerned that some habitats were over represented.
Steve Moriarty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve conveyed that the feelings amongst his networks towards the marine parks process were fear, confusion and anger. • He has found it hard to work with the marine parks process put forward by government, though he had worked cooperatively with the government in the past i.e. – commercial fishing bodies and PIRSA. His personal negativity reflects his feeling that industry and government are working in opposition, rather than in conjunction. • Steve said his industry has historically worked closely with environmentalists and that fishermen rely on healthy ecosystems. He stated that if the MPLAG and DENR can design sanctuary zones away from valuable fishing grounds, then this would be considered a good result. • Steve expressed his belief that DENR do not understand the changing dynamics of fishing in the region, which perpetuates the disconnect between industry and government. • He was hopeful that in the middle there could be a balance, however best practice does not include allocating large areas as sanctuary zones. • Steve expressed opinion that sanctuary zones may be detrimental to South Australia, and that he and his industry felt betrayed.
Bill Ford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill asked if restricted access zones must be within a sanctuary zone. Jon Emmett replied that this would be the ideal situation, however, there may be some anomalies where sanctuary zones around existing restricted areas are not supported by the community.
Albert Whittle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert stated he was not confused by the marine parks process at all and he had no problem in coming up with a plan which followed the Minister's guidelines. • He explained he had spent a month developing a set of plans with community support, having consulted with the sardine, abalone and rock lobster industries, as well as having recreational fishers support. • His efforts included having analysed fishermen's GPS data and identifying areas which could be placed into sanctuary zones. • He communicated his belief that his proposition would not cause significant fishing displacement. • Where possible he had followed the design principles and he felt confident that his options are comprehensive. • Albert recommended that the Government should consider seasonal closures as occurs in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.
Norm Pope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norm stated that from a recreational perspective he had not made significant changes to the maps he provided at MPLAG meeting 4, but he had addressed

	<p>the commercial fisheries issues raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norm had endeavoured to work with various industries and was expecting positive results at this meeting. • He acknowledged the contributions of Damien Smart (present in gallery).
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8. Review zoning suggestions made since 4th meeting

- This group chose not to have a workshop between meetings 4 and 5, therefore, there was no updated map for this MPLAG meeting.
- DENR received zoning suggestions for parks 5, 7 and 8 through the marine parks information day held in Port Lincoln (1st April 2011) and through consultation with MPLAG members. These were provided in hard copy to members and the gallery for viewing during the break, and were available to assist in developing zoning advice during the workshop.

9. DENR analysis of MPLAG zoning suggestions

- A decision was made by the group not to further discuss the Rapid Assessment Tool and associated analysis undertaken by DENR, but to proceed directly to the workshop agenda item.

Break 20 mins

10. MPLAG member workshop

Neptune Island Group Marine Park (Park 7)

Zone	Support	Comment
A1	Majority	Zoning suggestion from Albert Whittle for the South Island area. This zone has little impact on commercial or recreational fishing*. GPS coordinates provided.
B1	Majority	Zoning suggestion from Albert Whittle for the North Island area. This zone has little impact on commercial or recreational fishing*. GPS coordinates provided.
B2	Minority	Zoning suggestion from the conservation sector to increase the size of the previous proposal to include some island and more marine habitat.

Additional comments:

- Commercial fisheries within the park will be compromised by less than 5%*
- Habitat representation and conservation benefits are included (rock lobster bottom, sponges, coral and rocky reefs)*.

*denotes information provided from Albert Whittle's network

Gambier islands Group Marine Park (Park 8)

Zone	Support	Comment
Remove all zones from North Island	Majority	MPLAG and information day advice.
B1	Minority	Zoning advice from MPLAG member (Wedge Island landowner)
C1	Majority	Zoning suggestion from Albert Whittle for the east side of Wedge Island. There is a 600m buffer between the shoreline and the sanctuary zone to allow fishing. This zone may have some impact on the sardine industry, but little impact on other commercial sectors or recreational fishing*. GPS coordinates were provided. MPLAG recommended DENR discuss this with sardine fishery.
C2	Minority	Zoning advice from MPLAG member (Wedge Island landowner). This zone has some impact on rock lobster fishing. Comment from gallery: sardine sector prefers this zone to the alternative zone C with majority support, on the proviso it has no impact on other commercial sectors.
D1	Majority	Zoning suggestion from Albert Whittle for the southern end of the park, which had little impact on commercial or recreational fishing*. GPS coordinates provided.

Additional comments:

- Albert's proposals have arisen from thorough consultation with fishermen from many sectors and are thought to have less than 5% displacement. These zones are also areas of high habitat and species biodiversity. The areas include granite outcrops, drop-offs, snapper and western blue groper.
- Although the MPLAG member representing Wedge Island landowners was an apology for the meeting, he had provided zoning advice to the Executive Officer prior to the meeting. The advice was tabled and received minority MPLAG member support.
- Sardine industry advice was supplied by the Executive Officer of the sardine industry from within the gallery.
- Steve Moriarty proposed revisiting a threats based marine parks design approach. He felt that proposals were being put forward simply to satisfy the Minister/Government. Albert Whittle suggested this was an opportunity to clearly communicate areas that the fishing industry is not prepared to forego.

