



## Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust

### Introduction:

1. The Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust largely carries out its' activities under the banner "Marlborough Marine Futures". The Trust will be providing a status update to the committee.
2. The principle objective of the Trust is to maintain and enhance the mauri of the natural resources of the Marlborough Sounds Marine Area. Mauri is the life force of the physical world and implies health and spirit. In the environment mauri can be used to describe the intrinsic values of all resources and the total ecosystem. The preservation of the mauri of natural resources is paramount to the Trust to ensure that resources may be used sustainably by present and future generations.

### Background:

3. The key foundations to achieving success and what we have been working to achieve are:
  - i. Promoting sustainable management and use of the Marlborough Sounds Area and eco-systems through collaborative processes engaging the full community of stakeholders, management agencies and NGO's, *by*
  - ii. Facilitating community knowledge and stewardship of the Marlborough Sounds Area applying the principles of Kaitiakitanga, *which will*
  - iii. Develop a cohesive community and stakeholder based strategy that will ensure the long term maintenance and enhancement of the Marlborough Sounds marine areas eco-systems.
4. Some of the key activities to create these foundations will involve:
  - i. Seek the support and involvement of appropriate persons, organisations and agencies and work alongside or collaboratively with such persons, organisations and agencies, *for the purpose of*
  - ii. Encouraging and co-ordinating multi-sector management and initiatives in the Marlborough Sounds Area based on sound knowledge and, where available, research, *and where research gaps exist*
  - iii. Undertake or facilitate research or scientific projects identified as necessary and to make this, and other, research available to stakeholders, community and decision makers. *This will require the Trust to*
  - iv. Source and allocate funds for projects which support, promote or otherwise contribute to objectives and activities of the Trust.
5. Today the Trust will provide an update of its recent activities and a general 'state of play'.

### Trust Activities Past Period:

#### Working with the Community:

6. The Trust has held quarterly forums bringing together key stakeholders and the wider community. The forums have been well attended (including central government staff and NGO's) with broad representations and perspectives present. With many regular attendees the exchanges of views on a wide range of topics have been frank, informative and respectfully delivered and received.
7. The forums are our 'core' work and much time and effort goes into organizing, running and providing outputs from them. The forums have provided:
  - i. The opportunity for different sectors and users of the Marlborough Sounds coastal area to understand one and others interests in the area, what they value and what they see as being

- the key threats to the environment and their interests. These exchanges have facilitated the building of relationships across the different sectors and a respect for each others perspectives.
- ii. The opportunity for the community to discuss and identify generic issues and concerns with regards to the coastal environment and to, for each;
    - Understand knowledge requirements to assess, monitor and manage the issues and start to determine what information is available and what gaps exists.
    - Discuss potential roles, and whom (agencies, NGO's, sectors, individuals) would fulfil those roles, required to address the issues.
    - Identify potential short and long term actions to resolve and manage the issues.
  - iii. An avenue for Council's coastal research to be disseminated and discussed more widely in the community. This has raised awareness of issues and also of the research programmes being undertaken which will build an understanding across the community of the cause:effect relationships and eventually the development of solutions and/or mitigations.
  - iv. These discussions and information sharing has helped the community start to evolve an understanding of how we can all more effectively and efficiently manage the coastal marine environment for the betterment of the environment and all users and managers.
  - v. Enabled community wide discussion on the government's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Act proposals. Discussions which established many significant and common concerns with the proposals. This forum helped the Council's thinking in developing its' own submission on the MPA consultation document and was attended by the Mayor and Chair of the Environment Committee.
8. After a year the forums have progressed to the extent that, at the last forum, sectors present displayed a strong desire to create a Stakeholder Working Group which could meet more regularly to progress the work identified to date.

#### Representation of the Trust's ideas and work to other Groups:

9. In addition to working directly with the Community the Trust has attended meetings and made presentations to the groups listed below. The presentations have been well received with wide acknowledgement of the issues, challenges and opportunities that exist. As with the forums, discussions have also been robust and informative and help the Trust to continually refine delivery of its' objectives.
10. Organisations presented to include:
- i. Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board.
  - ii. RMA forum of local practitioners.
  - iii. NWC 7\*7 event for National Sea Week.

