

WEST COAST
MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

The third meeting of the West Coast Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 4:30 pm on 16 November 2010 at the Port Kenny Sports Club, Flinders Highway, Port Kenny

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: Jonas Woolford, George Gill, Alan Payne, David Letch, Trevor Gilmore, Greg Schreiber, Christine Taylor, Sherron McKenzie, Tony Custance, Nick Paul, Lorelee Wright, Noel Box, Rob Gregor, Peter Reeves & Flinders Exploration representative.

Proxies: Peter Reeves for Kristy Newton

Gallery: Leon Wright, Trevor Tilley, Joanne Tilley, Lachlan Miller, Michael O'Neill, John Flaherty, John Haagmans, Paul Watson, Drew MacKenzie, John Haycraft, Shane Starkey, Gavin Starkey, Mark Anderson, Ken Little and Dean Whitford.

DENR staff: Simon Clark, Shelly Harrison, Dirk Holman, Leander Wiseman, Leigh Amey and Sue Rumbelow (minutes).

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- *commence Local Advisory Group discussion of preferred zoning options; and*
- *plan communications with local communities in preparation for the next process stage.*

1. Welcome and apologies

Jonas Woolford, Chairperson welcomed all present, and explained the zoning scenarios are only a starting point for discussion. He emphasised there will be differing views, and it is important they are recorded; a consensus is not the ultimate objective.

Apologies: Kristy Newton

Proxies: Peter Reeves for Kristy Newton

Correspondence

Flinders Exploration
Conservation Council of SA
Letter from the Minister for Environment and Conservation to the Chairs.

Other Business

- Letter from the Minister - Policy and commitments made to various groups and process.
- Noel Box, exemptions in zones to help facilitate commercial fishermen.

2. Action Arising

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
1	DEH	Information to be provided to members - Definition of terminology in order of status eg rare and endangered species.	Completed	16/11/2010
2	Christian Gerlach	Provide to Simon Clark (DEH) a map of 'hotspots' of energy/mineral use, both current and future sites	Completed	16/11/2010
2	DEH	Provide copies of SAMPIT maps for West Coast Bays MPAs to group members	Completed	16/11/2010
2	DEH	Supply examples of marine park management plan summaries and zoning arrangement maps from other parks to group members	Ongoing	25/05/2010
2	DEH	Contact ERDB to locate and distribute ERDB report by Econsearch in regards to displaced effort	Ongoing	25/05/2010
1	Chair	Formal request to the Elliston District Council to distribute media release to local business.	Carried Forward next meeting	16/11/2010
2	DEH	Provide full updated version of Draft Regulations on Activities and Uses Within Marine Protected Area Zones	Completed	16/11/2010
2	DEH	Distribute PDF of presentations to group members by email and hard copy, if requested	Completed	16/11/2010
2	DEH	DEH staff to make available any new or updated information in regards to scientific research and reporting on the marine park areas; available at Streaky Bay DEH office	Completed	16/11/2010
2	DEH	Local staff to facilitate and support informal meeting of MPLAG to gather information in a 'brain-storming' session on management issues in MPAs	Completed	16/11/2010

Trevor Gilmore moved that the minutes of the second meeting are accurate, seconded by Greg Schreiber.

- Trevor Gilmore raised concerns relating to draft regulations for proposed sanctuary zones not including any restrictions regarding anchoring in no take zone. He is concerned anchors can potentially do significant damage to the marine environment. Suggestions of anchor points or mooring.
- Draft regulations - further discussion ensued, the notion of a possible permit system was raised. There was some ambiguity relating to recreational / commercial diving and 'no take' - a misunderstanding of the draft regulations. Regulations are still in draft form and will most likely not be passed through Parliament until next year.
- Threats and issues to be included in the management plans were discussed at DENR workshop. Management plans will be finalised and ready for public consultation in 2011.

- Future funding, specifically related to compliance and monitoring was also raised. Concerns were voiced about DENR's ability to enforce restrictions aligned with implemented sanctuary zones.
- Restricted access zones were discussed and explained that they would be of a small size.
- Noel Box suggested sanctuary zones should be considered where an aquatic reserve (under the Fisheries Act) already exists – already declared at Nicholas Baudin Island.
- There were frustrations around the Government commitments to accommodate existing haul net fishers in Spencer Gulf, whilst the West Coast appears to have been left off the Governments Commitments document.

3. MPLAG Chairs meeting with Minister for Environment and Conservation (Trevor Gilmore)

Trevor advised that the Minister met with all Chairs throughout SA, and though 1.5 hours were allocated, the Minister spent 2.5 hours with the group. The Minister wasn't in a hurry to leave and is happy to discuss issues.

The Minister's opening address reinforced that this process was not about percentages; though this seems to be the common perception. Environment and habitat protection are the objectives of marine parks. The low population base adjacent to the marine parks on the west coast, in comparison to other regions, was highlighted. Displaced effort was discussed and is still unresolved.

