



## **Hauraki Gulf Forum Technical Officers Group Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, 10 December 2018

**Venue:** Level 14, Room 10, Auckland Council, 135 Albert Street, Auckland.

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Attendees:** John Meeuwsen, Hauraki Gulf Forum Chairperson  
Moana Tamaariki-Pohe, Hauraki Gulf Forum Deputy Chairperson  
Katina Conomos, Hauraki Gulf Forum, Interim Executive Officer  
Mark Hamilton, Matamata-Piako District Council  
Graeme McGregor, Fisheries New Zealand  
Samantha Collings, Fisheries New Zealand  
Martin Mariassouce, Te Puni Kōkri  
Sietse Bouma, Auckland Council  
Ben Bunting, Waikato Regional Council  
John Galilee, Department of Conservation  
Mark Inglis, Auckland Council  
Helgard Wagener, Auckland Council  
BY PHONE Giles Boundy, Waikato District Council  
BY PHONE - Clint Rickard, Technical Officer to Terrence Hohneck

**Apologies:** Scott Summerfield, Thames-Coromandel District Council  
Moana Waa, Technical Officer to Moana Tamaariki-Pohe and Dean Ogilvie  
Nick Reid, Auckland Council

### **Draft Minutes**

1.	<b>Mihi and welcome</b> Moana Tamaariki-Pohe provided an opening mihi.
2.	<b>Hauraki Gulf Forum updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meeuwsen outlined that going into next year he sees opportunities to align and integrate more amongst the constituent parties. With the local body elections in October, meaning a likely change to the membership, John advocates advancing the Forum’s work programme as fast as possible during the available time, particularly given the positive engagement from Central Government to date and the recent announcement to progress the Sea Change Plan.</li> <li>• Moana Tamaariki-Pohe provided an overview of a recent meeting held with Te Puni Kōkri and with their support is looking for a more coordinated approach and involvement from tangata whenua members going forward.</li> <li>• Katina Conomos advised that the new Executive Officer, Alex Rogers, will commence on 14 January. Katina is contracted to end of January to handover to Alex.</li> <li>• The likely date for the next Forum meeting is Friday 14 February, pending confirmation of Ministers’ attendance. [NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting of technical officers the most likely date is <u>now Friday 8 February</u>]</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Proposed Ministerial Advisory Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft terms of reference that Cabinet considered when deciding to proceed with the proposed Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) were tabled. These have</li> </ul>

