



The first 10 days (1 to 12 September 2008) of construction of a marina at Whangamata.

INTRODUCTION

Developers, through the local and regional Councils, have obtained consents for a marina in Whangamata. This since the local Council bought the land in 1985. On 1st of September 2008 HEB contractors came on to the site and began works.

The granting of consents by the Minister of the Environment (2006) to build a marina at Whangamata was the catalyst that helped form Surfbreak Protection Society Incorporated (SPS). Two issues why SPS opposed these consents are:

- 1) The continuous removal of large amounts of sand to land with its effects on the quality of waves at the Whangamata Bar.
- 2) The lack of the respective Councils interacting with the public and with representative surfing societies on protection and safeguarding of surfbreaks. In this case the world famous sand bank the Whangamata Bar.

POINT OF THE REPORT

Many of Surfbreak's members know Whangamata from the late 1950's. They have used, read and researched every thing that has effects on the Whangamata Bar. Now that works have started SPS intends to report on what will transpire, for the information of the world wide surfing community and to add to our own archives. SPS are using the Whangamata situation to create a platform for anecdotal reporting for other areas of the coastline. Because of the intensity of the situation, reporting will be approximately at two weekly intervals.

There seems to be no obvious Public reporting from Councils.

SPS will keep a watchful eye on the ability of the Thames Coromandel District Council and Waikato Regional Council to monitor such a project and their ability to keep the respect of all other users and ecosystems of the Whangamata estuarine system.

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

An unreported eel habitat on Council lands and the eels have been destroyed by diggers .



The contractors came on site on the 1st of September. Their first actions were to build a perimeter drain and a security fence on the TCDC land. They then removed the grassed crust of the flat land and used the material to make bunds on the insides of the drains. A

5m x 5m x 1.2m hole was also dug. These earth works were carried out prior to any water-from-land management systems being put in place.

There has been a swell running during this time with surfers using the Bar. Unacceptable amounts of land based sediment from these works left the site from the 2nd to the 9th September. On the 5th and 6th of September the surfers at the Bar could not see their feet when sitting on their boards. SPS monitors believe this was a breach of the turbidity clauses of the Marina Society's consents, both in the strength of turbidity and the distance travelled.



These photos were taken at the same time 20 meters apart in the rain of 8 September 2008. On the left the drain of the marina society "silt pond", on the right the slipways carpark and roading stormwater drain.

The Councils and SPS agree that there were pollution "events" in this time frame. SPS monitors believe it came from the TCDC high-density (pre-construction) housing site, and the marina site (all public lands). The two Councils said it did not come from the council / marina area. The councils declined to research other possibilities of source. The contractors also filled a 20 sq metres of foreshore under MHS to block water flow to and from the saltmarsh. This great natural water filter of Whangamata is now defunct. We argue that water quality at the Bar has been degraded as a result.

In the first 10 days an eel nursery has been destroyed and breaches of the Silt Control clauses of the Marina Societies Resource Consent Decision No. A010/2005 have taken place. Clauses 14 & 15, Page 23.

Reporting by; Paul Shanks, Grant McIntosh, Karl Aarsen, Et al. Whangamata, NZ.

Next Report will report on construction from 14th September to 28th September 2008.

**If you wish to comment or write such a report, contact
Surfbreak Protection Society Inc.**

surfbreak.protection@gmail.com or PO Box 20717, Glenn Eden, Auckland