General agreement that it is a challenging process but progressing well. WC MPLAG is ahead of other MPLAG. Meeting with Chairs important & productive. Regional DENR staff are providing good service to Chairs and members of MPLAGs.

General discussion

- The overall aim of this MPLAG is to get it right, and provide valuable advice, along with industry groups and environmental groups to the Minister for Environment and Conservation.
- There is some discussion about processes to measure the economic impact (with specific reference to the Government commitment of less than 5% economic impact) of zones across the entire industry sector, which could help the group with zoning advice.
- Tony Custance was concerned about the compounding economic & social impacts if displacement is not managed properly, namely; – economic impact to workers, people could lose jobs, supporting industries could also suffer which would lead to a flow on effect in local communities.
- Jonas Woolford explained that in relation to displaced effort - any holder of statutory authority is entitled to compensation.
- Noel Box expressed that he is feeling very uncomfortable with this displacement effort – without regulations in place he feels it is difficult to progress.
- Simon Clark reiterated that flow on effects will be considered in the economic impact statement, which is to be developed as the process evolves.
- Trevor Gilmore was also uncomfortable going into these discussions where there is no guarantee of compensation – and would like the Minister to deal with this.
- Simon Clark outlined the 4 steps / principles in the process of displaced effort compensation – Trevor Gilmore expressed relief that a concrete process was in place, however would like to see this in writing from the Minister.
- Trevor Gilmore expressed concern that potentially areas which are desirable to protect are generally going to impact on abalone, lobster fisheries where the fish aren't transient.

4. Preliminary Sanctuary zone Scenario

Simon Clark presented information leading up to discussion around the possible sanctuary zone scenario. He reiterated that this was a starting point only. Some of the discussion included:

- Atlas maps "Wetland" where members disagreed with the fact that Point Labatt was proclaimed a wetland.
- ACTION:** *DENR to provide a link to MPLAG members of the Commonwealth website that explains the declaration of wetlands.*
- Discussion about the validity of the Sea Surface Temperature maps.
 - MPLAG members also disputed the benthic habitats map, suggesting that the waters in Sceale Bay are rocky habitat not soft sandy habitat.
 - MPLAG members were of the opinion that the seabirds & coastal waders data is inaccurate.
 - Boat ramp at Sceale Bay not recorded on Boat Ramp map.

-----Break 45 minutes-----

Discussion on changes to sanctuary zones marked on map.

5. MPLAG initial advice to DENR

There were multiple suggestions made on the current scenario and a variety of views from MPLAG members. Views were captured on the map. A summary is as follows:

Park 3

1. Salmon and mullaway fishing at "Paddy's hole".
2. Smooth Pool as a possible sanctuary zone as it provides a diving opportunity from the coast.
3. Need buffer at top part of zone A, as there is commercial scale fish netting activities and recreational fishing.
4. In possible zone A, sandy habitat extent.
5. Boat ramp in this location.
6. Beach launching location.
7. Move possible zone B south to Point Labatt, to reduce impact on recreational fishing, impact on commercial fishing is similar to Searcy Bay and Cape Blanche.
8. Heart Bay and western part of Searcy Bay are of high recreational use.
9. Suggested possible zone around Nicholas Baudin Island, including a strip along the lee side of Cape Blanche towards the settlement of Sceale Bay, as there is an important Australian Sea Lion breeding colony, coastal raptors and diverse reefs; it is also a high use area
10. Increase protection at Point Labatt, recognise that Industry – abalone and rock lobster is high.
11. Possible zone D, move southern boundary north, Frenches' boat ramp, commercial and recreational use.
12. Some where represent the mouth of Baird Bay.
13. Some agreement with possible zone E.
14. Possible zone F, move western and eastern boundary closer together.
15. Move possible zone F west to avoid the "Slide".
16. A possible deep water zone suggested.
17. Possible zone B, location to Point Labatt, will pick up granite reefs and offshore area.
18. In possible zone F, there is 25-30 fathoms, deep limestone reef.
19. A possible sanctuary zone, to the south eastern side of Jones Island, following the inshore reefs on the North Western side to approximately 1 km to east and south.
20. And area south of Baird Bay considered to be high commercial rock lobster.
21. Flounder fishing and dabbling to the western end of Venus Bay in possible zone G.
22. A suggested location to represent habitat similar to Germain Island.
23. Move all of possible zone G east.

