

**Sir Joseph Banks Group**  
**MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP**

## MINUTES

The fourth meeting of the Sir Joseph Banks Group Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 4:30pm, on the 24 February 2011 at the Tumby Bay Senior Citizens Club, Tumby Bay.

*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.*

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**Members Present:** Dion Watson (Chair), Wayne Goedecke, Paul Harrison, Greg Palmer, Barry Power, Tom Tierney, Brian Wilkins, Christian Pyke (proxy for David Ellis), James Brook, Julie Fischer, Julie Elliott and Matt Waller.

**Supporting Staff:** Shelley Harrison (DENR), Dirk Holman (DENR), Jon Emmet (DENR), Louise Smith (DENR) and Suresh Kumar Lachimpadi (Secretary).

**Gallery:** 9 people present in the gallery.

### 1. Welcome

Dion Watson (Chair) welcomed MPLAG and gallery members to the meeting. The MPLAG members were reminded that Shelley Harrison has replaced Simon Clark as the Executive Officer for this MPLAG as Simon has accepted the Chief Executive position with the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Industry.

### 2. Apologies, correspondence and other business

**Apologies:** David Ellis, Gerard Bosch from Eyre Iron (replaces Kevin Malaxos) and Darren Tressider.

Christian Pyke is representing David Ellis from the Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry.

#### **Correspondence:**

Copies of the correspondence have been circulated to all MPLAG members:

- Paul Caica – Minister Environment and Conservation
- Brenton Gear – DENR
- Peter Allan – professional marine scale fisherman
- Damian Smart – local public meeting organiser
- Allan Suter – Mayor, District Council of Ceduna
- Tom Tierney – MPLAG member
- R & K Harding – Kathryn M Fishing Charters
- Shelley Harrison – DENR
- Russell Peate – DC of Grant

Damien Smart's letter had been forwarded to DENR as the questions posed were pertaining to policies and guidelines for the marine park. Damien has also submitted two draft maps with suggested sanctuary zones that had come from feedback received from recreational fishers and public comment from meetings held in Coffin

Bay, Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay areas. This information represents the views of the recreational fishers and not commercial fishers (commercial fishers had rejected all zoning amendments by the recreational fishers).

The correspondence was accepted, moved by Paul Harrison, seconded by Julie Elliott and received by all MPLAG members.

#### Other business

- The Chair informed the MPLAG that the Executive Officer, Shelley Harrison is the daughter of Paul Harrison, an MPLAG member.
- The Chair (Dion) stated at the previous meeting that he was led to believe that setting aside 10% of state waters within sanctuary zones was an international obligation. This may have been his interpretation, however since meeting all the other MPLAG Chairs and the Minister for Environment and Conservation, he now realises this is not the case and is now personally in disagreement with 10% of state waters being within sanctuary zones, or 20-25% of each park. Based on this, the Chair had asked all MPLAG members what direction that they should take to determine the percentage they should aim for.
- The Chair was also made aware in this meeting that some areas of state waters are already effectively sanctuary zones. He asked DENR to confirm this and received this in the correspondence from Shelley Harrison. This area equates to 4%, which is made up of aquatic reserves, and some national park reserves. James Brook added that a large percentage of it this was is within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, which is within one bioregion. The 4% is not spread evenly amongst bioregions.

### 3. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2010 were accepted by the members without any amendments. The minutes of meeting were moved by Tom Tierney, seconded by Greg Palmer and accepted by all MPLAG members.

#### Actions arising from the previous meeting:

| Meeting No. | Responsibility | Action  | Status   | Date               |
|-------------|----------------|---|--|--------------------|
| 3           | DENR           | The Prawn By-catch Report 2009 to be made available for MPLAG members   | Complete   | Meeting 4          |
| 3           | DENR           | Overlay of maps 5A and 5B with the map.   | Complete   | Prior to Meeting 4 |
| 3           | DENR           | DENR to consider whether the data collected by the Prawn By-catch Report by David Curry of SARDI (Currie et al. 2009 – the Prawn By-catch Report 2009) would be useful to provide information in the north east of the park | MPLAG members agreed this would be useful in meeting 4.<br>DENR to approach SARDI to implement by meeting 5. | Meeting 5          |

|   |       |   |          |  |
|---|-------|---|----------|--|
| 3 | MPLAG | LAG members to provide feedback on the Sanctuary Zone to DENR | Complete |  |
|---|-------|---|----------|--|

