

Marlborough Marine Futures Forum

1 October 2017

A Special Marine Management Area for Marlborough - Is this what you want?

Raymond Smith opened the meeting with a mihi and karakia.

Eric Jorgenson gave an overview of what has happened so far:

The situation

- The Sounds are hurting, in different places, in different ways, with different causes and to different extents. We've all know this for some time.
- There is a growing body of evidence to now substantiate our concerns.
- We've driven the environment to this state through short-sightedness, ignorance and greed.
- Through our relatively short history in the Sounds, management regimes have not helped the place nor, therefore, the people. Indeed, some would contend they are a large part of the problem.
- Today words like adversarial, litigious, fragmented, silo-based and ad-hoc are regularly used to describe the current management paradigm.
- The system that got us into this situation is not the same systems that will get us out of it. Nor can that system enable us to restore the environment and ecological functions that are being compromised in the Sounds, literally as we speak.

What the Trust is trying to achieve

- The Trust strives to protect and restore the mauri and wairua of the Sounds.
- It seeks to do this by bringing the right people together to make it happen, essentially;
 - citizens,
 - conservations & environmentalists,
 - industry,
 - NGOs, CRI's and other information providers and
 - governing agencies.
 - citizens, conservationists and industry all care and need a healthy environment for their own wellbeing and the agencies, well - it's their job to ensure that happens.
- It should be as simple as getting the right people in the same place, at the same time, having the same, and right, conversations and for that group to be mandated and enabled to co-develop and implement a solution.
- Simple! No, it is not.

The process and outcomes thus far

- But in the hope of changing the current management paradigm and with the help of many of you we have gathered people together.
- To date we have identified Stakeholder Sectors and the values different sectors appreciate in the Sounds.
- Established that there are many common concerns regards the wellbeing and management of the Sounds.
- Established a working Vision to aspire to.

- Drafted potential process (Structure, Terms of Reference, Functions, Activities) to drive Change and Develop what a Solution for the Place should look like.
- This was provided to Central Government Ministers to get engagement from their agencies. This approach was unsuccessful. But we did gather a lot of valuable information along the way.
- With that information setting the context, this year we're trying another approach. Using the concept of a Marine Park to create engagement, provoke discussion and identify important principles of what the appropriate Management Solution for the place needs to address, with a bit of the How. This is more of a front-footed approach than last time.

So, where are we at now?

- You will have seen the Marine Park concept discussion document evolve and Peter will shortly take you through the changes introduced in the latest iteration.
- Hopefully most of you had your say on our survey.
- Without pre-empting more in-depth discussions to follow, what we are seeing is:
 - There is broad acceptance of the concepts raised around a Marine Park type model
 - Most people think it should have its' own governance structure and powers.
 - The Trust is not widely supported to lead the process from here.
- Remember, we are dealing with concepts here; can people subscribe in principle to the concepts discussed? Are they/you prepared to support further discussions and evolving greater detail?
- Meanwhile Trust is aware that both MPI and MfE have shown substantial interest in adopting EBM methodologies; methodologies that should include greater participation in decision making of communities.
- The Trust has also had several productive meetings with MDC Staff and others where the Trust highlighted to Council:
 - Council's responsibility under the RMA was to ensure the Social, Cultural, Environmental and Economic wellbeing of Marlborough and its' people.
 - There are areas that need to be improved upon, but they can't do it alone.
 - The Trust had little success in achieving tangible engagement with Central Government Agencies, despite it being a sensible thing to do.
 - With multiple legislative frameworks governing the Sounds a way needed to be found to bring together different Central Government Agencies and Council to jointly, with our community, develop at a whole of place management response to our many environmental challenges in the Sounds. To bundle up the solutions rather than continue with the silo based and ad-hoc approaches of the past.
 - Council could initiate a process to bring the parties together; it is enabled to do so under a lot of different sections of the RMA.
- Council have undertaken to approach the Agencies to see if such a joint' working group might be established and, if so, what that process might look like to progress a collaborative approach. This is a very positive step.
- It is my/our view that having the agencies sit at the table and engaging with us directly is a critical success factor. The simple reality is that it is those agencies and their Ministers operate the necessary levers and dials to make a difference.
- Making a difference without them actively engaged is a whole lot harder than it would otherwise be.
- That said however, we believe steadfastly that we do need change and would continue to find ways to bring about that change if that engagement cannot be achieved.