	<p>been released on the understanding that it is a preliminary draft, intended to inform relevant ministers of scope, output, timing and representation ahead of establishing the MAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Galilee noted that there has been a lot of positive responses to the announcement. John noted that a Fact Sheet has been circulated and that the relevant ministries (DOC and Fisheries NZ) have a Sea Change email address for inquiries.</li> <li>• Relevant ministries (DOC, Fisheries NZ and MfE) are now commencing proactive and coordinated engagement regarding the proposal, with feedback being sought through to February. The appointments to the Ministerial Advisory Group are likely to be considered and confirmed by March 2019</li> <li>• The group discussed what would useful feedback look like, and suggested that feedback be provided along the lines of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What should be the role and purpose of the group?</li> <li>○ What are the skills and experience that the Advisory Group members should have?</li> <li>○ Who are ideal candidates?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Specific consultation questions are likely to be framed up by DOC &amp; Fisheries NZ in the coming week.</li> <li>• Both the Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council have received meeting requests for face-to-face meetings later this month.</li> <li>• Sietse Bouma and Ben Bunting advised that both regional councils have continued steady progress on implementation of the Sea Change and that the work of the council's (current and programmed) be acknowledged by the agencies supporting the MAC and that the MAC not be communicated as a 'starting point' on implementation of the Sea Change Plan.</li> <li>• Both John Galilee and Graeme McGregor noted that their agencies are now ramping up their focus on the Sea Change Plan.</li> <li>• Sietse offered that the obvious gamechanger for DOC and Fisheries NZ is to look at Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). AC and WRC only can affect marine protection through the RMA.</li> <li>• Ben noted the importance of the Minister for Environment participating in implementation discussions as they relate to water quality.</li> <li>• John Meeuwssen complimented the Auckland Council and Waikato Regional Council on their transparent approaches to responding to the Sea Change Plan so far and noted that although this hasn't been the case for DOC and Fisheries NZ to date, the Ministerial Advisory Committee is a good shift towards a healthier dialogue and action on the Sea Change plan. The Forum should encourage greater collaboration and integration amongst agencies.</li> <li>• Graeme noted that as was reported by Fisheries NZ at the 19th November Forum meeting, Fisheries NZ is undergoing a change in focus toward ecosystem-based management. The Sea Change plan enables a debate around ecosystem based management. Graeme also noted that implementation will have to occur through the prevailing legislation and the need to ensure that data is robust.</li> <li>• Moana requested of DOC and Fisheries NZ that if there is any feedback received that relates to tangata whenua it would be helpful for the Forum to have access to that information where relevant.</li> <li>• The OAG review of the Sea Change process is due out on Wednesday 12 December. [Available here: <a href="https://www.oag.govt.nz/2018/hauraki/docs/sea-change.pdf">https://www.oag.govt.nz/2018/hauraki/docs/sea-change.pdf</a>]</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>HGF working party regarding Marine Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the 19 November meeting the Forum requested <i>that the Executive Officer work with Technical Officers to bring forward to the next meeting a Terms of</i></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Reference and budget for the establishment of a multi-agency working party to scope and advance marine protection initiatives in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.</b> This topic was discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meeuwssen inquired whether there were any views in opposition to the working party.</li> <li>• Ben Bunting noted the importance of not duplicating existing processes.</li> <li>• Similarly, John Galilee suggested that DOCs official response is likely to be that this area of work will be looked at through the Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Group.</li> <li>• John Meeuwssen suggested that the Sea Change plan is likely light on Marine Protection and that the Forum’s working party could compliment the Sea Change process with a look at first principles, and also a focus on more integrated picture of marine protection than what is outlined in Sea Change. For example, how much of the Gulf needs to be protected as a network to achieve a particular outcome?</li> <li>• Sieste noted that before Sea Change was published, MfE released a discussion document about MPAs and queried whether Central Government is intending to progress an MPA amendment bill. (<a href="https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Marine/mpa-consultation-doc.pdf">https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Marine/mpa-consultation-doc.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• John Meeuwssen noted that at the meeting held with Ministers Nash and Sage, Minister Sage was very clear that marine reserves needed to be bolstered substantially.</li> <li>• John Galilee advised that DOC has a specific workstream around marine protected areas and reform.</li> <li>• Sietse advised that when the Auckland Council assessed the Sea Change actions it noted that MPAs are a responsibility of central government and noted the review of the MPA Act would be likely needed to support this.</li> <li>• Mark Ingles expressed his support for an extra level of input on Marine Protection because he doesn’t get a strong sense of network thinking around the Marine Reserves outlined in Sea Change. The Plan also did not propose marine reserves for Waiheke and Great Barrier island.</li> <li>• All concurred that the Forum’s working party needs to advocate for integration with any work undertaken by the MAC in relation to marine protected area discussions and the wider role of the forum around integrated management of the Gulf.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> The group recommended that decisions around the establishment or scope of any Forum’s working party be held off until after the MAC has been established. In general, the group noted its willingness to look at how best the Forum could inform and promote the work of the MAC.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Fisheries NZ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meeuwssen thanked Fisheries NZ for their presentation to the Forum meeting on 19 November.</li> <li>• Katina advised that 11 questions were received after the presentation from Fisheries NZ and these were provided to Fisheries NZ at the meeting. Katina advised that she had only collated the questions that morning and would discuss further with the Chair and Deputy regarding before circulating more widely to the group.</li> <li>• Time is being allocated on the next Forum meeting for a follow up presentation from Fisheries NZ. John Meeuwssen encouraged Fisheries NZ to be unrestrained in what they wish to present and be open about areas where further work may be required.</li> </ul>

