

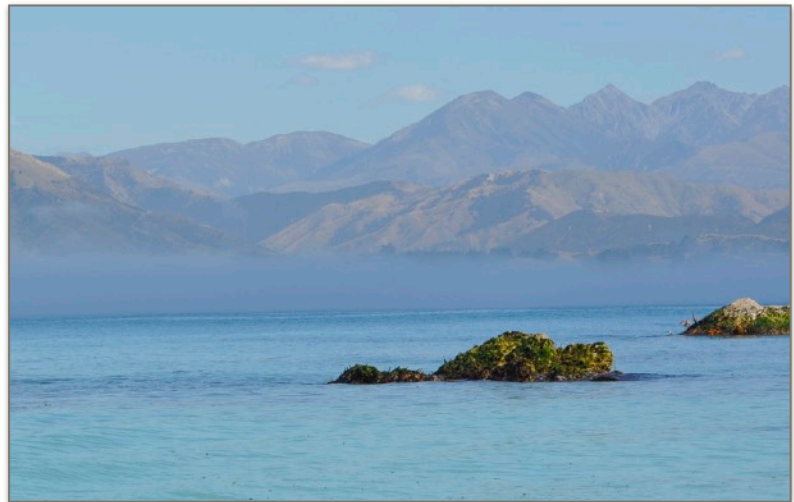
Te Korowai Meeting Report

9 November 2020

Chair's Report



Te Korowai has been busy on a number of fronts. Information on dusky dolphin management was circulated to members, with a video conference presentation arranged by DOC. Points noted were gaps in research around population issues, which need to be addressed. Te Korowai felt that some within the community may feel aggrieved by the continuation of a moratorium. While current tourism management appears to be mitigating effects on dolphin behaviour, population and ecosystem changes need to be considered to enable decision making. Te Korowai expressed that there was enough lack of information to justify a precautionary approach on management decisions.



Kia Ora Koutou

This month's Te Korowai meeting revolved around dusky dolphin management, endangered Hutton's shearwater/tītī, threatened banded dotterel/pohowera, a Dark Sky Reserve proposal for Kaikōura, followed by sector and agency updates.

Shellfish & Seaweed Fisheries

A community hui was held with scientists on 28 September 2020 to discuss post-earthquake reopening scenarios, followed by a workshop (on the decisions from submissions) after the Te Korowai AGM on 5 October 2020.

The community feedback document from Te Korowai was presented to Fisheries NZ, with minor alterations. On 10 November 2020 Fisheries NZ will provide a response to the Kaikōura Marine Guardians.

Fisheries NZ are pleased with the work Te Korowai has undertaken in regard to community engagement, which will be followed by a statutory consultation process.



Dark Sky Reserve

A Dark Sky Reserve has been proposed for Kaikōura, to address light pollution and increase star gazing opportunities (clear unpolluted views of the stars).

At present the predominant blue lighting (5,000K brightness) creates significant light pollution and disrupts the natural behaviour of wildlife (e.g. Hutton's shearwater light disorientation) and ecosystem function.

The proposal involves reducing skyward directed lighting in the region and shifting to energy efficient low lumen/warm amber (2-3,000K) hooded lights.

The reserve would benefit astronomy, wildlife, human health, sustainability (decreased energy consumption and electricity savings), and tourism.

Dark Sky Tourism (astro-tourism) is seeing a significant rise, with the possibility of the UNESCO 'Starlight Heritage' programme and Lonely Planet publicising. Kaikōura benefits include a unique story: mountain elements, coastal elements, cultural elements, biodiversity hotspot, and Matariki celebrations.



Kaikōura Banded Dotterel Study

No banded dotterel chicks have fledged from South Bay this breeding season due to total nesting failure from severe predation pressure by domestic and feral cats, resulting in nil juvenile recruitment. At least 3 incubating adult birds have also been lost to cat predation, which equates to a loss of overall breeding potential.

Cats predate on dotterel eggs, chicks and adults. Several cats have been a particular issue re repeated predation events and patrolling the same territories each night to check the status of nests.

At present the owners of problem pet cats are being cooperative re trialling night time containment. Responsible cat ownership and the control of stray and feral cats is critical to improving breeding success of threatened coastal birds in our district. There are advantages to all coastal species (e.g. terns, gulls, dotterels, oystercatchers, penguins etc) in regards to cat management and reducing significant losses. Te Korowai supports the National Cat Management Strategy (NCMS) and encourages a collaborative approach by KDC, ECan and DOC to address this conservation issue in Kaikōura.