So, today

- We're going to review and discuss the survey results and see what they might mean for the Trust and others.
- Discuss the Marine Park Concept document to decide whether the types of concepts can be agreed in principle and what should happen next with it, and
- Discuss how much more we, as a community, should undertake before/until we have an indication from Central Government and MDC as to whether they will join us in finding an enduring solution to protect and restore te mauri and wairua of the Marlborough Sounds.
- And what we can do about getting that commitment from the agencies. We believe that you can all play an active role in helping get Agency engagement in the Marlborough Marine Futures frame by approaching relevant Ministers directly to supplement other approaches. You and your sector could advocate for the agencies to join with MDC and our Community to determine the path forward to ensure an enduring management solution for the Marlborough Sounds resources. We want to discuss that also today.

What is in a name?

- We know some have concerns about the Marine Park label. Not only does it infer particular management models in some people it also doesn't reflect our place or our people.
- So we thought we'd put it out there, what name or phrase could encapsulate what we are aspiring to achieve here?
- Kaikoura has Te Korowai, there is Sea Change; Tai Timu Tai Pari in Hauraki.
- We're running a competition and will short list the top three with each winning a prize. Each of the top three will win wither one of two Roys Road watches or a Gift Voucher.
- What could be the name for our place, our people and our philosophy here in the Marlborough Sounds?
- See our website of details to enter.

Eric introduced three new Trustees - Fraenzi Furigo who was present, along with Bill Foster, Kiah Greenland who were not able to attend the meeting.

Fraenzi Furigo introduced herself:

I am originally from Germany and have a background in Biology (German MSc-degree) and Clinical Research (managing and monitoring drug trials). I visited New Zealand and the Marlborough Sounds the first time in 2002 for a holiday. At that time I fell in love with Elaine Bay, Pelorus Sound, and felt immediately at home. I came back to the Sounds as a tourist in 2004, and in 2006 I moved to Elaine Bay to spend a year with my Kiwi partner Neil, owner of a kayaking hire business; and I have been living in New Zealand since. In 2013 I obtained New Zealand citizenship.

Over the years, I got to know the Sounds, its people, wildlife and stunning landscapes; I became part of the French Pass and Elaine Bay Residents Associations, and experienced the commercial side of Sounds life (tourism, aquaculture, forestry, farming).

I attended the July 2017 Forum of Marlborough Marine Futures and this sparked my interest in the work of the Trust. I believe the activities of the Trust, together with citizens and stakeholders, is very important for the future of our region and our country as a whole, therefore I was happy to become a Trustee. I am especially interested in communication and knowledge exchange.

Survey Results - John Hellstrom

There were 227 responses, a full report is available on the website and he encouraged people to have a look at it.

He said there were a lot of thoughtful comments.

- 75% identified as recreational fishers, 50% identified as having environmental conservation interests and 40% had a range of commercial interests.
- 55% identified as coming from Marlborough, almost all were from the South Island, one was from Western Australia, with only 10% from the North Island.
- 60% were permanent residents, 50% said they holidayed in the Sounds.
- 45% were boat users, 25% recreational users.
- Most non residents described themselves as frequent users. We got people who spend a lot of time in the Sounds. Amongst that demographic there was 80% support for a marine park concept. Opposition was largely focussed on not wanting another layer of bureaucracy and only 12% favoured the status quo. Alternatives were split between a marine park concept and multi use management area.
- 32% favoured fishing park recreational only, 48% favoured recreational fishing zones.
- Who should administer? 52% supported a stand-alone authority.
- 55% said yes to the zoning approach.
- Confidence in the Trust leading discussions? - 4.6 score. The main concerns were a lack of mandate and narrow representation of interests.

If you look at demographics, there are 227 people who have a significant interest in the Sounds.

Note: 227 responses represents a 65% return rate. This is an exceptionally high survey response rate.

Discussion

Question: This is the third group trying to do something in the Sounds, is anything new coming out of the survey that you can move on? Why hasn't there been any confirmation that agencies and Government are going to be part of this? How are you going to get past that?

