

Te Korowai Meeting Report

9 February 2021

Chair's Report



Kia Ora Koutou,

Being the first meeting of the new year, I hope members feel refreshed. Te Korowai undertook a lot of good work last year, and we need to carry on focusing on positives. I would like to acknowledge the recognition received around the shellfish and seaweed fisheries reopening discussions, re progressing this with the Minister. The management of consultation processes and fisheries sustainability in the community, equated to much hard work in a short time frame. Te Korowai needs to be engaging with core groups of recreational fishers re increased interaction and proactiveness, considering future directions and priorities.



2021 Considerations

- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury region (ECan) - councillors have agreed on the first stage.
- National Policy Statement For Freshwater Management - ECan/Te Korowai input.
- Long-Term Plan consultation begins in March, consider sense of direction, sustainability and planning matters.
- Blue cod, shellfish and seaweed fisheries - what can Te Korowai do to assist? Paua reopening coming up re MPI, expert technical working group has convened and met.
- Fishing accord.
- Engaging with recreational fishers and the Kaikōura Boating Club.
- Climate change (incl. marine heatwaves/increasing sea surface temperatures). Raise awareness in the community - socioeconomic, environmental, safety impacts etc.
- Commercial projects - Wakatu Quay and South Bay harbour developments. Submissions currently being sought for feasible development options.
- The current Rāhui two year extension finishes in July 2021, TRoK has been informed.
- Future Direction: Looking ahead re the future, what are the main priorities Te Korowai needs to be leading and be a part of? Is Te Korowai making the right impact, what needs to be achieved, what role do we play?



Sector & Agency Updates

a) Kaikōura District Council (Matt Hoggard via email)

- The Long-Term Plan review is coming up, setting a general direction for spending over the next 10 years. Official consultation with the community will begin in March re key outcomes for the district for the next three year period until the next review.

b) Department of Conservation (Jemima Rodden)

- DOC is re-establishing the NZ fur seal volunteer programme at Point Kean/the Kaikōura Peninsula, to assess and mitigate human disturbance.
- Currently short-listing for the new Marine Ranger role re a major focus on monitoring the Hikurangi Marine Reserve and leading the marine disentanglement team.

c) Paua3 (David Rae)

- Some diving of late, particularly around Banks Peninsula. Priority this year is the shellfish/paua fishery reopening.

d) CRAMAC5 (Larncé Wichman)

- The crayfish fishery is being monitored monthly after last years issues with COVID re not catching all of the Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE). What was uncaught was rolled over, resulting in 5.3%, applying another 13.8 tonnes to the TAAC. All has since been caught, a good rate.
- We have undertaken a stock assessment, which has been a task re the data used. The most reliable data came up to September 2019, rather than the new electronic reporting. With the trials last year and this year re rapid assessments from electronic reporting data, CPUE is no longer the catch phrase for identifying the abundance of lobster, it is instead based on spawning biomass.

- We learnt there has been poor reporting re data confusion and the different devices used. As of 1 April 2021 everyone is on the same page. The two different platform providers offered varying instructions on how to code and report the information. We only came to this conclusion in the last three weeks and are rapidly trying to get one instruction manual finalised. This had not been picked up by Fisheries NZ because all the ticked items had been filled with data, however it was not realised that there was different information input. Now undertaking quarterly checks to ensure the system is correct, and working closely with MPI re a national instruction sheet. Confidence of data and algorithms re status of fishery.
- Last assessment round (CRA 1, 3, 4 and 5) indicated a lack of recreational catch data, i.e. the resource is not known. Pot-lift surveys for recreational crayfish fishery? No advice or recommendations have been put forward yet. Watch this space, further information to follow on this.

e) Kaikōura Marine Guardians (Larncé Wichman)

- We have submitted the recommendations to the Minister on the paua and shellfish fisheries reopening. KMG reviewed the Te Korowai documentation 3 times, and were thoroughly disappointed that the preliminary meeting was held up re agenda, as the document had not moved from Damien Cloeter's (Fisheries NZ) desk. KMG then progressed and forwarded the correspondence to the Environment Minister (Hon. David Parker) last week.
- Terms of reference review - draft to be presented and forwarded to KMG prior to the meeting, to gain a good understanding of the proposal. Primary concerns are the watering down of Te Korowai's purpose. The proposed review is not based on any rationale, other than Te Runanga o Kaikōura not valuing Te Korowai and believing the sway lies with the Kaikōura Marine Guardians - i.e. undermining and seeking majority member allocation.

f) Forest & Bird (Sabrina Luecht)

- Kaikōura Cat Management Strategy - a collaborative agency approach by KDC/ECan/ DOC. Rachel Vaughan (Chair) states that DOC has engaged Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura in pest management. However, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura has held up any advancement on this. A whole ecosystem pest management approach is being sought, re integrating feral cat management with other predator control. DOC's bottom line is it needs to be a community initiative. KDC has some biodiversity seed funding to allocate towards responsible pet ownership initiatives. The funds and willingness are there - but continue to hit a stalemate re lack of clear actions or outcomes. Predator control (particularly cats) is crucial at shorebird and seabird nesting/roosting sites.
- Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue has established a Working Group to realise the vision of a community wildlife hospital. The current facility cannot continue operating as a voluntary venture solely managed and self-funded by myself. I am currently engaging the community to support this work, and applying for relevant funding to progress this concept.



