

Sea Change Fisheries Roundtable Meeting

Marine Rescue Centre, Auckland, 26 June 2014

A report for the NZ Sport Fishing Council, Hokianga Accord & non-commercial interests
By Trish Rea and Barry Torkington
1 July 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, Dave Kellian (group co-leader), Raewyn Peart (group co-leader).
Duration:	5.00 hours
Next meeting:	Date TBC, Thames.

Introduction

A range of agencies and stakeholders and 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 second meeting of the Fisheries Roundtable that expects to meet monthly until December. The scope of the Fisheries Roundtable is specified as:

1. Enhance marine life and fish stocks in the gulf.
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 opened discussions and acknowledged that not all group members had received the agenda or the request to present a 10 minute talk, giving a **personal account of fishing in the Hauraki Gulf**, or protecting the environment that supports fishing. Eight members presented their views; predictably each imparted their opinions based on their interests in the fishery.

Commercial interests acknowledge SNA1 is rebuilding, the debate is whether the rebuild is fast enough, and that varies depending on each party's interest. TOKM is trying to bring together the **commercial and non-commercial aspects of customary fishing**. Environmental interests want managers to take a broader view of managing not just the fisheries but the **waters and land that surround the Gulf**. Recreational interests presented the paper already provided to the Snapper 1 Strategy Group, "*Management targets for Snapper 1 – A recreational perspective*". While this paper was focused on SNA1 it was useful to focus attention on reaching agreement on a **management target for the Gulf's fisheries**. Once agreed attention could be given to determining the measures required to achieve that target.

These talks were of marginal value, adding little to the knowledge base required to achieve the discussed ideal fish stock state – productive, diverse and abundant.

If the Group is to achieve anything meaningful it was important to get beyond members' perspectives. There is a range of independent reports and peer reviewed publications available that could be distributed to members to enhance their knowledge and future discussions. Larry Paul's recent publication "*History of, and trends in, the commercial landings of finfish from the Hauraki Gulf 1850 – 2006*", was one example. Group leaders were encouraged to source and distribute relevant documents to members before considering issuing invitations to expert commentators such as Paul.