

# Sea Change Fisheries Roundtable Meeting

## Wintec office, Thames, 26 May 2014

A report for the NZ Sport Fishing Council, Hokianga Accord & non-commercial interests  
By Trish Rea and Barry Torkington  
27 May 2014

### Attendees

Commercial:	Dave Moore (Leigh Fisheries), Laws Lawson (AFL & TOKM)
Charter operators:	Megan Andrews (Thames-Coromandel Charter Association)
Non-commercial:	Barry Torkington (NZSFC), Trish Rea (NZSFC/Hokianga Accord).
Customary:	Nil
Environmental:	Clive Monds (ECO/Thames), Barry Weeber (ECO)
Technical support:	Laura Furneaux (Senior Fisheries Analyst, Inshore Fisheries)
SWG members:	Alan Proctor, Callum McCallum, Dave Kellian, Katrina Goddard, Laurie Beamish, Raewyn Peart
SWG Co-leads:	Raewyn Peart & Dave Kellian
Duration:	3.75 hours
Next meeting:	26 June 2014. Marine Rescue Centre, Auckland.

### Introduction

A range of agencies and stakeholders are working together to produce a marine spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf by September 2015. A Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) was established in December 2013 to develop the plan. Roundtables have been established to gather input from a wider group of people into specific topics. Outcomes from the Roundtables will feed into the SWG discussions. This was the first meeting of the Fisheries Roundtable. The scope of the Fisheries Roundtable is specified as:

1. Enhance marine life and fish stocks in the gulf, in all species which are harvested.
2. Lift the productivity of the gulf to support greater recruitment, growth, and quality of fish stocks – through all stages of the fish life cycle.
3. Achieve greater overall value from fish stocks (economic, recreational, customary and ecological value).

### Discussion

Co-chair Raewyn Peart gave a brief background of the Sea Change process and acknowledged the overlaps between the Fisheries and other Roundtables (RT), discussing aquaculture, biosecurity, infrastructure and accessibility. Laura Furneaux (MPI) is assembling the information that this group may require for future discussions. She will distribute the information the SWG has already reviewed.

This was a **collaborative process** where “people have to be willing to shift, have an open mind, that’s how we work”. Allocation was not a topic for discussion; it was how we increase fish stocks and productivity. There was some discussion around the lack of definition of the scope. The scope seemed more like outcomes. The SWG will discuss this. Any amendments to the scope will be advised to RT members.

Members identified issues affecting the **management of fish stocks** in the Hauraki Gulf and wider Area 1. These included climate change, environmental issues, landbased management issues, weaknesses in the QMS, and the need to improve productivity. It was unclear how the various processes, i.e. Sea Change, the SNA Strategy Group plan and legislative obligations, all fit together.

**People’s vision for the future.** Ideas included a healthy, functioning marine ecosystem, a productive system supporting a thriving economy, achieving greatest overall value from fish stocks that are managed to meet the New Zealand Harvest Strategy Standard and other legislative obligations, such as the Fisheries Act 1996 and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.

While it is useful to have all stakeholders talking together, the **inability to discuss allocation** and the fallout from over-allocation limits the potential to address issues such as juvenile mortality and increasing yield.