Thorny Passage Marine Park (Park 5)

Zone	Support	Comment
A	Unanimous	This zone (eastern end of Kellidie Bay) incorporates intertidal and shallow subtidal area within the bay. It does not include the channel at the mouth of Kellidie, allowing recreational fishing to still occur.

B	Unanimous	This zone (Yangie Bay) does not go all the way to the mouth, to accommodate commercial and recreational fishing. There is also a 500m shoreline buffer for recreational fishing in front of both camp sites.
C	Unanimous	Ledge, saltmarsh and seagrass within this zone. The northern boundary avoids the White Lady.
D	Unanimous	Horse Peninsula zone.
E	Unanimous	Supported as important habitat, including samphire, seagrass and sponges.
F	Majority	Remove completely. The entire area is very heavily fished, both commercially and recreationally and there is the potential for future aquaculture expansion in the area. There were concerns that if this zone were to be removed representation of <i>Posidonia</i> sp. (seagrass) would be lacking. It was suggested that efforts should be made to find an example of this habitat elsewhere if this zone was removed Nick Paleologoudias (prawn fisher, MPLAG member parks 3 & 4), had suggested a general managed use zone to accommodate existing prawn trawling at the mouth of the bay.
P	Unanimous	This zone has seagrass within it, though is a different species and different environment to that foregone by the removal of zone F.
Q	Minority	A conservation member (on behalf of Birds Australia) suggested a sanctuary zone on the southern shoreline of Point Longnose due to its importance for migratory waders. However, it was communicated that this area has high value to the mud cockle industry. Due to the potential economic impacts this zone would have on the mud cockle sector, it was not supported by the majority of the MPLAG.
G	Majority	This zone within Misery Bay has minimal displacement of commercial and recreational fishing.
H	Minority	The conservation members would like to see this area included as a sanctuary zone due to its high biodiversity value. The importance of adhering to design principles by abutting protected terrestrial areas with sanctuary zones i.e. align with the Point Whidbey Wilderness Protection Area were communicated. However the commercial fishing members stated that this was a high value area for fisheries (mainly rock lobster and abalone) and to include it would cause displacement of fishers.
I	Equal	A wedge shape off the north west side of Rocky Island. The information provided stated there would be little impact on commercial and recreational fishing whilst still including some of the island and surrounding waters habitats.
	Minority	Remove the zone completely as a small zone has little benefit and to make it larger than the wedge shape would have too large an economic impact.

	Minority	Include the whole of Rocky Island and surrounding state waters and pay out displacement if necessary. Conservation members felt it was important to represent a whole island somewhere within this marine park.
J (2 zones)	Unanimous	Zone J (part 1) has a 600m buffer zone between it and Almonta Beach to allow recreational fishing. Zone J (part 2) includes the beach. The zone starts at the vehicle exclusion zone (within the existing National Park) on Gunyah Beach (3km east of the beach entrance). The MPLAG stated that the 2 zones could not be joined as the area in between is of high value to commercial fishing.
M	Majority	This zone in Sleaford Bay has support from most commercial fishing members. The principal conflict offshore from this zone was stated to be the sardine fishery (the reason it could not be extended offshore). A buffer zone is proposed along the beach and rocks to allow recreational fishing.
O	Minority	Conservation members support a sanctuary zone due its uniqueness. The commercial members stated that this zone would have a substantial impact on commercial fishing, in particular abalone. It would also impact on recreational fishers. Six MPLAG members believed the economic impact of this zone would be too large to allow it.

Additional comments:

- Phillip Porter wanted it recorded that for the purpose of majority voting, the majority of the group are commercial and/or recreational fisherman. He also stated that Albert's proposals were great suggestions individually, however, he felt they did not represent the entire range of habitats present in the marine park.
- Albert Whittle stated that from his local knowledge he believed his zones included examples of most habitats and included areas of high biodiversity.
- Albert stated that the zones he had proposed had been/would be endorsed by most commercial sectors.
- Albert also indicated that these zones were the start of future processes where fisherman may reveal other areas, but DENR would need to implement these regions first. Albert stated he could not commit to alternate areas without further consultation.
- Albert also suggested that he was working with his networks on a potential sanctuary zone off of Cape Carnot and Liguanea Island, but that this was still in the negotiation phase.
- There was a request for strip of sanctuary zone along Golden Island from the conservation sector, however it was indicated that this would have large commercial fishing implications.

11. Questions from the gallery

- There was concern about new aquaculture zones being developed in Coffin Bay and the potential recreational and commercial displacement.
- There was confusion about whether aquaculture could be overlaid by a sanctuary zone. DENR clarified that it could not be overlaid.

12. Record of meeting

Members advise that the following outcomes were achieved at the meeting:

- Correspondence from a range of sources was tabled and members were given the opportunity to discuss any issues arising.
- MPLAG members provided feedback in relation to the marine parks process from their community networks.
- DENR presented a brief outline of the sanctuary zone core design principles in comparison to zoning advice from the MPLAG at meeting 4.
- Each sanctuary zone was discussed at length by members. There was general agreement on sanctuary zones inside Coffin Bay and some new suggestions made for zones in the area from Whidbey to Thorny Passage. Some received majority support, whilst others had minority support.
- Questions and comments from the gallery were received.
- Dirk Holman (Executive Officer) thanked the MPLAG members for their considerable effort in contributing to the marine parks process.
- Meeting closed at 5:20 pm

Meeting closed at 5:20 pm

Chair Danny Bartlett

Date