

SIR JOSEPH BANKS GROUP
MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Sir Joseph Banks Group Marine Park Local Advisory Group was held on Thursday, 12 May 2011 in the Tumby Bay Senior Citizens Club, the Esplanade, Tumby Bay at 4:30 pm

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: Dion Watson (Chair), Greg Palmer, Tom Tierney, Barry Power, Wayne Goedecke, Matt Waller, Brian Wilkins, Julie Fischer, Julie Elliot, Gerard Bosch, David Ellis, James Brook

Supporting staff: Shelley Harrison (DENR), Jon Emmett (DENR), Dirk Holman (DENR), Louise Smith (DENR)

Gallery: 10 members of the gallery (names tabled)

1. Welcome

Dion Watson (Chair) started the meeting with the "Welcome to Country" and welcomed MPLAG and gallery members to the meeting. Dion recognised that this was the final MPLAG meeting, and outlined that the purpose of the meeting was for the MPLAG to offer final zoning advice to DENR.

Shelley Harrison (Executive Officer) thanked the members for their attendance, and provided a brief overview of proceedings for the meeting. Shelley also introduced support staff and some of the information provided to the group.

2. Apologies/absent

Paul Harrison, Darren Tressider

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Minutes and actions arising from previous meeting

- Dion asked that it be reflected in the minutes for meeting 4 that there was majority support for zones B1, C1, D3, F1 & G1 as labelled on the maps for that meeting.

- James Brook asked for the minutes to record that he felt the collective size of the sanctuary zones fell short in terms of the conservation sector's objectives.
- With these changes the minutes were ratified. Moved by Wayne Goedecke, seconded by Barry Power.

Actions arising from meeting 4

Meeting No	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
4	Executive Officer	DENR to determine whether video surveys can be done in the MPLAG proposed zones B, D3, Boucaut or Spilsby Island.	Completed in zones B & D	13 & 14/4/2011
4	Executive Officer	DENR to follow up with the Minister and provide a response clarifying the issue of intention to use Interim Protection Orders.	Completed	12/5/2011
4	All MPLAG members	To share the revised maps to their local communities and networks.	Completed	12/5/2011

Additional thanks were expressed to Barry Power for providing his time and boat to DENR for the purpose of using underwater video to map and ground truth habitats in MPLAG zones B1, B2 and D3. Dion Watson also thanked DENR for making the effort to clarify some of the habitats in the unmapped areas.

5. Correspondence

- A letter from the Minister for Environment and Conservation offering advice to MPLAG Chairs was tabled. This letter had been distributed by DENR to all MPLAG members.
- A letter from the Conservation Council of SA, offering MPLAGs advice in relation to core MPA design principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR) was tabled.
- A document from the Scientific Working Group (SWG) rebutting a letter from Professor Robert Kearney in response to the DENR product entitled *Science shows marine park benefits*.
- A letter from Paul Watson, Executive Officer of the South Australian Sardine Industry Association providing feedback on the association's thoughts about MPLAG proposed sanctuary zones within this marine park.
- DENR provided two maps to MPLAG members indicating the location of habitat types found during the video mapping.

5. Today's meeting

- Shelley 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 public process moving forward and 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.
- Shelley explained that although this meeting had been identified as an opportunity to review peak stakeholder advice, no stakeholders had offered any zoning advice thus far. It was explained that stakeholders were written to in November 2010 advising them of timelines, yet none had chosen to provide zoning advice to DENR or MPLAGs at this point. (Note: some advice was received from the sardine sector at this meeting.)
- The purpose of today's meeting was to use the Rapid Assessment Tool (RAT) and MPLAG members' local knowledge to design a robust proposal which addressed the design principles.
- The photographic data captured when mapping habitats in zones B & D was presented.
 - Habitats / species included for Zone B:
 - ascidians, seagrass, rhodolith beds & bare sand.
 - Habitats / species included for zone D:
 - reef, sponges, seagrass (sparse), invertebrate communities, ascidians, soft bottom, algae on sand (medium & sparse), and algae on profile reef.
- Paul Watson (gallery) from the sardine industry expressed his concern about the impact of sanctuary zones on the sardine fishery, explaining that 20,000 tonnes of the TAC of 34, 000 tonnes came from within this marine park.
- James Brook asked Paul if the impact of sanctuary zones would be more of a logistical issue than a displacement issue, highlighting that sardines are a highly mobile species.
- Jon Emmett reinforced that from a DENR perspective, he did not envisage the sardine TAC to be altered due to the implementation of sanctuary zones, and that the sardine industry's issues were more about the cost of logistics (e.g distance travelled) than actual displacement.
- Dion Watson thanked Paul Watson for his input, and stated that the MPLAG would consider his advice, and all other advice as they move forward through the zoning process

6. Review zoning suggestions made since 4th meeting

- Shelley presented zoning advice provided by Damien Smart of the recreational fishing sector in Port Lincoln

7. Members feedback from the local community

MPLAG members had a round table discussion of feedback they had received from the local community.

