

Kārearea

Protecting a southern land



Image: Craig McKenzie

April–May 2018

What about the Catlins?

Many people were disappointed that the final report of the South-East Marine Protection Forum did not propose any significant protection for the Catlins. Here is some information from the report which helps to explain why. Jane Young

In April 2014 the South-East Marine Protection Forum – Te Roopu Manaaki ki te Toka (SEMPF) was tasked with providing recommendations on marine protection for the coastal area from Timaru in South Canterbury to Waipapa Point in Southland. The Forum was required to work in accordance with the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Policy whose objective is to:

Protect marine biodiversity by establishing a network of MPAs that is comprehensive and representative of New Zealand's marine habitats and ecosystems.

Background

The information provided to the Forum identified 22 broad-scale coastal habitats, 12 estuarine habitats and three biogenic habitats within the Forum region, some of which are distinctive or outstanding. The MPA Policy requires that each habitat type is protected in a Marine Reserve and replicated in at least one other MPA.

Marine protected areas to be established are either:

Type 1 (Marine Reserves) – no-take areas with the highest possible level of protection

Type 2 – areas with various management tools, especially under the Fisheries Act 1996. Most recreational fishing is allowed, as well as some commercial fishing depending on the method.

The 16-member forum included five members representing fishing interests, five representing Ngai (Kāi) Tahu and two from the environmental sector.

During the consultation process more than 100 sites were proposed by various sectors and considered by the Forum. Sites such as Matakaea (Shag Point),

Kaimata (Cape Saunders), Papanui Inlet and Tokatā (The Nuggets) were eliminated as part of the 'gifts and gains' approach to decision making in recognition of their significance to customary owners. Reasonable concessions were also made to commercial fishing interests and recreational users.

Following the engagement process, the Forum narrowed down the number of sites to 20. A consultation document was released in 2016, calling for submissions. The final recommendations to the ministers were published in February 2018.

The recommendations February 2018

Forum members were unable to come to a consensus so two different proposals were put forward. These can be seen on the maps on p2.

Network 1 is supported by the environment, tourism, community and science sectors, as well as one of the two recreational fishing representatives. The proposed MPAs in Network 1 were not opposed by Kāi Tahu, with the exception of Site O1 - Irihuka (Long Point).

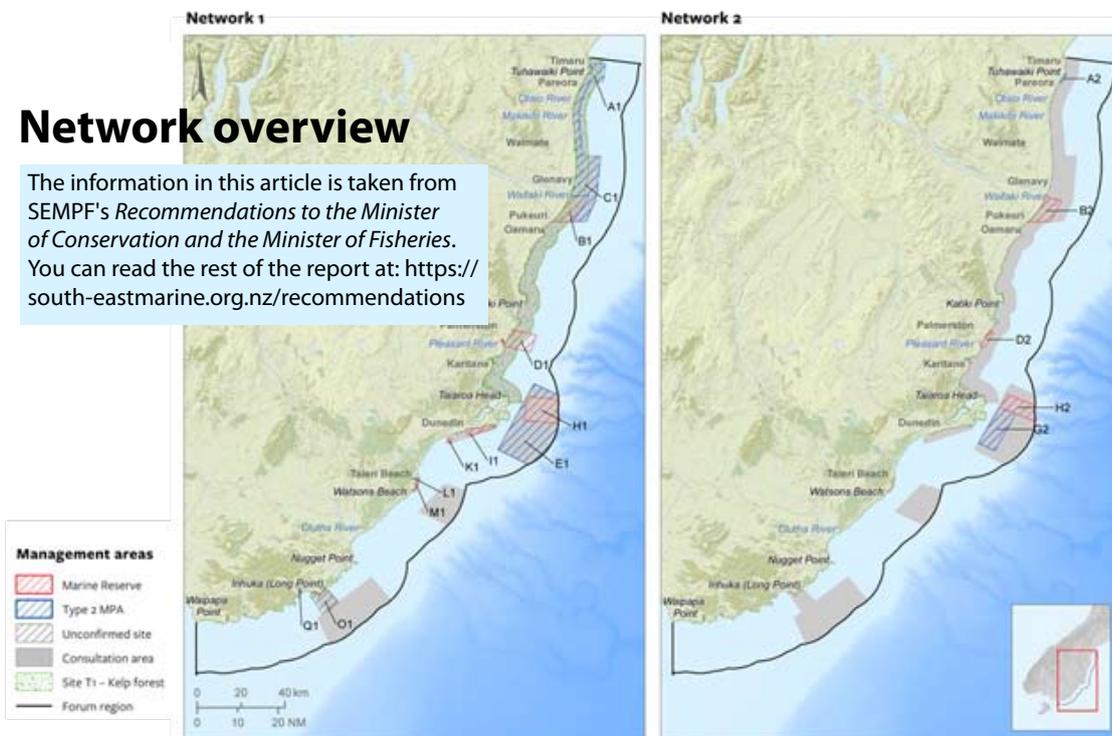
Network 2 is supported by the commercial fishing representatives and the other recreational fishing representative. It is not opposed by Kāi Tahu.