Answer: We didn't expect a huge turnout to survey. What's new this time - some of the processes that have fallen in the past were addressing one aspect of it. Soundsfish focussed around fish, but you've got to look at the wider environment. Looking at a whole place solution around a marine park concept and the idea that instead of having a multitude of agencies they come together as one. One difference is central government and how do we get them on board. We have a couple of ideas around that. We are hoping that this latest approach will work. There is a view that central government "owe" Marlborough so now would be a good time to get them involved. To get central government on board you have to get all the policy writers in the room listening to these conversations. We're asking you guys for help to get central government engagement. I think one of the problems may be that they're a little bit threatened.

Question: At the last meeting you'd talked with Nick Smith and a white paper was coming out, is that far away?

Answer: Peter said that after the last meeting Nick felt that I had sabotaged the white paper. He didn't realise it was a public forum. It depends on whether this government continues. If you get Nick back he will go down the same track. If you get a new Minister you may get a different outcome.

The Trustees pointed out that, in their view, there is no way they led Nick to believe it was a closed forum.

Question: 55% approved zoning, 45% didn't approve - was there any comment on what the 45% thought should happen?

Answer: There were a wide range of comments. A lot of people didn't have their heads around what it meant and some people hadn't read the Discussion Document. It really just reflects where we're up to in conversation.

Eric said we see 4 outcomes from the document and survey responses- (1) recognition that we need something different, (2) we need to decide if it's a special management area, (3) it should have its own governance board, not MPI or DOC etc. (4) People aren't too sure that the Trustees should be driving this, but if we stop then nothing will happen. We have a personal and collective responsibility that we have to keep going and find ways to engage you guys to support us.

Question: Do you think the Trustees will run this until we have governance?

Answer: No, we want to get the groups together absolutely, but there is an interim step to get the statutes in place, we need the agencies to come together with representatives from the Trust and wider community, to work out how that might (interim 'governance') look and how it will operate. We are doing what we can to get to the next step.

Comment: How do we get to the next step? Personally I feel we need to embarrass politicians by showing a huge level of public support.

Peter then talked about the Special Management Area proposal (see PowerPoint presentation).

Discussion

Question: I have concerns about zoning terminology. We maybe need commercial only zoning? You are putting emphasis on other zones when commercial fishing zones needs exploring as well.

Comment: We are in a shared fishery, I will not support if commercial, customary and recreational are not the same.

Answer: This paper is not something we want to drive forward at a detailed level at this stage.

Comment: "This is a shared fishery model" needs to be in that document and highlighted.

Answer: After today we don't keep refining that document, at the broad level the idea of having zones is something people are prepared to work with, but the deal needs to be worked out with government officials and you.

Comment: You haven't sat down with us. We just got presented with a paper.

Answer: Eric said we'll take that on board. The paper is a result of discussion at two public forums. We've received feedback only from these forums. Personally I've got no issues with us painting the context that we exist in a shared fishery because that's a fact. Clarifying the context around that is presented as a shared fishery can be easily done- does that address your concerns?

Comment: No, we've been waiting for shared fishery for 10 years.

Answer: Eric said I think what is important here is that the context of this paper is nothing more than understanding the types of concepts that might be appropriate to carry forward for further analysis.

Comment: You come out with comments around commercial and people will expect that's what the zones are going to be. It needs to be clear this is a draft and this is just a discussion document.

Answer: Yes, Eric said we need to ensure that the context and use of this paper is clearly understood.

Comment: We bring our experience and concerns about our fisheries and at the same time we're open to the environmental side of things, but we just keep talking and end up with a paper that doesn't recognise it.

Answer: Eric said we will look at making sure it is presented in the correct context.

Comment: The only reference to commercial zones is under general zones, and it says most commercial fishing will occur in these zones. "Most commercial fishing" is a little bit threatening. As a discussion document or draft document that goes out to public, who is reading it is an open forum. Commercial fishing calls "in the Sounds" the Headlands, if we're talking about Marlborough limits, you're talking about a huge commercial area and that's very different to "in the Sounds". Commercial are here, we are listening and we want to get engaged, however we are a bit marginalised right now.

Question: Where are these zones ?

Answer: Peter said in my last presentation on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park the commercial fishing takes place in the general zone and some takes place in more protected areas. If you look at rezoning more than half the Great Barrier Reef is in the general area. The general area is the biggest area.

Comment: A lot of people weren't at that meeting and when reading this would be confused.

