



MINUTES ORH PRE-ASSESSMENT & SBW EXPEDITED AUDIT CONSULTATION MEETING

Date and Venue

0900 -1100 hours
Tuesday, 21 January 2014

Seafood New Zealand House
74 Cambridge Terrace
Wellington

Invitees (attendees highlighted in bold)

ABRAHAM, Edward	Dragonfly
AKROYD, Jo	Jo Akroyd Ltd
ALLISON, Mark	Independent Fisheries Ltd
BISHOP, Stephen	Independent Fisheries Ltd
BLACK, Jenny	GNS Science
BROWN, Dianne	Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Ltd
BURGESS, Geoffrey	Vela Fishing Ltd
CAMPBELL, Jodie	Ministry for Primary Industries
CANNON, Jim	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
CARRINGTON, Carl	Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd
CLARK, Malcolm	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
CORDUE, Patrick	Innovative Solutions Ltd
CROZIER, Paul	World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
CRYER, Martin	Ministry for Primary Industries
DEBSKI, Igor	Department of Conservation
FAIRBROTHER, Gretel	World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
HACKWELL, Kevin	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
HAZLETT, Tony	Talley's Group Ltd
HELSON, Jeremy	Ministry for Primary Industries
HILBORN, Ray	University of Washington
HORTON, Chris	Ocean Products Ltd
HOWE, Chris	World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
HUFFLETT, Charles	Solander Maritime Ltd
HUFFLETT, Paul	Solander Maritime Ltd
HURST, Rosie	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
JOHANSSON, Greg	Sanford Ltd
KOTZIKAS, Andre	United Fisheries Ltd
LAWSON, Laws	Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Ltd
LEADBITTER, Duncan	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
MIDDLETON, David	Seafood New Zealand
MORIARTY, Brian	Ngai Tahu Seafood Ltd
NGATA, Mark	Iwi Collective Partnership
PANKHURST, Tim	Seafood New Zealand
PAULIN, Doug	Sealord Group Ltd (arrived 0920hrs)
REEVE, Vicky	Ministry for Primary Industries
SAMUELS, Maru	Iwi Collective Partnership
SAUNDERS-LODER, Doug	Talley's Group Ltd
SHAW, Darryn	Sanford Ltd
SMITH, Andy	Talley's Group Ltd
STARR, Paul	Starrfish
STOKES, Kevin	Stokes.net.nz Ltd
STUART, Graham	Sealord Group Ltd
TALLEY, Andrew	Talley's Group Ltd
TALLEY, Peter	Talley's Group Ltd
TARRANT, Steve	Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd
TAYLOR, Gary	Environmental Defence Society
THOMAS, Karli	Greenpeace New Zealand

TINGLEY, Geoff	Ministry for Primary Industries
TOCKER, Ross	Sealord Group Ltd
TRACEY, Di	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
TRUMBLE, Bob	MRAG Americas
VELA, Philip	Vela Fishing Ltd
WEEBER, Barry	Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand
WILLIAMSON, Murray	Vela Fishing Ltd
WOODS, Kirsty	Te Ohu Kai Moana Trustee Ltd
CLEMENT, George (Chair)	Deepwater Group Ltd
GARGIULO, Sharleen	Deepwater Group Ltd
IRVING, Aaron	Deepwater Group Ltd
WELLS, Richard	Deepwater Group Ltd

Present

Those invitees highlighted in **BOLD** above as well as the following:

PALKA, Milena	World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
ROBERTS, Jim	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
SYKORA, Alison	Sealord Group Ltd

Apologies

AKROYD, Jo	Jo Akroyd Ltd
TALLEY, Andrew	Talley's Group Ltd
TINGLEY, Geoff	Ministry for Primary Industries
-	Sanford Ltd

1. Introductions

George Clement, DWG CEO and Chair of the meeting, welcomed all attendees thanking them for coming and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Background of Current Situation and Meeting Purpose

G Clement provided a brief background of the current situation for both ORH and SBW MSC certification and the purpose of the consultation meeting noting the key issues:

