

4.2 ADAPTATION FOR THE STEWART ISLAND/ RAKIURA CASE STUDY

The most appropriate ways to obtain community-defined expressions of beneficial outcomes within the Stewart Island/Rakiura planning process were identified by the researcher in consultation with DOC Southland Conservancy and National Office management planners and scientists. The BOA process derived from this consultation for application in New Zealand is shown diagrammatically in Fig. 3. The approach focused on participatory public workshops.

The factors which influenced this New Zealand model of public participation using BOA principles included:

- **Community preferences for style of consultation**

The Stewart Island/Rakiura community had previously advised DOC that consultation processes should be inclusive of all residents. Previous attempts to discuss management issues/policy with specific stakeholder groups had been poorly received. Therefore, public meetings were held rather than workshops targeting specific groups of stakeholders.

- **Existing information on community preferences**

Four hundred and six feedback responses were received on the Department's Discussion Document (released September 2006; DOC 2006b). An on-site and telephone survey of Stewart Island/Rakiura residents and visitors had been undertaken in association with national park designation in 2002 (Booth & Leppens 2002). These contributions provided valuable insights into the views of the community, but also meant that the BOA process was not 'starting from scratch'.

- **Strategic planning direction**

DOC's 'outcomes at places' planning regime (see section 3.1.5) meant that public participation should be structured around 'places'. Three places on Stewart Island/Rakiura had been identified as important to the community in the discussion document feedback. These places were Ulva Island, Mason Bay and Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti (Figs 4-7). Effectively, these 'places' represented part of the identification of management zones in the BOA process (see section 4.1 and Table 9 above).

- **Geographic barriers**

Stewart Island/Rakiura is costly to visit. DOC was aware that people living off the Island also had an interest in its future plans for public conservation land on the Island but would be unlikely to travel to the island to participate in the process. Therefore, two public workshops (one each in Invercargill on the mainland and Oban on Stewart Island/Rakiura) were held for each of the three case study places (Ulva Island, Mason Bay and Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti).

- **Statutory requirements**

DOC has an established way of undertaking public participation, largely dictated by statutory requirements (see section 3.1). This planning 'culture' includes community expectations of public meetings.

- **Stage in the planning process**

The use of a workshop approach as the main method of consultation meant that it was not possible to obtain a quantitative demand assessment (i.e.

the identification and ranking of beneficial outcomes by the community). If the BOA participatory process was being implemented from the beginning of the planning process, some form of quantitative survey may have been appropriate. As already noted, several stages of community input had already been conducted and the planning process timeline had been publicised. The study had to fit these timeframes.

Sections 5 and 6 describe and critique the community’s input into this Modified BOA planning process. As outlined in Fig. 3, community involvement took the form of workshops—two workshops for each ‘place’. As a precursor to each workshop and to stimulate comment, a pre-workshop paper was circulated which summarised public comments received at that point in the process. Given the BOA was being applied part-way through the Stewart Island/Rakiura planning process, the workshops were intended to confirm the feedback already received, define outcomes and identify public opinion about potential policy options.

Figure 3. BOA implementation process derived for this study.

