

## Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Waitaria Bay Hall, Kenepuru Sound on Monday 25 June 2018 at 9.30 am

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### Present

Clr Taylor, Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Jonathan Large, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake, Vic Koller, Shelly Sidley, Eric Jorgensen, Judy Hellstrom, Rick Osbourne, Lynley Perkins, Steve Murrin, Breaden Lobb, Hans Nielson

### MDC Staff

Alan Johnson, Steve Ulrich

### In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

### Apologies

Monyeen Wedge, Pere Hawes

### Correspondence

- Aaron Robinson from Marlborough Forestry Industry Association has resigned. Rick Osbourne has agreed to replace him on SAG.

### 1. Actions from the Previous Meeting 26 February 2018

| Action   | Person Responsible |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Check out legality of door to the rear of Committee Room being labelled as an exit when it is not accessible for non-staff<br><br><i>All the security locks will unlock when there is a fire or emergency so the doors are legal – completed.</i> | Clr Taylor         |
| 2. Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works<br><br><i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>   | Alan Johnson       |
| 3. Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay<br><br><i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>   | Gina Ferguson      |
| 4. Investigate the no camping signage at Portage<br><br><i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>   | Jane Tito          |
| 5. Provide feedback on behalf of SAG on the Stuff press release to evacuate the Sounds (ex-Cyclone Gita)<br><br><i>Nadine has forwarded feedback to the Civil Defence and Communications teams – completed</i>                                       | Clr Taylor         |

### 2. DOC Update – Shelly Sidley

- Shelly presented the DOC update to the group (Appendix 1).

### Questions/Answers

- Judy noted that the community in the outer Sounds doesn't feel that there has been any community consultation about the Great Walk bid for Queen Charlotte Track (the Track).

**Clr Hook declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting.**

- Three accommodation operators have recently closed in the Endeavour Inlet/Punga Cove areas which has resulted in a shortage of budget accommodation on the Track. There is also already a problem with not enough toilets which would get worse if the Track were to become a Great Walk.
- Discussion on the upgrade of the Meretoto/Ships Cove end of the track followed with these main points:
  - The people who live along the Track were surveyed and most did not want more bikers on the track.
  - The grant provided by the Council for the Track upgrade was discussed.
  - Shelly agreed to report the concerns raised at the meeting back to DOC.
  - The concerns raised at the meeting will be reported through Council's Planning, Finance and Community meeting via the SAG minutes.

**Clr Hook resumed the Chair.**

- Further information about the consultation process was provided by Shelly after the meeting (Appendix 2).
- Myrtle rust has been identified in Renwick and Havelock.
  - Judy suggested that each member identify a group of myrtle trees and keep an eye of them.
  - See the link below for more information  
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/diseases/myrtle-rust/>

**3. Marlborough Roads Update – Steve Murrin**

- Steve introduced Breaden Lobb who is the Marlborough Roads Contract Manager and is the first contact for issues regarding contractors.
- The new Government has released its Government Policy Statement on Transport (GPS) with a focus on safety, access, value for money and environment; this is a change in direction from the previous Government's focus on economic growth, development and safety.
- The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) is going to be submitted at the end of the week and has been realigned to meet the new Government's directive.
  - Big projects include: Ōpaoa Bridge replacement, realignment of Welds Pass and higher safety standards for State Highway 1 (Kiwirap Standard 4) and State Highway 6 (Kiwirap 3).
  - Extra safety initiatives are going to be put in place to reduce the road toll and the high incidence of single occupancy crashes that occur in Marlborough.
- All roads have been reclassified under the One Network Road Classification system. There is a customer level of service to be delivered on all roads dependant on its classification.
- There has been a lot of storm damage to roads following the weather over the last few weeks. It is possible that it may take up to 25 years for the ground to settle down completely after the earthquakes.
- Work on Port Underwood Road is being undertaken. French Pass Road is being graded. Work is being carried out on the seal on the Kenepuru Road. Sourcing gravel has become difficult, especially in the Kenepuru.

