

Recent Fisheries Management Issues

Trish Rea, analyst, option4

Trish Rea has attended all previous Hokianga Accord hui and has been part of the option4 team since 2001. Trish is based in Waitakere and regularly engages with MFish and other authorities on fisheries related issues. She co-ordinates the distribution of information, the development of submissions in response to management proposals and maintains the Hokianga Accord's records.

Given the time available Trish would give a quick overview of the various management matters that had arisen since the previous hui and the responses given to MFish.

Update - Draft North Island West Coast Finfish Fisheries Plan

At the Waipapa hui in November 2007 both Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua agreed that Trish, Paul Haddon and Hally Toia would participate in the development of the Ministry-led North Island West Coast Finfish Fisheries Plan, on behalf of the Hokianga Accord. Ngati Kahu and Te Rarawa were also involved in the plan's development. Other participants included corporate and small-time commercial fishers, iwi and hapu, amateur fishers and environmental interests from the top of the South Island to North Cape.

Trish withdrew from the process in 2008 due to other commitments. Acknowledgement was given to Vic Holloway, Abe Witana and Hally Toia for maintaining their effort to get the best outcome for Maori and non-commercial interests. Without that input the plan may have been much more focused on economic outcomes, to the detriment of non-commercial environmental and fishing interests.

In October 2009 the Hokianga Accord, option4 and the Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers' Association submitted jointly in response to the MFish Draft North Island West Coast Finfish Fisheries Plan. The six-page submission¹³ acknowledged the long-term goals and principles defined in the draft plan. It also noted that the draft plan did not address the key issues of reversing low abundance in important inshore fisheries. (Appendix Six). The submission emphasised the need to rebuild those fisheries.

As noted earlier, MFish has recently advised the draft plan has been put into "abeyance", and that it may or may not become a chapter in the National Finfish Fisheries Plan currently being developed by the Ministry.

Update - Maunganui Bay Rahui

Matu Clendon, Robert Willoughby and Helen Mountain Harte had earlier sent their apologies as they had important commitments in Te Rawhiti, Bay of Islands. However, they appreciated the support given by the Accord for the s186A rahui application and subsequent discussion in the Accord NZ Fishing News Update #28¹⁴.

In December 2009 the Hokianga Accord submitted in support of the proposed temporary closure in Maunganui Bay (Deep Water Cove), in the southern Bay of Islands¹⁵. (Appendix Seven). The Accord advised MFish of their tautoko [support] for Ngati Kuta and Patukeha ki Te Rawhiti in their rahui application made under section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996.

A week later the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club submitted in support of the rahui application¹⁶. This was an encouraging development and the Accord acknowledged Jerry Garret for his assistance in gaining the Club's approval. Sadly Jerry was not well enough to be at this hui, but his input and humour had added value to previous hui discussions.

¹³ http://www.option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/Joint_NIWC_Fish_Plan_submission_1009.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.option4.co.nz/Updates_and_Alerts/haupdate28.htm

¹⁵ http://www.option4.co.nz/Marine_Protection/documents/Hokianga_Accord_submission_s186A_closure_1209.pdf

¹⁶ http://www.option4.co.nz/Marine_Protection/documents/BOISC_submission_Deep_Water_Cove_1209.pdf

The supportive submission by the Swordfish Club was a turning-point document from an entity that traditionally would have staunchly opposed such an initiative by Maori interests. This support was a demonstration of the effectiveness of the Hokianga Accord, in increasing public awareness of the Kaitiaki obligations that tangata whenua have, to nurture the marine environment and fisheries.

Trish gave a copy of the Accord's submission to Kelvin Davis so he could follow-up the application and subsequent decision by the Minister of Fisheries, when he was next in Wellington.

Update - Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries

Representatives from the Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries forum have been to several Hokianga Accord hui. Due to prior commitments Wayne Bicknell, Richard Burch, Colin Murray and Jonathan Dick were not available to attend this hui, so their chairman, Jonathan, sent through the following update:

Tena koutou

Tena koutou, ko koutou ma kua hinga. Moe mai koutou ki te taha o te Matua e runga rawa. Huri noa ki a tatou, nga hunga ora. Tena tatou koutou.