MPLAG Members	Views/feedback from the MPLAG members
Julie Fischer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained she had involvement with school children doing projects on marine parks, including pro's & cons, locations, what is a marine park, opinions and conclusions. Julie read from some of the projects she had brought to the meeting.
Wayne Goedecke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was concerned that 7% spatial protection of the SJB Marine Park will not be sufficient. Expressed concern at the rapid decline in Little Penguin populations in Spencer Gulf – he estimates the population is 1/10 of what it used to be. Would like to see 1 or 2 sanctuary zones at Spilsby Island if not more. Believes commercial netting is a major issue for fish stocks and the environment.
Matt Waller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports Wayne's observations of penguin population decline, however as the causes are not identified by scientific research, considers it beyond the scope of sanctuary zoning. Matt also wanted clarification that the recent video habitat mapping is included in the rapid assessment.
Barry Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked Wayne where the netting off Spilsby Island predominately occurred, to which Wayne identified the north side of the island.
Brian Wilkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified that the zoning scenario generated at MPLAG meeting 4 was lacking in rocky reef habitat. He suggested considering Buffalo Reef as a possibility, recognising it is out of the marine park boundary.
Greg Palmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated that at this point, the MPLAG had solely focussed on sanctuary zones. He proposed to discuss other zoning at this meeting too.
Tom Tierney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked where the restricted access zones would be located, and if they would be embedded in sanctuary zones.
David Ellis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked if there was any potential restricted access zones in marine park 6 that the MPLAG should be aware of / considering. Stated that as per the design principles, that if there was an identifiable restricted access zone then it should be buffered with a sanctuary zone. David and Matt discussed the potential for restricted access zones at Winceby Island and Dangerous Reef as they are existing prohibited areas under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>.
James Brook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals so far fell short of conservation NGO aspirations but he was happy to continue working with other MPLAG members to achieve an outcome for both the community and conservation.

8. DENR analysis of MPLAG zoning suggestions

- Shelley provided a presentation based on the core design principles of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness and how the MPLAG suggestion compared quantitatively against these.
- Benthic and shoreline habitats as well as important environmental values within the marine park were discussed at length.
- Shelley asked the group to consider incorporating more of the habitats into sanctuary zones which had been identified as being represented at less than 10% by the rapid assessment. It was emphasised that the group should try to achieve this with minimum displacement.
- Environmental values which had been represented at less than 10%, and where each feature was located in the marine park, were discussed.
- David Ellis stated that it is important that research and monitoring be undertaken to identify changes in ecology over time and measure zone performance. He recognised the challenges of conducting research in the marine environment and the limitations of available resources to conduct such studies across all 19 marine parks.
- James Brook discussed the need for some sanctuary zones to adhere to the minimum dimensions considered to be an adequate sanctuary zone to objectively assess their performance and compare against smaller areas.
- Matt asked about bioregional comparisons, and if it was possible to incorporate environmental values from another park if they were not achieved in this park.
- David stated that although this park was in close proximity to a bioregional boundary, that recent studies by Ward and Middleton indicated it should not be assumed that habitats are different between the Eyre and Lower Spencer Gulf bioregions.
- Dion Watson stated that if DENR had more resources to conduct mapping, then the MPLAG would be able to make more informed decisions.

9. MPLAG members' workshop

Zone	Support	Comment
B1	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majority would like to see this zone remain as it was designed in MPLAG meeting 4.• James Brook supported the zone but indicated that if the north-eastern part of the park was ultimately used to represent deep water then B1 should be extended to connect to that area.
C1	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes that this zone needs to exclude the salmon hole, by moving the eastern boundary slightly west.
D3	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was recognised that this zone had the potential to impact on charter and marine

		<p>scale industries, particularly on the western end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This zone was also recognised as being valuable for its high ecological diversity. • There are potential issues with this zone being in close proximity to an aquaculture zone. • James Brook indicated he would like to see the zone extended south to incorporate some deeper reef and make it more adequate.
F1	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous support to remove this zone as a trade-off for enlarging the zone around Dangerous Reef. This decision was made as both Dangerous Reef (zone G) and Sibsey and English Islands (zone F) are used by recreational fishers. Instead of including parts of each feature, the decision was made to include the whole of Dangerous Reef and remove zone F.
G1	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This zone was expanded to approximately 5.5 km X 5.5 km to address design principles. • It is thought to include soft bottom, seagrass and algae habitat. It incorporates the whole reef feature and includes both the breeding site for the Australian sea lion and intertidal and subtidal areas where sea lions teach their pups to forage.
H1	Unanimous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This zone is an extension from the Boucaut Island sanctuary zone proposed in meeting 4. It extends in an easterly direction with approximate dimensions of 1.5 km X 5 km. • The zone is designed to incorporate deep water and reef habitat. • David Ellis also stated that "popcorn coral" exists in this vicinity.

Additional comments from members included:

- James Brook: Felt that there was not an adequate amount of deep water captured within sanctuary zones.
- Dion Watson: Stated that in his belief, what had been suggested is as much as the community is willing to support.
- Two members of the MPLAG (James Brook and Wayne Goedecke) asked that it be recorded that they endorsed the final MPLAG sanctuary zone advice, but considered the zoning proposal inadequate, and for this to be recorded on the final MPLAG zoning map.
- James Brook: Expressed that he thought comprehensiveness had been achieved with the zoning proposal, but that not all habitats had been adequately represented.
- Wayne Goedecke: Supported James in that he saw the proposal as inadequate, and would like to see the sanctuary zone proposal over and above 10% in area.

- Greg Palmer agreed to provide DENR with coordinates to fine tune his general managed use zone proposals.
- It was requested that clarification is sought from the Department of Transport Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) as to the location of shipping channels and anchoring points.
- There was general concern about the value of a series of DENR public information days tabling MPLAG final advice. MPLAG members thought this may create confusion.

10. Questions from the gallery

- None

11. Record of meeting

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

- The MPLAG provided their final zoning recommendations.
- Two MPLAG members stated that they were happy with the MPLAG sanctuary zone proposal, but thought that the proposal should be increased in area.
- The MPLAG considered feedback from the sardine industry and recreational fishing sector.
- The Chair (Dion Watson) thanked all the MPLAG members for their support and participation.
- The MPLAG members and DENR staff thanked the Chair for his work.
- Shelley Harrison (Executive Officer) thanked the MPLAG for all their hard work.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Chair Dion Watson

Date