## Questions/Answers

- The Cyclic Roding Crew for the Sounds has been up and running since March. They mainly clear branches, clean out culverts and feed information back on what work needs to be carried out by other crews. The trial will run for 12 months. Steve feels that the trial has been successful so far. Feedback on how this system is working would be welcome from the community.  
Contact: [steve.murrin@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:steve.murrin@nzta.govt.nz)
- Steve clarified that the contractors are contracted to spread a certain amount of gravel over the whole network and Marlborough Roads does not specify where it goes. There is monitoring by Marlborough Roads but due to lack of resources they rely on feedback from the community and contractors. The focus has been on southern Marlborough over the last few years but the focus has now shifted to northern Marlborough, although gravel resourcing issues in the Kenepuru means it has become very expensive to source gravel for the area.
- \$500,000 has been approved for work in the Opouri area to fix the river encroaching on the road. This work will be carried out shortly (subject to resource consent).
- It was noted that culverts in Tennyson Inlet have not been cleaned out.
- Having a specified contact from each area who liaises with Marlborough Roads works well for the communities and Marlborough Roads.
- The stated Level of Service for unsealed roads was discussed. The network will be audited to check that the Levels of Service are being met. Steve clarified that roads will still function to acceptable standards and water tables and culverts will still be taken care of.
- If a jetty is part of a road it brings the road up to the next classification level.
- If there are issues with Stop/Go people then approach HEB in the first instance and if there is no result let Marlborough Roads know of the problem.

## 4. Smart and Connect Aquaculture Sector – Hans Neilson

- Clr Hook gave an overview of the Smart and Connected programme. The Smart component is to do things better and Connected is to be connected regionally, nationally and internationally. Council's role is as a facilitator only.
- Trevor introduced Hans Neilson who is the Chair of the Harmony subgroup of Smart and Connected Aquaculture Sector.
- The Harmony group have been working on developing achievable outcomes. Aquaculture Week was one and having a balanced scorecard is another.
- Hans handed out two documents: A Balanced Scorecard for the Marlborough Aquaculture Sector and A Vision of Success (Appendix 3).
- The Harmony group would like community who interact with the Aquaculture Sector to have input in the process of achieving a balanced scorecard.

## Comments:

- Judy noted that under the Environmental Measures column there is not much about environmental standards.
  - Hans noted that one of the challenges around having a balanced scorecard is being able to gather information and that they are trying to use sources of information that have already been gathered due to limited funds.
  - It was noted that the document is a starting point to gauge interest and feedback from communities.

- It was clarified that workshop was held with the Harmony group whose members include industry and community members.
- The outcome that the Harmony group would like to achieve by having a balanced score card is more community involvement in how the industry evolves and community pride in the industry.
- Jonathan noted that the term “make aquaculture more successful” will mean different things to different people.
- It was noted that when there are applications for marine farms there are hundreds of submissions opposing them so it is not unknown how members of the public feel about them.
- Cllr Hook noted that if the SAG members feel that their communities may want to be involved in the process then this meeting can provide the links between the two groups. The details of the next Harmony meeting will be passed out to the group via email. Contacts for Hans and Jonathan are below:

Jonathan Large: [jonathan@mfml.co.nz](mailto:jonathan@mfml.co.nz)

- Hans Neilson: [hansneilson@gmail.com](mailto:hansneilson@gmail.com)

## 5. Salmon Relocation Process – Rob Schuckard

- Rob tabled a statement that he read out to the group (Appendix 4).
- Rob read out a statement that he would like SAG to support in the form of a motion:  
*“As a matter of transparency, fairness and reflective of open governance, when Marlborough District Council invites members of SAG to participate in projects, workshops and committees of regional and national importance, full disclosure will be provided about Council’s past, present and intended future participation in relation to such matters.”*
  - Judy supported Rob in his statements regarding transparency. She noted that they were several meetings in before it was openly stated that section 360 was underlying the process and that the Council’s involvement in 2014 had not been made clear to those on the working group.
  - Cllr Hook noted that he did not know about the situation either.
- Rob read from an MPI document that he received under the Official Information Act, part of the document is attached (Appendix 5).
  - *“Marlborough District Council staff worked with New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) for over a year on options to relocate existing farms.”*
  - Steve was able to comment on this. Andrew Besley CE at the time took the lead on the implementation of the Best Practice Guidelines as part of a senior working group also involving MPI and NZKS.
  - Steve also commented on Rob’s point about the shift from the focus on productivity to benthic effects, noting the shift came about because monitoring results were given to MPI from the Forsyth Bay and Otanerau Bay Farms that highlighted the depth of uneaten food underneath the farms and MPI decided to address that.
- Rob wants to separate the Best Practice Guidelines and the goal of the Government to expand aquaculture independently of the outcome of the Board of Inquiry and Supreme Court and feels that the community has been deluded by MPI using best practice guidelines to give effect to expansion.
  - Steve noted that this is a matter for MPI rather than Council and not something that can be addressed through SAG.