The purpose of this report is to give the Hokianga Accord an update on the activities of the Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries - GHBF. Please accept our apologies for not being able to attend the April Hokianga Accord. We greatly appreciate the support and manaakitanga that is extended from the Hokianga Accord to the GHBF.

It has been a busy time for GHBF. We have had a great response to our proposed actions for 2010. The section 186A temporary fishing closure for an area adjacent the Port of Napier was lodged with the Ministry of Fisheries in March this year. While there are many issues before us that require our attention and vigilance the GHBF now need to take a few more steps up. Our immediate challenge is to move into a greater advocacy role for tatou mokopuna.

Here's a brief roundup on the work of the various representatives that sit at the GHBF table.

Commercial

Concerns around the levels of catch in Area 2. Considerable fishing effort north of Gisborne, inshore only. One of the trial T90 nets are being modified by the net maker in Nelson and the cod end is being tested with double twine.

Customary

Jenny Mauger resigned from GHBF, which has left a big gap. GHBF is still working on building support from the numerous representative groups in the district. Ranui Toatoa co-signed the s186A application on behalf of Mana Ahuriri.

Recreational

Some big fish being caught but people recording overall reduced levels of catch. Letter received from Brian Firman raising concerns over the reduced catch landings. Ongoing ramp surveys. Hiwi the Kiwi programme currently being rolled out in Hawke Bay schools.

Environmental

Monitoring of discharge resource consents into the Hawke Bay.

Political

Regular communication with the local elected Member of Parliament. Limited contact with Napier-based Ministry officials.

No reira, ka haere te mihi ki a koutou. Kia kaha, kia toa - give it heaps!

Na Jonathan Dick
Chairman GHBF

Additional comment

Local MP Chris Tremain was the founding chairman of this Hawke Bay Guardians forum. Since his election to Parliament Chris has stood down from this role. His involvement provided much-needed enthusiasm for the multi-sector forum to get underway.

Following the hui both the Hokianga Accord and Te Hiku O Te Ika, far north forum, sent letters of support to Richard Burch endorsing the T90 trawl net trials occurring in the Hawke Bay. (Refer Appendices 8 & 9)

Update - Regional recreational fisheries forums

Paul Batten from Mangawhai was due to give the hui an update on the proposed reforms of the regional recreational fisheries forums, but had sent his apologies.

MFish were planning to rearrange the forums to align with the fisheries management areas. Paul was a member of the current Northland forum, which will be merging with the Hauraki/Bay of Plenty based forum. Several others at the hui were part of the various forums.

Trish Rea was chairperson for the west coast forum, covering Mokau to North Cape. This forum was due to be split into Areas 8 and 9. Area 9 forum will cover the interests from Tirua Point, south of Kawhia, to North Cape. Hopefully the new Area 9 forum will include a person from the Hokianga, or far north region.

MFish would be managing future forums and appointing the new members. Preference will be given to current forum members and people with a mandate from a club or organisation. These forums will not replace formal consultation however, MFiish are expecting to discuss issues with the forums prior to any public consultation process.

Paul has been to most of the previous hui and provided updates on the overall forum activities, and the Northland forum in particular. He wanted several points noted, as follows:

- ⇒ The Hokianga Accord will be the biggest, most reinforced ear recreational fishers will have to help sort out our fisheries. Presently the northern forum has 12 members, but soon we will be amalgamating with the Hauraki/Bay of Plenty forum to create a single entity for Area 1. MFiish advise this forum will have 8 to 10 members. This represents a huge depletion of localised input, and this reduced level of input is of great concern.
- ⇒ I am concerned about who will be included in the new forum if we, as members of the Hokianga Accord, are not included. I am also concerned about what input will be given and the future direction of the forum. Will it align with our common goal of 'more fish in the water' for the next generation?
- ⇒ Also the NZ Sport Fishing Council is planning to send a letter to the Ministry acknowledging the current forum representatives from NZ Sport Fishing, option4 and the Hokianga Accord. The NZ Sport Fishing Council will be endorsing the re-appointment of these representatives.