- The purpose of this consultation meeting is to discuss the findings of MRAG-US in their pre-assessment report for four ORH fisheries and the findings of IMM in their expedited audit report on SBW and NZSL in an open forum
- Participants were invited to consider focusing their discussion within the context of the MSC Fisheries Standard, which is the agreed criteria against which these fisheries are being assessed, rather than on other concerns or measures
- He thanked WWF-NZ for providing DWG with a written submission on MRAG's report received yesterday but, given Monday was a public holiday, DWG and MPI have not yet had time to consider this. At a first read, most of the issues are being addressed by the remedial actions in place by MPI and DWG and he invited P Crozier to raise any of these matters during the meeting
- MPI and DWG have been progressing a plan to improve the management of ORH fisheries, starting with pre-assessments by Moody Marine in 2008 and 2009 and progressively working through the issues to obtain better biomass estimates, robust stock assessments, defined management targets and more information on P2 requirements
- He noted that MRAG's report is another step along this path and that DWG and MPI will be preparing four public FIPs and, if all of the information is available, plan for four full assessments to be undertaken in July 2014

3. MRAG's ORH Pre-assessment Findings

A presentation was provided by A. Irving which summarised the ORH pre-assessment findings and outlined the proposed actions in response to those scores that MRAG have assessed would likely be below 80.

Participants were invited to discuss MRAG's findings for individual Performance Indicators and invited to provide suggestions as to how the fisheries performances could be improved.

P 1.1.1

P. Crozier noted the need for reliable stock assessments and of his concerns that the models and the data that go into these may not be adequate. G. Clement explained that the 2014 stock assessments are based on that already assessed and accepted by MRAG for ORH MEC and that P. Cordue has been contracted to run stock assessments on all four ORH fisheries during 2014 – supported by the DWFAWG, P. Starr and R. Hilborn. He acknowledged WWF's support through their engagement of M. Dunn to also participate, noting that MPI's DWFAWG is open to all participants and will be reviewing the results from the 2014 stock assessment modelling work over the next two months. P. Cordue advised that his modelling work is progressing well and that the model fit of the data has improved with new aging and acoustic data.

P 1.1.2

Discussion on management targets centred on whether or not 30-40% B_0 was appropriate for ORH. G. Clement noted that, for fisheries managers, the level of F was a more critical parameter than the target biomass level *per se*. It was noted that the current MSC policy review is likely to change the default target biomass level to B_{MSY} and, given that B_{MSY} is already a legal requirement in NZ, it will be an output from the ORH stock assessments. Managers have yet to consider MRAG's finding or their response on management target levels. P. Cordue explained that the 2014 models will allow for a better tie together of B_{MSY} , F, and management target levels of biomass. He also noted that deterministic B_{MSY} for ORH MEC is estimated to be around 22% B_0 , well below 30-40% B_0 , depending on the steepness assumptions.

P 1.1.3

No discussion

P 1.2.2

R Hilborn suggested that DWG might consider undertaking a Management Strategy Evaluation against the Harvest Control Rules to provide results which would inform P1.2.2 requirements. J Helson advised that there is scope to expand MPI's default Harvest Strategy without creating formal action responses.

P 1.2.3

No discussion.

P 1.2.4

DWG advised that the work plan aims to have all of the required new information available by end of May 2014.

P 2 (General)

P. Crozier raised concerns about the sustainability of deepwater sharks and shovelnose dogfish in particular, noting the need for more information for several bycatch species, particularly those considered to be 'vulnerable' before they could be assessed under the MSC criteria. R. Hurst noted that more data are available through the science monitoring programmes on the Chatham Rise (e.g. the trawl survey stations have been extended into deeper water during the past four HOK surveys, including that being undertaken at present). G. Clement proposed that DWG and MPI would ask NIWA to assess the available data to see if there is any information to make determinations on.

MEETING OUTCOME: Review all data to assess the sustainability of deepwater sharks, particularly shovelnose dogfish.

P 2 (Corals)

D. Tracey noted there are a number of data sources that could be amalgamated to better determine the range of key coral species. Malcolm Clark noted that the four key species highlighted in MRAG's report needs long-term management considerations. He noted that for long-lived and slow-growing species vulnerable to bottom trawls, such as habitat-building corals, recovery is not necessarily the most appropriate management tool, it may be better to focus on spatial management.

