

*Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura*

*(Kaikoura Coastal Marine Guardians)*

# **Record of Public Forum Takahanga Marae 16 February 2008**





# Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura Public Forum 16 February 2008 Takahanga Marae

## Programme

**Welcome to planning for the future of Kaikoura's coastal marine environment.**

- 1.00pm Powhiri *assemble for a formal welcome to the Marae*
- 1.20pm Cup of tea *(in the courtyard)*
- 1.30pm Public Forum Opening and launch of the Te Korowai Characterisation Report by Hon Jim Anderton Minister of Fisheries *(in the meeting house)*
- Overview of the public forum programme, purpose and process *(in the meeting house)*
- Introduction to Te Korowai by Raewyn Solomon *(in the meeting house)*
- 2.10 to 4.00pm Meet the Guardians and learn about the history, use, ecology and management of the Kaikoura coast *(in the dining hall and back meeting room)*
- 2.10 to 4.00pm Kid's space *(building at the bottom of the garden)*
- 2.30pm Illustrated talk by Dr Islay Marsden on the Natural Ecology of the Kaikoura coast *(in the meeting house)*
- 3.00pm Illustrated talk by Dr Tim Markowitz on the Dusky Dolphin research *(in the meeting house)*
- 3.30pm Talk by the Fiordland Guardians on their experience in making a successful strategy for their coast *(in the meeting house)*
- 4.00pm Afternoon tea *(in the courtyard)*
- 4.30pm Open forum with small groups identifying what the Guardians need to take into account in preparing a strategy for this coast *(in the meeting house)*
- 5.45pm Final statements and closure *(in the meeting house)*
- 6.00pm Finish

# Opening Speech

## Hon Jim Anderton Minister of Fisheries



### *Kaikoura's unique marine environment*

*Launch of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura's characterisation report on the Kaikoura marine environment 'Kaikoura Coastal Marine Values and Uses', Takahanga Marae, Kaikoura.*

It is not hard to understand why Kaikoura is a national and international tourism destination. There is a marvellous array of marine animals, birds and fish that rely on the unique qualities of the environment that exist off Kaikoura's coastline.

For example, the Kaikoura Canyon, where the continental shelf comes almost to the shore, is one of the most special underwater features in New Zealand.

The Canyon is nutrient rich, which is the reason sperm whales are attracted here. And, because of the depth of the canyon, fish travelling along the coast are pushed close inshore.

Kaikoura has so many special features that I can understand your desire to manage these taonga wisely. I commend you for undertaking the task of developing an integrated marine management strategy for Kaikoura.

For those of you who don't know, Te Korowai was formally established in August 2005.

It is a community group made up of representatives of local marine users and stakeholder groups, including tangata whenua, recreational fishers, commercial fishers, the Forest and Bird Protection Society and the tourist industry.

The group is also supported by representatives from DoC, MFish, MfE, ECAN, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Kaikoura District Council. All have made available information, resources and staff time.

The members of Te Korowai have been meeting every six weeks for the last two years to compile the information for the characterisation. This has been a significant commitment and achievement.

The characterisation report represents, within one document, all the relevant information on the marine environment from the Clarence River in the North, to the Conway River in the South. All Te Korowai participants have contributed to the information gathering process, bringing what knowledge and resources they have to making the document.

The impetus for Te Korowai taking on this significantly time-consuming task was what the various groups recognised as a lack of progress with marine protection and management in Kaikoura, and the special relationship of Ngati Kuri with the Kaikoura marine environment.

Travelling south from the top of the South Island, the first encounter with the coastline is effectively the beginning of the Ngai Tahu rohe and, therefore, the 'gateway to Ngai Tahu'. Ngati Kuri care for this gateway and have been significant supporters of this initiative.

Ngati Kuri, as a first step, has set up a rāhui area (closed to all fishing) on the Kaikoura Peninsula. I understand this is well supported by the community. The rāhui, established under 186B of the Fisheries Act, is a temporary measure and will cease in August 2008. This transition will need to be actively managed to ensure the gains made from the rāhui are not lost. I understand that an application for a mātaitai reserve has been mooted for the area.

Completing the characterisation report is reason enough for a public celebration at its launch. But Te Korowai also wanted to make sure that the information in the report was publicly shared with you, the wider community.

This is an opportunity to ensure that those who know Kaikoura best have a say. The characterisation is the raw material from which a strategy to manage the Kaikoura marine environment can be formed.

