



Summary report of the first meetings of the New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka Forum and Advisory Groups

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Meeting: New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka Forum
Date: 16 May 2017
Time: 11:00 am to 5:30 pm
Venue: Ōtākou Marae, Tamatea Rd, Ōtākou, Dunedin
Chair: Neil Gilbert

Attendees: Ian Angus (DOC), Hoani Langsbury (Ngāi Tahu), Jim Roberts (Invited Technical Expert-NIWA), Greg Lydon (MPI), Laura Boren (DOC), Tiffany Bock (MPI), Matthew Wylie (Ngāi Tahu), Marcus Simons (DOC), Jim Fyfe (DOC), Stephen Broni (NZSLT), Richard Wells (Deepwater Group Ltd), Shaun McConkey (NZSLT), Katrina Goddard (F&B), Robyn Shanks (Otago Conservation Board and Catlins Coast), Jordana Whyte (NZSLT), John Whitehead (Southland Conservation Board), Ian Fraser (Auckland Zoo), Tom Clark (Inshore Fisheries), Janet Ledingham (Aramoana Conservation Trust and local F&B), Ros Cole (DOC), Jo Hiscock (DOC), Kevin Carter (DOC), Jody Weir (DOC)

Apologies: Gail Thompson (Ngāi Tahu), Steve Bennett (Recreational fisheries), Aalbert Rebergen (DCC), Shaun Cunningham (Environment Southland)

Draft Agenda Forum

11:00 am	Powhiri and sharing of kai
12:00 pm	Meeting begins
	<p>Topics for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation of Neil Gilbert as interim chair, group membership, and group Terms of Reference 2. NZSL Risk Assessment Presentation – results, how the model works, threat prioritisation, etc. -Dr. Jim Roberts 3. Discussion on development of the NZSL Threat Management Plan 4. Forthcoming consultation on the squid fishery around the Auckland Islands (SQU6T) Operational Plan
3:00 pm	Afternoon tea
3:30 pm	<p>Discussions (continued)</p> <p>Topics for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Interventions (when, how, why, examples, etc.) 6. 2017/18 field work and beyond (tags, pup counts, disease work, etc.) 7. Engagement campaign (NZSL ranger & engagement campaign leader roles) 8. Any other business
5:00 pm	Review of recommendations to Advisory Group
5:30 pm	Meeting ends



Meeting: New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka Advisory Group
Date: 18th May 2017
Time: 10:30 am to 4:30 pm
Venue: DOC Murihiku Office, 7th Floor CUE on Don, 33 Don Street, Invercargill
Chair: Neil Gilbert

Attendees: Tiffany Bock (MPI), Ben Sharp (MPI), Jo Hiscock (DOC), Tom Clark (Inshore Fisheries), Richard Wells (Deepwater Group Ltd), John Whitehead (Southland Conservation Board), Gail Thompson (Ngāi Tahu), Katrina Goddard (F&B), Shaun McConkey (NZSLT), Adrian Hall (Aramoana Conservation Trust), Amanda Leathers (WWF), Ian Fraser (Auckland Zoo), Laura Boren (DOC), Greg Lydon (MPI), Jody Weir (DOC), Ian Angus (DOC)

Apologies:

Draft Agenda

10:30 am	Meeting begins
	Topics for discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation of Neil Gilbert as interim chair, group membership, and group Terms of Reference 2. NZSL Risk Assessment Presentation – results, how the model works, threat prioritisation, etc. -Dr. Jim Roberts 3. Discussion on development of the NZSL Threat Management Plan 4. Tabling of recommendations provided by the NZSL Forum
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Discussions (continued)
	Topics for discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Forthcoming consultation on the squid fishery around the Auckland Islands (SQU6T) Operational Plan 6. Interventions (when, how, why, examples, etc.) 7. 2017/18 field work and beyond (tags, pup counts, disease work, etc.) 8. Engagement campaign (NZSL ranger & engagement campaign leader roles) 9. Any other business
4:00	Review of recommendations
4:30	Meeting ends



Recommendations

The Forum made recommendations throughout the day which were recorded and agreed upon at the close of the meeting. These were tabled at the Advisory Group and feedback from the Advisory Group sought on each of the recommendations. The recommendations and subsequent feedback is detailed below in the order of the key agenda items.

1. Confirmation of Neil Gilbert as interim chair, group membership, and group Terms of Reference

The Forum recommends the following:

- Consideration should be given to others who might be useful to have at the table including representatives from local tourism industry, local councils, recreational fishers, universities, specific sea lion researchers.