Answer: Eric said this is painting a context, with the detail to come afterwards. It is important that if a sector read it that way then other people will read it the same way so it's important to correct it.

Fraenzi said I feel it is good to discuss what you might want to see. How will you want it worded so you are happy with it?

Comment: This is a huge area and it does have a portion of commercial fishing in it. For us the Sounds is the Headlands commercially.

Eric said there may well be commercial fishing activities that take place in areas other than general areas. We haven't articulated that properly in the document.

Peter said that one of the intents of the process is that commercial fishing will be sustained.

Peter said we are concerned to hear that the local fishers said that up to nine families would be put out of business. Anything that produces that kind of outcome is not good. This process is going to end up with commercial fishers still operating here and we need to be up front, we're not aiming to do away with them like the fishing park.

Question: In terms of terminology - what does it mean to people who are not locally based? Is the recreational park going to include them?

Answer: Peter said we're opposing the recreational fishing park.

Eric said I don't know where that phrase came from. We're not at the detail stage yet. There's no point in diving into the detail today. We're taking on board your comments and will issue another iteration of the paper with the hope it can be approved as a draft. At the same time we hope to have MDC, you and others approaching central government for something to be done in Marlborough. If we can get that group together around the table that's when you can say here are some broad principles that we can pick up from this document - how can we implement it? There's another level of detail still to come.

Question: What is extent of area we're talking about?

Answer: 12 miles off coast from Cape Soucis.

Comment: We need a paragraph clarifying what commercial needs are.

Question: Will we see the final draft?

Answer: Eric said we'll run it past you guys first before presenting to the whole group.

Comment: The area 12 miles off the coast is way too big.

Larnc said there is a line drawn - it isn't a good idea to draw a line until you know what other opportunities are coming.

Comment: If you stick to the Sounds you'll have a lot more chance with the government.

Peter then handed out a draft letter. To give you an idea of what we might say to the government, Trustees asked me to draft a letter for the incoming Minister. Have a think about that and get together with like interests and discuss.

Comment: You want to go to the Crown with the solutions, they don't like problems. If at the end of the day they think it's risky they'll say no. You need a really strong support and a survey of 277 people isn't going to cut the mustard. If you send a form letter, it's only counted as one, even if there are 200.

Peter replied that this is only suggested as a base. What would be good is if everyone of similar interests get together and have a talk about how that works for you and report back. Make notes about other avenues you think would be useful to get central government to react.

Eric said it's good to hear what everyone is thinking, we want our community to function as a community and it's good to be challenged. **The concept of this letter is not that everyone signs this letter. There are key messages and you can take away and add relevant information to your sector.**

Comment: You need a strategy around interaction with the government. Political pressure is where it comes from. I think you need to do that with council. Use the leverage that council gives you. At the moment government officials don't know about this organisation. A champion for you, alongside the council, could be Jeremy Brownley, he has a bach in the Sounds, he may be able to be brought on board because of his family history in the Sounds. Politics is often about getting through the door and making an impression. To approach projects that the whole of Marlborough can get behind you've got to have something to show that you have wider support than just 30 people having a meeting. A Private Members Bill is decided by a ballot, then the government can vote down on it anyway - there needs to be a government bill. This Minister could be a model for other regions in NZ, that could encourage government to get Marlborough through the hoop and then get the support of Minister

Comment: As a group we decide how big this project is going to be or how small we make the project. People talk about in the Sounds. If we stick to the Sounds limits how hard can we push it? If we're talking about the wider area from Cape Campbell right around to Cape Soucis, how easy is that to get through? As a group it's something that needs to be considered - how big a project this is.

Comment: We need to come up with new terminology.

Eric said it is the MDC boundary, whether you plan for that at the same level of spatial detail as you would for the inner Sounds is another question. The existing regulations (MDC therefore RMA related) go to the 12 mile limit so you really have to stay with that.

Question: Raymond was asked what is local iwi support?

Raymond said we don't know. This is a public forum we haven't engaged with local iwi. We have invited iwi to come. At the last forum Ngati Koata turned up, Te Atiawa turned up and we've had Poneke Rene from D'Urville Island. Not a lot of people are engaging and we don't know why.

Comment: It is correct that at a higher level we have to get the council engaged. I think we need a hearts and mind campaign to get a wider audience which is NZ. We have to do something to restore what we had and stop the changes.