Hutton's Shearwater/Titi

- **Te Reo o Atiu Colony**

21 Hutton's shearwater eggs are being incubated at the Kaikoura Peninsula site, with 38 breeding pairs at the colony at present.

- **Kowhai River Colony**

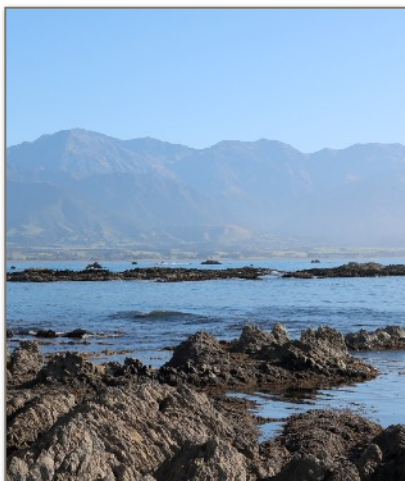
Population count estimated 200,000 breeding pairs at the colony. Thermal imaging monitoring will assist with the population count in regards to data on numbers sighted at the colony.

- **Shearwater Stream Colony**

The first burrow scoping monitoring trip post-earthquake took place in November 2018. Researchers were alarmed by how few birds were recorded and the general lack of activity at the colony. \$60,000 in funding was granted for ground truthing research by Mike Bell and GNS. The findings were alarming, with only 1/3 of breeding pairs recorded, due to habitat loss and other contributing factors. The population has now plummeted to only 3,000 breeding pairs. This is hugely concerning for the species and a red flag re threat status.

- **Light Disorientation Induced Crash Landings**

Many Hutton's shearwater adults have crash landed since their return in September, resulting in collision impact, vehicle strike and cat predation, causing injuries and mortalities. While the Kaikōura community is generally well informed, residents believe crash landing is only an issue from March to April when fledglings make their maiden voyage to sea; while adults have the potential to crash land throughout the breeding season.



Financial Reports & Previous Minutes

The monthly financial reports from 5 October and 9 November 2020 were approved, and it was confirmed that the meeting minutes from 7 September 2020 were true and correct. It was noted that the Te Korowai AGM meeting minutes from 5 October 2020 will not be passed until the next AGM.

Sector & Agency Updates

a) Kaikōura District Council (Matt Hoggard)

- Council currently employs 32.5 staff and is financially in a good position with less debt.
- Next year is the Long-Term Plan review, setting a general direction for spending over the next 10 years. Official consultation with community will begin in March re key outcomes for the district for the next three year period until the next review.
- District Plan - development, residential densities, zones. From a Te Korowai point of view land use of coastal areas and the foreshore is a priority. Coastal management and ecological values (e.g. coastal wetlands) have the potential to be lost to aggregation. It was suggested to work in with the ECan regional coastal plan review, as there are many synergies that could occur within a correct framework. A management issue (vs district plan issue) for example is 4WD vehicles on beaches re disturbance in coastal spaces. Such matters can only be addressed via a management strategy or bylaw re regulation and controls, a joint management between district and regional councils.
- RMA reform briefly mentioned re comprehensive and wide-ranging changes.
- Water Supply Bylaw closes today, in regards to usage of sprinklers and watering lawns to reduce water usage and costs of operations. Limitations set for having sprinklers on for no more than 2 hours.
- The old site of the Kaikōura Swimming Pool has been nominated for expressions of interest from the community re future usage. The site is currently under consideration for hot pools re final proposal.

- South Bay boat ramp with two lanes opens 16 November 2020.
- Offal waste an ongoing issue (e.g. cod frames) at boat ramps. Regulations currently prohibit dumping cod frames at sea. Thoughts around using cod frames for fertiliser. Changes to regulations could be reviewed, to return by-product to the ocean where it originated from. The marine ecosystem is suffering from depletion and returning unused product to sea is beneficial for the marine food chain (e.g. starving seabirds).
- South Bay pine tree removal underway along SH1, contracted out by KDC. Sabrina noted biodiversity issues with removing trees in spring re negative impacts to nesting birds. There are also few remaining large native trees for coastal birds to utilise, and conifers such as *Marcrocarpa* are important for shags to nest and roost in. Thus need to be careful where to remove trees, as in places these exotics serve a purpose for declining species.

b) Department of Conservation (Nicola Haisman)

- Dusky Dolphin Management Review process - feedback is currently with Director Mike Slater for review.
- Kaikōura Field Base - a new Community Ranger position (to replace Brett Cowan) has been appointed in Kaikōura, with the role to be active in January 2021. Still to advertise a Biodiversity Ranger (C Band) position to replace Mike Morrissey's role, which will be a marine specialist position (D Band).

c) Paua3 (David Rae)

- A 40% reduction in pāua market beach price (predominantly export) re quota year in relation to significant COVID19 impacts. Smaller tinned stock not being moved. The harvesting of larger size pāua in the Kaikōura region (north of the Conway) for live export would be beneficial at present. Awaiting a reopening.