#### **4. Share community feedback on preliminary sanctuary zones scenarios**

MPLAG Executive Officer Shelley Harrison, Department for Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave a short presentation which outlined:

- the MPLAG process which has preceded this meeting and the process which is still to follow;
- the peak stakeholders whose advice will be sought;
- the design principles guiding marine protected area establishment;
- the aims of today's meeting.

All members had met with their networks and gathered community information and advice regarding the preliminary sanctuary zones presented by DENR at MPLAG meeting 3, and the alternative zones generated at MPLAG 3. Members communicated this feedback in a round table discussion.

##### ***4.1 Feedback and views of MPLAG members***

Paul Harrison

- Approached by two locals (recreational fisherman and former commercial fishers) who are happy with the preliminary sanctuary zones, but they will not put it in writing for fear of being persecuted.
- Personally not happy with the current size of the zones, which needs to be further reduced.
- Many members of the community support the recommendations of DENR's zoning areas.
- Will support Tom Tierney's motion that is to be put forth in this meeting (item 4.2).

Wayne Goedecke

- The Residents Association at Spilsby Island are happy and satisfied to have some of the area protected.

Brian Wilkins

- 25% of the area as a sanctuary zone is too big and should be reduced.

Julie Elliot

- Personally unhappy with the marine park.
- This plan has not been thought through thoroughly.
- How would the government manage the sanctuary zones?
- Do we need to have the sanctuary zones?
- The proposed areas should be thoroughly monitored and scientific data collected for the next five years and the marine parks formation should then only be revisited after five years, in 2016.
- Propose a vote of no confidence in this process.
- Recommendation to the Minister Paul Caica, to completely terminate the marine park process or to delay it by five years.

Barry Power

- The sanctuary zones in this park should be 10% and not 25%. The current area is too big.
- Would cause overfishing in some areas.
- Will encourage poaching and become havens for poachers.

- It would be unfair at the Spilsby Island (an MPLAG suggestion for a sanctuary zone), using one area to offload from another area.

Matt Waller

- Some commercial fishermen around Port Lincoln would only agree to have 5% of the area and not more as sanctuary zones.
- Impacts from tourism fishing should be seriously considered as a lot of money is brought in by tourists who use caravan parks, rental of charter boats, etc.

Julie Fischer

- Charter operators are confused about the marine parks and query its necessity.
- There are confusions as well as on the access and non access, eg allows/prohibition of fishing.
- The sanctuary zones are too large.

Christian Pyke (proxy for David Ellis)

- Sir Joseph Banks area is a very healthy area.
- Dangerous Reef produced about 500 pups a year.
- The justifications for the marine parks are unjustified.
- The marine parks are economically damaging to the state.

Greg Palmer

- Threats have not been identified adequately and justifications are needed for the need to have marine parks.
- The commercial fishers totally reject this proposal.

James Brook

- Very highly value the support of the community for the marine parks.
- To work constructively towards achieving a middle point between the starting point of the marine park and to what the community wants.

Tom Tierney

- Does the MPLAG need to come out with a proposal in this meeting?
- If the MPLAG members do not come out with its proposal, what will happen then?
- Moved a motion to limit the size of the proposed Sir Joseph Banks Marine Park (MP6) to 7% or less (item 4.2).
- Will charter boat operators receive compensation?

**4.2** Motion moved by Tom Tierney and seconded by all MPLAG members in the following statement: *"I propose that the sanctuary zones in Marine Park 6 (MP6) be no more than a total of 7% or preferably less"*.

The vote registered for this motion was 6 (for), 1 (against) and (5) abstained. The gallery totally supported this motion.

The commercial fishers, represented by Greg Palmer, voted against this motion and wanted these statements recorded, *"Threats have not been identified adequately and justifications are needed for the need to have marine parks"*. *"There was no justification in identifying the threats and not knowing the total zoning areas"*.

