

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group, held at the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Tuesday 21 June 2016 at 9.00 am

Present: Clr Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Clr Barsanti, Clr Oddie, Eric Jorgensen, Judy Hellstrom, Monyeen Wedge, Poneke Rene, Rachel Drake, Rob Schuckard, Ross Withell, Tim Greenhough, Vic Koller, Kristen Gerard (arrived 9.20am)

MDC Staff: Alan Johnson, Steve Urlich, Alex Van Wijngaarden, Jono Underwood, Pere Hawes, Nicky Eade, Jamie Sigmund

Guest Speaker: Steve Murrin, Marlborough Roads

In Attendance: Yvette Johnson (MDC Secretary)

Welcome

Trevor welcomed everyone to the meeting and for their attendance.

1. Apologies

Clr Jerram, Graeme Coates, Debbie Stone, Ian Mitchell, David Hayes, Ken Roush, Linda Booth

2. Action Points from Previous Meeting

A hard copy of the State of the Environment report is to be sent to the group when available. Steve Urlich

Completed and posted on 27 April 2016.

NIWA report to be sent to the group when available Steve Urlich

Completed and posted on 27 April 2016.

Invite Al Bramley or Duncan Kaye – Zero Invasive Pests (obtain contact details from Dave Hayes) Alan Johnson

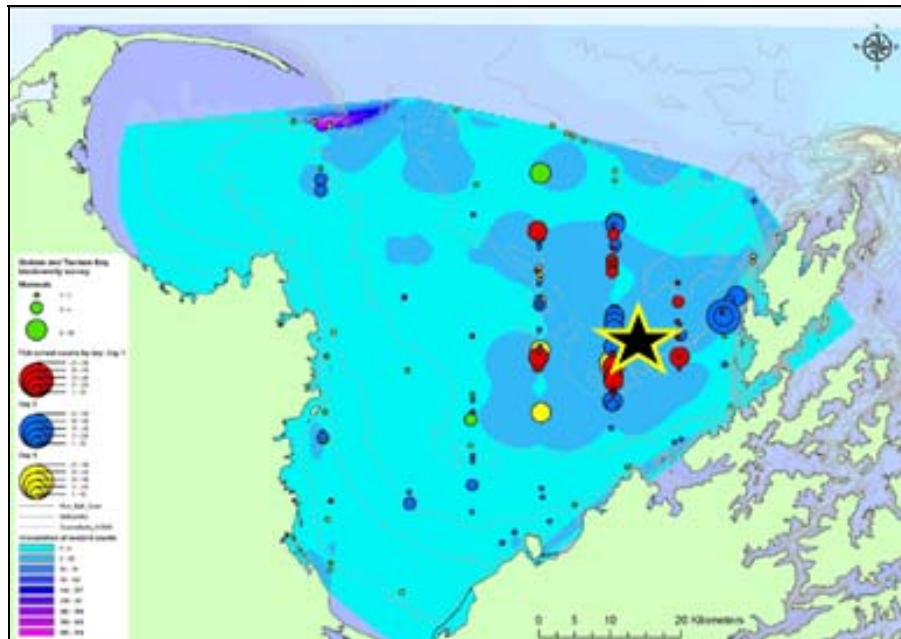
To be invited to the next meeting.

Email SAG members address list to the group. Yvette Johnson

Emailed on 11 April 2016 to members for updating. Final version emailed on 27 April 2016.

3. D'Urville Island – Oil Exploration - Rob Schuckard

- In December 2015, the government awarded permits to drill for oil near D'Urville Island to Mont D'Or. Minister Bridges admitted that in case of a spill 'it could fall on local and regional councils to help clean up'. Depending on the size and nature of any hypothetical oil spill event within the Mont D'Or permit area, the Tasman District Council or the Marlborough District Council could be involved in a response.
 - What information does Council have, that in case of an oil spill, economic drivers in the area (tourism and aquaculture) are not unduly affected?
 - What information does council have that impact on marine ecosystems and biodiversity is not unduly affected?
 - What resources (financial and physical) does Council have to deal with oil spills in remote areas as indicated?
- As an example of impact of an oil spill, a modelling in this case, is the Tuatara Oil well:
 - Dark blue (top) – Highest biodiversity for seabirds
 - Colour bubbles – areas with biggest shoals of baitfish of fundamental importance for ecosystem functionality.
 - Star – previous Tuatara Exploration well



'Oil Spill Response – the Council's Role' presented by Alex Van Wijngaarden, Harbour Master, MDC

- World-wide statistics have shown that the incidence of oil spills have reduced dramatically over the past three decades, but environmental awareness and sensitivity to the impact of oil spills, has escalated at a quicker pace over the same period.