**Rob tabled a motion:**

*“As a matter of transparency, fairness and reflective of open governance, when Marlborough District Council invites members of SAG to participate in projects, workshops and committees of regional and national importance, full disclosure will be provided about Council’s past, present and intended future participation in relation to such matters.”*

**Seconded: Judy Hellstrom**

**Motion: Carried**

## **6. General Business**

### **Marlborough Sounds – Sustainable Land Transition Fund – Eric Jorgensen**

- A document was pre-circulated to the group via email (Appendix 6).
- Eric noted the document is still in draft and asked the group if it is something SAG would like to take forward and work on toward a goal of receiving policy and community support.
- It was suggested that a sub-committee to workshop the paper would be a good place to start.
- Members put their names forward for the workshop: Vic, Jonathan, Judy, Rob, Linda, Ross, Ken Rick, Tim, Eric and Clr Taylor. Steve agreed to be the Council liaison. (Monyeen who was not at the meeting subsequently indicated she would like to be part of the group).
- A workshop will be held with the sub-committee reporting back to the next SAG meeting.

### **Mooring Consents – Judy Hellstrom**

#### **Background**

- Te Ātiawa is one of the bodies that are required to be consulted when applying for re-consent of a mooring in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui. Te Ātiawa insist on the condition that within 10 years the mooring is changed to a swing mooring. If there is no undertaking by the applicant to put a swing mooring in within 10 years, Te Ātiawa will not agree to the consent. .
- Judy has talked to the Council’s Consents Officer and Te Ātiawa about this issue, and asked if Te Ātiawa had a policy on the benthic state, dependent on the area and they clarified that the requirement is not a policy but is an across the board requirement.
- The only mooring provider who can put the new technology at present is Enviro. However Enviro have offered to sell the technology to other mooring providers.
- Judy noted that the condition is not enforced consistently throughout Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.
- Clr Hook commented that the resource consent will go by the Plan (Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan) and the decision can be challenged through the resource consent process.
  - Judy noted that the Plan is silent on this issue and she feels that there is a commercial agreement between Te Ātiawa and Enviro, and that to challenge the decision is more expensive than the new mooring which would cost approx. \$5000.00.
  - Clr Taylor noted that if someone submits against a resource consent then Council is required to follow a process to its completion.

## **7. MDC Update – Alan Johnson**

- The MEP Hearings are continuing, for more information check the Council’s website:  
<https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/programmes/ListProgrammeEvents?id=705555>
- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Hearings Panel has heard 20 of the 33 submitters. The RPMP goes to Council for ratification in July.

- Funding has been built in the Long Term Plan to implement the RPMP (subject to ratification) including provisions for:
  - risk pathway management with Mediterranean fan worm and marine biosecurity provisions; and
  - Partnering with DOC and the community to remove new invasive species.
- The Long Term Plan (LTP) Hearings have been completed. There were 305 submissions overall with 140 being heard. Funding decisions include:
  - a further \$250,000 investment in Science and Monitoring in the next year;
  - capital investment of \$200,000 for a partnership with LINZ for Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) dependant on the Provincial Growth Fund;
  - investment in more coastal resources. (Year 3);
  - investment in data and environmental monitoring;
  - investment in biodiversity (2019 onwards);
  - investment in land management;
  - allocation of funds for science for setting Freshwater Management Limits; and
  - allocation of funds for Air Quality Management.

## 8. Coastal Science & Monitoring Update – Steve Ulrich

- If Coastal Occupancy Charges are implemented Council is required to be transparent about what the money is spent on. It will be used to develop coastal research strategy incorporating priorities set by community, iwi and industry.
  - The aim would be to provide knowledge on how and why the ecosystems are changing.
  - It is also hoped to spend Coastal Occupancy Charges on the mapping of the Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere sea bed.
- The public release of the information from the seabed mapping of Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui is being held on Thursday 30 August at 7.00 pm at the Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park.

## 9. Positive Feedback

- Cllr Hook noted that it was good to have so much discussion and to have industry sitting around the table.

## 10. Agenda Items for the next Meeting

- Please forward agenda items for the next meeting to Rebecca.

