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New Zealand sea lion TMP

Proposed vision, scope and goals

Ian Angus, Vicky Reeve & the TMP Project Team

DRAFT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING FEEDBACK FROM
TMP STAKEHOLDERS AND GENERATING FURTHER
DISCUSSION



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Developments up to August 2015

April 2015 1st Risk Assessment workshop:

- International and national experts reviewed the NZSL demographic model, characterised threats to sea lions across all breeding sites and discussed the likelihood of certain population trends given different assumptions around carrying capacity and cumulative impacts.
- Outputs: threat characterisation spreadsheet and a list of recommendations made by the expert panel made available on TMP webpages.

Current work:

- Officials are refining Management Goals and Criteria, and beginning to develop ideas for potential management measures across all threats and populations of New Zealand sea lions.



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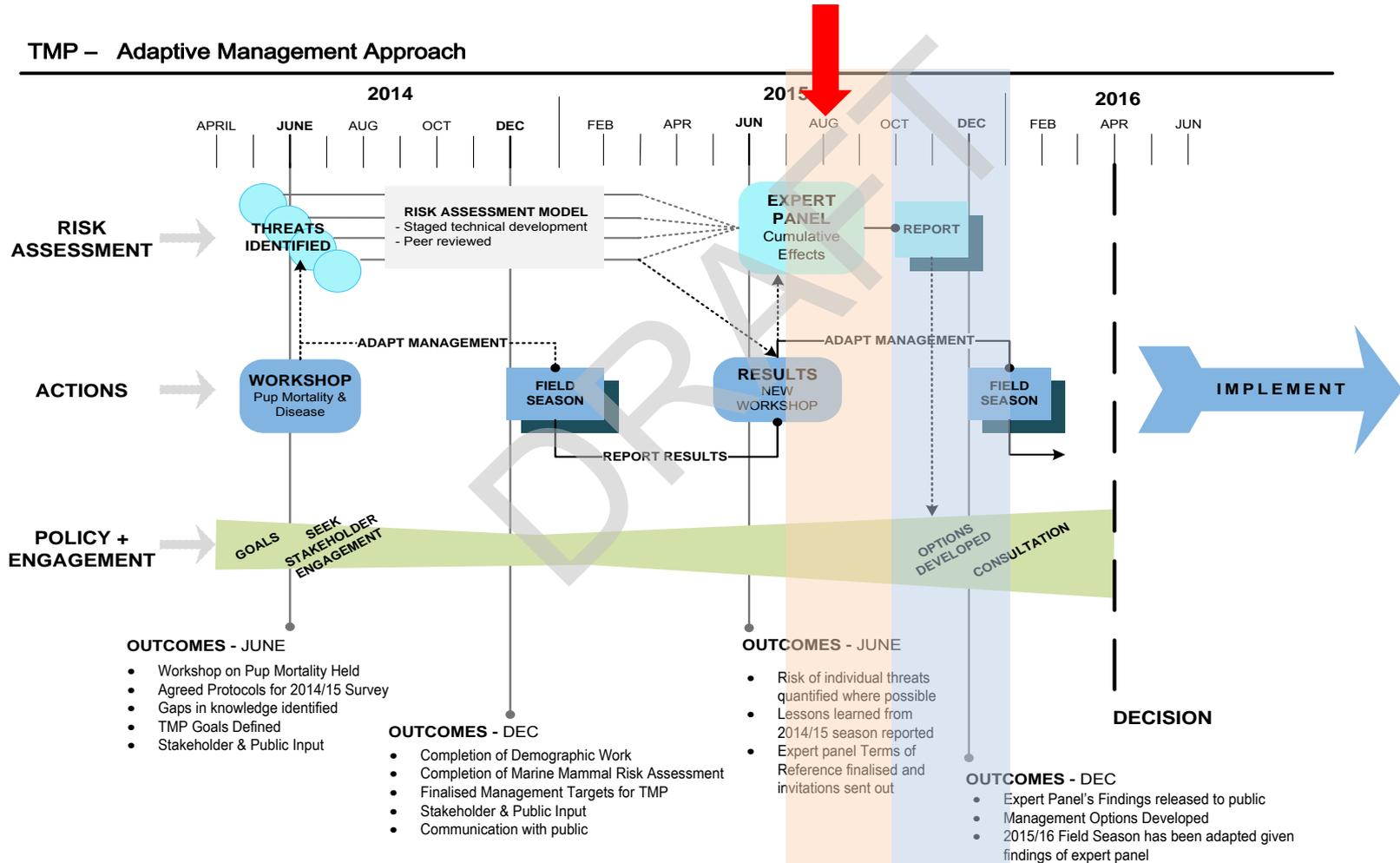