Legislative Framework

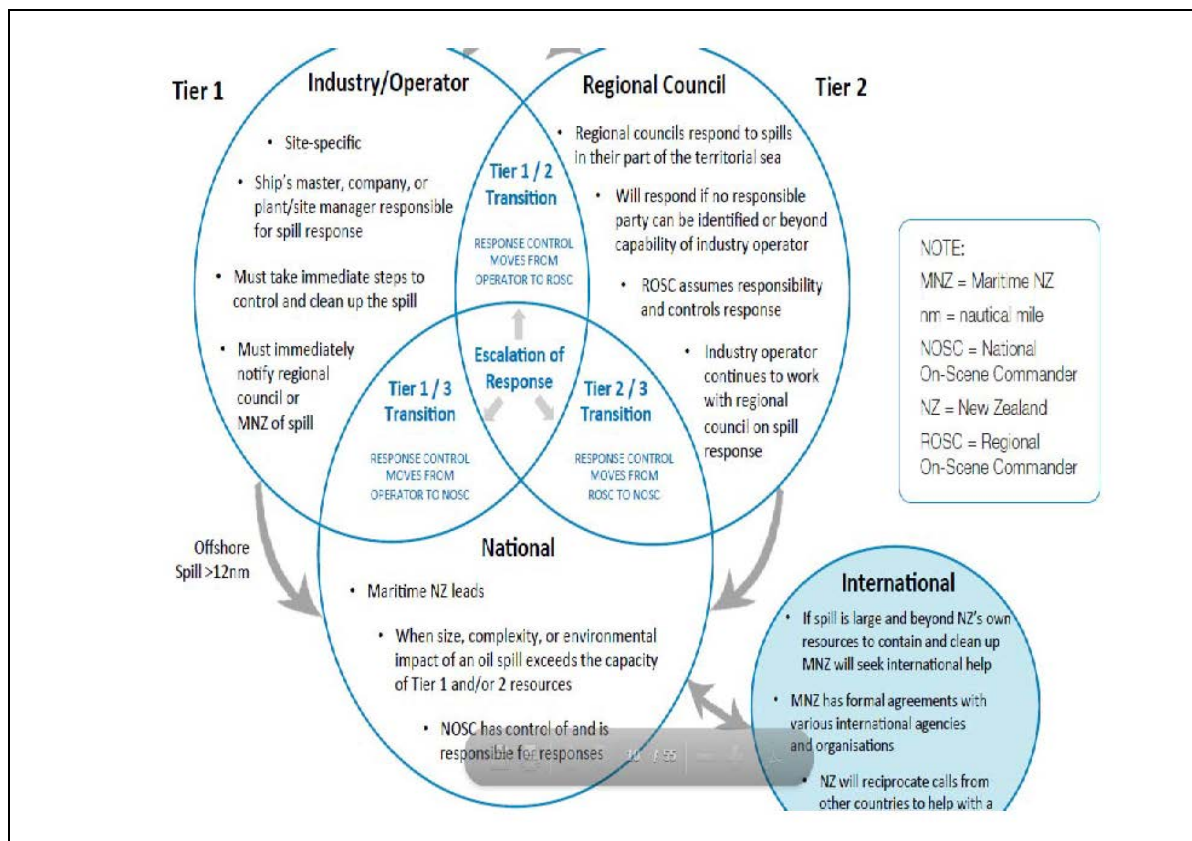
- Maritime Transport Act 1994 (s283)
 - The act requires the preparation of a Marine Oil Spill Response Strategy every four years and this was reviewed in 2015. The strategy as well as the Act indicates there is a requirement for a National, Regional and Site Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plans.

- There is a requirement to prepare an Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The purpose is to promote a planned and co-ordinated response to spills. It also specifies functions and responsibilities of individuals who are required to respond to an oil spill. The Plan has a finite life and is reviewed regularly.
- Regional plans can be overridden due to inconsistency with strategy, national plan or marine protection rules.
- The Marine Protection Rules protect the marine environment; risk to the marine environment if the rule is not made and these rules are made by the Minister and enacted through the Governor General through Order in Council.
- 'Spiller Pays' principle – if oil is spilt then the spiller pays all the time (the Rena was a good example of this). There is no burn on the ratepayer. All ships that enter NZ have to have an insurance policy. There is a 'pollution fund' that funds unidentified spills or where the spiller is unable to pay.

Tiered Approach

- New Zealand has adopted a tiered approach to oil spill response:
 Tier 1 – site or industry response
 Tier 2 – regional response
 Tier 3 – national response

This diagram shows transitions for the Tiers, National and International.



Off-Shore Installations

- Prior to any exploration/drilling taking place consent is required under the EEZ Legislation. The consent will be publicly notified and approved by the Environment Protection Agency. The Council has no role in this particular consenting process.

- Subject to Marine Protection Rule 200 which prevents regional pollution for the environment by substances. An oil spill contingency plan is also required under the Maritime Transport Act and is the same process that NZ goes through. Approval is required by Maritime NZ.

This diagram shows the Mont D'Or Exploration Area – The blue line is the 12 nautical mile territorial sea boundary and Council has responsibilities inside that line.

