

Report prepared by Scott Macindoe for the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum was conducted at the Sanford Ltd Headquarters on 12 December 2011. The format for this Forum saw a series of presentations from guest speakers followed by a brief discussion amongst Forum members at the conclusion of the event.

The presentations -

1. Auckland Treaty of Waitangi Claims Settlements by Mike Dreaver – an enlightening presentation – much has been achieved
2. The Northern Inshore Fisheries Company (aka Sanford) – professional fisheries management consultant Rick Boyd made this presentation on behalf of the ‘company’. The usual ‘how great thou art’ spiel followed by an alarming discussion about the various method constraints in place that contribute to fisheries management as we know it – or at least as we thought we knew it. In summary, the Northern Inshore Fisheries Company asserts that the introduction of the Quota Management System in 1986 saw quota, output controls, become the sustainability management measure thus replacing the various method constraints or ‘input controls’ for the purposes of sustainability management. Therefore, they assert, the various input constraints like trawl exclusion zones are now “relics and serve only to enhance the recreational fishing experience” – simple logic from simple people who really only have simple objectives – kill as many fish as possible to make as much money as possible – entirely predictable, beneath contempt and a very clear demonstration of how totally out of touch they are with the people of New Zealand. Please find their PowerPoint presentation attached – attachment 1
3. MAF represented by John Taunton-Clark then presented. A quick reference to fisheries statute followed by explanation of MSY and carrying capacity etc – attachment 2
4. Gareth Morgan and Geoff Simmons then attempted to entertain with folksy soundtracks and disturbingly insulting images and slides of recreational fishers being cast as red necks and portrayed as the main threat to sustainability in near shore waters – no attempt made to differentiate between keen and casual anglers – simple solutions offered – whack us all into the tradable property rights regime of QMS, impose license impost on all who fish in order to fund the necessary trades that will be required to meet the public’s needs. Government get to sit back and watch us trade with Sanford/Sealord for improved non-commercial fishing interests – yeah right. Oh, and also shut down 10% of everything else as no take forever marine reserves. Very populist. Their routine appeared to be well received by Forum members. To view the presentation go here - <http://www.franklin-live.net/site/player/700.html> - fast forward to 19.30 minutes for their focus on non-commercial fishing interests. The superficial and disrespectful nature of their presentation made it easy to eschew the other promotional event they had planned later that evening to launch and sell their book.
5. Biz Bell gave an inspiring presentation on the plight of the black petrel – there is no doubt that this work needs support and encouragement. Rarely does one come across such commitment and passion. A real issue requiring action. Subsequent to the Forum the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council has been approached by a Trustee of the Black Petrel Action Group seeking input and support. Watch this space.
A copy of the presentation is within the minutes of the Forum which may be found here - http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/meetings_agendas/committees/Pages/haurakigulfforum.aspx

Forum discussion

I left the meeting at the conclusion of the presentations - thus missing what has been relayed to me as the venting of some real frustration by some senior, long serving members of the Hauraki Gulf Forum at their lack of authority and ability to achieve changes to the management of the Gulf. The minutes of the Forum

offer the following – “Noting that it is ten years since the passage of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, **that a working group of Forum members be established to consider statutory changes to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act**, noting that the working group will report back to the Hauraki Gulf Forum by June 2012, prior to any communication of recommendations to central government. That the working group comprise the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, Cr Coney, Cr Lee and Mr Paul Majurey.”

Recommendations.

We are going to have to form strategic views on the HGF, and their role in fisheries management. To date we have attempted to help them become more aware of their statutory position and encourage them to provide support for the recreational fishing community. This will not be sufficient. We need to have a detailed conversation on what we want them to do, not do, statutory powers etc. We will need to have thought through exactly what outcomes we want from the HGF and then modify our engagement accordingly.

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