#### Representation of the Trust on Other initiatives:

11. As the Trust continues its' work and builds its profile and mana it is increasingly being sought to engage with other initiatives across the region. This is in addition to initiatives that individual Trustees are involved with; and there are many of those. Key initiatives that the Trust has representation on are:
- i. The Stakeholder Panel for the Sustainable Seas Challenge.
  - ii. Smart and Connected Visitor Economy initiative.
  - iii. Smart and Connected Aquaculture initiative.

12. The Trust also worked with the Ministry of Primary Industries fisheries team and made introductions with Council aimed at commencing a more collaborative approach between the two agencies with regards to the management of the coastal environment. Council and the MPI team have had a first workshop to progress that work. This is a critical step towards the core objective of the Trust; to not only look at the management of the coastal marine environment from an entire ecosystem based approach but also to INTEGRATE the management processes of the different agencies with management responsibilities.

#### Current State of Play; Key Issues for the Trust.

13. After fifteen months of hard work, much of it behind the scenes, the Trust finds itself in an interesting position. We feel that across the community of stakeholders (individuals, groups, industry and agencies) we have built credibility and status; for the Trust as an entity and how it behaves and is managing the process and for the vision and objectives of the Trust.

14. This is reinforced by;

- i. The desire of stakeholders to form the stakeholder working group, and
- ii. The different groups that request information or presentations from us, and
- iii. The other initiatives that we are directly engaged with.

15. Yet with this strong local support and whilst we have built good working relationships with central government staff we have not had political commitment from central government.

16. The MPA proposals and subsequent discussions has heightened awareness, in our minds, the following:

- i. That to successfully manage the coastal marine area it needs to be driven by whole of ecosystem based approach,
- ii. To do so it needs to be progressed through an integrated and fully collaborative based approach including all relevant user sectors, agencies and NGO's,
- iii. It will take time and cannot be achieved to fit within election cycles,
- iv. The work needs to ideally be funded from multiple sources to ensure objectiveness of process and outputs.

17. Our view, and many others also, is that the laudable objectives stated in the MPA proposals simply could not be achieved using the different types of protection offered and methods proposed.

18. Further, we sense that due to central governments strong push on the MPA as the solution to coastal marine management, at a political level we feel they are somewhat 'wary' of the Marine Futures work and have not committed resources to us beyond a modest, but welcomed, contribution from the Community Conservation Partnership Fund. This is in spite of the government acknowledging that generally it sees collaborative processes as being the future of management of our natural and shared resources.

19. As stated in a recently released update to all; we are extremely reluctant (will not) push ahead with the formation of the Stakeholder Working Group without knowing that we have the resources to do so and support for the work. To proceed without such would be folly.

20. Not proceeding in the near future would see a loss of momentum, perhaps such that the work could stall completely and all gains made to date would be lost. If this happened, it is unlikely that a genuine community driven collaboratively based approach would be attempted again for some years.

21. As well as the commitment to the process by key agencies, including MDC, the other key resource is funding. Over the last three years we have received \$110 000 from different sources. A breakdown of this by source is:

Central Government (CCPF)	9%	Rata Foundation	27%
MDC	54%	Private	10%

22. Future commitment and resourcing will be a key issue. As noted in 16(iv), if majority funding were to be from a single source (rather than multiple) this MAY signal a slight change of direction for the Trust in terms of its' engagement model

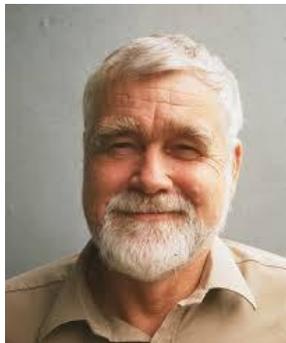
**Conclusion:**

- 23. The Trustees are committed to the process and work extremely hard towards achievement of our objectives; constantly aware of the need to drive the process in an open, transparent and collaborative manner. We meet at least monthly as a Trust and regularly attend other meetings, workshops and presentations on behalf of the Trust.
- 24. We believe the community of users and stakeholders have bought into the objectives, values and ethos of the Trust.
- 25. We need to determine, with Council we believe, how we proceed from here to continue to work towards these objectives. To ensure that we, the people of Marlborough, can in fact maintain and enhance the mauri of the Marlborough Sounds Marine Area for future generations. To leave a legacy that this generation can be proud of.

**Trustees:**

26. A reminder that your Trustees are:

John Hellstrom



Roy Grose



Raymond Smith



Eric Jorgensen



Larnc  
Wichman