Park 4

1. Pearson Island, Southern Anchorage is a fishing area.
2. Possible zone B, bay to north of Flinders Island is a Cray boat anchorage area.
3. Potential zone to align with Kapara Wreck, a heritage site.
4. Possible zone B, high recreational and commercial effort.
5. Possible zone C preferred over Flinders possible zone B.
6. Location in suggested zone to south of Flinders and Top Gallant Islands, are commercial abalone and rock lobster areas, of lower impact.
7. Some agreement, refer to point 1.
8. Possible zone D, move south and buffer Lock's Well.
9. Possible zone E, some marine scale ok, lobster and abalone impacted, but lower.
10. Possible zone A, commercial rock lobster fishing through this zone.

Discuss with your networks over summer.

Provide feedback through Executive Officer by 28th January 2011.

Government: work with MPLAG members and key stakeholder groups

Update zoning scenario, based on advice, for Meeting 4.

Shelley presented a brief description about the progress of issues and strategies and the development of Marine Park Management Plans.

6. Communications planning

Member	Who will be contacted	Method	Achieved	Notes
Greg Schreiber	Streaky Bay Tourist Association	Meeting	Yes	DEH provide deputation to Council
	District Council of Streaky Bay	Meeting	Yes	
Kristy Newton	Elliston tour operators	Informal	NA ¹	
	Friends of Elliston	Meeting/ informal	NA	
	Local fishers	Informal	NA	
	School	Newsletter	NA	
Jonas Woolford	Alliance	Meeting	Yes	
	Abalone Fishing Association	Meeting	Yes	
	Surfers	Informal	Yes	
Rob Gregor	Elliston District Council Staff and rate payers	Meeting	Yes	
		Informal	Yes ²	
Tony Custance	Locals	Informal	Yes	
	Port Kenny scale fishers	Informal	Yes	
Nick Paul	Spencer Gulf & West Coast Prawn Fishermen	Informal		
	Pt Kenny Venus Bay Progress Assoc	Informal		
Noel Box	West Coast Cray Fishers	Meeting	Yes	
	Northern Zone RLF/SARLAC	Informal		
	Marine Scale fishers	Meeting	Yes	
Loralee Wright	South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Committee	Meeting	Yes	SAMPIT needed to be simpler.
	Local Scale and Rec recreational fishers	Informal	Yes	
Trevor Gilmore	Recreational fisher	Informal	Yes	Also spoke to some scale fishers.
	Local Businesses	Meeting/Informal	Yes	
	Streaky Bay Tourism	Meeting	No	
Christine Taylor	Upload data collected through interview process	Action	No	Information provided was confidential for previous study, but did recommend that participant use SAMPIT.
	Friends of Streaky Bay	Meeting	Yes	
Christian Gerlach	South Australian Chamber for Mines and Energy	Meeting	Yes	Interested in ensuring that future opportunities are maintained.
Alan Payne	Local residents plus non resident land owners	Post/phone/meeting	Yes	Sent letters to all on the Baird Bay mailing list provided by DEH.

¹ Not Attend

George Gill	Local house holders		Yes	Should have made more copies available for tourists.
Sherron McKenzie	Tourist/ Non resident land owners (i.e. Roxby Downs)	Informal/Letters/call	Yes	Held a local meeting and informed Roxby Downs residents. SMAPIT slow to use on the internet.
	Sceale Bay Community	Meeting	Yes	
David Letch	Wilderness Society, Conservation Council Scientific community - Jane Cooper/Terry Denis	Informal Informal Informal	Yes Yes Yes	Ongoing contact with Terry Denis

7. Questions from the gallery

- Statement made about continuing access to recreational flounder fishing.

8. Record of Meeting

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

- Preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios in the West Coast Bays and Investigator Group Marine Parks were presented as a starting point for discussion.
- MPLAG members raised concerns about displaced effort not been completed before zoning scenarios.
- Four principles relating to displaced effort were discussed. MPLAG members requested confirmation from the Minister for Environment and Conservation (MEC) that these principles would be followed.
- MPLAG members requested that meeting materials be available three weeks prior to meetings.
- Feedback about the meeting held with the MEC and MPLAG Chairs.
- Group went through the scenarios and offered some initial modifications and changes.
- Robust start to the process of discussing possible sanctuary zones.

9. Next meeting

To be advised.

Meeting closed 9.45 pm.

Marine Parks 3 and 4 Local Advisory Group

ACTION ITEMS – as at 16th November 2010

Actions Arising

Meeting No.	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
3	Members	Provide feedback through Executive Officer by 28 th January 2011.		28 January
3	DEH	To photo copy final map with comments and distribute through the Chair.		
3	DEH	2008 IUCN changed guidelines to say low level fishing is not consistent with Category Two Protected Areas. IUCN Protected Areas guidelines to be distributed to members.		
3	DEH	Have all maps, minutes, agenda and other papers to MPLAG members 3 weeks prior to next meeting.		
3	DEH	Provide a link to MPLAG members of the Commonwealth website that explains the declaration of wetlands.		
3	Noel Box	To put something in writing to Alliance with regard to seasonal changes to Sanctuary Zones.		