Network	% of Forum region	Size (km ²)	No. of Type 1 MPAs	No. of Type 2 MPAs	No. of habitats (/37)
1	14.2	1,267	6	5	27
2	4.1	366	3	2	12



Network overview

The information in this article is taken from SEMPF's *Recommendations to the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Fisheries*. You can read the rest of the report at: <https://south-eastmarine.org.nz/recommendations>



NB Areas that were originally consulted on are shown in grey. The only marine protected area proposed for the Catlins is a 0.7 km² Type 2 MPA in Network 1, taking in part of the Tahakopa Estuary. Long Point/Irihuka is described as an 'unconfirmed site'.

Irihuka/Long Point was recommended as a Marine Reserve by Network 1 proponents because the site would provide protection for a significant area of the coast that has very high biodiversity values, with many iconic and protected species. It would provide for the representation of habitats and ecosystems in the southern extent of the Forum region. The coastal habitats included within this site represent the unique habitats of The Catlins coast and are not included in any other MPA within the proposed network.

The proposed reserve includes areas of spectacular cliffed coastline, a sheltered bay, tidal rock pools, shallow and deep sand habitats, a vegetated nearby island, and a continuum of habitats from shallow waters through to deep reef. It is one of only two areas within the proposed network where rocky reef extends from the intertidal to deep subtidal region. The rocky reefs in the shallow areas are dominated by rimurapa (bull kelp) forests, while the understory contains a mix of smaller kelp species and extensive areas of red algal species. This site is also a good habitat for juvenile pāua.

The fish diversity of The Catlins includes species such as wrasse, greenbone, marblefish, blue moki, blue cod and trumpeter. The area is visited by many seabirds, including shags, mollymawks, albatross, petrels and shearwaters. Kororā (little penguins) are sometimes seen, and The Catlins has one of the most significant mainland clusters of hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) colonies. New Zealand fur seals breed here, and NZ sea lions and dolphins (including Hector's) can be seen.

Reasons for opposition to a reserve

The local whānau have opposed the Marine Reserve on the grounds that this would be a direct breach of their Treaty rights – the rights of their children and those yet to come would be alienated through this process. Local whānau state that they are active in their kaitiakitaka (guardianship) functions within this coastal area, which

encompasses a number of traditional fishing grounds that are still utilised today. Te Rūnaka o Awarua educate their younger generations about traditional methods of mahika kai and sustainable management.

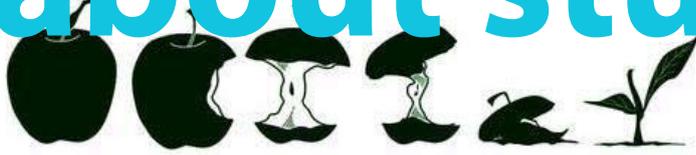
Kāi Tahu commercial fishers oppose any restrictions represented by MPAs. Te Rūnaka o Awarua believe that their customary tools such as taiāpure and/or mātaītai reserves are effective in managing areas of significance.