## 11. Actions from the Meeting

|    | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Person Responsible</b> |
|----|---|---------------------------|
| 1. | Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works | Alan Johnson              |
| 2. | Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay                         | Gina Ferguson             |
| 3. | Investigate the no camping signage at Portage   | Jane Tito                 |

The next meeting date is 24 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Record No: 18144362

## Appendix 1

### Department of Conservation activities and issues of interest from the last 6 months

#### ***Recreation and Historic***

##### **Queen Charlotte Track**

Work on reroute of the track out of Ship Cove is progressing. The tender process has identified a contractor however they cannot be named until the contract is signed.

The visitor satisfaction survey on the Queen Charlotte Track has been completed and a report on the results is due in the next couple of months. Survey analysis will assist with future decision making regarding the track.

Staff are starting on the annual vegetation cut on the track. There has been surprisingly little track damage from the recent heavy rain however it is very wet underfoot in places.

A community led submission to turn QCT into a Great Walk is one of 7 finalists. Submissions were assessed by a panel comprising representatives from Federated Mountain Clubs, New Zealand Recreation Association, New Zealand Māori Tourism, Tourism New Zealand, Air New Zealand, Tourism Industry Aotearoa, as well as DOC. DOC is currently working with proponents to collect further information to assess their suitability as potential Great Walks. An announcement of the successful Great Walk or Walks will be made at the end of 2018. Last year funding was announced to expand the Great Walk network by two additional walks. However, some proposals will cost more than others, and the best option maybe to restrict the expansion to one Great Walk.

##### **Campsites**

Our visitor numbers and revenue are up at larger campsites in the Sounds. Extra paid staff (as well as volunteers) were in place over height of summer to manage this.

An upgrade on the sewage system at Momorangi is being worked on to improve its effectiveness and includes telemetry to enable system issues to be detected early.

Waimaru Camp, along with some of our other remote sites, continues to have it's share of non-compliant visitors who light fires and hunt illegally. We are working with the local community to try to find solutions.

The Trig K track at Pelorus Bridge has been remarked in the top area after forestry felling operations made the track difficult to follow. Staff took the opportunity to fell some of the remaining pines on PCL whilst in the location.

New self registration signs have been installed at many of our 39 camps to update the costings and information.

##### **Jacobs Bay Jetty**

DOC is continuing to work through possible outside funding solutions to restore the jetty. The jetty will remain closed until this can be resolved.

##### **Te Araroa Trail**

Increased user numbers on this trail have led us to add an additional service run along the Pelorus Track to ensure huts, toilets and the track are in reasonable condition.

##### **Matai Bay Hut**

Trust have undertaken a number of maintenance and improvement tasks at the hut over the summer including painting and repairs to the chimney flue.



## ***Biodiversity***

### **Mice found on Maud/ Te Pākeka**

DOC has stepped up measures to detect mice on Maud Island/ Te Pākeka after a mouse was found on the island on June 13 2018. We have put in extra tracking tunnels and traps to detect mice and these have detected other mice on the island wildlife sanctuary. The island is also being searched by a rodent detection conservation dog and it's handler.

At this stage, we don't know how many mice are on the island but our detection measures to date have found several mice and signs of other mice in tracking tunnels that detect mice footprints. We are continuing to establish the extent of the mice incursion before any decisions will be made on what action will be taken to eradicate the mice. Mice primarily pose a threat to the island's native insects and some lizard species and they potentially could prey on the island's Maud Island frogs/pakeka frogs.

### **Takapourewa/Stephens Island**

DOC and Ngati Koata are progressing a joint Operations Plan for the island. Successful weed control programmes and ongoing maintenance continue to progress even in the challenging remote environment. New caretakers will be starting out on the island soon.

### **Myrtle Rust**

There has been a confirmed find of Myrtle Rust in Marlborough (Havelock). The number of new finds since 30 May 2018 brings the total number of infected properties to **731**. MPI is working with DOC, tangata whenua, the nursery industry, scientists, and local authorities in areas affected by myrtle rust to determine how it should be managed in the future.

Long term planning options are being explored by a new myrtle rust working group. Updates can be found on the MPI website: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust/>

### **Predator Free 2050**

Two day trapping course for community groups was developed and piloted in partnership with NMIT in Nelson, in May. Eight community members, and several potential facilitators attended. Once amendments have been made the course will be rolled out around the country and is expected to be held in Northern Southern Island once a year.