At this stage I feel I need to say that forming a strategy will be a challenging task. You will be tackling many of the sustainability and marine management issues that confront all New Zealanders, as we go about using and enjoying our marine environment.

These include how we share our fisheries, how we protect our marine mammals and seabirds, how we look after marine habitats and how we avoid the damaging effects of pollution.

The challenge doesn't stop at forming a strategy. Once you decide what needs to be done, you must continue doing your part to make sure it happens – to decide how your strategy can be implemented. This will require working closely with government agencies and making use of initiatives already underway to manage the marine environment over larger spatial scales, such as Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Plans. Clearly, solutions that don't require regulation or changing the law will be the easiest of all to put in place.

While this is a potentially daunting task, remember it has been achieved before by the Guardians of Fiordland, so we know it is not impossible. I understand that two members of Fiordland's Guardians are present today to share their knowledge and experience with you.

I recognise the actual process of compiling a characterisation report has been important for Te Korowai, as it was for the Guardians of Fiordland. Sharing knowledge on Kaikoura and gaining agreement on the accuracy of the information ensures that the information on which the strategy will be based is sound and available to everyone, including the wider community.

Equal access to agreed information lays the foundation for identification of issues and opportunities. It also enables the “gifts and gains” process, so successfully employed by the Guardians of Fiordland, to be negotiated.

Under this process all sectors make concessions for the common good and subsequently benefit themselves. This is a consensus process that allows the whole community to get involved.

It is most encouraging to see that Te Korowai have already successfully engaged in the gifts and gains process by compiling a unified submission to the Hector’s Dolphin Threat Management Discussion Document. While – no doubt – this involved considerable effort and debate, the submission and information supplied by members of Te Korowai has proved helpful in the development of options for the protection of Hector’s Dolphins. I will be giving the submission careful consideration when the time comes to make these decisions, which I anticipate will be towards the end of March.

Members of Te Korowai are to be congratulated on the publication of their useful and excellent report, which will not only be useful for the purpose it was published, but can also be used by anybody that needs information on Kaikoura’s marine environment.

Therefore, I can easily recommend that you all avail yourselves of this excellent report and take the opportunity to participate in the development of a strategy for the Kaikoura marine environment. Take the opportunity to contribute to decisions on how we use and enjoy Kaikoura’s wonderful marine taonga.

I congratulate you on your commitment and all the hard work to date and I am very pleased to launch this, the Kaikoura Coastal Marine Values and Uses characterisation report – it is truly a significant step forward in achieving your community’s aspirations.

I wish you all the very best for the next phase.

# Opening Speech

## by Raewyn Solomon on behalf of Te Korowai

Nga Mihinui o tenei ata kia koutou. Nau mai Haere mai te whanau Whanui o Ngai Tahu, me nga maata waka.

Ko Tapuae o Uenuku te maunga  
Ko Oaro te Awa  
Ko Te Tai o Marokura te Moana  
Ko Maru Kaitatea te Wharetipuna  
Ko Takahanga te Marae  
Ko Ngati Kuri te Hapu  
Ko Ngai Tahu te Iwi

Ko Raewyn taku ingoa

Welcome to Takahanga for this Open Forum of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura.

I have been asked to give you an overview of the work of the Coastal Marine Guardians, and to place our coast in its cultural context.

Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura, literally means the cloak of Te Tai o Marokura. Culturally it means to lay the cloak or mantle of Ngati Kuri over Te Tai Marokura, caring for the seas around Kaikoura.

Both meanings are interconnected and both are entwined.

### **What is Te Tai o Marokura?**

Te Tai o Marokura is the realm of Tangaroa, god of the sea. Tangaroa was the first husband of Papatuanuku (the Earth Mother), before she wed Ranginui (the Sky Father). The fishing harbours and sheltered coastal areas of the eastern coastline of Te Waipounamu were created by Tuterakiwhanoa, the mokopuna of Ranginui. Tuterakiwhanoa was sent by his grandfather to enable human occupation of the lands of Te Waka o Aoraki - the lands of Te Waipounamu, that formed when the waka navigated by Ranginui's sons ran aground on a hidden reef and turned to stone and earth.

Te Tai o Marokura is an integral part of Ngati Kuri history and cultural identity. The immense importance of the area historically, culturally and spiritually is as dynamic as its geography and its life forms that depend on it.

It is acknowledged statutorily, as a recorded statement of the relationship between Ngai Tahu and the Kaikoura coast.