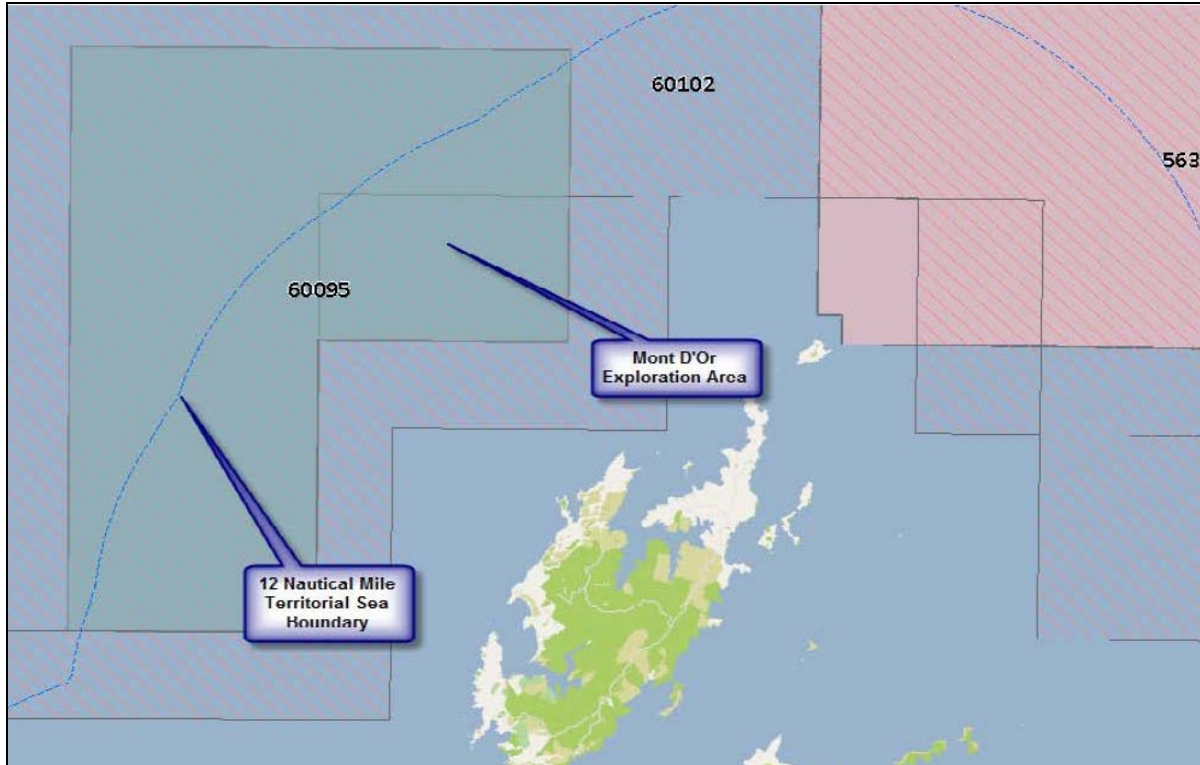


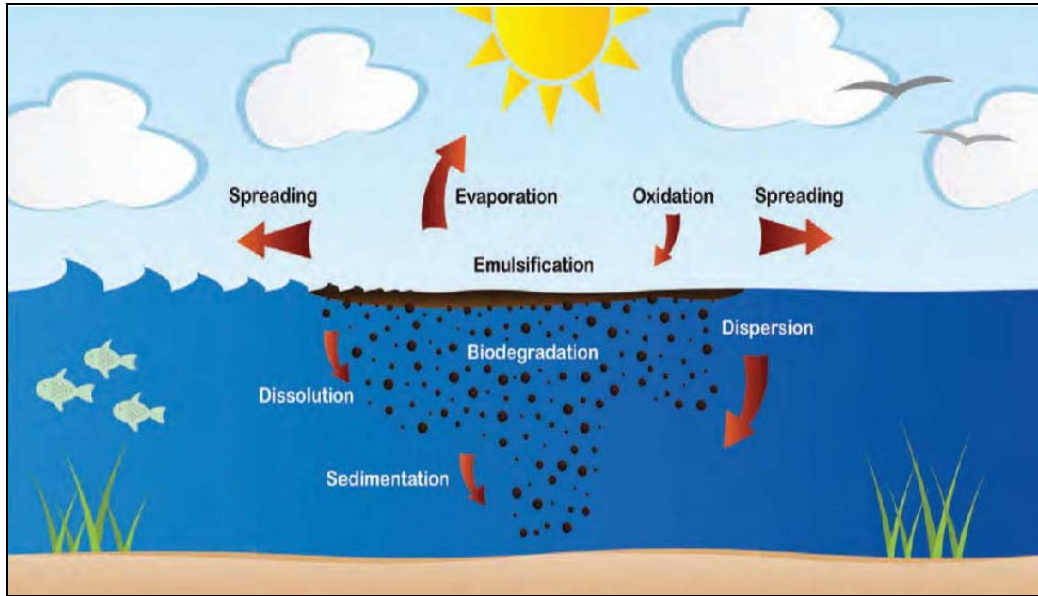
Image of an Oil Well – there are currently no wells in New Zealand, the last one was shipped out in February 2016.



Behaviour of Oil

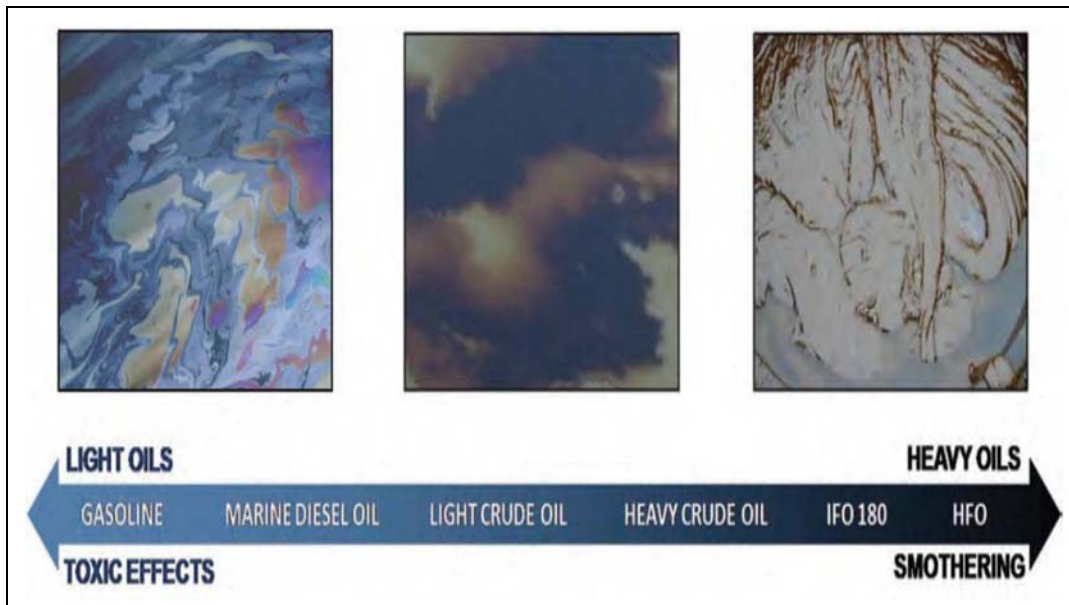
Below is a diagram showing the behaviour of Oil in the Environment.

When oil enters the environment, it will split and some of it will evaporate and some will oxidise and in many cases it will emulsify. There is also natural dispersion, biodegradation, some sedimentation and also some dissolution.



- When an oil spill is advised, some key factors that the Harbour Master needs to know is:
 - Viscosity – measure of the flow of resistance. The lower the viscosity, the quicker it flows and spreads.
 - Specific gravity – will it float or sink (lower densities float, higher densities sink). The majority of oil in NZ tends to float. Some international oils are dense in the sea water and it will sink, therefore has a smothering effect.
 - Surface tension – resistance to spreading over another liquid.

This diagram shows the lighter oils have a high toxicity to wildlife and heavier oils take a smouldering effect.



Regional Preparedness

- Approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan
 - Identifies and prioritises the environmental and cultural sensitivities.
 - Key stakeholders are worked with to ensure all things are covered.
 - Key affected stakeholders are Iwi, DOC, other communities and Marine Farm Association. It is important that they are notified.
 - Lists of trained responders as well as locally based response equipment.

Response Options

- Monitor and Assess
 - Assess and predict behaviour and movement of the oil.
- Containment
 - To collect or deflect oil.
- Protect
 - Use equipment to deflect the oil away from the area.
- Recover
 - Skim oil off the surface of the water.
- Disperse
 - Remove oil from the surface and assist with natural degradation of the oil in the water column.
- Shoreline Clean-up
 - Remove oil from the shore –restore to pristine original state (which is very difficult to do).

Regionally based equipment

- Containment of booms – about 1000m in length and are made up of various configurations.
- Recovery capability – 3 different skimmer types.
- Recovered product storage capability – 40 tonnes immediately
- ORV (Oil Recovery Vessel) - there are three in NZ and one is in Marlborough.
- Sorbent materials are specific and are used in small spills.
- Access to neighbouring regions equipment stockpiles as well as the national stockpile. If there is something out of the ordinary there is specialist kit in Auckland that is flown down.