## ***Community***

### **Sea Week**

Ten clean-up events were held for Seaweek as part of the Massive Marlborough Clean Up. 200 people participated including the Public, businesses and community groups. This is the second year it has been held, with participation increasing

### **Summer Explorer Programme**

The Summer programme was successful with over 500 people attending 22 events. 16 events were organised by seven of our community partners.

### **Sound Foreshore Reserve**

We continue to work on reducing the encroachments on Sounds Foreshore Reserve. 'Historic' encroachments may be allowed to license their structures, however in most cases encroachments newer than 1991 will need to be removed.

### **Totaranui 250 Trust**

DOC is working closely with the Totaranui 250 Trust as it develops plans for community commemoration of the first encounters between Māori and Europeans and the common threads between them - voyaging, discovery and connection to nature. James Cook arrived in Totaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound 250 years ago - with Meretoto (Ship Cove) being one of the key landing sites. The commemorations will be coordinated in the context of a national programme to recognise the significance of Cook's voyages between 1769 and 1777. In Marlborough the Trust is planning a range of events and legacy projects, including a visit from the replica ship Endeavour in 2019 - and a visit from travelling Maori waka.



## Appendix 2

### Summary of consultation undertaken re Meretoto/Ship Cove reroute–

- Planned reroute/upgrade is signalled in DOC's Operational Plan produced in 2011 and sent to interested parties and stakeholders for comment in late 2011.
- April 2016 – initial iwi contact seeking comment
- May 2016 – further information provided to Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Kuia (at their request)
- June 2016 – funding application included in MDC annual plan- publicly available for comment via MDC and submissions for and against (x3) were made at this time. (Prior to this, the 2015 MDC Annual Plan process had heard a submission on the track upgrade and had chosen to seek further consultation). The issue was advertised, as a key issue for MDC's promotion of issues for its 2016 Long Term Plan consultation.
- July 2016 – mediated public meeting arranged by MDC regarding the proposed reroute. Residents of Endeavour Inlet were specifically invited and a number attended along with other stakeholders such as QCTLC members.
- 20 October 2016 (invitations sent a month earlier) – an onsite visit facilitated by DOC to Meretoto / Ship Cove to look at part of the initial planned track route. Residents of Endeavour Inlet were specifically invited to this site meeting which was also attended by DOC managers and staff, an MDC Councillor and a Conservation Board member.
- 3 Feb 2017 – iwi visit to the site attended by representatives of Ngāti Kuia and Te Ātiawa.
- Since then a Resource Consent has been applied for and granted by the MDC. QCT stakeholders as well as the Totaranui 250 Trust, Sounds Advisory Group etc have been kept updated with milestones.

### Great Walk community input:

The process so far for the proposed Great Walks has been coordinated nationally by DOC's national recreation and tourism staff and received applications mainly from community groups. The QCT proposal was put together by QCT Inc along with Destination Marlborough and with the support of other stakeholders such as the QCT Landowners Cooperative. Now that there is a shortlist of 7, DOC is preparing high level concept plan documents for each of the 7 tracks including QCT. This is being done by a contractor to National Office. At the end of July, 3 tracks will be selected as finalists per se and then more indepth consultation will occur with interested/affected parties of which adjacent landowners and communities to the QCT are included.

More info is at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/newgreatwalks>. This notes consultation has been done with major community and recreation groups which refers to FMC, Forest and Bird, the Conservation Boards etc rather than individual community groups for each track at this stage.

## Appendix 3

# A Balanced Scorecard for the Marlborough Aquaculture Sector

(Summarised Report and Draft Concept)

Prepared for:  
Harmony Committee, Marlborough Smart and Connected  
Aquaculture

### 1.1 Why have a balanced scorecard?

Workshop participants broadly endorsed the following reasons for a balanced scorecard

*“Drive sector engagement and responsiveness to the community and make aquaculture more successful”*

*“Broaden and deepen understanding and appreciation of industry”*

*“Drive continual improvement”*

*“Drive commitment to be a profitable, sustainable and socially responsible sector welcomed and valued by the people of Marlborough and NZ”*

One person noted that the process of engaging with the community in developing scorecard measures was at least or more important than the actual measures generated or achieved.