### **Who are Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura**

We are a group of people standing for local leadership in the care of Tangaroa and in decisions on the use and protection of our marine environment. We have come together in response to the many issues and uses of our coast to develop a management strategy for our coast - the strategy is a korowai for Te Tai o Marokura. We are weaving that korowai.

Our vision is a future where the moana (sea) of Kaikōura is richer and healthier. We want it to be used sustainably, providing for the needs of present and future generations. In this vision, people will interact with the sea in ways that care for its mauri (life force). People's activity will be managed to respect the

natural connections between living and physical elements and sustain the sea's dynamic ecological balance.

The Guardians do not yet know exactly what this management strategy will look like or what measures it will contain. But we do have a vision for the Kaikōura marine environment, and as a first step we have started collecting information. We want you to read our Characterisation Report and add to that kete of knowledge. We want you to tell us what issues need to be resolved and what opportunities you see for the future.

The purpose of the strategy is to create agreement within Kaikoura with the management agencies such as DOC and Minfish and with other people connected with this place, on how our community vision will be achieved.

After this public forum we will engage in the work of producing the Strategy. We want a really detailed strategy that deals with all the big issues we face. In relation to each topic we will detail:

- Clear objectives on what we want to achieve
- Identification of the issues and opportunities
- Strategic actions saying what needs to happen to achieve the objectives
- how Te Korowai proposes the strategic actions will be implemented
- the methods that should be used, from local customs and education, to legal controls and enforcement
- monitoring is obviously needed so we will know if the objectives are being achieved

### **How are we doing this**

To begin the How, we have to look at the history.

It is hard to pinpoint exactly when all this started for us, for it was already regular discussion when I first started this job, some 10 years ago. When our Upoko was alive, issues and solutions about Tangaroa was the normal topic of conversation and as a family who had depended throughout history on the sea, it is as important and as natural as breathing air, so when our DoC reps raised this in their Conservation Board meetings and when Mark raised it with the Conservator - Neil Clifton, much discussion had already been had.

But it was time to put this talk into action and the time was right to do it, all the balls were lining up. Before Runanga and DoC could initiate something like this, it had to sort out its own relationship first and so our Kaumatua came together with Doc, and did just that. To succeed on this journey the foundation has to be sound, so the principles of this particular relationship, were discussed and settled first.

It was at this time also that Te Poha o Tohu Raumati our Environmental Management Plan was being collated and written and an integrated management Strategy for our coast, was always going to be included as an implementation method within this plan, as a response to the many coastal issues we had before us.

Things were coming together, and then, the Government introduced the Foreshore and Seabed legislation. We were upset to say the least about that, and still are, and with DoC we sulked and then licked our wounds and then became more determined with this kaupapa. Because we understand the power of the collective, and the influence it can have especially, an integrated community collective. And because we are a small community and reasonably isolated, it is that much easier to get integrated, in order to put something like this together, and for it to succeed. And so, we came back with DoC and resumed planning for the development of this strategy.

A list of individuals was put together, and people were approached, deliberately chosen and recognized as

being a user of Tangaroa, with a knowledge of the coast and as a member of an organization, with an interest in the coast. We approached key individuals also and discussions were had about the importance of their knowledge and commitment and how we couldn't do this without them. We need each other to do this, we cannot look after this resource on our own and in a place like Kaikoura, in a country such as NZ, because of it's population, if anybody could do it we could. The Fiordland model inspired us and we thought if they can do it, we can too.

Potential facilitators were identified and discussed at the very first meeting. And Laurel Tierney was the person we decided to approach, she agreed and work began straight away. Laurel was chosen as she already had success with the Guardians of Fiordland model. She was able to get us organised quickly or rather she initiated us, so that we could organize ourselves. We decided from the outset that decisions would be arrived at by consensus and gifts and gains would be the tool to enable us to arrive at decisions. Laurel kept us on track which kept our momentum going so that when we were part way through the Characterisation Report, and she got sick, and had to resign, we immediately knew, that we would have to find somebody quickly to replace her. And although it didn't take long to find that replacement, we knew we had to go thru a formal process to find somebody, because the job is a specialist job.

And so Peter came along, and slotted in like he's always been here.

We are a diverse group, with different values and it's most important that we are diverse, because this strategy must cater to a diverse community, it must fit snugly with a community. In order to make decisions in a community such as this, there has to be wide ranging debate, to get the very best and most robust decisions. We have a huge task ahead of us and facilitation was always going to be critical, to achieve something like this.