The site includes areas of high-intensity trawling, including ones just off Long Point and Cosgrove Island, and so is considered to be important to the commercial fishing industry. Submitters expressed concerns about the subsequent pressure that the site's adoption would put on other areas. Based on SeaSketch reporting, the top three fisheries that would be displaced are pātiki/flat fish (6.6% displaced), dive-caught pāua (5.7%) and hoka/red cod (1.9%). Submissions from the commercial sector also referred to other fisheries such as the kōura papatea (rock lobster). For the nine fishers in the area who would be most affected, the displacement would be between <0.1% and 7.3% of their catch.

The fishing clubs that submitted unanimously opposed the establishment of a reserve in a popular recreational area. They stated that there would be significant safety concerns if small boats were forced offshore to access fishing areas. Individual submissions opposing the site stated that establishing a reserve would disadvantage local fishers and their families.

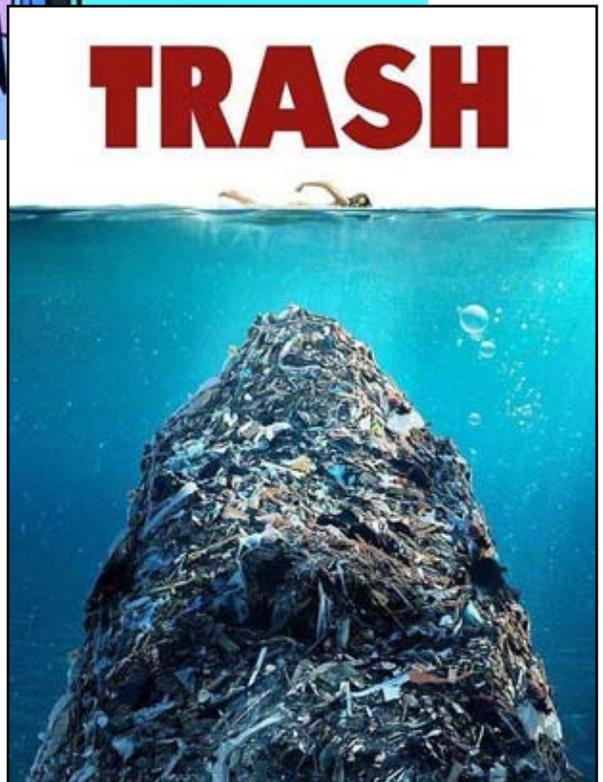
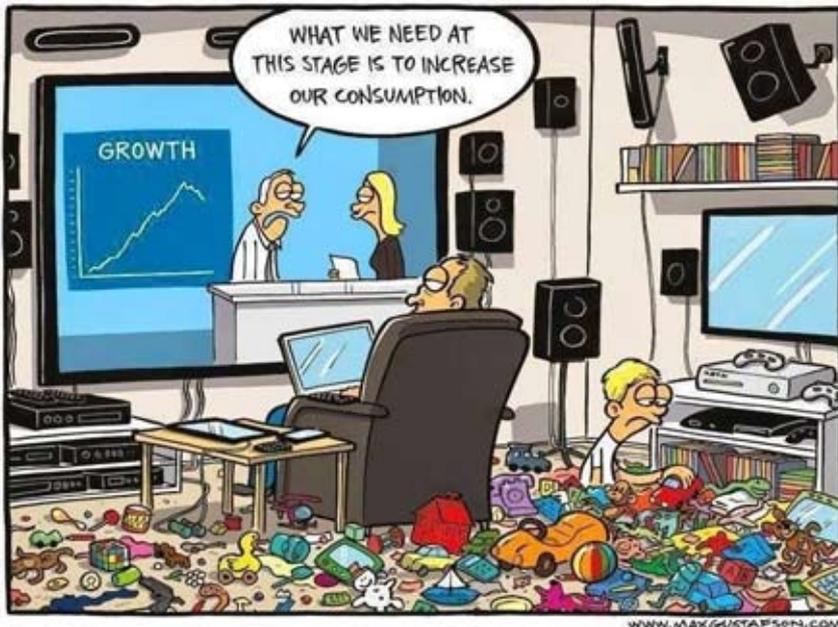
The outcome Irihuka/Long Point was proposed in order to complete a network of reserves. Many submitters commented on the lack of a proposal including Tokatā/The Nuggets, but accepted Irihuka/Long Point as an alternative. However, without the acceptance of Kāi Tahu and commercial fishers, the site had limited support within the Forum, and so was not included in the final recommendations made to the Ministers. ■

Thinking about stuff



It's not a good deal if you don't need it.