## 2 Balanced Scorecard Measures

### 2.1 Consideration and selection of different measures

Workshop participants created a short list of potential measures and then each person voted for those measures that they felt most appropriate

Table 1. Measures proposed during the workshop showing number of votes received per measure. The six most popular measures are *italicised and bold*.

| Measure   | Explanation  | Votes Received |
|---|--|----------------|
| <b>Social/Cultural Measures</b>                           |  |                |
| <b>Reference Group Perception</b>                         | <b>A reference group of stakeholders outside of the sector which is surveyed to gauge their perspectives of the sector .</b>   | <b>4</b>       |
| <b>Aggregate of community initiatives</b>                 | <b>A measure of the effort invested in/or number of community initiatives delivered by sector members for direct community benefit (e.g. sponsorships, scholarships, 'MAD' awareness/information events, waste cleanup days etc)</b> | <b>9</b>       |
| <b>Economic Measures</b>                                  |  |                |
| <b>Jobs</b>   | <b>Number of people employed in sector regionally</b>  | <b>6</b>       |
| Lost time injury  | Number of lost time injuries per period  |                |
| <b>(Export) earnings per ha of farm</b>                   | <b>Separated by species, earnings per ha of farm per period</b>  | <b>9</b>       |
| <b>Environmental Measures</b>                             |  |                |
| Farm coverage (ha)  | Ha of marine farms in region   |                |
| % Coastline   | % Coastline fronted by farms   |                |
| Salmon Farm Benthic measures                              | Standard currently used overseas to assess impact of salmon farms  |                |
| <b>% Compliance with either MFA or AQNZ certification</b> | <b>Number of operators fully compliant with certification requirements under either MFA or AQNZ schemes</b>  | <b>6</b>       |
| <b>% Compliance with resource conditions</b>              | <b>Number of operators fully compliant with resource consent conditions</b>  | <b>2</b>       |
| Water quality/benthic standard measures                   | As yet to be confirmed but likely to emerge from national environmental standards  |                |
| <b>Recognition of innovation and research</b>             | <b>A measure of investment in innovation and research</b>  | <b>5</b>       |
| Ecosystem services  | A measure of the part aquaculture plays in the broader services provided by a functioning ecosystem such as nutrient-cycling, fish habitat or tourism and recreational opportunities (either positive or negative)                   | <b>3</b>       |



## A VISION OF SUCCESS

The vision describing a successful long-term outcome for the sector is:

### Marlborough Aquaculture

*Highly valued, lovingly produced.*

Marlborough aquaculture produces highly valued seafood that is globally sought after.

It is lovingly produced in harmony with the region's unique environment, local communities and Iwi.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR AQUACULTURE



**HARMONY**  
A harmonious relationship with Marlborough's diverse communities through instilling a sense of pride for the region's unique aquaculture activities



**VALUE AND INNOVATION**  
A price maker through innovation in production, product development and advanced marketing activities



**SUPPORTIVE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**  
A supportive regulatory environment that allows for valuable creation while ensuring harmony with nature and community

## ACTION PLAN

### OUTCOME #1 Harmony

A harmonious relationship with Marlborough's diverse communities through instilling a sense of pride for the regions unique aquaculture activities

#### Initiative:

- **Balanced score card**
  - Create a score card using the following matrix – social, cultural, environmental, economic – underpinned by 4/5 measures for each
  - Look at local and international best practice including work done by NZIER, Sanford, King Salmon, Aquaculture NZ, Tasal (Tasmania), NZ National Standards
  - Develop a proposed balance score card framework and engage existing community an special interest forums to enlist feedback
  - Look at aligning scorecard reporting and community engagement with Havelock Mussel Festival
  - Once scorecard has been adopted, Aquaculture S+C group to oversee its evolution
- **Aquaculture Week**
  - Collaboration between Havelock Mussel Festival and S+C Aquaculture
  - Simple and achievable
  - Sanford, Omega, other companies to develop Open Door programmes
  - Trade display roadshow to schools / Blenheim CBD as outreach and education programme
  - Mad Day (Mussel Appreciation Day)

## Appendix 4

### Salmon Farm Relocation, due process.... who is in charge?

1. Council is elected by the community for a number of tasks, including to be the regulator and gate keeper of sustainable use of resources during their time in governance. The role of the SAG is to provide valuable *opinion*, identifying issues and making policy *suggestions* to the Council, for policy and plan review. What role SAG will and can play will very much depend on the style of governance of Council.
2. Open governance is fundamental component of our democracy. Recent experience with the salmon relocation project has highlighted issues that are at odds with what may be expected from our elected members.
3. The role MDC played in this project has been obscure and not an example of the same open governance one might expect. Some perspective.