Today's presentation

- Refresh of TMP development process
- Update on Management Goals and Criteria
- NIWA will be presenting updates to the demographic assessment model following the April Risk Assessment Workshop



TMP – Adaptive Management Approach





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Next steps

September 2015 2nd Risk Assessment workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to:

1. Review TMP Population goal and associated criteria
2. Review updates to the demographic model and the characterization of threats
3. Review projections from risk 'triage' and under different threat scenarios
4. Review the retrospective impact analysis
5. Consider treatment of minor sub-populations and low information threats

Following the workshop:

- Development and evaluation of threat management options will form the draft TMP
- Public consultation on the draft Threat Management Plan will be undertaken in early 2016
- Ministers will be presented with advice on the NZSL TMP (as well as all the submissions) by April 2016



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Vision

Aspirational

“To promote the recovery and ensure the long-term viability of New Zealand sea lions”



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Scope of the TMP

- Five year plan
- Works towards the Vision
- Assess **ALL** threats
- Prioritise threats for management / mitigation
- Includes **ALL** sub-populations* and breeding sites*

*In order to separate breeding sites where low levels of breeding occurs from breeding colonies that can be considered sub-populations in their own right, the definition of sub-population is restricted to breeding locations where at least 35 pups are born each year.



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Structure of Management Goals

- Three Management Goals
- Recognise need to integrate multiple threads to achieve success
- Each Goal has: targets, criteria, and actions
- **Targets:** 5-* and 20- year targets
- **Criteria:** How we will measure progress
- **Actions:** What will be done to achieve targets

*It is recognised that given the biology of the sea lion, 5 years is a short time frame to achieve meaningful results in. Therefore the 5 year targets, which are linked to the life cycle of the TMP, are checkpoints to measure progress towards the 20 year targets where achievable outcomes are more likely.



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Population Goal

Improve the population status of NZSL

Targets:

- 5-year: Demographic parameters are consistent with achieving the 20 year target
- 20-year: The projected population trend is stable or increasing

To measure progress towards the population management targets, demographic parameters will be monitored and reported on and compared with the 70%, 50% and 30% rates of decline.



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Population goal – Management criteria

- **Survivorship** of mature females and **birth rate** of NZSL (across all subpopulations) are high enough that the projected trend in the population is stable* or increasing
- Achieve and maintain at least three subpopulations

* Stable is defined as $\pm 10\%$ and trends are based on projecting 3 generations forward (as per NZTCS)

NB: Consideration is being given to development of tiered thresholds which would trigger management actions



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Research and Monitoring Goal

Robust research and monitoring is in place to inform the TMP and measure progress

Target:

- A five year research and monitoring programme enables government agencies to manage threats and monitor progress towards achieving the population goal and the TMP vision.



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Research & Monitoring - Management criteria

Research and monitoring associated with the TMP must meet the following criteria:

- Monitoring of each subpopulation sufficient to assess the demographic rates
- All research and monitoring used to inform management meets relevant research standards
- All sea lion research and associated data, is made available ensure management is fully informed
- All research and monitoring aligns with TMP objectives

Key issues:

- Certainty in funding for research;
- Ensuring high quality research; and
- Research focused on addressing key information gaps and monitoring requirements.



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Engagement Goal

Communities and stakeholders value NZ sea lions

Five-year Targets

- Educational material regarding sea lions is updated
- Public understanding has substantially improved
- Treaty settlement obligations in relation to sea lions are met
- Public perception of sea lions remains positive or improves



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Engagement Goal

Communities and stakeholders value NZ sea lions

Twenty-year Targets

- The number of deaths due to human interactions on the main land has decreased
- Opportunities to engage in the conservation of sea lions are readily available for communities
- Public involvement in the conservation of the New Zealand sea lion has improved.



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Management Actions

Management Actions that relate to all the Management Goals and Objectives will be developed, consulted on, and decided by Ministers



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Next steps

- Formal consultation on the vision, goals and targets will occur with the draft Threat Management Plan (in early 2016)
- This presentation and associated report will be available on the sea lion TMP webpages on both the MPI and DOC websites
- Send comments to... marine@doc.govt.nz and/or tmp.sealions@mpi.govt.nz