- Norfolk pine removal along the Esplanade has been mentioned frequently by community members of late. If this was to occur, it is important to retain the pines in the Memorial Park, as these are vital roosting trees for declining shags, and also to retain a part of history.
- Wakatu Quay development - I (in a personal capacity) submitted a proposal for a Marine Centre (consisting of an aquarium, seabird rehabilitation, paua hatchery, research and education centre). Considerations were included for seabird friendly lighting and glass usage, to mitigate lighting impacts and window strike in a sensitive seabird area.
- Limiting 4WD vehicle access to beaches with high biodiversity values, i.e. access to boat ramps only, work in with ECan's Coastal Management Plan.
- Barry Dunnett notes disquiet in the community over sustainability in the recreational fisheries sector. What is Te Korowai going to do to address this? There is enough evidence of decline and pressure on fisheries for Te Korowai to review regulations - discuss with the Kaikōura Boating Club. Rachel Vaughan (Chair) noted that dusky dolphins have been coming inshore feeding on kahawai at the Hapuku Rivermouth with Hector dolphins.

g) Community (Ted Howard)

- HSCT currently has Hutton's shearwater 24 chicks at the Te Rae o Atiu colony, which will be fledging next month. Two chicks died and several eggs did not hatch. The Kowhai River colony is looking reasonably good, while the Shearwater Stream colony is suffering declines (scientific paper is being published).

h) Recreational Fishers (Kevin Duncan and Richard Craig)

- Kevin Duncan: A huge number of boats noted in the water after new year. The only thing that protected recreational fisheries is rough seas prior to Christmas. Certain areas have also been thrashed by divers. Broad billed swordfish have been appearing in the canyon near Barney's Rock, while king fish have been noted too. Good numbers of kahawai driving bait fish inshore north of the Kaikoura Peninsula recently.
- Richard Craig: Glen Carbines (based in the North Island) can only attend half day meetings periodically, perhaps consider an alternative stand-in?

i) ECan (Heath Melville via email)

- Unfortunately no critically endangered black-billed gulls or endangered black-fronted terns nested at the Waiau Toa/Clarence River this season. Black-backed gulls are nesting at the site again. With predator traps almost completed by the MENZ Shed, ECan will try create a more desirable breeding site next season, including lupin control on the nesting island.
- A problematic riverbed weed, false tamarisk, has been found scattered at a couple of sites in the lower Waiau Toa catchment. The aim is to eradicate it from the catchment with a budget from LINZ



- Hapuku wetland and bush scarp has received climbing vine control, with more to come and contributions from landowners.
- Middle Creek fish population surveys to check for connectivity, indicated the perched concrete channel on Mt Fyffe Rd is a barrier for inanga. Inanga (around 100mm in length) were found downstream, along with a torrent fish and other fish further down. However, surveys upstream showed no sign of non-migratory species, hence a rock fish ladder will be a viable option to enable a broader range of native fish into the upper catchment.
- Nine mesh sacks of live eel/tuna were found, stashed by a commercial fisher (who appeared to not have reported their effort for holding) at Middle Creek. MPI undertook some checks, and the fisher appeared to be compliant. The ECan team were surprised and disheartened, as there is a lot of work going into improving habitat and the tuna population seemed to be recovering from previous commercial harvesting. Long-fin eel are endemic, classed as at risk threatened and take 34 years for female to reach sexual maturity, only spawning once at the end of their lifetime in the deep waters of the far Pacific.
- South Bay Beach Action Plan - ECan will confirm a date for the first community workshop to be held in the last week of the month, with two other workshops to be held in succession the months after, before revealing the plan and South Bay signage in May.
- Community trapping - a few members in the community have been enquiring about traps for introduced predators. ECan has a fund for traps, hence will work with some individuals to initiate a community trapping group. The MENZ Shed can build traps and will offer a trap library at Te Hā o Mātauranga/Learning In Kaikōura.

j) Kaikoura Charter Fishers (Peter Cleall)

- A blue cod review is currently being undertaken by Fisheries NZ via an online survey, which closes end of February for those who want to provide feedback. I believe the blue cod fishery will be declining over the next two years, with no action likely until the population is in decline. Consistent charter fishing trips with visitors from around the country. Regular groups, as well as new groups coming to Kaikōura (instead of going to Moeraki re limits being dropped). Also seeing more corporate groups post-COVID. Currently not all operators are operating (e.g. Kaikoura Fishing Charters - which sold), with another charter operator no longer operating after 1 April 2021.

k) MPI (Howard Reid)

- Compliance has generally been good this summer, with active recreational fisheries re high use at boat ramps. It has been as busy as ever post-earthquake/COVID in terms of boating activity. Minor infringements re telson clipping requirements, as well as confusion around blue cod rules. MPI has had two cases of paua poaching incidents recently.