Feedback from the Advisory Group-recommends addition that select landowners be invited to the Forum as well as additional clarification that whanau, hapu and iwi in sea lion range are always invited to be part of the Forum.

Consideration also to limit the number of representatives from each stakeholder group to keep overall numbers manageable

2. NZSL Risk Assessment Presentation – results, how the model works, threat prioritisation, etc.
-Dr. Jim Roberts as invited Technical Expert

There were a number of questions asked about what data was used for threat projections and how they were calculated, in particular the commercial trawl and disease estimates. More detail can be found in the document:

<http://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/11665>

It was also requested that Jim's presentation be made available and is therefore attached as Appendix A.

3. Discussion on development of the NZSL Threat Management Plan
 - The Forum recommended that the ultimate goal of achieving 'Non-Threatened' status referred to in the Terms of Reference also be included in the final TMP document
The Advisory Group supported this recommendation.

- The Forum recommended consideration be given to developing interim targets (5 and 10 year targets) which use key demographic parameters to measure progress. Parameters could include: pup rate/production, adult female/pup survivorship, breeding females, new sites)

AG-most, but not all participants agreed, with the clarification that a 'pup' is defined as 0-1 year, the word 'target' be changed to 'indicators'. While these may serve as a general guide to measure progress towards the TMP goals, caution must be used when considering annual results in the context of overall trends, given the inherent likelihood of annual variation.

AG- an additional recommendation was made that aspirational threat reduction goals are included. These should be well defined and tied to factors that we can



influence (this could include the aspirational goal of zero bycatch of sea lions in commercial fisheries although this was not agreed on)
AG-recommends that the wording 'new sites' be changed to 'new (re-colonised) breeding sites'

4. Forthcoming consultation on the squid fishery around the Auckland Islands (SQU6T) Operational Plan

- The Forum supports MPIs proposal for workshop Technical Advisory Group meeting for the SQU6T Operational Plan to examine, among other things, SLED efficacy. Participants at the meeting should have access to past work on SLED efficacy.

AG – agreed to this recommendation but also added the comment to also compile information on advances in technology and other published papers and non published papers produced by DOC and MPI

AG – acknowledges there have been advances on the proposed scope, membership, dates and purpose of the Technical Advisory Group meeting since the forum met on Tuesday

AG – recommends sea lion deaths in other fisheries are discussed and the process for addressing these are taken into account (refer to draft TMP Regional Table – Fisheries)

5. Interventions (when, how, why, examples, etc.)

- Sea lion specific protocol on managing interventions should be developed drawing from existing protocol examples (YEP, MM SOP, Wildlife response measure)
AG – agreed and noted that particular consideration be made to work with existing cultural protocols

6. Engagement campaign (NZSL ranger & engagement campaign leader roles)*Agenda items 6 and 7 were discussed in the opposite order to what was listed in the Agenda on both days as the discussion from Interventions logically flowed into the Engagement work.

- The Forum recommended the establishment of at least a part time year-round sea lion 'liaison' officer role with preference for a permanent full time role (coordination, delivery), noting the large geographical area including work on the Mainland, Stewart Island and the Titi islands
AG - general agreement, however, noted that the integrity of this position is very important and needs to be considered in establishing this role
- The Forum recommended that alternate funding sources for this role be explored (including tourism/local councils/business/Conservation Volunteers NZ)
AG – agreed but noted the above concern about maintaining the integrity of the role.
- The Forum recommended consideration be given to developing a broader strategy to support re-colonisation of the Mainland population (including habitat protection, research, equipment (for example microchip readers/scanners)

AG – recommends that as one of several subsets of this wider strategy that translocation options are explored as a tool to encourage population growth



7. 2017/18 field work and beyond (tags, pup counts, disease work, etc.)
 - The Forum recommended that monitoring effort in future on the Auckland Islands includes mark-recapture work that is adequate to meet the needs of population modelling
AG – supported this recommendation
 - The Forum recommended all options be explored for maximising efficiency in the annual planning of field research/interventions (for examples logistics on trips to sub-Antarctic region)
AG – supported this recommendation

8. Any other business
 - The Forum recommended that an overview and/or rough cost breakdown of proposed projects within the TMP are made available for the purposes of prioritisation

A table of the list of projects was provided for the Advisory Group to go through and as a last task on the 18th they worked through the table and prioritised components of the proposed plan as High, Medium or Low. They also noted any additional comments or suggested alterations to projects. In some cases the AG suggested some line items be combined, broken apart more or reworded. The revised table taking into account this feedback is included as Appendix B.