Eric said what we're looking at is a multi pronged approach. We've got over a hump with council. What you're adding with that letter is we shouldn't put our complete faith in council to deliver that message and that maybe we should get someone from the Trust to do it.

Peter said I've written a letter from the Mayor to the Ministers and tabled it with the councils for them to decide what to do with it.

Comment: A new Minister would be wanting to know where is the plan and the strategy - it needs more guts to it.

Peter said we haven't sent the discussion document outside this group for that reason.

Comment: You need to have something to send with this letter and asked the Ministers what process do we use to get this area together.

Comment: The environment is right for this to be pressed now. The pressure this coming summer is going to be horrific.

Comment: I was impressed with the draft document, the big picture is it's more than just fisheries and I would urge to follow up with going to the government on this. We've got the Marlborough Environment Plan hearings coming up - how do we integrate this to start feeding into those hearings? The time is right for us to be getting these messages to those decision makers as well. Does anyone have ideas of how we could integrate this?

Eric said that would have been nice but we would have had to start a lot earlier. This is about changing how we manage the Marlborough Sounds. There are issues today that are being further compounded that need to be addressed and we and others will keep addressing those issues today, as and when they arise. We also need to say here's how we need to go about changing the management frameworks to get better outcomes in the future. . A lot of material we need is already there and can be altered a bit to fit our purposes now.

Comment: Regarding zonings - have you looked at the legislation that's in place in Chatham Islands? Have a look at that it may help you.

Larnce asked who will present the letter?

Comment: Are we in enough agreement to send any letter?

Larnce asked who would like to work with the Trustees to develop a letter? We're asking for them to engage with us in developing a strategy.

Comment: Stuart Smith is a good advocate for this group.

Eric said let's take it as read that the Trust and council would be doing what we said we would do and approach central government. Do people see value in a letter arriving from different sectors?

Peter said people should take the sense of what's in the letter and put your own spin on it.

The first letter will be saying we've got consensus that something needs to be done. The first letter isn't saying what needs to be done. Then go to a second letter that tells them what we've come up with.

The first objective is to protect the environment. Then make sure my whanau, iwi, industry have a future within that.

Comment: All we're hearing is fishing - that's not the only issue.

Comment: What's our mission statement - gifts and gains is a good one. It's not about 'getting' it's about giving back to the environment. We need a phrase or terminology that galvanises the public to make it happen.

Eric said our thoughts are that the name/phrase marine park doesn't reflect us, our place or our people, or the philosophy of how we want to look after this place. What we need is a name that reflects our place, our people, our philosophy. We thought we could have a competition, we'll put this on the website and send out an email.

Question: Why are you so closed to marine park?

Answer: Eric said we've listened to a lot of people who immediately have a view of what a marine park is.

Comment: It's only a matter of having a catchy phrase. The issue is in the understanding of what marine park means.

Eric said we will make it clear there are 2-3 key themes that the different sectors can support and have a place where sectors can put in their concerns.

Action: Trustees will get in touch with the commercial sector around discussion document.

Action: Competition of Mission Statement to be announced by email and put up on the website.

Summing up - Larnce Wichman

Eric summed up the pathway taken to bring us to where we are today.

Eric introduced you to the new trustees, our door is still open for others to join us, with the introductions this morning there are a lot of diverse people with us in the community, please consider bringing your expertise within the trust.

John Hellstrom, talked us through the survey results, 227 people with over 16,500 words, lot of broad comments and such a strong interest from the local people and those from outside the region.

This was only a snap-shot from those that use the Sounds in so many different ways.

What we already know and was also a strong voice is that changes need to be made, the other strong voice is that the people want the management rights to make sure the Marlborough Sounds is a better place in the future.

During the discussions, it drew out what is already happening out in the Sounds, people taking care of their bays/areas, when other people see this they also take care, if this continues it will benefit us all by having a clean environment.

Peter took us through, “is this what you want”, and how to get there through integrated management. It’s about process.

I think a simple way of summing this up is, that it takes many parts to make the whole, we can bring that altogether, that is our challenge.

We get the message that we should make approaches at a higher level, delegation go over to Wellington with the Mayor, CEO, Trustees attending. We will give this a definite consideration.

Thank you for taking time to attend this forum.

Raymond closed the meeting with a karakia