GREENPEACE



Supergrans v the oil industry

Jenny Campbell shares her experiences of being involved in nonviolent action at the Petroleum NZ conference held in Wellington on 27 March.

The Petroleum NZ Conference may have been the focus, but the Sunday 'Moving on from Oil and Gas' seminar and speaker event was an educational and bonding time, increasing networking across many climate change focused groups. This led on to the 350.org-organised opening ceremony on Monday with speeches and art focused around the large sunflower known for its symbolism of 'out of the shadows and into the sun'. Numbers attending showed there would be great support for the action on Tuesday.

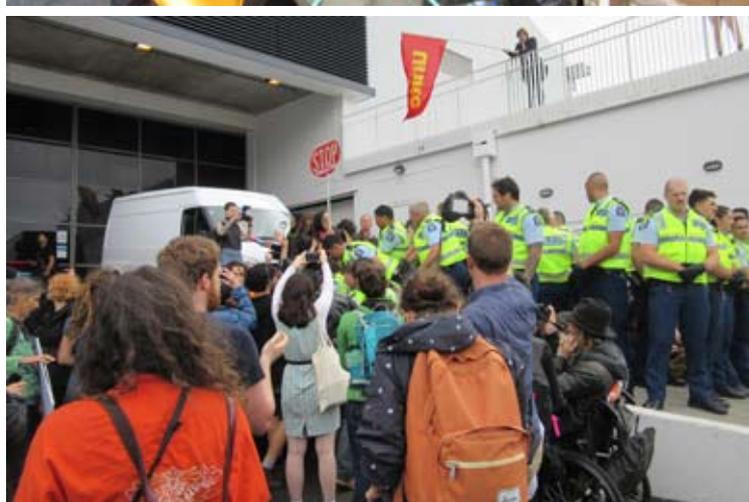
That was definitely the case the next morning when activists were called to be at TSB Arena at 5am, as opposed to the previous planned time of 6am, because the Petroleum Conference delegates had got wind of that and were now gathering at 6am themselves. Imagine their dismay when they arrived at TSB Arena to find all the entrances blockaded by barriers of people all locked together and seated in the way! Most got in eventually but 100 did not make it so had to be accommodated at an adjacent venue. Then the 'music' began outside with the loud noise generated being quite disconcerting and annoying inside apparently!

The Oil and Gas companies must have got the message by now that they are not welcome here. There was support from people from all over the country, of all ages, from families with their children to the supergrans who were easily identifiable with their bright yellow capes and bandanas all with messages about the impact of climate change on future generations – not only generations of people, but of all living things.

The very well-organised event was marked by care for each other, support, music, and gifts of food and drinks. Updated information was provided about what was happening at different locations, so that if necessary people could move in order to be more effective. And of course all of this was accompanied by bonding as we talked, laughed and cried together, sharing our hopes and dreams for urgent change. ■



Morning chorus for conference attendees. Rosemary Penwarden provides the percussion.



From around the country



NIWA research vessel *Tangaroa* returned to port in Wellington after a late-season voyage to Antarctica during which the scientific team had been astonished by the absence of sea ice. Their data will be valuable in determining the effects that a lack of sea ice has on Antarctic ecosystems, where they have studied everything from plankton to krill, and whales. The primary aim of the voyage was to set up an experiment to collect data about the long term effects of climate change on the amount of extremely cold, dense water that flows out from the Ross Sea and influences the global circulation of the oceans.

