

PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

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Public Meeting Notes held in The Square - Public Hall Commencing at 11.00am on Monday 8th August 2016

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, Jim Heays.

Welcome: Mayor

The Mayor welcomed all to the Public Meeting and outlined its purpose.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that the original PEW draft, included Ducie as being able to have locals fish there and that the more recent draft, from the AGs office, now excluded that option on Ducie Island. He added that we can achieve both options as long they are managed accordingly.

He reminded the gathering 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.

The Administrator added that regulations relating to the CCAs and the MCRs and the Fisheries Management Plan must clearly reflect the Ordinance. The Mayor reminded people that decisions made today will impact a future Pitcairn and future generations of Pitcairners.

It was noted that although there may appear to be 2 options i.e. ...

- 1) Should Ducie's conservation be granted special protection under the Ordinance - as proposed in the Draft, whereby there is a 3 mile exclusion/no take zone around the island?
- Should Ducie's conservation be managed by CCAs/ MCRs and Pitcairn's Fisheries Management Plan as will be Henderson, Oeno and Pitcairn Islands?

...the essential question is whether there is any value in having local fishing rights at Ducie whatsoever? The intention is not to disadvantage Pitcairn Islanders fishing rights i.e. their ability to undertake subsistence fishing at Ducie going forward but to similarly ensure and maintain the conservation value of Ducie's marine environment. It was noted that the solution need not be either one stance or the other but rather an amalgam of both positions.

Open Forum

Meralda Warren – Provision for local fisher people should be available via permits so that other they and guided groups i.e. Ham Groups and Scientists can fish for subsistence consumption.

Leslie Jaques – Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed under the CCA and regulated accordingly and that permits for fishing are granted to lawful Pitcairn Residents and guides.

Sue O'Keefe – Prefers total exclusion for all Islands and fishing for Pitcairners on a permitted basis. Must have local guides on site for any subsistence fishing Ducie or of our other islands - would suggest 5 mile exclusions zone.

Pawl Warren - Happy to stick with 3 mile exclusion zone with permits for subsistence fishing.

Charlene Warren-Peu – Happy for the protection of Ducie managed as a CCA and regulated accordingly.

Darralyn Griffiths – Happy for Ducie to be managed under the CCA and regulated accordingly.

Michele Christian - Prefers that the protection of Ducie is managed under the CCA and regulated accordingly.

Robin Shackle – Recommends that Ducie is granted special protection via the 3 mile exclusion zone as proposed in the Draft Ordinance.

Heather Menzies - Prefers that Ducie is granted special protection i.e. the 3 mile exclusion zone as proposed in the Draft Ordinance.

Mike Lupton-Christian - Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed via CCA and FMP regulations/permits.

Brenda Christian – Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed via the CCA and FMP regulations with permits for Pitcairn Residents.

Lea Brown - Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed via the CCA regulations with permits/with local guides. Vessels/Charters shouldn't fish.

Melva Evans - Prefers that Ducie is granted special protection via the 3 mile exclusion zone as proposed in the Draft Ordinance, with provision for small group/subsistence Pitcairners' fishing.

Mike Warren - Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed under the CCA and FMP and regulated accordingly. He suggested we eliminate Draft Article 9.2c

Dave Brown: Prefers that protection of Ducie is managed via the CCA and FMP regulations with permits for lawful Pitcairn residents/guides.

Dennis Christian: Prefers that the protection of Ducie to be managed under the CCA FMP and regulated accordingly.

Jay Warren – Noted that the exclusion zone starts from the coast – therefore the question needs to be asked as to whether this includes the Ducie Island Iagoon? The Administrator said the Iagoon would be included in the 3 mile exclusion zone. That answered, Mr Warren said he would prefer that the protection of Ducie is managed under the CCA an FMP and regulated accordingly.

David Brown - Prefers that the protection of Ducie is managed under the CCA and FMP regulations with permits for Pitcairners.

Mayor Shawn Christian - Prefers that the protection of Ducie is managed under CCA and FMP and that fishing should be regulated for lawful Pitcairn Residents only and for subsistence/consumption only.

In Conclusion

The majority of Pitcairners are in favour of preserving limited fishing by lawful Pitcairn Residents within the 3 mile Ducie Island exclusion zone. This will enable them to undertake subsistence fishing. As such, the Ordinance needs to reflect this and not exclude the possibility of fishing by lawful Pitcairn Residents. The majority of those present at the meeting are in favour of progressing discussions to establish regulations for the MPA.

Meeting Closed: 12.30 pm

Date: 26 / 8 / 2016