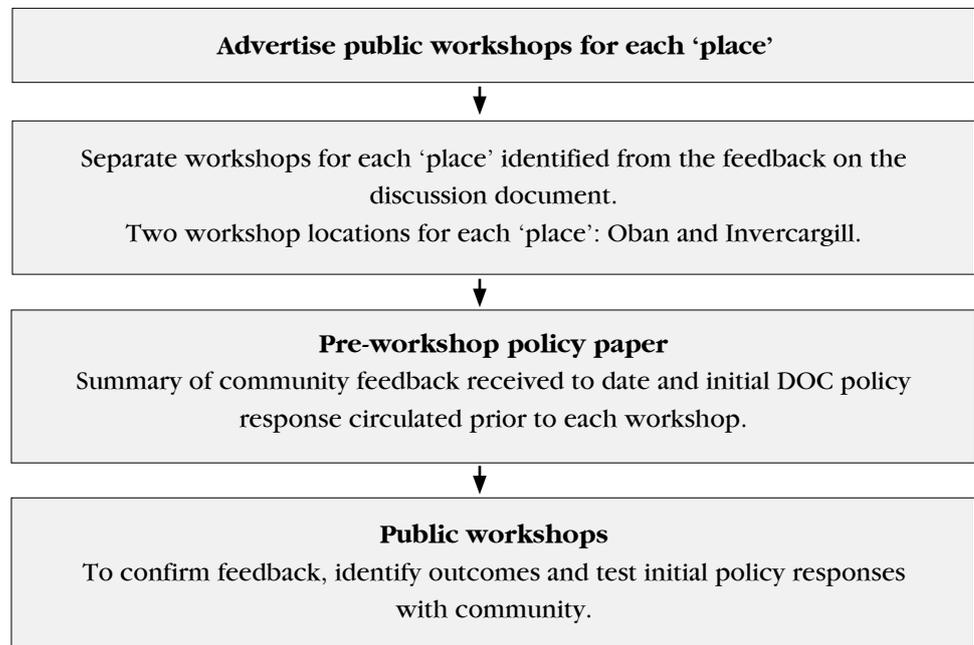


Figure 4. Map showing all of the 'places' identified for Stewart Island/Rakiura, including the three BOA case study 'places'—Ulva Island, Mason Bay and Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti.

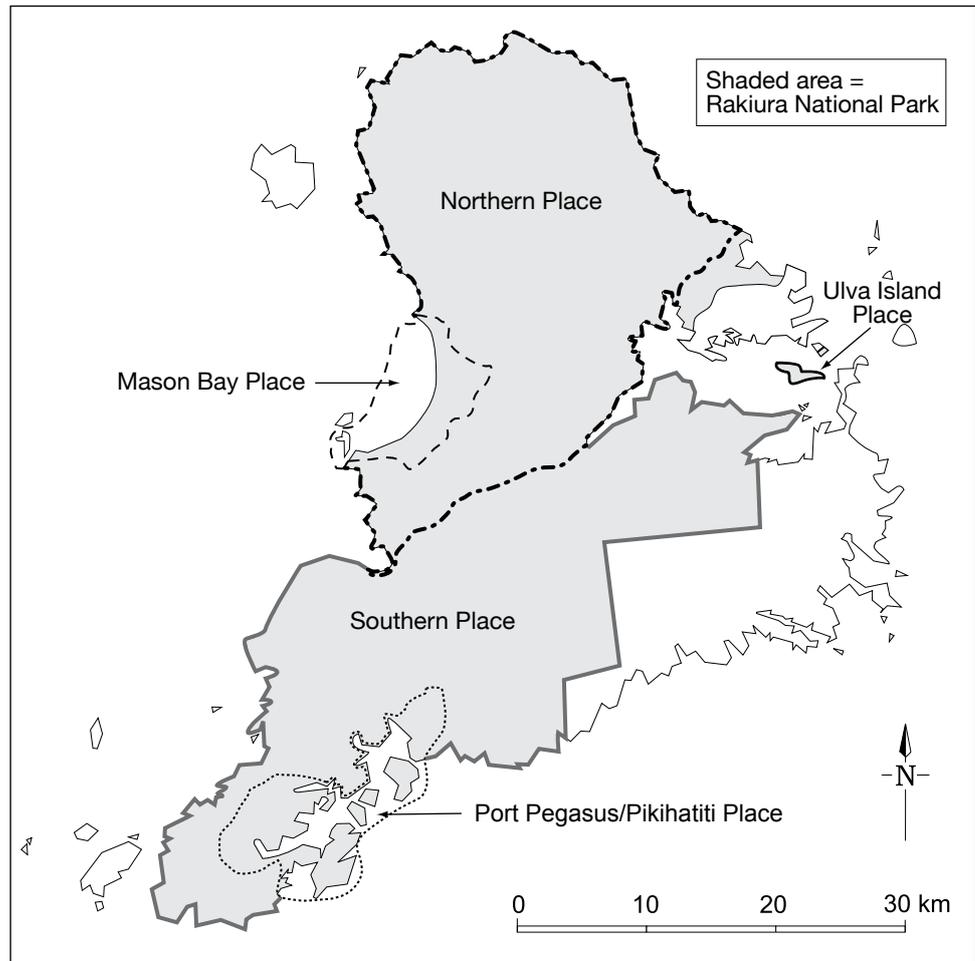


Figure 5. Ulva Island 'place'.