Picture of a barge – this is a quick way to move equipment throughout the sounds and can be positioned where it is exactly needed.



Picture of a boom – this model is a land/sea boom. The top chamber is inflated and the bottom chamber is filled with water and is used at the land/water interface. This creates a seal, with the tide going in and out and with the seal, one side will be oil and the other side should be clean.



Picture of a skimmer – there is a turning disc that turns slowly and scrapes the oil into the reservoir and is pumped ashore, this is for the heavier types of oil.



Picture of Oil Recovery Vessel



Dispersants

- It is a blend of surfactants, mixed in solvents and stops the reformation of the slick.
 - Size does matter, the droplet size is 50 microns, any smaller it sits on the top of the oil and any bigger it falls through the oil.
 - Natural agitation mixes with the oil and it is successful in two ways: firstly; a jar test is completed (a sample of the oil in the water) and dispersants are applied. Secondly, on site a quick test run is completed and if it turns like milky coffee, then the dispersants are working.
- It prevents the reforming of the small droplets of oil and it dilutes and dissolves.
- This is an important tool in the toolbox, but a decision to use or not to use this process is driven. If this is not used, as a matter of course, a process is gone through of net environmental benefit analysis.

Conclusion

- We cannot prevent oil spills but events are planned for and systems and safeguards are put in place.
- Council has access to and supports a cadre of training regional responders.
 - The team exercises twice annually. One is an equipment exercise where equipment is deployed in the water and the other exercise is called a 'desktop', where a process is worked through regarding a spill and it is discussed what to do and how to tackle it.
 - There are quite a few members that are part of the National Response Team in Marlborough.
- If the spill is beyond Council's capability, this can be escalated to a high level and extra personnel and resources are obtained. There are specific triggers for this – firstly one is financial (the ratepayer cannot be expected to take this burden on for any length of time) and secondly it is the magnitude of the spill.

4. Pest Management Review (French Pass) – Rob Schuckard

- French Pass Resident responded to the pest review document. Discussions with Jono Underwood took place during which it became clear that Council would be interested to get more of handle of the major pest management related issues of concern to residents of the French Pass area.
- Part 5 of the biosecurity act provides for consultation with communities on the control of established pests that are of concern to them. How could this consultation be achieved?
- Council conducted a Significant Natural Areas Project 2009 to identify priorities for ecological restoration and protection on private property. The National Policy Direction for Pest Management 2015 requires "protecting values in places" as one of its core principles. Are areas identified in Significant Natural Areas Project 2009 overlapping with former mentioned 'places'? If not, why not?

Response from Jono Underwood, Biosecurity Co-ordinator, MDC

- There is an existing Regional Pest Management Strategy in Marlborough with the last review undertaken in 2007. In 2012, the legislation where these pest strategies under the Biosecurity Act, was substantially reviewed and amended.
- The Act was amended in 2012 but the policy direction didn't come through until September 2015. In the meantime the existing strategy was rolled over but all existing regulatory programmes are sitting in the current Regional Pest Management Strategy. This is the key focus of the Council Biosecurity team has been placing on those existing regulatory programmes and the strategies.

- March 2016 a discussion document was released. This focusses on the preliminary work that has been done, looking at the existing regulatory programmes and where they may be taken in terms of options.
- A lot of feedback from community has been received and a lot is about things not in the discussion document.
- In terms of pest management, what is called regulatory is using the Biosecurity Act and Council can put a regulatory strategy (or plans, as they will be called in the future).
- When things are looked at that may be regulated, there is a whole raft of analysis criteria:
 - The first organisms you look at are ones that aren't here and they need to be kept out. Next are the ones that are detected but are very low incidence and they need to be eradicated.
 - From there, it is a case of looking closely at other organisms that could be insect, plants and animals that are in your region. They are causing impact, either economic or environmental and there is good information on where they are, ways of getting rid of them or controlling and regulation i.e. through rules or through the regulatory programme, is the best way of addressing this organism.
 - In the new legislation there is the ability to look at a site, a couple of hectares, a valley or a certain area where a programme is designed that looks at issues in that area or on that site, and they need to be regulated with rules and this is called a 'site led'.
- These are the only options for building a regulatory programme. When some of the species or organisms are run that are causing the biggest issues in Marlborough currently, are usually the ones that are established and entrenched.
- When these are run through to justify a regulatory programme, unfortunately they quite often don't stack up therefore a regulatory programme can't be built.
- The review is currently trying to work out other ways for Council to work either with a community or lead a component or an initiative, alongside the community in terms of those areas where there is issues being felt within the community. This could be through projects or community initiatives. As there are no constraints with legislation in this non-regulatory area, anything could be done, subject to resourcing.
- To date, the Council Biosecurity team has only really focussed on the regulatory area. To go into the non-regulatory area is new for Council and will take a lot of development and consideration of what it would look like, what it would mean, right through to how this will be resourced. Bearing in mind, the regulatory area does take precedence over anything undertaken in the non-regulatory area with respect to resource.

Questions/Answers

- Old Man's Beard and Banana Passionfruit is prevalent in the sounds. The communities are spending a lot of voluntary time to try to eradicate these with poison and DOC is no longer supplying the poison. Where do the Marlborough Sounds residents stand on this issue?
 - These two species are talked about where they are in the establishment phase, and they are very well established and entrenched in the Marlborough Sounds environment. These are not dealt with in a regulatory sense. For example, in the current regulatory area, there are three species which Council is trying to prevent to get to the same stage and these are the ones that won't be seen, as a lot of time and effort on Moth Plant, Climbing Spindleberry, Cathedral Bells and Madeira Vine.
- What is the selection or criteria to select these plants, to get into the programme?