We have been working away for the last 2 years as a group. When it comes to the hard stuff, we know from the outset, that we will be gifting and gaining, because we can only truly integrate by gifting some things and gaining others. It is not easy, it is serious work and hard work and done by a group of people who are committed because of the one thing we do have in common and that is, we value and respect Tangaroa. It is vital we do this strategy and we have to be proactive about it, otherwise we're just sitting back whining about it. That is what being responsible is, and what Kaitiakitanga is.

We have grown to where there is a degree of trust in each other, but the real measure of trust will be with the development of the Strategy itself, and its important to note, that the journey to get there is just as important as the Strategy. For the strategy will only be as good as the group is. And when it's finally written, it isn't the end, it too, is only the beginning.

The Characterization report that we are launching today, is the evidence base for the Management Strategy. No report like this is ever conclusive and finished. It gives us a starting point for the discussion with the wider community and it is vital that others add to that kete of knowledge and tell us what we have wrong. We felt it vital though to lay our cards on the table and making our thinking accessible to all.

### **Why are we doing this.**

I have deliberately left the why to last, because it has so many answers and not enough time for this speech, but in a nutshell it is best described like this.

Geographically we live on a ledge. The Hikurangi Trench is only a mile off our shore and it is deeper than the mountains are high, so it was always going to be a dynamic environment and because of this, we were always going to have users competing for its gifts. SH1 runs through our front yard and with the onset of 4 wheel drive vehicles and tourism, it is so much easier for visitors to come and visit, fish and enjoy our coast. Obviously this has a huge impact on our environment also.

We have watched our coast being abused and uncared for, not just by visitors but also by locals, and we got

sick of it. We had to take action, and we were dammed if anybody else was gonna do it, we certainly didn't want decisions made, about our place, by people that don't live here, so there is nobody else to do it, because at the end of the day, we live with it and breath it, and nobody else will ever care about this place, quite like we do.

How long will it take to complete the Strategy? Well ,it will depend on how hard the issues are, how much the community and the wider groups get in behind the process, how committed we are to reaching agreement and when we think we have enough to provide a sound base for the future. The Guardians are committed to going as hard and as fast as we can. The issues are not going away and we need decisive action. Our aim is to get a draft strategy out for your comment later this year. If we can we will be delivering it back to Mr Anderton and his colleagues before the election so that they can declare where they stand as they put themselves forward for another term.

What we do will only be a draft because the Strategy needs the whole of this community standing behind it and we need an opportunity to work with wider regional and national interest groups as well. We are committed to a formal submissions process and to those submissions being publicly available as we move to finalize the strategy next year.

The feedback we get today, is vital, we are endeavouring to get as many people and organisations feeding into this, as we can because once it is finalized this Strategy will effect every user of this coast and so it is important that we get that feedback. So please take copies of the Characterisation Report. If they run out we will print more. Take copies of the comments form and distribute as far as you can.

Finally, thank you so much for taking the time to come here today and join your passion for this coast with that of Te Korowai.

I would like to leave you with a pepeha (proverb) to ponder

**Mahia te kai, ka timu te tai ka pao te torea**

Translated means, Work at getting food, for the tide is ebbing and the oyster catcher strikes, in other words When the opportunity offers, one must not sit idle and let it pass.

Tena koutou.....



# Open Forum

Participants worked in small groups identifying what they valued about the Kaikoura coast, the issues Te Korowai needed to grapple with and how they wanted Te Korowai to work with them. This was summarised by Guardians Paul McGahan and Linda Kitchingham. Then people were invited to make individual statements. The material recorded by the groups and the summaries are presented below along notes taken on the individual statements.

## Values

Workshop participants recorded that they valued:

### *Environment:*

- Beauty
- High water quality
- Water quality
- Still good water quality
- Uniqueness-marine life , People ,Mountains meeting sea, Deep trench
- Clean air x2
- Richness, diversity, uniqueness-marine-people.
- Potential

### *Natural ecology:*

- Fish
- Marine mammals
- Natural areas functioning naturally
- Diversity-Animal and plant
- Diversity of marine life
- Species diversity-reef fish, pelagic

### *Use:*

- No license to fish -recreational
- Still some unexploited species-lets keep it that way, e.g. periwinkle, seaweeds, limpets
- Unexploited species still here Eg-penwinkle , limpets, seaweeds(stripped elsewhere by other people )
- 
- Recreational values- fishing, views, Surfing, swimming, walking
- Ability to catch fish
- Utilisation -fishing-{commercial ,recreational ,customary}
- Economic, tourism/ commercial fishing
- Fishing, resource, recreational

