



Workshop on research needs for protected corals in New Zealand waters

Date: 12 October 2017

Time: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Level 4 Conference Room, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington,
New Zealand.

Workshop organisers:

Freya Hjørvarsdóttir (Department of Conservation)

Di Tracey (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research)

Chair of Meeting:

Kris Ramm (Department of Conservation)



CONTEXT

There has been a significant increase over recent years in our knowledge of the diverse cold-water corals found within the New Zealand region, with research being funded through a range of sources. However, progress towards a more complete understanding of species biology and human impacts on the structure and function of coral communities has at times been hampered by the high cost of at-sea activities and the prioritisation given to the research relative to other marine species.

Strengthening linkages between the various agencies with an interest in coral research is highly desirable as it will increase our capacity to reduce duplication, develop research synergies and help achieve maximum return from applied research projects. Such knowledge sharing and collaboration will inform and improve the understanding, conservation, and management of New Zealand protected corals.

This workshop aims to assist this process by providing a forum where personnel (i.e. government agencies, stakeholders, industries, researchers) with invested interest in corals in New Zealand waters will have an opportunity to come together to discuss the current status of research, identify knowledge gaps and their importance to the conservation and management of New Zealand protected corals, as well as highlighting possible synergies for different end-user needs.

The outputs of this workshop will feed into a final report which will form the basis of a broad and accessible repository of the available research information on New Zealand corals. It is envisioned that this report will support the identification of management challenges and priorities as well as providing important information to support management tools such as marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management.

WORKSHOP

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop is to identify the research gaps in New Zealand coral knowledge and provide an initial characterisation of the gaps identified.

OUTPUTS

The outputs of the workshop will be a list of research gaps identified by the participants and an initial characterisation of the value of filling them.

METHODOLOGY

The morning session will be spent on summarising recent research on corals in New Zealand waters. Researchers will present on their work, results and main recommendations in short presentations.

The afternoon session will be focussed on gap identification and initial characterisation of the value of filling them. Participants will be divided up to groups, made up from people from different



organisations and industries. These groups will then identify the gaps and characterise the potential values arising from filling them. A final session will draw together the results from each group.

AGENDA

- 09:30 - 09:50 Introduction to workshop
- 09:50 - 11:05 Short presentations – Previous and current coral research
- 11:05 - 11:20 Coffee Break
- 11:20 - 12:45 Short presentations (continued)
- 12:45 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:45 Gap Identification (group work)
- 14:45 - 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:00 - 15:45 Summarisation of results
- 15:45 - 16:00 Next steps and workshop close

[Detailed agenda can be found at the back of this document \(page 4\)](#)

In order to obtain the clearest view of existing knowledge gaps we aim to cover all aspects of cold-water coral research, including those that fall outside the boundaries of institutional or industry interest. Thus, during the gap analysis all participants are kindly asked to give guidance and advice independent of their affiliations, and help identify the gaps to the best of their knowledge. As a part of the follow-up process, sector specific values will be sought.

We are aware that there may be some research or information which may be commercially sensitive and/or subject to restrictions on use due to intellectual property consideration. Should any sensitivities be highlighted in regard of any of the information discussed, we ask all participants to recognise and respect these sensitivities.

FOLLOW-UP

The main output of the workshop, the list of research gaps identified by participants, will be circulated. Participants will be asked to consider how filling each gap might benefit their sector and to rank them accordingly. With this process, we will be able to identify the research gaps that would have the greatest relevance for each end-user organisation, and in addition, will enable us to identify where research interest overlap.



Agenda

09:30 am	Welcome, Apologies, and introduction to workshop	Ian Angus (DOC)
09:50 am	By-catch, identification & data sources	Di Tracey, Sadie Mills, Kevin Mackay (NIWA)
10:05 am	Distribution & Modelling	Owen Anderson, Sara Mikaloff-Fletcher (NIWA)
10:20 am	Biology - Age & growth, reproduction	Di Tracey (NIWA)
10:35 am	Molecular studies: population structure & connectivity	Jonathan Gardner, Lyndsey Holland (VUW) / Ashley Rowden, Malcolm Clark, Di Tracey (NIWA)/ Dave Aguirre and Libby Liggins (Massey University)
11:00 am	Ocean acidification & mineralogy	Helen Bostock, Di Tracey (NIWA) / Malindi Gammon (MPI)/ Simon Davy (VUW)
11:15 am	Coffee break	
11:35 am	Impacts and management	Ashley Rowden (NIWA)
11:50 am	Inshore corals (Biogenic habitats on New Zealand's continental shelf)	Mark Morrison (NIWA)
12:05 pm	Risk Assessment	Malcolm Clark, Di Tracey, Owen Anderson, Steve Parker (NIWA)
12:20 pm	Conservation status of corals	Debbie Freeman (DOC)
12:30 pm	Lunch	
01:20 pm	Gap Identification (Group Work)	
02:45 pm	Coffee Break	
03:00 pm	Summarisation of results	
03:45 pm	Next steps and workshop close	