6.	<p><b>2019 work programme.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work programme document as presented to the 19 November Forum Meeting was included with the agenda, and Katina outlined the structure of the document and noted this remains a 'live working document'.</li> <li>• The agenda items for the February meeting were discussed.</li> <li>• One of the agenda items will be a proposed budget for the 2019/2020 year, which is scheduled to be presented in February to allow the councils and agencies time to consider for inclusion in their annual plan budgets.</li> <li>• John Meeuwssen advised that he will be seeking additional resources from constituent parties – both in terms of funding and technical officer support for the year ahead.</li> <li>• Ben Bunting noted that if the Forum is seeking additional funding there needs to be a compelling case presented for this that clearly links to the functions of the forums, its work programme and demonstrates the value of the constituent party contributions.</li> <li>• John Meeuwssen indicated that there is greater scope for coordination of efforts amongst constituent parties and other stakeholders and a lot to be gained by coordination and leveraging of existing community efforts.</li> <li>• Ben Bunting also noted that it's unclear at this point, but the recently proposed Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee may also require additional resourcing from some of the councils.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> as the budget starts to take shape, there was a commitment that a draft would be shared amongst the constituent parties.</li> <li>• Ben Bunting advised that another report on sedimentation from the Waikato Regional Council in February is too soon as there is nothing substantive to report. It would however be appropriate to report on the progress of integrated harbour and catchment planning activities at some stage next year. This was noted.</li> <li>• Sietse Bouma advised that Auckland Council report on progress toward sedimentation management regularly given the site specific focus of recent reports on the matter.</li> <li>• John Galilee suggested that an update on Sea Change implementation should be a standing item. [NB: in the next item on the agenda it was suggested that this be included in the constituent party reporting template].</li> <li>• Moana Tamaariki-Pohe noted that the disparate views from Auckland Councillors shared at the last meeting can make some members uncomfortable and queried Auckland Council staff on whether there was the ability to address differing expectations prior to the formal Forum meeting. Moana noted that differences in views from Forum members and their respective agency ideally need to be resolved ahead of time rather than being re-litigated in the Forum setting.</li> <li>• Katina drew attention to the Forum's recent resolution to allocate \$15,000 from accumulated surplus to develop a communication and publicity strategy for the Forum. This work will be scoped in the new year and input from members and technical officers will be sought.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Constituent party reporting template – what should be reported regularly, and why.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katina explained the background to this item being that for the last few meetings there has not been constituent party reporting sought against all the strategic issues, but rather reports requested specifically from certain agencies on specific topics.</li> <li>• Whilst this will continue, at the last meeting of Technical Officers it was noted that there should be a discussion on what <i>other</i> reporting should occur.</li> <li>• The group discussed the importance of reporting against strategic issues first and foremost. Ben Bunting noted that there are some other themes such as</li> </ul>

	<p>development and consents which would be of interest, but also queried what do we want the Forum Members to do with this information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Meeuwsen offered that the audience for the information is the community at large, as well as the Forum members, and that compiling information across the Forum's constituent parties enables the Forum to be a place (and record) of information relevant to the Gulf.</li> <li>• John Meeuwsen suggested that in addition to the reporting on strategic issues, parties be asked to report on their activities in relation to Sea Change every quarter, to promote better integration amongst the agencies.</li> <li>• There was support from the officers' present for reporting against strategic issues being focussed on progress, matters of significance, change, or areas for possible collaboration.</li> <li>• More detailed reports could also be sought from time to time to present more background information to the Forum.</li> <li>• It was noted that biosecurity was included on the May meeting agenda (page 2 of work programme document). Katina suggested this was likely a typo and was meant to be biodiversity. Officers suggested that biosecurity is also a relevant topic but noted it is not listed as a strategic issue.</li> <li>• Sietse suggested that staff prepare the reports on behalf of the Members and that the Members present the reports on behalf of their respective agencies.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> The group agreed that Katina should prepare a template for the constituent party reports and that it be circulated for comment. The report template should also include guidelines.</li> <li>• Moana suggested that going forward, she will encourage reports from tangata whenua members in the same template.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Other constituent party updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints, this matter was not discussed.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Matters for action before next Forum meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were discussed throughout the meeting and are noted in the minutes.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Protocols for communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was not discussed in depth at the meeting due to time constraints but it was noted that technical officers serve as the primary point of contact between the Executive Officer and constituent agencies.</li> <li>• John Meeuwsen noted that the protocol for engaging with each agency varies from agency to agency. With Alex on board in the new year, protocols for communication with each agency will be clarified.</li> </ul>
11.	<p>Martin Mariassouce provided a karakia whakakapi.</p>

The next meeting of the Technical Officers will be scheduled approximately six weeks prior to the May 2019 Forum meeting.