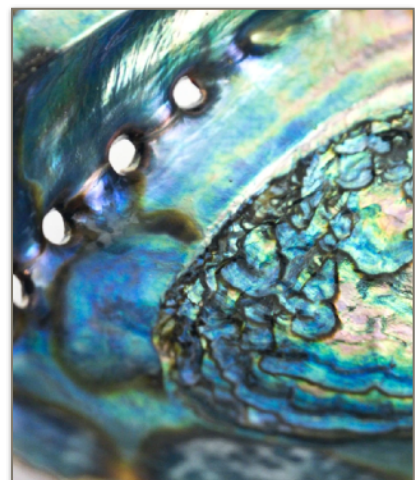


d) CRAMAC5 (Larncce Wichman)

- An update on CRA5 lobster assessment that is currently taking place - the market price varies from one day to the next, with various grade demands for a certain period of the week. It is difficult for exporters to have an inventory to cater for the unknowns of tomorrow. Currently a highly fluctuating and unknown market.
- Australia having political problems with China, resulting in the ceasing of lobster exports. This has resulted in a wave in the market, which has benefited New Zealand. Larncce attended rock lobster science workshops re status and management decisions.
- CRA5 came out alright in assessment re statistical analyses kg/per pot lift, e.g. southern zone from Clarence to Waimakariri. Currently a situation at Ward re commercial vessels having major issues with access to fishery.
- The National Rock Lobster Management Group has provided preliminary positions, which will be established after 20 November 2020. Fisheries NZ will be providing a public consultation paper on 31 December 2020, with submission to close in late January 2021. Local concerns in Kaikōura, but not in northern or southern zones re management initiatives. Presently working through that discussion and gathering more information. Carry over of Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) currently not in place, but was utilised last season (13.8 tonne carried over across the fishery in total). A pulse of crayfish is coming through at present, from four years ago after a good settlement period.e)

e) Kaikōura Marine Guardians (Larncce Wichman)

- Currently too early to provide a response from KMG on the Shellfish & Seaweed Fisheries Reopening. Expecting a response from Fisheries NZ.
- KMG have received an application for a special permit from a Kaikōura fisherman, to be debated tomorrow. This application is to consider other methods to set-netting, to trial a new vessel specific pot design for tarakihi. This is as a result of displaced fishers considering different options. Te Korowai members need to consider how they feel around alternative fishing method proposals.



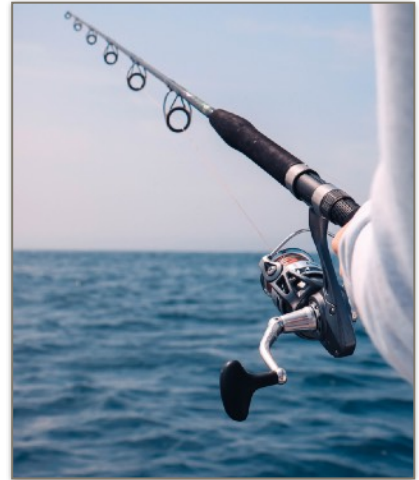


f) Forest & Bird (Sabrina Luecht)

- Current Forest & Bird activities include the Wairepu Lagoon planting project near Point Kean being due for vegetation trimming along the boardwalk. Native plant seedlings will be planted at the New Beginnings Track area, and amongst other planting sites on the Kaikōura Peninsula, to increase biodiversity.
- The issue of boundary fence maintenance and repairs to address free roaming cattle were resolved at Kaikōura Peninsula planting sites.
- Forest & Bird continues to support the work of the Kaikōura Banded Dotterel Study, and is devastated to learn that all dotterel nests have failed to date this season, due to pet and feral cat predation. We urge KDC, ECan and DOC to work collaboratively on cat management in Kaikōura. In response to a cat bylaw proposal, KDC have acknowledged that there is a significant issue around cat control, and that they seek to work on this matter collectively. This is an urgent conservation issue that needs to be a priority, not just for protecting banded dotterels, but all shorebirds, coastal seabirds and terrestrial birds, as well as reptiles and invertebrates.

