

Marlborough Salmon Working Group

Terms of Reference

18 July 2016

Overview

The Marlborough District Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries have established a Marlborough Salmon Working Group to consider options to implement the *Best Management Practice Guidelines for Salmon Farming in the Marlborough Sounds* (the guidelines).

These guidelines as to the benthic footprint were developed by local and central government, industry and scientists in 2014 to set out recommendations for sustainable salmon farming in the Sounds. It is also important to acknowledge that while implementing the guidelines, wider RMA issues need to be considered such as water column, landscape, navigation, amenity and cultural values, and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The working group will be involved in the next step, which is to look at potential options to implement the guidelines so that the best environmental, social and economic outcomes are being realised.

The working group will begin meeting in July and provide recommendations to the Marlborough District Council and central government on implementing the guidelines.

Marlborough Salmon Working Group

Role

The role of the Marlborough Salmon Working Group (MSWG) is to provide recommendations to implement the guidelines.

The aims of the MSWG are:

- to consider options for existing salmon farms in Marlborough to adopt the guidelines; and
- to ensure the enduring sustainability of salmon farming in Marlborough, including better environmental outcomes including landscape, amenity, social and cultural values.

While non-binding, the recommendations will inform the future planning work on salmon farming in Marlborough. The group will not replace statutory consultation processes required to establish any potential new salmon aquaculture space under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Meetings

The MSWG will meet in Blenheim on the following dates:

- 14 July
- 21 July
- 10 August
- 31 August

Additional meetings may be organised if required.

An agenda and meeting venue details will be sent to members before each meeting.

Membership

The MSWG group consists of individuals who bring a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience to the table on a number of different dimensions. These include knowledge of various iwi and stakeholders' perspectives with an interest in the marine environment of the Marlborough Sounds. The group will receive and provide information, discuss and debate issues to provide recommendations.

Members will work towards a shared understanding of the issues to implement the guidelines on salmon farming in Marlborough and identify solutions to these issues. This does not mean that members necessarily agree about the issues and solutions, but that they understand each other's positions well enough to have constructive discussions and exercise their collective thinking to identify unbiased, best practicable solutions.

The MSWG consists of the following members:

Ministry for Primary Industries	Ben Dalton (Convenor) & Luke Southorn
Marlborough District Council	Pere Hawes
Department of Conservation	Jeff Flavell & Jane Gunn
Te Tau Ihu iwi	Richard Bradley & Richard Paine
Aquaculture New Zealand	Gary Hooper
Marine Farming Association	Graeme Coates
New Zealand King Salmon	Mark Gillard
Guardians of the Sounds	Paul Keating
Sounds Advisory Group Hellstrom	Eric Jorgensen, Rob Schuckard & Judy
Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association	Ross Withell

The working group includes representation from local and central government, key community and interest groups, iwi, and the aquaculture industry.

To maintain awareness of all issues no substitution of members is permitted for occasions when a member is unable to attend a meeting, unless under exceptional circumstances. In any such event the obligation lies on each member to ensure their replacement member is fully briefed on progress to date.

Agency representatives (including technical sub-group as needed) will attend meetings to provide secretariat, technical and expertise assistance and input.

Independent Facilitator

The MSWG will be assisted by the appointment of an Independent Facilitator.

The Independent Facilitator to the MSWG is Ron Crosby, Consultant. The role of the Independent Facilitator is to provide direction to the MSWG and encourage constructive and well informed discussion by all members.

The Independent Facilitator will be independent of the process and not take a particular position on the topic being discussed. Independent Facilitator will be independent from

the funding agencies, and from any interest, business, or other relationship that could interfere with independent judgement.

The Independent Facilitator acknowledges and ensures that all information used as part of the process is kept confidential and not to be shared with any other party.

Marlborough Salmon Working Group Members

Responsibilities

The MSWG will be committed to consider all options to implement the guidelines in a timely, open, and fair process. Members will be dedicated to an examination of available information thoughtful dialogue, and carefully crafted advice to provide the Marlborough District Council and central government with recommendations. In particular, members should:

- openly share relevant information, thoughts and ideas with other members
- work to identify appropriate options and openly discuss and evaluate those options
- acknowledge and accept that the process by necessity has budget, resourcing, and time constraints, and to work to the best of their ability within those constraints.

Confidentiality of information

To ensure a willingness for open discussion, members acknowledge and ensure that all information used as part of the process is kept confidential and not to be shared with any other party.

The process for members who have obligations to report back to their constituent organisations was acknowledged at the first meeting with an emphasis on the Group's members ensuring their organisations were committed to the need for confidentiality of the Group's discussions. It was also agreed that at the end of each meeting the group would discuss and agree the messages and information, if any, that is to be communicated externally.

Media Contact

No MSWG member shall speak on behalf of the MSWG other than Ben Dalton, Convenor.

All media requests are to be directed to Ben Dalton.

Resourcing

Information, advice and support will be given to the MSWG to ensure it is well informed and supported in its role. Administrative support will be provided to book meeting rooms and take notes.

All reasonable travel costs, disbursements to members to attend meeting will be met by MPI and MDC. Those members attending in a voluntary capacity will be paid a daily honorarium for each meeting at the rate of \$250 per day.