## 5. MPLAG Members Workshop

MPLAG members provided advice on the preliminary zoning scenarios with input from several gallery members. The zoning suggestions made by the MPLAG members are presented in the table below and were recorded using 'GIS live'.

### Sir Joseph Banks Group Marine Park

| Zone                         | Comment/s received   |
|------------------------------|--|
| A<br><br>(one suggestion)    | Majority support.<br>Remove completely. Find deep water elsewhere either in this park, another marine park, or outside of the declared marine park boundaries.<br>Impacts on sardine, prawn, marine scale.   |
| B<br><br>(two suggestions)   | B1: majority support.<br>Include Salt Creek Beach within the sanctuary zone but exclude Bergs Beach by creating a 4km buffer zone from the beach out to the SZ.<br>Remove the bottom southern 'dog leg' portion of the DENR preliminary zone.<br>A majority of MPLAG members supported this.<br><br>B2: Minority support.<br>Conservation sector advice. Acknowledges that there is sardine and prawn fishing in the area, but would like to see Zone A and B joined, to connect these two zones, whilst still ensuring deep water habitat is represented in a sanctuary zone. If deep water can be found elsewhere, this advice can be removed.           |
| C<br><br>(one suggestion)    | Unanimous support.<br>Keep boundary similar to original DENR scenario. Make sure the boat ramp, car park area and salmon hole are out of the sanctuary zone. Include all of the mangrove area.   |
| D<br><br>(three suggestions) | D1: Minority support.<br>Reduce size of zone, by only including a portion 2km out from the coast, using the existing DENR southern and northern boundaries.<br><br>D2: Minority support.<br>Extend the eastern boundary of D1.<br><br>D3: Majority support.<br>Connect Zone D with a small portion of E, resulting in connectivity from the coast to offshore islands. Includes Kirkby Island as a trade off for the remainder of the islands in Zone E. MPLAG members generally accepting of this advice.<br>Gallery not in favour (charter and marine scale impacts).<br>Suggestion to do some video drops in the unmapped areas of this suggested zone. |
| E<br><br>(one suggestion)    | Majority support.<br>Include Kirkby Island in Zone D3, but remove the remainder of Zone E. This area of the groups is extremely valuable to marine scale, charter and recreational fishers.<br><br>Minority support.<br>One suggestion to include either Boucaut or some of Spilsby Island as a trade off (see comment below), however this did not have majority support.   |
| F                            | Majority support.  |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (one suggestion)                 | Reduce the size of the zone, allowing access to most of Sibsey Island and all of English Island.<br>This suggestion includes the south east side of Sibsey Island and the benthic habitat in this area.  |
| G<br>(one suggestion)            | Majority support.<br>Reduce the size of this zone as it is important for charter, sardine, marine scale and recreational fishers.<br>Include the north west part of Dangerous Reef to include a 3 x 2.6km zone. This suggested zone picks up some of the reef system and the surrounding benthic habitat, but still allows recreational and commercial fishing to continue. It doesn't include the whole reef system as the Australian sea lions on it are already effectively protected through the existing Conservation Park. |
| Spilsby Island (two suggestions) | Either include Boucaut Island as a trade off for removing most of Zone E <b>OR</b><br><br>Include the south east corner of Spilsby Island also as a trade off for E and a suggestion from the residents of Spilsby Island who would like some of this area highly protected in a sanctuary zone. Don't include both suggestions, only have one or the other.<br><br>These suggestions had 50% support from the MPLAG and no support from the gallery.<br>Video drops suggested for these areas.                                  |

Additional comments: The majority of MPLAG members supported the proposal of 5 sanctuary zones (B1, C, D3, F & G). Zone B2 was minority advice as was the advice for Spilsby and Boucaut Island zones.

The conservation sector (James Brook) felt that the size of the MPLAG proposed sanctuary zones fell short of the marine parks conservation objectives.