Regards and great discussions.

Paul Batten

NZ Sport Fishing Zone II management representative.

Hui discussion

It was a major concern that sustenance fishers seemed to be left out of the current MFish conversation and new forums. They are the people that needed the strongest representation because the fish they harvested was food for the whanau, yet they had the least voice.

Conceivably MFish will appoint one representative from each of the regional forums to participate in a national forum. By the time this representation reaches Wellington the voice and interests of sustenance fishers will be diluted.

It was important for the Hokianga Accord's participants to maintain a presence at these regional forums, both iwi and recreational, to ensure the sustenance fishers' interests are protected.

MFish were adamant that customary interests were not excluded from the regional recreational forums. However, they were equally adamant that iwi forums were only for customary issues.

Update – Seaweed 2010

The New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) hosts an annual, national celebration of the sea called Seaweed. The NZAEE Northland representative, Samara Nicholas from Whananaki, gave a presentation about marine protection to the last Accord hui.

Seaweed is usually held during the first or second week of March each year. This is the only nationwide event dedicated to help people learn from the sea and develop a better understanding of what sustainability might mean in the marine world.

Seaweed 2010 occurred from March 6th to 14th and the theme was 'fish for the future'. Proposed theme for next year's event is culture/history and traditions, including Maori, other ethnic groups and European.

option4 and the Hokianga Accord have been invited to organise a community event that fits with the Seaweed theme and have that event included as part of the 2011 programme. More details are online at www.seaweed.org.nz. Sioux Campbell, from Chameleon Public Relations, is the national co-coordinator available at chameleon.1@xtra.co.nz.

Update – Over arching recreational representative body

As mentioned by Sonny Tau earlier in the hui, there was a meeting on March 26th at Bucklands Beach Yacht Club to discuss creating an over-arching body to represent all amateur fishing interests. The meeting was organised by three people from the South Island who do not understand the dynamics of the inclusive approach the Hokianga Accord takes to presenting a united voice.

Prior to the Bucklands Beach meeting the organisers confirmed both Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua were not invited to the meeting, on the basis that they were not national organisations. Some of the people at the hui had been privy to that email conversation. However, it was the organiser's prerogative to invite who they wished.

On the basis that Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua were excluded from the meeting both option4 and the NZ Sport Fishing Council declined to attend and participate in the hui.

Both Trish Rea and Jason Foord attended the meeting on behalf of Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ). Trish was an observer and worked with Jason and Kim Walshe to produce a report for the Accord and various iwi, hapu and non-commercial environmental and fishing interest groups. The report of that meeting is online at http://www.option4.co.nz/Your_Rights/documents/Overarching_fishing_body_meeting_report_410_FINAL.pdf.

After the March meeting it was not clear if the organisers were going to take their proposal to the Minister to seek his support for the creation of an over-arching body to represent all recreational fishing interests.

** Following the hui it was confirmed that the proposal had been presented to the Minister, Phil Heatley.

Any further developments are awaited with interest and the Hokianga Accord would be kept informed of progress.

Update – Hokianga Accord Public Awareness

The Hokianga Accord continues to produce monthly updates for the New Zealand Fishing News magazine. So far there have been 31 Updates in this publication, several feature articles in NZFN and other publications and online material at www.HokiangaAccord.co.nz.

NZ Fishing News has the largest readership of any fishing publication in the country so 31 Updates represents almost three years of Hokianga Accord news made available to the wider public.

A copy of those Updates was available at the hui and online at http://www.option4.co.nz/Updates_and_Alerts/accordupdates.htm.

A Hokianga Accord brochure has also been produced. It was originally published for the Ngapuhitanga Festival in 2009. Since then it has been used on a number of occasions as a simple explanation of who the Hokianga Accord is, what the forum aims to achieve and its activities. Hard copies of the brochure are available from Trish, Shelley Naera at Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi or online, under 'Brochure' heading, at http://www.option4.co.nz/Fish_Forums/hokianga.htm#public.