

## Sea Change Biodiversity & Biosecurity Roundtable Meeting Manurewa Botanical Gardens, Auckland, 4 July 2014

A report for the NZ Sport Fishing Council, Hokianga Accord & non-commercial interests

Barry Torkington

7 July 2014

### Attendees

Co-chairs:	Alison Henry*(environmental), Katrina Goddard* (environmental), Nick Main (independent)
Commercial:	Kirsty Woods, Dave Kellian*
Island/Community:	Sue Neureuter
Non-commercial:	Barry Torkington (NZSFC), Alan Proctor*
Mana whenua:	Lucy Tukua*
Environmental:	Roger Grace, Anne McCrone, Rebecca Barclay, Katrina Goddard*
Tourism:	Daryl Bird
Freshwater/Land use:	John Burton, Arthur Hines
Shipping:	Matt Ball* (Ports of Auckland, communications), Alistair Kirk
Duration:	4.5 hours
Next meeting:	23 <sup>rd</sup> July – Thames.

\* Stakeholder Working Group members

### Discussion

The ‘scope’ of both the biodiversity and biosecurity parts of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan were discussed. The biodiversity topic attracted most attention and the definition was modified to reflect the core characteristic of biodiversity as the variety of species, in contrast to the tabled definition which was concerned with sustainable use and setting aside areas.

**Biosecurity needs to begin with an understanding of the threats** and what work is current from agencies tasked with managing those.

There was a **lack of background documents to inform and guide discussion** as the meeting proceeded and a commitment was made to have documents material to future meetings circulated a week prior to the meeting.

A ‘blue sky’ session was held where the issues and future visions for the Hauraki Gulf were captured. The usual suspects emerged with the future defined in improved states of nature (water quality, biodiversity, abundance etc) and **favoured continued current use** (commercial fishing, kai moana etc) and **diminished current use** (significant reduction in recreational fishing, abolish fishing competitions, scallop dredging etc).

The next meeting or two will be taken up with presentations from officials and others able to make a presentation on the topic. Roger Grace will make a presentation at the next meeting, others to be confirmed.

It is apparent from even only a glimpse of this process that **commercial fishing interests are deferred to at every juncture while public fishing does not arise**. Given the Purpose of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 the lack of interest in public amenity is both surprising and disturbing.

This Roundtable is assembled to consider biodiversity and biosecurity and there is a formidable knowledge mountain to climb before the members can consider these topics in an informed manner. For many, superficial self serving advocacy remains the go-to tool. Combined, these shortcomings present a real threat to continued access for recreational fishing interests.