- There are six sites in Marlborough that Cathedral Bells are located and it is feasible to eradicate this plant from these sites. Whereas, if you have thousands of hectares of Old Man's Beard and Banana Passionfruit, it is not feasible to eradicate these plants in the environment.
- There are opportunities to empower communities to deliver this programme into those community areas, Biosecurity team are looking at scoping out in terms of empowering communities and collaboration. This work is happening in Anakiwa and it is happening through the Annual Plan process where Council allocated some money to the Picton Dawn Chorus group to look at predator control.
- This is being built from scratch as there hasn't been a non-regulatory avenue before. There is an existing Weed Busters Grant for herbicides and chemicals, which is still available through Council.
- The environmental and health impacts from Wasps in the sounds are widely known and were discussed by the Group. A new control tool is available for the use by Approved Handlers and the Group considered that some thought be given to coordinating the management of a control regime in high value sites in the Sounds in the future. Staff commented that they had received submissions on the issue during the recent Pest Plan discussion document review process. Consideration to implementing a community orientated non regulatory programme will be considered as part of that review.
- Please get in touch with Jono with ideas or concepts at jono.underwood@marlborough.govt.nz.

5. Marlborough Environment Plan Update – Pere Hawes

- Pere thanked all group members for their participation in the process and that it is very important that these documents reflect the views and values of the community.
- The MEP is in four volumes and will eventually replace the current Marlborough Sounds Plan, the Wairau/Awatere Plan and the RPS means a reduction in volumes from eight documents down to four and 37 zones down to 24. There is a large amount of consolidation that has occurred through this process and one of the objectives of Council was to provide a simplified planning framework, which is prevalent through the rules.
- There is more prescription in the objectives and policies, particularly in the terms of the types of outcomes that the community expressed.
- It is a combined RPS, Regional Coastal, Regional and District Plan.
- Council notified this on 9 June but decided not to notify the draft marine farming provisions.
- It is important to recognise a lot of the provisions included in the notified plan reflect national requirements. Council is required to give effect to National Policy Statements and particularly important in a Marlborough Sounds context is the NZ Coastal Policy Statement.
- Council must recognise and provide for matters of national importance in planning documents including natural character, landscape, biodiversity, historic heritage, relationship with Iwi with their ancestral sites.
- The Te Tau Ihu Iwi played a significant role in identifying issues of significance to Iwi authorities and this is a statutory requirement.
- In terms of process, this is open for public submissions which close on 1 September. The Plan can be accessed in various forms – there is hard copy, USB stick which contain the content and section 32 reports, the Council website - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/The-Proposed-MEP.aspx> and at public libraries - Picton, Havelock and Rai Valley.

- For additional USB sticks for your communities, please get in touch with Sue Bulfield-Johnston on sue.bulfield-johnston@marlborough.govt.nz
- In terms of making a submission, this is not a perfect document, and it does need to reflect the views and values of the community which is very important. A submission can be made in support or opposition. If there are provisions that are supported, then these need to be submitted and supported, as it only takes one submission in opposition to that provision to bring about change.
- The Hearings Panel and is chaired by Councillor Hook along with Councillors Oddie, Jerram, Leggett, Arbuckle and Shenfield and one Iwi appointment, still to be made. The Panel are appointed as commissioners, to sit on a plan hearing they are required to have completed the Making Good Decisions course. The people above will continue to hear the plan but it will ultimately be up to the incoming Council, and there is a risk that the hearings panel can be changed.
- Submissions close on 1 September, these get summarised and Council notifies a Summary of Submissions and then there is a second round of submissions, which give the ability to make a further submission on an original submission.
- The Decision Makers can make decisions to change the plan or to retain plan content to the extent that has been submitted on. There is an issue called 'scope', where Council cannot make changes beyond the scope of the relief requested by submitters.
- To access the submission form, there are hard copies, at the libraries, there is a digital form on the Council website and available on the USB stick.
- The Zoning map - <https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smmaps/?map=8d2dc362c78f47a6987bf71f64357fdb>. Search for the property, click on the property and a Proposed Zoning box appears, click on Rules and this takes you to the rules for that property.
- The Zoning Comparison Tool - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/The-Proposed-MEP/Zoning-Comparison-Tool.aspx> can be used to compare the zoning under the Proposed MEP to the zoning that exists under the old MSRMP/WARMP plans. By dragging the slider left or right will show you the old zoning and proposed zoning of the property being searched.
- The Overlay map - <https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smmaps/?map=4f01102c6f934418a54a0b23ceddcb1f> search for the property, click on layers (on the top tool bar) and select the layers required. Once layers are highlighted, click on legend to show what each colour code stands for.
- Some key zone changes that have occurred in a Sounds context under the old plan zoning are Conservation, Rural 1 or Sounds Residential. These have been retained but go by different names which are Open Space 3 (Conservation), Coastal Environment (Rural 1) and Coastal Living (Sounds Residential). Click here to see the guide which compares the zones with what they were called and are now called in the proposed MEP - <https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smartmaps/pdf/zonechanges.pdf>.
- As a default, rules in this notified plan do not have effect until the Councillors, involved in the decision making, make those decisions. But there are some exceptions which are in Section 86B3 and they relate to Protection of Water, Soil or Air or matters relating to those resources, Biodiversity, Significant Habitats of Indigenous Fauna, Historic Heritage or Aquaculture. Rules on these matters have effect from the date of notification.
- Section 6G – Heritage – Archaeological sites – in this case Council made the decision not to regulate archaeological sites because there is existing regulation under the Heritage NZ Act. Therefore, if a known or potential archaeological site is disturbed or notified, there is a consenting process already in place that Heritage NZ administers.

- The Councillors went out to the Sounds community about landscape issues; one of the most common responses was a desire from the community, for riparian setbacks on the commercial forestry. These have been incorporated and it has been the most significant change, in a South Marlborough context, there are also species that aren't permitted, because of a potential wilding pine spread, but under the Sounds Plan there is a requirement for consent to plant commercial forestry and that is continued. At one point, Council looked at prohibiting new commercial plantation but decided against utilising a prohibited activity rule. There is a policy of avoiding new plantation forestry in ONFL in the Marlborough Sounds in the proposed plan.
- The marine farming decision was to continue the review of the operative marine farming provisions in the Sounds Plan of the Wairau Awatere plan. There is an expectation from the Councillors that there will be some form of process that's run and it is intended that those involved with and affected by aquaculture are involved in the process. The final form of this process is still to be determined. Any application to continue farming or to establish a new farm would continue to be determined under the provisions of the Marlborough Sounds Plan as they are now.
- MPI is running a process on potential relocation of NZKS low flow farms and it was suggested that 3 volunteers from the SAG group may like to contribute their time and knowledge to the relevant working group. There needs to be a Term of Reference and rules, which will need to be agreed on what the rules will be, as yet that part hasn't been worked through.