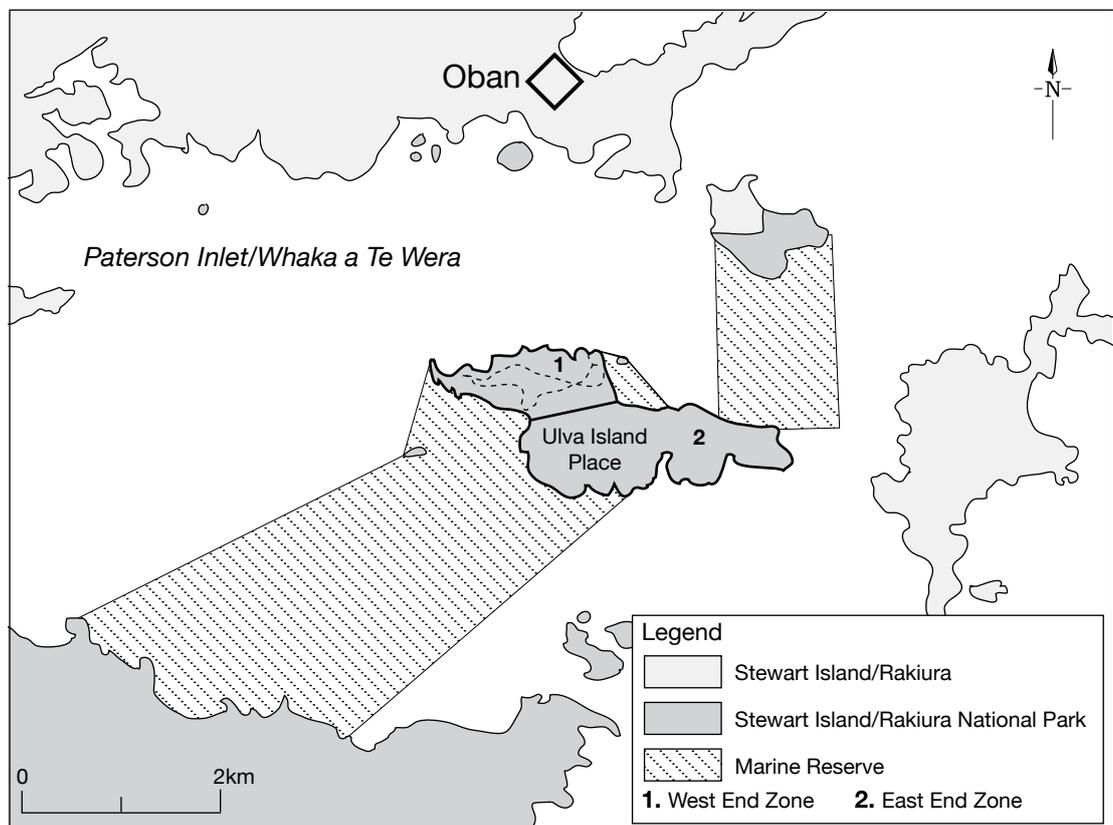


Figure 6. Mason Bay 'place'.

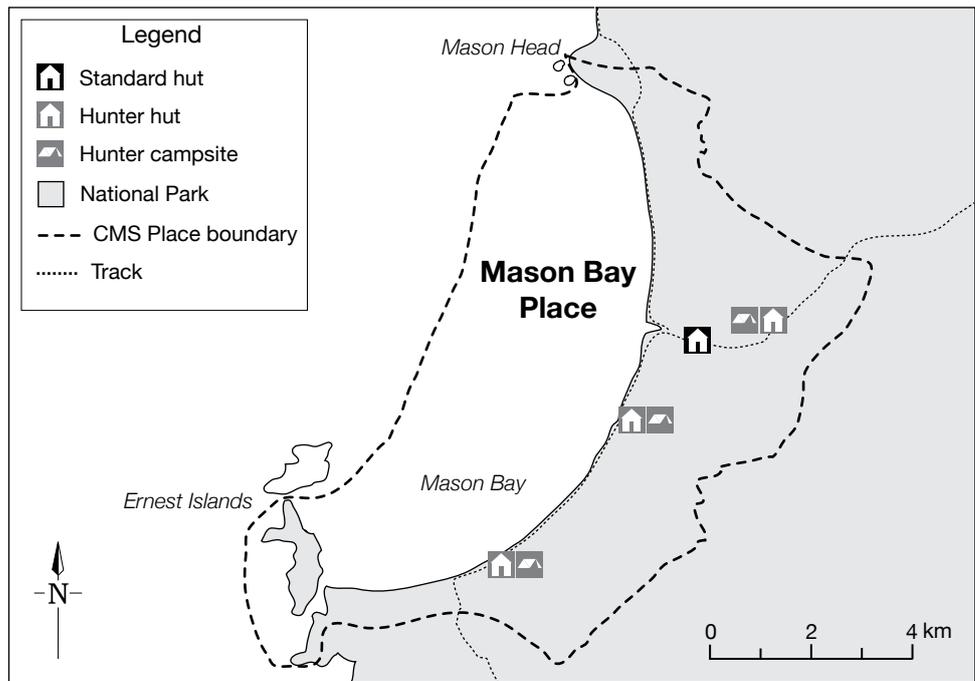


Figure 7. Port Pegasus/ Pīkīhatiti 'place'.