### *Landscape/Amenity:*

- Views-unimpeded views
- Accessibility
- Cleanliness x2
- No high rises/lack of development
- Natural character / feel.
- Accessibility (also an issue)

- Unique character
- Largely unmodified foreshore
- Still places to enjoy a wildness experiences
- Accessible coastline-free unfettered access
- Scenery
- Uniqueness
- Unmodified foreshore (not many structures)
- Places where you can enjoy wildness value
- Visitors leaving with appreciation of natural environment
- Maintaining natural integrity (peninsula)
- Rugged, natural beauty

***Action:***

- Diversity protection
- Lead by example
- Integrated catchment management
  - looking after our waterways
  - wind blown rubbish
- Education and research
- Protecting it from pollution in the future

***Legal:***

- Local use/ownership
- Accessible coastline - free access, legal rights
- Freedom of access

***Historic/Cultural***

- Historical significance x2
- Peninsula as a place of significance and recognise it as a special place for the people of Kaikoura

# *Issues*

The issues participants recorded that they wanted Te Korowai to deal with were:

## **Use:**

- Sustainability x2
- Over fishing
- Poaching
- Large scale fishing from outside area
- Outside influences of fish stock, e.g. transient fish
- Poaching shellfish, crayfish
- Difficult cultural perspectives in use
- Over fishing -fishing down the food chain(bigger fish first) less big fish within a species
- Freedom camping - rubbish
- Agreement -sharing resources especially fishing
- Exploitation of fishery
- Increased tourism pressures -environment ,infrastructure
- Enhancement -relocating stock(e.g. paua), response to sea conditions information
- Vehicles on foreshore
- Allowable takes
- Decline of paua and seafood
- Monitoring commercial boats
- Levies by commercial fishery - where does it go?
- Extend fishing boundaries in coastal areas
- Non-community use
- Legal takes
- No go areas
- Lack of info on marine area
- Passing of knowledge to visitors e.g. - charter fisheries
- Recreation take

## **Natural ecology:**

- Species protection
- Threats to wildlife- fishing practices unsafe- pollution, plastics,
- Maintenance and ecosystem
- Coastal development-sediment discharge -stopping access - pressure on commercial facilities(water, sewerage etc)
- Diversity

## **Natural Environment:**

- Clean water ways
- Insufficient base line info on -natural environment
  - Fish stocks
  - land use effects
  - town /rural development
  - recreational usage
- Maintaining water quality
- Vulnerability of our coastline
- Prevention of contamination
- Pollution -run off -agriculture dairy fertilizer bilge boat, rubbish, sediment, freedom

- camping, sewage scale to be regulated
- Hector's Dolphins -death, -poor info
- Development of coastline

**Action:**

- Breaking down barriers b/w different parties
- Secure future Funding for Guardians
- Rubbish and other pollution
- Access onto water-need to control
- Education

**Social environment:**

- How does KK see itself as a community?
  - community identity
  - what does it want to be?
- Diversity of vested interests
- Population/technology
- Poor public awareness generally -cultural values e.g. new immigrants
- Diversity
- Lack of funding from tourists

**Legal:**

- Over regulation
- Insufficient penalties
- Risk of area closed to some
- Poaching -policing
- Compliance
  - fishery
  - water quality
  - camping

**Knowledge:**

- Lack of info
- Monitoring
- Research-Hectors Dolphins
- Unmeasured impact/lack of research e.g.
  - Hectors Dolphin
  - commercial fishing
  - seamounts
  - Rec fishing scale/numbers etc

## **Process**

Participants suggested the following ways Te Korowai could have good processes on community engagement:

**Culture:**

- Co-operation
- Consultation
- Collaboration
- Compromise

- Focus on the future
- Leadership
- Give or take?
- Act now - don't wait for central government
- Compromise
- Leadership
- Give and take
- Acting now -not leaving to central government

**Action:**

- Conservation Education
- Building and network and body of knowledge
- Regulation and enforcement
- Enhancement and restoration
- Open days - e.g. on site of Rahui
- Website surveys.
- Direct dialogue -invitations to participate
- Public notice board
- Site visits - just cruising coast and talking to people.
- Through the info centre
- Liaising with established groups- e.g. fishing clubs, dive clubs, dive training clubs.
- Info sharing between commercial users and providers
- Hold discussions on selected topics
- Limit take
- Rahui solution
- Frequent up dates
- Newspaper -feedback to participates
- T.V - set this process info out nationally
- Build a network
- Marine reserves x2
- Education
- Regulation and enforcement
- Enhancement and restoration
- Lots of talking and lots of cups of tea
- Communications e.g.
  - Receive update frequently - via e mail
  - Invitations to participate
  - Newspaper articles -everyone informed
  - T.V - so people know what happening
  - Website
- Reporting -email
  - Pamphlet
  - Forums
  - Web sites
- Feedback to participants
- Frequent consultation
- Discuss selected topics
- Limit take
- Rahui solutions?
- Open days on site Rahui celebration
- Website survey link to Kaikoura