Clr Trevor nominated Eric Jorgensen, Rob Schuckard and Judy Hellstrom as SAG representation. They were all happy to engage but it would be dependent on the Terms of Reference and the endorsement of SAG.

6. Marlborough Roads Update – Steve Murrin

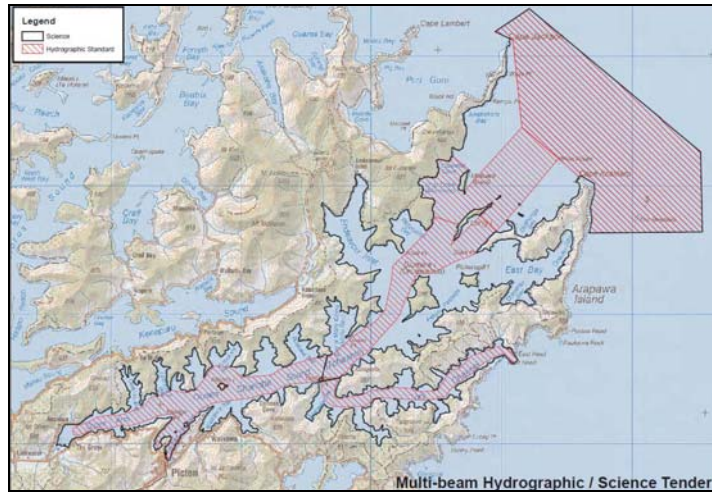
- Marlborough Roads are currently going through staff changes and are busy advertising to fill these positions.
- Maintenance is currently under away and the following are being worked on:
 - The grading in the Kenepuru area has been completed.
 - Work in the French Pass area is to be started this week and then moving out to Port Underwood a few weeks later.
- Large jobs to be started are:
 - 6 kms of seal extension on the French Pass road will commence in July/August starting with the pre-work, replacing culverts and widening the corners. This will be completed by Christmas, and if not completed, will commence mid-February.
 - In 2017 the section on the Kenepuru Road from the heads round to Waitaria Bay. The issue in the Kenepuru is the shortage of gravel, so a new source is being looked at elsewhere and this will need to be barged in.
 - Tennyson Hill has a lot of work programmed for this summer with laying more concrete channels due to the heavy rainfall scouring out the road.
 - The spraying contractor is due to spray the water tables and the gorse on the south end of D'Urville Island by the end of June.
- Two bridges are currently under construction – Waitaria Bridge No. 2, past the Manaroa turnoff and Godsiffs Bridge on the other side of Waitaria Bay – completion date end of June.
- A barging site at Waitaria Bay is in the budget and there is still a lot of work to be completed before commencement. Discussions were had with the land owner and it was agreed in principle but it is still to be decided whether to buy or lease the land. The consenting process will then be the next step before anything can be built. Marlborough Lines will be pushing for this to happen as logging trucks on Kenepuru Road need to be avoided.

- A question was raised regarding the funding for gorse on D'Urville Island as this is an ongoing problem. Marlborough Lines has minimal funds for spraying and generally the gorse is cleared off the road. Gorse at the south end of the island is growing due to forestry and the focus is on containing this before it spreads further. Marlborough Roads currently do not have the funding to do the whole south area.
- There is an issue in the Sounds with paper roads and particularly on Endeavour Inlet, this road is being used by numerous cars and upsetting local residents. As these roads are unformed, Marlborough Roads do not administer them and they are used for alley ways for Marlborough Lines to put in power lines or Telecom with their cables and to give access to contractors. Tony Quirk at Council does get involved from time to time with the administration of these roads and any queries should be directed to him for advice and legality.
- The wharf at French Pass is being looked at due to rotting piles and options are being looked at how to rectify this. Some options are pile jacketing, which is placing a concrete pile around the rotten timber pile, but in some cases part of the wharf will need to be re-piled. Opus is currently coming up with a proposal, Marlborough Lines does have a small amount in the budget which will be used, but then Council will likely be approached for further funding to finish off the project.
- Maintenance is to be completed on the launching ramp at French Pass over the next few months.
- Moetapu Bay is being mowed twice a year, but is growing fast due to weather conditions. Marlborough Roads do not spray this area as clay banks would remain once grass died off and this in turn creates erosion problems. Contractors in the Sounds are required to mow twice a year, but there is a surplus to re-address certain sections if and when required.

7. MDC Coastal Programme Update – Steve Urlich

Multi-beam Mapping of Seabed Habitats in Queen Charlotte Sounds and Tory Channel

- Attached to the meeting notes is a copy of an article from Marlborough Express on Tuesday 14 June 2016, regarding the sonar survey that will map the seabed for the first time in 70 years.
- Attached to the meeting notes is a copy of the briefing paper to Council that outlines the rationale as to why the multi-beam sonar surveying is being undertaken.
- Multi-beam is a type of echo-sounding sonar that is able to give accurate depths as well as characterise different habitat types. It sends down a swath of sound beams, and the strength of the return signal which is called backscatter enables habitats such as reefs and sands to be distinguished. A reef will give high energy signals back and soft sediments will absorb more of the signal.
- This is important because it helps to understand where high-value habitats are such as kelp and horse mussel beds. It provides a baseline for monitoring. This survey will lead to a better understanding of areas important for biodiversity. It could therefore inform future discussions on marine protection.
- This map below shows a total of 43,000 hectares which is to be surveyed. Council are partnering with Land Information NZ (LINZ). LINZ is the Government agency responsible for accurate hydrography (charts for safe navigation). LINZ is currently running a tender. MDC have given a financial contribution to extend the area of the survey, and to enable seabed habitats to be identified.



- One of the key factors required is public outreach. Below are some posters that were done as this technology was trialled off north-west D'Urville Island last year. This was carried out by NIWA.



- For further information on Seabed Habitat Mapping view on MDC website - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Coastal/Monitoring-Research/Seabed-Habitat-Mapping.aspx>
- Any other questions please contact Steve via email – steve.urlich@marlborough.govt.nz.