#### **2014 – Is Marine Farming in the Sounds stifled by regulation?**

4. In April 2014, a Board of Inquiry (EPA-process) and a Supreme Court Decision allowed 3 of the 9 salmon farms to be granted consent. This decision has been effectively doubling production from 14,000 to a maximum of 28,000 tons.
5. Marine Farming space grew in the previous four years from 2200ha to 2500ha, an increase of 13.5% (see later).
6. **Doubling the value of aquaculture exports to 1 billion by 20251 has been a goal of the previous government.** The growth and expansion of marine farming so far was not enough. Further expansion of production in the Sounds (shortly after the BOI/SC) was the government's agenda following the wishlist of the industry.
7. In the background, the year 2014 was already a busy year. **Since early February 2014** MDC staff already worked towards this goal with NZKS on options to **relocate existing farms to more productive locations.** (this information released under OIA and never been communicated).

#### **2015 – Relocation, more productive farm locations and Best Practice Guidelines.**

8. The options for relocation were presented by NZKS in February 2015, when they met with Minister Smith to discuss relocating six of its existing farms **to more productive locations.** At the same time, NZKS proposed that the Government use the Ministerial Regulation-Making Power (section 360 A-C RMA) to implement their proposal.
9. This S 360 power was put into law to enable central government to intervene in circumstances where councils and industry were unable to plan for aquaculture. Stifling of growth was not the situation in Marlborough (see bullet 5)
10. Best Practice Guidelines started in early 2014 and was released at 15th January 2015. This guideline is a guidance for regulator to test compliance of benthic monitoring and management of existing farms. It is not designed to address **cumulative effects of expanding activity of salmon farming** (or move to more productive locations!!!).
11. As soon as BPG was released, the key points of MPI 'relocation' proposal changed from 'more productive locations' to 'mitigating' benthic effects in low flow areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Minister Nathan Guy (Nelson Aquaculture Conference 30th October 2014)

*July 2016 –SAG invited as ‘community representation on Marlborough Salmon Working Group, MDC takes neutral position on relocation process*

12. MDC response to proposal was 7 pages; ‘The council supports the current consultation process, provided **that the outcome of the process is not inconsistent with Part 2 of the RMA and that the provisions of the MSRMP continue to give effect to the NZCPS.**’
13. SAG members expressed their concern about the unfairness of the process of MSWG twice (22nd September 2016 and 17th January 2017). In particular, a further engagement/consultation with the community was perceived as problematic.
14. The community has not been allowed to adequately participate in the process for a PROPER assessment of the proposal under Par 2 of the Act (no ELA funding and no cross examination like normal Environment Court Procedures).
15. Council never showed their position on these basic demands of ‘fairness of process’. Instead, SAG members received a response from CEO of MDC ‘**This is a Minister’s Process, not Council’s.**’
16. MDC was not precluded from an opinion whether the proposal for relocation has been consistent with Part 2 matters but its early involvement with applicant to find ‘more productive locations’ may have complicated its regulatory functions. To present to community with its ‘neutral’ position has for that matter been disingenuous.
17. This whole process brings under the scrutiny the transparency of MDC when inviting members of the community represented in SAG to participate in projects of local and maybe national importance. The resignation letter of previous SAG member, Kristen Gerard also referred to this same topic:  
  
***“My regrets are that the Council has asked a lot from the Group, and often not reciprocated fully in turn – or listened to those tasked with focusing on certain topics.”***
18. What function SAG will have in the future will depend on the style of governance of MDC. There are aspects of governance that require significant improvements. Open governance is fundamental component of our democracy.
19. The community was not enabled to effectively and meaningfully engage in a way that would provide for this ‘fairness’. <sup>2</sup>
20. MDC is caretaker of the resources during the time in governance. They will not deserve a badge of honour from future generations the way they managed the Sounds environment during the salmon relocation process.