MEETING OUTCOME: Additional analysis be undertaken on UTF trawl paths and distribution of habitat forming corals to inform P.2.3.1.

G. Clement concluded discussions on the pre-assessment report by welcoming any additional comments (including editorial) and asked that these be sent to A. Irving.

4. DWG's Plans for ORH Fisheries Moving Forward

G. Clement advised that DWG and MPI are preparing four draft Fisheries Improvement Plans (FIPs) including actions, milestones and timelines. It is expected that these will be available by late February. The aim is to provide transparency, openness and effectiveness as these fisheries move towards MSC Certification and this will continue to include engagement with stakeholders.

5. IMM's SBW Expedited Audit Findings

G. Clement provided a brief background on the reasons for DWG calling an expedited audit and opened the floor to discussion on IMM's audit report on the interactions with NZ sea lions (NZSL) in the SBW6I fishery and what remedial measures should be considered.

J. Roberts noted that it would appear an abrupt change in NZSL behaviour has been seen since 2006 which has led to much higher numbers of interactions and captures and that this was something that needs consideration .

It was noted that better identification of NZSL (from fur seals) since 2006 was not considered to be a valid reason for the increase in observed captures and that these interactions were only with males.

M. Palka asked what the management target was for NZSL in this fishery. G. Clement noted that the only acceptable objective was zero captures. Those in the fishery are all committed to this objective and none are of the view that 17 (with a further 4 released alive) is either an acceptable or desirable figure.

P. Starr asked what the population trends were for NZSL on Campbell Island. J. Roberts advised that, while the population counts are variable and irregular over time, the available data suggest the population size is likely to be increasing. V. Reeve noted that the pup counts weren't comparable between years and did not provide a complete population census. J. Roberts also noted that the dietary patterns show large changes over recent years, particularly in regard the foraging behaviour of males.

R. Wells and V. Reeve provided some background and explanations of the capture patterns in previous SBW6I seasons for context. Discussion identified that the fishery may be dealing with learned behaviours as male sea lions in particular have learned that the SBW6I fleet provides an easy source of food and have increasingly directed their foraging toward the fleet making them vulnerable to incidental capture.

DWG advised that they had contracted NIWA to undertake further PBR analyses and that the results would be available shortly and likely presented to an AEWG meeting, possibly on 10 February and that once reviewed these could be used by managers to inform the need of any future management measures beyond those already in place.

M. Palka noted that SLEDs are the best tool we have at the moment and should be used, even though there are some people who harbour concerns about post-escape survivability. More research into their effectiveness should be undertaken. She requested DWG and MPI implement a faster reaction time to changing vessel behaviours when NZSLs are encountered to reduce the number of interactions.

M. Palka asked if there has been any change in the fishery that may have altered fleet behaviours leading to more interactions (e.g. the numbers of vessels, where and when they fish, and their fishing activities). R. Wells advised these patterns had been closely examined, and this did not show any strong inter-seasonal vessel behaviours or capture rates that could be seen to be of higher risk to NZSL.

V. Reeve suggested MPI might look at the current SLED design to assess whether or not the bar spacing is optimal for larger NZSL from Campbell Island, encountered in the SBW6I fishery.

R. Wells and V. Reeve advised that:

1. The final management measures for 2014 season have yet to be fully determined but measures currently being considered include all those used during 2013: 100% observer coverage, deployment of SLEDs, real-time reporting and management overview
2. Additional ideas are welcomed and these are to be sent to R. Wells or V. Reeve
3. The revised PBR estimates will be used to assess whether or not any captures are in such low numbers that the population remains sustainable or if the numbers of captures could be detrimental to the NZSL population on Campbell Island (i.e. we need to be able

to differentiate between "impacts" and "adverse effects"), noting the objective is zero captures, or as close to zero as is achievable, but in the first place to not cause harm to the sustainability of the sub-population of NZSL at the Campbell Islands

4. Tagging studies will be undertaken by NIWA during this winter, 2014.

A meeting of Vessel Operators will be held to advise them of the agreed management requirements/actions prior to 2014 season.

A. Irving advised that the annual SBW MSC Surveillance Audit will be conducted during the week of the 25 February 2014.

Meeting Closed

The meeting concluded at 11:00 hours.