General Business

- Te Korowai meeting days - discuss moving meeting to the last Monday of every month, to work in with other community meetings (re offsetting days).
- Consider the efficiency of Te Korowai going forward - provide sector updates via email prior to meetings, then discuss any pressing matters during meetings. Focus meetings on prioritising issues that require action. Ensure key projects are at the top of the agenda.
- Outreach focus - assess Te Korowai's main communication strategies.
- Funding - Te Korowai needs to apply for relevant grants to ensure future operating budget. Who is to take on this role?
- Wakatu Quay development feedback - Concerns re lack of a concept. Te Korowai to enter a submission based on the original 'Marine Centre of Excellence' proposal by UC, but focused around a tourism model? Heath Melville suggested various options, including a living building (re 7 criteria). Consider a Te Korowai rep on the Advisory Board (consisting of KDC, Destination Kaikōura, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura). Check tenders on the Kaikōura District Council website. In the past the University of Canterbury was not a project leader, but considered being an investment party. Concerns: Consider negative environmental adverse impacts re lighting, window strike, run-off, chemicals, climate change considerations, etc. Sabrina Luecht (Community) to write submission for Rachel Vaughan (Chair) to check prior to submitting.
- Rocky reef and kelp forest studies - Tā Mark Solomon (Community) stated a bid has been submitted by the University of Canterbury for funding in four areas, one site being Kaikōura. Long brown kelp species (not just bull kelp) are in decline, indicating signs of distress re sediment in the water. Kelp beds are disappearing, which will change inshore habitat, fisheries, and wave patterns. This is as a result of long-term effects post-earthquake (re excess sediment and uplift) that aren't fully obvious now, and will exacerbate. The sediment loading is not expected to return to normal for 50 years.
- Marine Reserve Monitoring - Positive results from the monitoring, recommendations to follow re better understanding of outflows from the marine reserve, e.g. the north side (less reef structure) is better than the south side). Summary report to be produced by DOC for Te Korowai?
- Public hui with the Minister of Conservation to be held at 3pm at the Memorial Hall on 13 February 2021, followed by the 'Nest 38' film screening at the Mayfair Theatre. Rachel Vaughan (Chair) will be suggesting Te Korowai reps to DOC, to attend the Whale Watch trip with the Minister of Conservation and local conservation groups.

- A public information evening for the proposed Kaikōura Dark Sky Reserve is scheduled at the Kaikōura Museum on 10 February 2021 at 6pm. The keynote speaker is John Hearnshaw (Emeritus Professor of Astronomy at University of Canterbury) and the guest speaker is Kyra Xavier (International Dark Sky Association - NZ Rep). Ted Howard will be attending as an informal Te Korowai rep. The first working group meeting is scheduled at Dolphin Encounter on 11 February 2021 at 9.30am.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 8 March 2021.

Contact Us

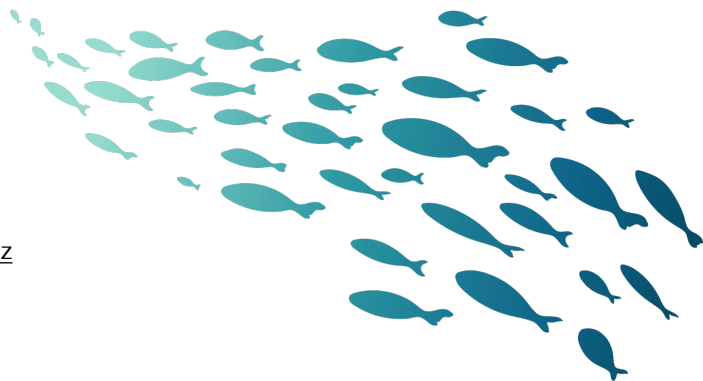
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OUR TE KOROWAI O TE TAI O MAROKURA VISION

By perpetuating the mauri and wairua of Te Tai o Marokura our community as kaitiaki of Tangaroa's taonga are sustaining a flourishing rich and healthy environment where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations.

Ka ora te mauri me te wairua o "Te Tai o Marokura" i a tātou ngā kaitiaki nō te hāpori tonu, ka ora hoki ko ngā wai, ko ngā uri, ko ngā taonga a Tangaroa, hei painga mō tātou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei.