- Direct dialogue
- Public notice board
- Site visits -going along cost to talk to people
- Info centre
- Info sharing between commercial users and providers

**Connection:**

- Community support
- Government buy in
- Must get to non-club people
- Children-education of natural history x2
- Happy with representation system but what about non club people
- Divers?
- Engaging other interest groups
- Letting larger bodies ex-fishing clubs, use of established dive clubs networks and dive training clubs

## ***Individual Views***

**Vic Foster:**

- Ex commercial fisher
- Quote- owner ship -care
- Same needed for rec fisher give “sense of ownership” belongs to them
- Penalties need to be much higher
- How many people cf: amount of fish/paua
- Crayfish limit per boat to also apply to divers
- Water quality don't repeat in Kaikoura what has happened in Christchurch
- Makes rules clear enforce lots of people passing though

**Dave Barker:**

- Look overseas
- Decline of paua
- Don't look to govt Depts
- Slow process
- Unique opportunity
- Go for gold our opportunity to make history
- Ten Rahui

**Dillon Simpson:**

- Stakeholders includes everything in marine environment
- Education of kids needs sense of ownership values of country and coastline

**D Daly:**

- Over-exploited
- Catch limits far too high
- More and more people
- Technology
- People too greedy

- Enforcement slap on hand

**David Milne:**

- Culture in older generation
- Catch and put in freezer

## *Media reporting*

# Coastal report launch triumph

[JO GILBERT](#) - Kaikoura Star | Wednesday, 27 February 2008

**A recent public forum held to release a Kaikoura coast comprehensive report has been heralded as a great success.**

Representatives from the forum's host and report authors Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (the Kaikoura Coastal Marine Guardians), the independent facilitator, the Ministry of Fisheries, and the Kaikoura District Council, among others, all said the report's launch was a success which received positive public feedback.

Held at the Takahanga Marae on February 16, the forum attracted more than 100 people, with some from as far away as Golden Bay and Christchurch, said Te Korowai's independent facilitator Peter Lawless.

The characterisation report, which was officially launched at the meeting by the Minister of Fisheries Jim Anderton, contains all the relevant information on the Kaikoura coast marine environment.

The report will aid development of a holistic coastal management strategy which will protect the Kaikoura marine environment for future generations.

Aside from the release of the report, scientific experts delivered informative presentations about the Kaikoura coast and there was an open forum for the public to have their say, Mr Lawless said.

There were also information stands for the public to browse. The report is now out for public submissions until April 30.

From there, a draft coastal management report will be written by Te Korowai and released by the end of September.

Mr Lawless said the report was incredibly significant to the community and as a result, community involvement was of great importance.

"The emphasis is for the community to be in charge and to get commitment from people to make it really part of the culture," he said.

Te Korowai chairman John Nicholls said he was very impressed by the turnout and by the input received from the public.

"At the end of the day, if it's not what the community wants then it's not going to work," he said.

In his speech at the forum, Mr Anderton acknowledged that forming a management strategy for the coast would be a challenging task.

"You will be tackling many of the sustainability and marine management issues that confront all New Zealanders, as we go about using and enjoying our marine environment.

"While this is a potentially daunting task, remember it has been achieved before by the Guardians of Fiordland."

In 2003 the Guardians of Fiordland's Fisheries and Marine Environment completed an eight-year project to improve marine resource management in Fiordland.

Representatives from the Fiordland guardians were also present at the forum and spoke about what it took to get special legislation and how they succeeded in doing so.

Te Korowai was formed in 2005 by the local runanga (tribal council) and is made up of 16 groups including fishermen, conservation groups, tourism operators, the Kaikoura District Council and the Kaikoura Marine and Coastal Protection Society.

The Te Korowai guardians are all volunteers and they are mostly funded by the Department of Conservation with contributions from the Ministry for the Environment, Environment Canterbury, the Kaikoura District Council, and Te Runanga o Ngati Kuri.