g) Community (Mel Skinner)

- Future Kaikōura - the predominant focus is currently on food and the hospitality industry. A priority is how to get food production back into Kaikōura re sustainability. Working on a 'Garden To Table' concept - with schools growing own food for lunches, organics, mobile meat processing, sustainable fishing methods, Kaikōura paua industry as a leading region, bringing innovation and creativity into the community re foodstuffs etc. The future of food, domestic tourism experiences, and adding export value to the local market.
- The 'Eat Kaikōura' seminar is scheduled for 24 November 2020.



h) Recreational Fishers (Kevin Duncan and Richard Craig)

- Kevin Duncan stated that local fishermen have expressed concern re the sustainability of the region's recreational fisheries, and are mindful of resources. Long weekends are overwhelmingly busy with over 120 vehicles parked in South Bay, the most boat trailers some have ever noted. There is currently a 30% increase in boat sales in New Zealand, which is projected to increase. 80% of recreational fishers are from out of town. 60% of boating club members are from south of Oaro and Christchurch.
- Richard Craig noted that Fish Mainland has funding coming in, and is planning a research programme for the future re all fisheries.
- Suggestion that Te Korowai include an educational section in the next newsletter issue re key messaging: 'Limit your catch, don't catch your limit.'
- Matt Hoggard added the following: If we compare how introduced game animals are managed for hunting purposes vs our native fish species in regards to permits or quota, could we look at a similar approach to the management of wild game (e.g. a ballot system favouring locals over visitors) re sustainable resource use and creating a balance?

i) Kaikoura Charter Fishers (Peter Cleall)

- Charter fishing has seen a consistent uptake. Meetings planned with KDC and Fisheries NZ to address blue cod frame disposal.
- Inshore areas are showing depletion re cod further south, e.g. Akaroa Rocks. More visitors are choosing to come to Kaikōura to fish, because the cod limit is higher and because it is the same travelling distance as to Akaroa.
- Observers placed on three vessels as of this week, in relation to TMP. Total of 70 observer days per vessel per year. A request to follow up Hector dolphin research requirements in TMP. Ted noted that 20% of Hector dolphins are identifiable via Photo ID, while 80% of individuals have not been identified.



General Business

a) Shellfish & Seaweed Fisheries Reopening

- A community hui was held with scientists in September, with a workshop after the October AGM on the decisions from the submissions. Decision report being awaited by KMG.

b) Looking Ahead

- Te Korowai will need to itemise what is coming up for 2021. The Long-Term Plan is a significant matter for KDC re planning and expenditure. Te Korowai to consider a pre-submission to the LTP in regards to coastal management priorities.

c) Provincial Growth Fund (PGF)

- \$10 million dollar development project at Wakatu Quay re the Kaikōura Marina Redevelopment Programme led by project manager Chris Sturgeon.

d) Kaikōura District Council

- Boat park users, compliance, activities, and parking.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7 December 2020. The first meeting in the new year is scheduled for Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Join Us

You can become a contributor to our cause or join us. If you believe you represent a sector of the Kaikōura community that we have not yet covered, and you would like to be a member of Te Korowai, we would love to hear from you.

“Environmental Sustainability Starts With Us All”

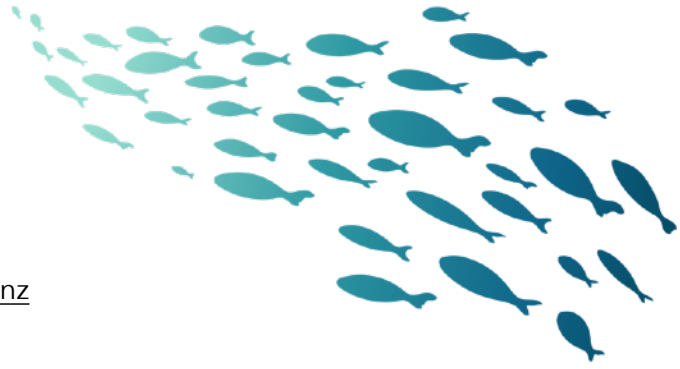
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OUR TE KOROWAI O TE TAI O MAROKURA

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 hapori 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.

