

— inevitably this would mean restricting commercial developments that caused an adverse impact to these systems.

An important catalyst to the day's proceedings was Ken Piddington, Director-General of Conservation. He noted the coastal environment was part of the heritage of all New Zealanders and supported the feeling of the workshop that under any formula which allowed the coastal estate to be traded, market realism would lead to private and possibly foreign ownership of our

property, presently held in common trust.

There was also a fundamental Maori objection to moving any component of the commons from the mana of the Crown, he said.

In essence, participants felt positive moves were being made towards coastal conservation, and hopes were high that coastal administrators and all New Zealanders would adopt a more respectful approach to the beautiful and finite resource that is our coastline.



Conservation Department Director-General Ken Piddington: "We all need to be involved."

mosaic of values. It is typical of the coastal zone that to give prominence to one value, say farm production, is to put others at risk. Where the estate is under DOC oversight, such outcomes can be avoided.

Another effect of DOC's role will be the involvement of a large number of professional staff around the coastline who will be able to inspect and monitor the coastal zone. DOC will be geared to deal with illegal activities throughout the public estate. In the upcoming review of the Harbours Act we will be particularly keen to see the provisions relating to prosecutions simplified and made more effective.

The integration of all DOC's functions and the implications of its mission are most significant. As far as we can ascertain, there has not been created anywhere in the world a department of state with such a logical mandate.

In the marine area the Department of Conservation has already signalled its intentions to pick up its responsibilities under the Marine Reserves Act with urgency. Early in 1987 the Ministry of Fisheries will hand over its work on Marine Protected Areas Policy, Marine Protected Areas Legislation and specific regional marine reserve proposals to DOC. We have proposed that this be by means of public comment on the documentation provided. I trust that many of you will take this opportunity to make submissions.

DOC's responsibilities under the Marine Mammals Act will begin with the immediate problems for which policy will be needed as a matter of priority. In particular the thorny

question of live dolphin capture will demand attention. The development of the West Coast hoki fishery is bringing fishermen into conflict with the now expanding fur seal populations, in a development parallel to the Hooker sealion/squid fishing conflict. DOC will also need to develop policy to oversee the transfer of the marine mammal stranding rescue network from MAF to DOC.

A third major area of marine involvement is that of the role of Maori Authorities in fisheries/kai moana management. We will take an active role in discussions about Maori fisheries and will also work through Maori tribal authorities in relation to Marine Reserves legislation.

Fourthly, DOC will have much work to do in establishing an effective working relationship with the other principal actors in marine management — particularly MAF but also catchment authorities, the Ministry of Transport and Harbour Boards.

In the coastal context there will be a major effort in establishing appropriate policy to deal with Harbours Act responsibilities, including licensing activities for reclamation and harbour works (including marinas), application of environmental procedures, prosecution for (and rehabilitation of) illegal works, grants of control, management of coastal wetlands and salt marshes, beach and dune areas and esplanade reserves.

There will need to be a lot of work to integrate Maori interests into all areas of policy. DOC will have an active role in the follow up to the recommendations of the

Conservation success on first maritime plan.

The four Auckland Forest and Bird branches have substantially changed the Waitemata Harbour Maritime Plan. It now reflects the conservation values of the harbour. Submissions presented by Gary Taylor, Mark Bellingham and many Society members have made sure that:

- 40% of the Waitemata Harbour now has zoning to protect natural features:
- All mangroves and saltmarshes are protected.
- Important bird feeding areas were added to conservation zones around bird roosts.
- The importance of natural values at Pollen Island were recognised as more important than its value as a container port site.

Despite these achievements Forest and Bird will be appealing some aspects of the decision. We are also concerned at the Auckland Harbour Board's approach to maritime planning. The lack of informal public involvement in planning resulted in many hours of tedious hearings. This is an especially important lesson which informal dialogue could have avoided for the forthcoming Manukau Harbour Maritime Plan, where the public have literally been shut out of the planning process. However, prospects could be brighter with newly elected harbour board members and environmentalists Max Purnell and Stella Penny heading the Manukau hearings. 🐦

Manukau Treaty of Waitangi Tribunal, looking at such issues as the appropriate ownership and control of seabed and foreshore. There is also a large amount of work to be done restoring areas of coastal estate with prospects for such activities as the planting of pingao, etc.

Most of the principal statutes dealing with aspects of coastal management are due for revision within the first two years of DOC's inception, including the Harbours Act itself. This will require considerable effort. Again DOC will approach such tasks seeking public views and the close involvement of interested groups.

In all of these areas there is a common thread and that is that DOC is the trustee or guardian, as the case may be, for the coastal commons. In all its endeavours DOC will be seeking to involve the public to the fullest possible extent. The task is large, as is the estate. While DOC will have greater ability than the previous administration to monitor and manage this special heritage, its effectiveness will be enhanced by the assistance it receives from the public that you represent. Modern Western society has shown a pronounced trend towards institutionalising its responsibilities. This trend has to be reversed in the area of conservation management of the commons. We all need to be involved and I look forward to a new form of management throughout New Zealand, in close partnership with such local groups as yourselves. Together we should perhaps take out advertisements for the coastal estate proclaiming "Watch this Space." 🐦