

PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Public Meeting Notes held in The Square - Public Hall Commencing at 2.00pm on Wednesday 3rd August 2016

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Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr Lea Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Brenda Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques, Temporary Administrator Robin Shackell, Deputy Governor Kevin Lynch Attorney General Simon Mount, Assistant Attorney General Danielle Kelly & Island Secretary, Heather Menzies.

Apologies: None

Gallery: NZ Police Officer Terry Moore, Meralda Warren, Melva Evans, David Brown, Dave Brown Dennis Christian, Mike Lupton-Christian, Sue O'Keefe, Pawl Warren, Turi Griffiths, Jay Warren, Carol Warren, Simon Young, Michael Warren.

Welcome: Mayor

The Mayor welcomed all to the Public Meeting and handed proceeding over to AG Simon Mount. The AG opened by explaining that the Ordinance is largely about getting the underlying structure in place for the over-all management of Pitcairn Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial seas. In a technical sense the entire Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve designated area is protected, however, the proposed Coastal Conservation Areas (CCA's) the Marine Conservations Regulations (MCR's) and the Fisheries Management Plan, which will apply to any fishing lawfully carried out, will enable enhanced management flexibility going forward.

He added that the main exceptions to the overall protection of the Marine Reserve relate to Point 9 of the Ordinance i.e. Activities to which prohibition, 10, Regulated Activities & 11 Coastal Conservation Areas.

He added that Ducie had been noted as possibly requiring increased conservation/protection due to its pristine nature and significant shark population. He reminded Council that the original PEW proposal did not include Henderson and Oeno within the 12 mile zone protection area.

Assistant AG Danielle Kelly then responded to the 7 questions that had been raised at Council's Draft MPA Ordinance workshop yesterday. She reported that the following actions will be taken or are in process for the next Draft.

- Part II 5. Principles/Purposes
- Agreed that the cultural fishing rights carried out by lawful Pitcairn Island Residents, are supported in principle, within the Ordinance.
- 6. (1) Agreed to with the following amendment.
- "The Governor may, after consulting with the Pitcairn Island Council and community, pass or amend such regulations as he or she sees fit, in relation to all or any specified part of the Marine Protected Area, to..."

- 6b: This point will allow for back-up strategies for managing the reserve i.e. changes in technologies or circumstances in the future.
- Part IV Coastal Conservation Areas (11 a)
 Council did not request this. Please clarify why Ducie has been specifically singled out? (see above)
- Please clarify where the concept of using Coastal Conservation Areas has come from. And, does this include coastal land as well? It was clarified that the term itself was created for the ordinance, it doesn't include land.
- Please clarify what is meant by the "transit zone between..." being deemed a Coastal Conservation Area?
- Please clarify, what/where is Schedule 2? It was clarified that this
 will be a map that shows zones.
- Part V. Permits and Regulations:
 Agreed that Regulations will be published on the Public Notice
 Board(s) and listed on the Pitcairn Islands Government Website.
- Up to NZ\$10,000.00? Please advise appropriate levels for fees/fines & penalties for lawful Pitcairn Residents and others.
- Part VI. Offences and Penalties
 Agreed that there are different types of offending so penalties will need to appropriately reflect these nuances.

The AG reported that they are hoping to get the next draft to Council by Aug 14th with comments due back by Thursday 18th. This in anticipation that of the Law being signed by the Governor by the 26th (NZ time) of August.

It was suggested that once the Governor signs the Ordinance it will be in place but this should entail business as usual until the CCR, MCR and Fisheries Management Plan regulations have been developed. This was put to vote. All in Favour – Carried Unanimously.

Comments / Questions from the Gallery Sue O'Keefe

Raised several points relating to Offensives and Penalties and Strick Liability Offences. It was agreed that these points will be reviewed for the next draft.

Melva Evans:

Said she is all for providing additional protection for Ducie but would like to see subsistence fishing being allowed at Henderson and Oeno. The MCR and the Fisheries Management Plan will have the flexibility to facilitate these details as agreed by Council/Community.

Ms Evans asked whether she was correct in thinking that the 12 mile zone around Pitcairn included 40 miles reef? Ms Kelly, replied that, yes, this was the intention but it could be changed if not deemed necessary by the community and Council. Ms Evans also commended the authors of the Draft Ordinance with regard to Part II point 5.d.

Michele Christian

Interpretations: Foreign Vessels - requires reworking. Agreed.

Specially Protected Areas: What are these? Ms Kelly replied that this again provided a back-up for future protection. In particular this clause will allow the implementation of a 'no vessels allowed' regulation should it ever be needed.

Ducie as a Specially Protected Area

The AG said there were a number of ways additional protection of Ducie might be enacted. It has been singled out at in this initial draft to highlight the specificity of its unique marine environment. It was agreed that Council will facilitate a community workshop to discuss Ducie's status.

It was thought this will provide a good opportunity to draft some initial regulations for managing Ducie's protective status going forward. This will be undertaken within week and notes provided by end of week.

The Ducie workshop will be held Monday 8th 11.00am.

Meeting Closed: 3.20pm

Mayor Shawn Christian....

Date: 26 / 8th 2016