8. Discussion Notes on Land Management Issues Relevant to the Sounds – Nicky Eade

- Guidelines for Conversion of Plantation Forestry to Native Vegetation – Marlborough Sounds - There has been discussion over time about producing some guidelines for landowners wanting to convert land cover from plantation forestry back to native cover in the Sounds. The methodology has advanced, for instance, basal bark control methods. Penny Wardle and Andrew Macalister from the Sounds Restoration Trust are working on the guidelines with MDC. They will provide some simple guidance as to the planning required and methods available. Some local case studies to illustrate some different approaches will be included. The guidelines will probably be published in collaboration with the Restoration Trust and DOC. They should be out by the end of 2016.
- Possible re-mapping of NZ Land Resource Inventory units in the Sounds – the proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry relies on defining areas of land that are susceptible to erosion to apply controls on forestry. The original NZLRI mapping work was done in the Sounds in the 1960s and is at a 1:63,000 scale, so it is very broad. .
- MDC is in discussions with scientists at Landcare Research to look at some re-mapping work in the Sounds using some new mapping techniques Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM), along with underlying geology and soil layers. The final product would provide a 1:10,000 to 1:25,000 scale map which would help in targeting management of land use activities in the Sounds.
- It was suggested to take the time to review the draft MEP to look at all the provisions around forestry, land use, stock and waterways and indigenous vegetation clearance rules.
- The Significant Natural Areas programme, has been running since 2001, and under the new plan the policies support continuing with the voluntary approach but there are indigenous vegetation clearance rules that apply to everybody, whether they are a significant natural area or not. These are a roll over from the old plan, but it has become more restrictive on low land areas and states no indigenous vegetation clearance apart from around houses (the curtilage area), 20 year old farm regrowth and native vegetation under plantation forestry.
- A new brochure has been created on 'Protecting Our Places – Significant Natural Areas in Marlborough' – if you would like copies please contact Nicky on nicky.eade@marlborough.govt.nz.
- Marlborough Environment Awards – the Trust has decided to have a marine category this year, which is a broad category and could incorporate anything to do with the marine environment. There are six other categories covering a range of activities and projects. The awards will be launched in August and will be open for entries for two months. The presentation dinner will be held in March 2017, followed by field days. These are community run awards – please encourage people to enter!

9. Cruising Guide – Jamie Sigmund

- The Cruise Guide to the Marlborough Sounds is an interactive database of marinas, anchorages, boat ramps, bridges, facilities and other local knowledge presented visually on a smart map, together with satellite images and nautical charts.
- The guide can be downloaded onto a smart phone and is designed for android and apple phones. You can download this app through App Store or Google Play. This can be used offline, if you are in areas with no cell reception.
- The app has been packaged up to a small scale and it sits in the memory of your phone. You may not get as many photos but all the information will be available.
- There are a variety of menus with description and images of the Marlborough Sounds, Live Cameras, General Visitor Information and Safe Boating & Navigation.
- To view the Cruise Guide online go to - <http://cruiseguide.co.nz/>.

10. Integrated Management – Marine Futures – Eric Jorgensen

- The Trust has held quarterly forums bringing together key stakeholders and the wider community. The forums have been well attended (including central government staff and NGO's) with broad representations and perspectives present. With many regular attendees the exchanges of views on a wide range of topics have been frank, informative and respectfully delivered and received.
- The forums are the 'core' work and much time and effort goes into organizing, running and providing outputs. The forums have provided:
 - The opportunity for different sectors and users of the Marlborough Sounds coastal area to understand one and others interests in the area, what is valued and what is seen as being the key threats to the environment and interests. These exchanges have facilitated the building of relationships across the different sectors and a respect for one another's perspectives.
 - The opportunity for the community to discuss and identify generic issues and concerns with regards to the coastal environment and to, for each:
 - Understand knowledge requirements to assess, monitor and manage the issues and start to determine what information is available and what gaps exists.
 - Discuss potential roles, and whom (agencies, NGO's, sectors, individuals) would fulfil those roles, required to address the issues.
 - Identify potential short and long term actions to resolve and manage the issues.
 - An avenue for Council's coastal research to be disseminated and discussed more widely in the community. This has raised awareness of issues and also of the research programmes being undertaken which will build an understanding across the community of the cause:effect relationships and eventually the development of solutions and/or mitigations.
 - These discussions and information sharing has helped the community start to evolve an understanding of how to effectively and efficiently manage the coastal marine environment for the betterment of the environment and all users and managers.
 - Enabled community wide discussion on the government's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Act proposals. Discussions which established many significant and common concerns with the proposals. This forum helped the Council's thinking in developing its' own submission on the MPA consultation document and was attended by the Mayor and Chair of the Environment Committee.
- After a year the forums have progressed to the extent that, at the last forum, sectors present displayed a strong desire to create a Stakeholder Working Group which could meet more regularly to progress the work identified to date.
- After fifteen months of hard work, much of it behind the scenes, the Trust finds itself in an interesting position. It feels that across the community of stakeholders (individuals, groups, industry and agencies) it has built credibility and status; for the Trust as an entity and how it behaves and is managing the process and for the vision and objectives of the Trust.
- This is reinforced by:
 - The desire of stakeholders to form the stakeholder working group, and
 - The different groups that request information or presentations from us, and
 - The other initiatives that we are directly engaged with.
- Yet with this strong local support and whilst good working relationships have been built with central government staff, it has not had political commitment from central government.
- The MPA proposals and subsequent discussions has heightened awareness in the following:

- That to successfully manage the coastal marine area it needs to be driven by a whole ecosystem based approach,
- To do so it needs to be progressed through an integrated and fully collaborative based approach including all relevant user sectors, agencies and NGO's,
- It will take time and cannot be achieved to fit within election cycles,
- The work needs to ideally be funded from multiple sources to ensure objectiveness of process and outputs.
- The Trust's view and many others also, is that the laudable objectives stated in the MPA proposals simply could not be achieved using the different types of protection offered and methods proposed.
- It is sensed due to central governments strong push on the MPA process as the solution to coastal marine management, at a political level, the Trust is somewhat 'wary' of the Marine Futures work and have not committed resources beyond a modest, but welcomed, contribution from the Community Conservation Partnership Fund.
- This is in spite of the government acknowledging and even espousing that it sees collaborative processes as being the future of management of natural and shared resources. As Worldwide best practice recognises.
- Back in April a statement was released noting that the Trust was extremely reluctant (will not) push ahead with the formation of the Stakeholder Working Group without knowing that it has the resources to do so and support for the work. To proceed without such would be folly.
- The Trust noted to Council and others that not proceeding in the near future would see a loss of momentum, and even stall completely and all gains made to date would be lost. If this happened, it is unlikely that a genuine community driven collaboratively based approach would be attempted again for some years.
- The reality is that; as well as the commitment to the process by key agencies, including MDC, the other key is funding. Over the last three years \$110 000 has been received from different sources. A breakdown of this by source is:

Central Government (CCPF)	9%	Rata Foundation	27%
MDC	54%	Private	10%

- Future commitment and resourcing will be a key issue. As noted, if majority funding were to be from a single source (rather than multiple) this MAY signal a slight change of direction for the Trust in terms of its' engagement model

Conclusion:

- The Trustees are committed to the process and work extremely hard towards achievement of the objectives; constantly aware of the need to drive the process in an open, transparent and collaborative manner. The Trust meets at least monthly and regularly attend other meetings, workshops and presentations on behalf of the Trust.
- The Trust believes the community of users and stakeholders have bought into the objectives, values and ethos of the Trust.
- The Trust is delighted that Council has agreed to commit the base funding required over the next two years. The Trust will be able to leverage that and gain access to other funds also, which is continually acknowledged as critical.
- The Trust needs to determine, with Council and wider stakeholders, how to proceed and get central government agencies more committed to the process; especially at a political level.

- The Trust is committed to the objectives. To ensure that, the people of Marlborough, can maintain and enhance the mauri of the Marlborough Sounds for future generations. To commence the creation of an enduring legacy that this generation can be proud of.

11. General Discussion (Other items)

Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust – Monyeen Wedge

- A Trust was formed in order to set up a transport service for the community in the Marlborough Sounds district to attend medical appointments, primarily, in Nelson.
- Tony Henderson from ECAN in Timaru had set up nine Trusts in Canterbury for this sole purpose and gave insight on how to proceed. A draft 'Trust Deed' was drawn up by a lawyer in Timaru and it was tried and tested with the nine Trusts, previously mentioned in the Canterbury region.
- The Trust papers were received back from the Companies Office on 9 May.
- The Community Vehicle Trust is owned and operated by the community. It is a registered charitable trust and is governed by a local board of Trustees – Monyeen Wedge, John Reuhman, Margaret McHugh, Brian Henstock, Dianne Payton and Graeme Barsanti.
- The Trust will own and operate a small passenger vehicle(s) and as the Trust is covered by the Charities Act no passenger licence is required for the vehicle or driver. The volunteer drivers will be required to work a rostered system with the help of a co-ordinator and a police check carried out on all drivers as it would be in the best interest of the Trust to make sure that each person has a clear history to drive.
- The annual membership fee would be \$15 per person and the cost of the service would be about \$40 round trip. It was determined at the meeting that only members would have this service.
- The route will be from Picton including Marlborough Sounds areas to Nelson. As the Sounds are vast, there will be no deviation off this route, however, pick up will be anywhere along Queen Charlotte Drive and SH 6. This is purely a concept of what might happen and will be solely up to the Trust board.
- Picton will stay with the transportation for community medical care. It won't necessarily be just Nelson Hospital; it will include bone scans, osteopaths, and other medical institutions.
- This is an on-demand service and it is still to be organised who the co-ordinator will be to take appointment times and to liaise with the driver(s).
- Sponsorship from the community will be required and there has already been interest and support from local businesses. The NMDHB and St John will be informed but not involved.

General

Concerns raised by Joe Heberley

- The annual whale survey which has been held for the last 12 years from a hut built on East Head, Tory Channel is to be aborted. He understands that this project is fully supported by DOC and certainly has had a lot of accolades during the survey over the years. It seems foolish to have it discontinued after so many years just when the DNA testing and whale numbers are starting to be useful in scientific studies. Is a survey of this kind not worthy of funding?
 - *Alan responded: It is understood that funding for the survey this year has been sorted, however long term funding solutions are unclear at this time. This issue will be raised at the next meeting when DOC is around the table.*
- There has been a large increase in pigs on Arapawa Island over the last year, especially round Joe's property and surrounding properties. This problem should be addressed and not just reliant

on DOC issuing permits for hunters to hunt blocks. It was a concern when 3 pig dogs ventured over from Kilmarnock and were worrying pregnant ewes and merinos. The dogs were caught at the scene and destroyed by animal control officers. The issuing of permits is not an efficient tool to help lower the pig population. Hunters do have tracking collars on the dogs but they are lost to them once they come over the hill and onto neighbour's farms.

- *Alan responded: The land owners need to be encouraged to look at options for management. There are some new baiting strategies and toxins available for controlling pigs. Generally the responsibility is for landowners to manage these pests. Council staff will contact Joe and some community members to discuss alternative control options.*

Rates Demands

- On close perusal of the rates demands, it shows a small fee of \$10 per year to the Picton Regional Forum and there is no mention on the Council website regarding this group and what they do or the Terms of Reference.
 - *Trevor and David chair the Picton Regional Forum. It was set up in the days when a community board was required in Picton. It is a group similar to SAG but relates to Picton and surrounding communities.*

Positive Feedback

- The group congratulated everyone who worked on the Cruise Guide as this is a tool that will make a huge difference as a cruising guide for visitors as well as for locals.
- Council staff should be commended on how all issues are now being interlinked and co-ordinated regarding the coastal marine areas.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be at MDC in the Committee Room on **Monday, 12 September 2016**.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

**Agenda items should be sent to
Yvette Johnson (e-mail Yvette.Johnson@marlborough.govt.nz)
by Friday 19 August 2016**

Action	Responsibility
Judy to email Alan with the issues regarding the paper road at Endeavour Inlet. Alan will then follow this up with Tony Quirk at Council.	Judy Hellstrom
Nicky and Alan to work on forestry restoration.	Alan Johnson
Alan and DOC to talk to Joe about Pig control options on Arapawa Island.	Alan Johnson
Cruising Guide will be highlighted at the next Regional Planning and Development meeting, how appreciative the Sounds Advisory Group is to have this work done and congratulate those involved.	Trevor Hook
Ratepayers pay \$10 per year on their rates demand to the Picton Regional Forum. This group is not listed on the Council website with regard to what they do or their Terms of Reference.	Alan Johnson

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