## 6. Communication planning

The communication plan remained the same from previous MPLAG meetings. Members agreed to continue to communicate with and receive information from their networks.

| Member             | Organisation/group                                  |
|--------------------|---|
| Dion Watson        | District Council of Tumby Bay                       |
|                    | Rate payers   |
| David Ellis        | Southern Bluefin Tuna and Sardine Industries        |
| Brian Paul Wilkins | Recreational fishers at Port Lincoln                |
| Julie Fischer      | School  |
|                    | Charter operators                                   |
| James Brook        | Reef Watch  |
|                    | Conservation NGO                                    |
| Paul Harrison      | Tour operators, caravan park, pubs, Tumby Bay units |
|                    | Recreational fishers                                |
|                    | Bird watchers                                       |
|                    | Coastal landowners                                  |
| Tom Tierney        | Recreational fishers                                |
|                    | Tackle shops (Port Lincoln and locally)             |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
|                | SA Angler   |
|                | Charter fisher                                      |
|                | Port Lincoln Anglers Club                           |
| Barry Power    | Northern Zone Rock Lobster                          |
| Wayne Goedecke | Spilsby Island Resident Committee                   |
| Matt Waller    | Local email database, Port Lincoln and greater area |
|                | Clients   |
|                | Tourism Eyre Peninsula                              |
|                | Surfing   |
| Gerard Bosch   | Eyre Iron   |
| Julie Elliot   | Community   |
| Greg Palmer    | Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Association       |
|                | Recreational fishers                                |
|                | Commercial fishers                                  |

## 7. Questions from the gallery

The questions raised at the gallery were:

- Who does James Brook represent and what are his credentials?
  - James responded, outlining his experience, qualifications and how he became a MPLAG member.
- What is the next stage after this meeting?
  - Shelley responded, stating that MPLAG advice would be given to stakeholders, who will also offer their own advice. This will be tabled and reviewed at MPLAG 5.
- A sardine industry representative stated that during a recent meeting, the Minister for Environment and Conservation advised him that Interim Protection Orders will be invoked to protect sanctuary zones prior to marine park management plans being generated.
  - Jon responded, saying Interim Protection Orders related to the proclamation of outer boundaries and had never actually been used, nor, to his knowledge, were they proposed to be used in conjunction with zoning. However this was disputed by the sardine industry representative, citing his recent meeting with the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

**Action:** For DENR to follow up with the Minister and provide a response clarifying the issue of intention to use Interim Protection Orders.

## 8. Record of Meeting

The MPLAG members agreed the following points were an accurate summary of the meeting, to be placed on the marine parks website.

Overall dissatisfaction with the process and outcomes of the MPLAG meetings was expressed.

Members requested that information be made available before the meeting to give time for MPLAG members to discuss with their networks.

A majority of the members agreed to limit sanctuary zone areas to 7% or less, whilst working to the Ministers direction of less than 5% economic impact.

MPLAG members were able to reach a majority view in many cases of the alternative zoning suggestions.

Due to the lack of accurate benthic mapping it was difficult to tell if the lines were drawn in the right areas.

Members recommended targeted video drops in the suggested zones.

Members requested a whole picture of zone types (including habitat protection, general managed use and restricted access zones).

#### 11. Next meeting.

MPLAG members were advised the next meeting was scheduled for late April / early May 2011.

**Meeting Closed at 8.45 pm.**

Chair .....

Date.....

#### Action Item summary as at 24/02/2011

| Meeting No | Responsibility    | Action   | Status       | Date |
|------------|-------------------|--|--------------|------|
| 3/4        | Executive Officer | DENR to approach SARDI to obtain the species specific by-catch data for the eight survey sites within the Sir Joseph Banks Group Marine Park Boundary (Currie et al. 2009 – the Prawn By-catch Report 2009). | By meeting 5 |      |
| 4          | Executive Officer | DENR to determine whether video surveys can be done in the MPLAG proposed zones D3, Boucaut or Spilsby Island.   | By meeting 5 |      |
| 4          | Executive Officer | DENR to follow up with the Minister and provide a response clarifying the issue of intention to use Interim Protection Orders.   | By meeting 5 |      |
| 4          | All MPLAG members | To share the revised maps to their local communities and networks.   | By meeting 5 |      |
| 4          | Executive Officer | Seek advice from the Minister's Office regarding the use of interim protection orders prior to the finalisation of marine park management plans.   | By meeting 5 |      |



