

Sea Change Biodiversity & Biosecurity Roundtable Meeting

Wintec Centre, Thames, 23 July 2014

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

Barry Torkington

25 July 2014

Attendees

Co-chairs:	Alison Henry*(environmental), Karren Goodall*
Support staff:	Clinton Duffy DoC, Cushla, Mikaela, Rebecca Barclay ACC
Commercial:	Kirsty Woods TOKM, Dave Kellian*
Island/Community:	Sue Neureuter
Mana whenua:	Lucy Tukua*
Environmental:	Roger Grace
Tourism:	Absent
Freshwater/Land use:	John Burton, Arthur Hines
Shipping:	Absent
Recreation:	Alan Proctor*
Recreational fishing:	Barry Torkington (NZSFC)
Absent:	Katrina Goddard, Matt Ball, Daryl Bird, Anne McCrone, Nick Main, Alastair Kirk, Bridget Best.
Duration:	4.5 hours
Next meeting:	27 August, Auckland.

* Stakeholder Working Group members

Discussion

The morning began by discussing the issues identified in the previous meeting. The NZSFC drew attention to the lack of any classification, measuring, or monitoring of biodiversity, and the limitations this gap will impose on subsequent strategies.

Following was discussion on a list of Ideal or Future States:

- Abundant marine life including fish, seabirds, and mammals
- Healthy functioning ecosystems from deep seas to rocky reefs to estuaries
- No new invasive species and we will strive to eliminate or manage existing pest species
- Thriving sustainable fishing industry
- Increased stewardship through an informed and educated public
- Plentiful kaimoana and customary harvest
- Economic growth
- Improved water quality

There is an **irritating habit** in these groups of always **highlighting the desire for a thriving fishing industry** in any future state lists. Either all desirable industries should be listed, or none. There appears to be a deliberate strategy to promote the commercial fishing industry at every juncture and, as understandable as it is from the industry viewpoint, it will seriously weaken the ability of the group to be effective.

Then translating the list of Future States into objectives occupied the rest of the morning. Lucy noted that the scope of the topic risked overwhelming the group. Essentially the Round Table is a group without expertise in biodiversity or biosecurity tasked with making recommendations and observations to guide the Stakeholder Working Group in writing a Spatial Plan.

Most issues relate to abundance and ecosystem function. There was agreement to seek professional help

at the next meeting to inform members of the preferable way to classify ecosystems, e.g rocky reefs, estuaries, open benthic areas, and what might be effective strategies to strengthen biodiversity and biosecurity.

Presentation will be requested from Mark Morrison, Shane Kelly, Nick Stears, and Simon Thrush. All presentations will be filmed for record.

With respect to biosecurity, an understanding of current threats, management, and risks from the perspective of MPI is required as a starting point. MPI are charged with administering biosecurity laws in NZ and presentations from Rosie Bird and Pamela Mace are being requested.

Finally, following the first meeting I made a request to the chairpersons of the Round Table for Trish to be included in the Round Table to assist in keeping reporting standards high and as backup when I am unavailable. The value of having Trish attend is self-evident. The response from Nick Main was a flat rejection on the basis that it would be disruptive.

It would seem the 30% absentee rate at these forums are accepted and not deemed disruptive.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity Round Table, time to date:

Preparation, meeting, travel, report, reading, research, preparation, meeting, travel, report – 65hrs.