

Fisheries Liaison Group Meeting Record

Fisheries Liaison Group for 6 Wharf Development
 Meeting held at Napier Port and via mobile
 March 17, 2021 - 3.00 pm to 3.38 pm

Present:

Independent Chair

Eileen von Dadelszen

Area 2 Committee Representatives

Rawinia Lewis (FINZ) - Area 2 Committee (mobile)

Napier Port

Paul Rose - Environmental Advisor

Note-Taker

Grant Russell - Stantec

Recreational Fishers

Jim Yeoman - Legasea

John Stewart - Legasea

David Scott - Legasea

Co-Opted

Karl Warr - Independent Fisher

Jack Blunden (HBRC)

Pre-circulated material:

1. Membership list (March 2021).
2. Benthic survey report at the ODA (conducted on an annual basis) – (Cawthron).
3. DRAFT - Monitoring commercial fisheries catch near the offshore disposal area with the commencement of dredge spoil disposal from Napier Port – (Mark Chambers – fisheries scientist).
4. Pania Reef dive survey – Interim letter of no fundamental change in reef communities (Report still to be provided) by Cawthron.

Ref:	Item:
1.	Present and Welcome The meeting was opened with Eileen von Dadelszen welcoming all in attendance and Rawinia Lewis (Area 2 Committee) Jack Blunden (HBRC) as new attendees.
2.	Apologies Moved: That the apologies from Hamish Quested, Te Kaha Hawaikirangi, Rick Burch and Michel de Vos be accepted. Stewart / Warr <u>Carried</u>
3.	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 23 September 2020 Moved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record. Stewart / Scott <u>Carried</u>
4.	Matters Arising from Meeting of 23 September 2020 None.
5.	Agenda Review (anything to be amended) Due to the absence of Te Kaha Hawaikirangi It was agreed to move the agenda item on the Marine Cultural Health Programme (MCHP) update/preview to next meeting.

<p>6.</p>	<p>a) Artificial Reef update</p> <p>Noted that they have been fifteen loads deposited to Reef 1, and one load to Reef 2 (Gwen B). There is the potential to barge an additional 3 to 8 loads of limestone rock to either reef in the future.</p> <p>Paul Rose tabled a 3D image of the Reef 2. This image indicated the spread / location of limestone rock on the seafloor.</p> <p>Noted that a multi beam image of Reef 1 will be circulated once the Port is in receipt of this data/image.</p>
	<p>b) Dredging update</p> <p>Paul Rose confirmed that 520,000m³ of dredging has been completed to date. A total of 3M m³ is planned to be dredged over the life of the project.</p> <p>Noted that the dredging campaign has in some areas 'hit hard rock'. The dredging contractors, Heron, deployed a mechanical 'ripper' to remove the hard rock material. This hard rock was consistent with the geological information gathered as part of the technical investigations required when preparing the 6 Wharf consent applications.</p> <p>Noted that hard material is being extracted and deposited to the north-east corner of the ODA. This is in line with the certified Dredging and Disposal Management Plan (DDMP), section 4.7.1) which states:</p> <p>Any rock or hard material sourced from dredging will be deposited in the north-east corner of the ODA with the aim to cluster 'like' material in a dedicated location. This will also have an added benefit of creating an enhanced habitat for fish.</p>
	<p>c) Marine Cultural Health Programme (MCHP) update/preview</p> <p>With Te Kaha Hawaikirangi's apologies this item will be put onto the next meeting agenda set for 16 June 2021.</p>
	<p>d) Fisheries scientist report (draft) on commercial fishing near the ODA</p> <p>Paul Rose noted that the report 'Monitoring commercial fisheries catch near the offshore disposal area with the commencement of dredge spoil disposal from Napier Port, prepared by Mark Chambers (Fisheries Scientist), is now finalised. A key finding being "<i>there is no evidence of dumping affecting catch rates of flatfish or gurnard.</i>"</p> <p>Karl Warr noted a decline of flatfish, but not specifically as a result of the deposition to the ODA.</p> <p>Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) approved the release of this data as continued within the report.</p> <p>John Stewart commented on the views expressed in the report on page 21 'distribution of lengths' and sought the views of Karl Warr. Karl War considered that; '... we need to keep the control re: reporting on fish weight rather than length and size. Karl Warr considered there is 'no need to go outside of the scope of the report.'</p> <p>Paul Rose noted that this Final Report will be available on the Napier Port website.</p>

	<p>“That the FLG receive the Final report ‘Monitoring commercial fisheries catch near the offshore disposal area with the commencement of dredge spoil disposal from Napier Port’”</p> <p>Stewart / Yeoman <u>Carried</u></p> <p>Noted that Cawthron has completed the benthic survey/sampling within the ODA.</p> <p>“That the FLG accept the report prepared by Cawthron ‘Sampling survey of Port of Napier offshore spoil ground: October 2020. Prepared for Port of Napier Ltd. Cawthron Report No. 3586. 32 p. plus appendices’ “</p> <p>Stewart / Yeoman <u>Carried</u></p> <p>Noted that the Pania Reef survey has been completed by Cawthron. The results and report from Cawthron are pending. The interim findings as presented by Cawthron (letter dated 25 January 2021) notes:</p> <p><i>The reef surfaces are always silty in places, especially towards its southern end. There appeared to be no more settled silt than we have observed before during the baseline surveys. We have previously documented a certain amount of temporal variability in populations of some of the taxa characteristic of Pania Reef, but dominant species appeared to be present in abundances typical of the baseline data. Although analysis may yet indicate meaningful changes, our initial impressions from direct observation and review of the October photographic and video record are that there has been no fundamental change in the reef communities at either reef site [emphasis added].</i></p>
	<p>e) eDNA sampling results</p> <p>Paul Rose provided background information on the process involved in undertaking eDNA sampling and provided an example of high-level results recorded on the initial eDNA sample taken to date.</p> <p>Noted that there is a one-week turnaround for eDNA results after sampling is conducted. Sampling results can ‘measure’ the presence of marine plants and fish DNA that have passed through the water columns that is tested.</p> <p>Noted that the subsequent collection of eDNA samples may be collected from the top, middle and lower ‘parts’ of the water column.</p>
7.	Any Other Business - None
8.	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:38 pm.
9.	<p>Next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 3.00pm at Napier Port. An MS Team invite will also be available.</p> <p>Remaining 2021 meeting schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 September • Wednesday 17 November