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<sup>2</sup> The Environment Court identifies principles of consultation

**Potential justification for central government assistance**

- 12. NZKS wants central government intervention to implement their proposal.
- 13. Marlborough District Council (MDC) staff have worked with NZKS for over a year on options to relocate existing farms. s 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- 14. s 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- 15. s 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

**How would we implement changes?**

- 16. NZKS proposes the Government use the Ministerial Regulation-Making Power (section 360A-C RMA) to implement their proposal. The power was put into law to enable central government to intervene in circumstances where councils and industry were unable to plan for aquaculture.
- 17. Simply regulating over the top of the community, however, would not be desirable and is likely to result in unnecessary opposition and conflict. MPI and MFE's preferred approach, if you wish to proceed, is to run a more collaborative process. For example a Ministerial- appointed Technical Advisory Group (TAG) could be established to lead an engagement process with the community on both the costs and benefits of salmon farming and option of moving existing farms to better locations.
- 18. A TAG approach or similar would allow Ministers to gauge community views and to make the best decision for that community, including whether using the Regulation-Making Power is appropriate. Appendix Three provides an initial assessment of the cost and benefits of the three options for government to respond to this proposal: use the Regulation- Making Power; establish a TAG then regulate if appropriate; and do nothing.
- 19. Although officials have focused on the Regulation-Making Power, if the TAG process results in good community support, MDC could also consider using the new streamlined and collaborative plan change processes proposed in the RMA reforms. These new proposed planning tools would not be available until 2016 (post-enactment) so using a TAG process first would be a good approach.

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## Appendix 6

### DRAFT Marlborough Sounds – Sustainable Land Transition Fund

- **Purpose:** Facilitate the restoration the Marlborough Sounds marine environment by transitioning to land practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.
- **Aim:** Provide/Support? land owners with incentives, technical expertise and financial assistance to implement setbacks, and to and retire erosion-prone slopes from production forestry. To manage weeds and pests on reverting land.
- **Objective 2040:** 1. At least 90% of land under production forestry have had an approved replanting management plan implemented, which will effectively mitigate the deposition of sediment into water flowing into the Marlborough Sounds. 2. At least 90% of all major land-based sources of sedimentation have effective riparian plantings established and thriving. Activities in the coastal marine environment do not inhibit recovery of that environment through disturbance and/or re-suspension of fine sediments in important and/or connected ecological habitats.
- **Outcome:** By 2040, the Sounds are once again a place of abundant marine life.

**Rationale:** The Marlborough Sounds are one of New Zealand’s most iconic coastal ecosystems. The labyrinth of waterways has a rich history, and holds special importance to Te Tau Ihu iwi and European alike.

Captain James Cook visited Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound during each of his three voyages. He noted the profusion of marine life, including an abundant fishery. That richness has declined to a struggling ecosystem of relative scarcity. This is manifest in the decline in blue cod, snapper, shellfish, and kelp. Once thriving green-lipped mussel reefs and scallop beds have been fished-out of the inner Sounds.

The removal of vegetation on steep hillsides and disturbance of erosion-prone soils which have poured silt and clay into the water to smother seabed ecosystems. Sedimentation rates are now 5-20 times above pre-European rates, which are choking estuaries with mud (especially in Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sound) and smothering any recovering sea life that forms structure on the seabed [insert satellite image]. The seabed has been damaged by generations of dredging and trawling and these activities, along with ship wakes, re-suspend these sediments.

We must reduce sediment entering our coastal areas to give our marine environment a chance to recover; for the water to clear, for the seabed to thrive and for our estuaries to flush away the mud.

Given the history of the area, existing legacy activities and regulatory frameworks, moving from this current state (where our ecosystem is rapidly degrading) to one where we can halt and reverse the degradation is challenging but urgent. We need something of a ‘system reset’ to make tangible and timely progress. We, Marlborough, need help to do this.

A sustainable land transition fund, expertly governed, accountable to agencies, iwi and the community alike, and supported by appropriate knowledge can help not only break the cycle of degradation in our marine environment from soft sediments but also provide the platform to transition to more sustainable and enduring utilisation of our natural resources without economically penalising people today for past mistakes.

**Funding required:** \$40-50 million.

**Fund operation and administration:** A Trust with elected community members, government-appointees, and iwi representatives. Supported by appropriate technical advisory group(s).

**Other example:** West Coast Development Trust [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz). Formed in 2001 after the government ceased the harvesting of native forests on the West Coast, it has grown from a \$92 million endowment to \$129 million. The Trust has invested in many initiatives, and has had some success in helping small communities to transition to other enterprises. It has elected community members, government-appointees, and iwi representatives.

#### Other matters:

Carbon

Regulatory environment