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/news/niwa-ship-returns-from-antarctica-with-pieces-of-a-puzzle> Image: Dave Allen NIWA



Blue whales were almost hunted to extinction a century ago, but some populations are slowly recovering. It's not uncommon to see them around Kaikoura at this time of year, but recent helicopter flights located a group of at least 12 (more than they've ever seen before) with a couple of them, "mucking about on the surface, chasing each other." A NIWA marine scientist said, "My guess is it's due to it being a La Niña year, so the water temperature is cooler and therefore more productive for creating a food source for them."

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/102538603/at-least-12-blue-whales-mucking-about-in-kaikura> Image: Kaikoura Helicopters



Five Hector's dolphins killed in fisher's set net

The fisherman, who acknowledged that it was the second time he had killed a dolphin, appeared to have been fishing legally off Banks Peninsula. Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash promised more consultation about a review of the Threat Management Plan.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/352940/five-hector-s-dolphins-killed-in-fisher-s-net>

Surgery all done! Lisa Argilla of the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital monitors a yellow-eyed penguin before removing his breathing tube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Dunedinwildlifehospital/>



The Antipodes Island is now officially mouse free.

The Million Dollar Mouse project culminated in a helicopter bait drop in June 2016. It was hoped this would rid the island of mice, its only introduced mammalian predator, which had plagued the island for about 100 years, feasting on bird eggs and chicks, native plants and invertebrates. In March 2018 it was announced that a month-long monitoring project, assisted by three rodent-detecting dogs, had found no sign of mice on the windswept isle, which is recognised as a World Heritage area for its outstanding biodiversity and natural values.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/antipodes-island-officially-mouse-free> Image: Antipodes albatross



Time for tea Jim Young of South Otago Forest & Bird feeds a yellow-eyed penguin on a 'soft release' programme. Rehabbed penguins are kept in pens on the shore for a few days before being encouraged to head out to sea. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=forest%20and%20bird%20-%20south%20otago>

Great Walk for Wildlife



A scenic 12km walk that includes the beautiful Ecosanctuary forest and Orokonui Estuary.

10am
Saturday
21 April
2018

\$20 adult, \$10 child. Includes sausage sizzle.
For more information and booking see
orokonui.nz/greatwalk

Orokonui Ecosanctuary
600 Blueskin Rd, Waitati, Dunedin.
Ph 03 482 1755 info@orokonui.nz www.orokonui.nz



Southern Events

Thurs 12/Fri 13 April

South Otago Forest & Bird Native Plant Sale
Balclutha Mitsubishi 79 Clyde Street



Sat 14 April Southland Forest & Bird
Home Creek Manapouri

Planting at Home Creek wetland and explore
Meet at Home Creek, Manapouri at 11am
Leader Edith Jones EdithBJ8@gmail.com



Sat 21 April 2-4pm Southland KCC
Activities at Southland Community Nursery
Education Centre

Contact Bronwyn southland@kcc.org.nz



Sun 22 April/ Sun 27 May 1pm
South Otago Forest & Bird
Weeding & revegetation at Otanomomo



Mon 23 April 6pm
South Otago Forest & Bird AGM
St Andrew's Church Hall, Clyde St, Balclutha



Weekend 19-20 May Southland Forest & Bird
Tautuku Working Weekend
Contact Dawn - dpatt@extra.co.nz

Our thanks to Telford for sponsoring the printed version of this newsletter.



Telford
Te Whare Wānanga o Puerua

Thinking about autumn planting?



Come along to

South Otago Forest & Bird's

NATIVE PLANT SALE



Thursday 12 April 3-5pm
& Friday 13 April 9am

Balclutha Mitsubishi 79 Clyde Street

Contact: Ian & Wilma McDonald (03) 418 0606
Jane & Jim Young (03) 415 8532



Forest & Bird
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

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Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz

New Zealand Sea Lion Trust

www.sealiontrust.org.nz

Kārearea: protecting a southern land

Contributions welcome. Copy for June is due on 31 May.

Editor: Jane Young

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Paper cut:
A tree's glorious
moment of revenge.



jimgvistov.co.nz/doodles