



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Weaving the Strands

Promoting and facilitating integrated management around the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana

All about ambition

The challenge the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act presents to management agencies is to integrate, in order to protect and enhance environmental quality. Do this and we will sustain the capacity of the Gulf to support life: economic, social, cultural and natural well beings.

Easy? Don't you believe it.

There are a range of systemic drivers and forces that mean the best efforts of councils and government departments often miss the mark when aiming for improved environment health.

Incremental decline off a historically low base was the picture revealed by the *State of our Gulf* report last year. Over time this inevitably spells less pristine bays, swimmable beaches, uncluttered boating routes, whales and dolphins, aggregations of large snapper, endemic seabirds, healthy reefs, sandy margins, and nutrient and pathogen free areas suited to aquaculture...

That is why we need to find some circuit breakers in the planning toolbox and why the Hauraki Gulf Forum has investigated and advocated for a marine spatial planning process for the Gulf.

Marine spatial planning occurs in a joined-up, whole-of-system framework in which areas for protection and use are located optimally.

The essential first layer for any such exercise is mapping the ecological backbone of the system, and then locating appropriate uses in and around that. Lots of work gathering information



A new economy and sense of identity can be built on an improving environment.

and knowledge, mapping and creating a decision support tool called SeaSketch is underway.

A collaborative process will be used to invite stakeholders – commercial and recreational fishers, boaties, recreational users, shipping interests, environmental NGOs, adjacent land-users, marine farmers, communities – to locate their interests within the spatial plan. The plan is expected to release economic, cultural and recreational opportunities where they do not conflict with environmental and sustainability requirements.

The relationships of mana whenua with the Hauraki Gulf, Tikapa Maona will be recognised in the project design.

All these parties share a common goal – a healthy system that provides goods and services essential to their businesses and passions.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan process is set to kick off early next year. The Hauraki Gulf Forum will exercise its role to ensure the plan that gets delivered is a principled and ambitious one.



Mayor John Tregidga,
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Bryde's whale on Motuihe Island.



Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei settlement.



Hauturu history addressed.

Whale code of conduct

Another critically endangered Bryde's whale has died and a necropsy has shown the cause of death was ship strike. The female, 14.5 metre whale washed up on rocks near Wharf Bay, Motuihe Island on 12 November.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum, the Environmental Defence Society and the University of Auckland have convened two workshops this year to address ship strike.

In the last 16 years there have been 42 confirmed deaths of Bryde's whales in the Gulf. Eighteen of these dead whales were examined and 16 are most likely to have died as the result of being struck by a vessel.

Currently a few large ships travel through the Hauraki Gulf at more than 20 knots. The average speed is 14.2 knots. Scientists have estimated that if speed is reduced to 10 knots, Bryde's whales have a 75% chance of surviving a strike.

Shipping representatives have agreed to implement a number of measures:

- Slowing ships down in the Hauraki Gulf when schedules permit.
- Establishing 'moveable' shipping lanes to reduce the area of the gulf in which ships travel.
- Having crew watching for whales during the day.
- Establishing a Hauraki Gulf Large Whale Warning System, to relay sightings to all shipping in the gulf through the Ports of Auckland.
- A research fund focusing on ways of reducing ship strike.

We're back

The first kiwi have been released onto Motutapu-Rangitoto, a major milestone in the restoration and development of the iconic islands.

The five Coromandel brown kiwi released on October 23 were part of a genetic diversification programme to help secure the survival of this rare type of kiwi which has a current population of around 1500. Up to 50 will be moved from the Coromandel Peninsula to Motutapu Island over the next four to six years.

Motutapu Restoration Trust chair Chris Fletcher says she was delighted by the arrival. "Trust volunteers have worked on the island since 1994 to re-establish the natural and cultural landscapes. They have planted more than 400,000 native trees, creating a viable forest habitat for the return of native wildlife."

Seven pests, including rats, mice, stoats and cats, were removed from the 3,800 ha islands by the Department of Conservation in a programme officially declared successful in August last year.

The occasion also saw the launch of a new organisation Kiwis for Kiwi, building on 21 years of experience as BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust, to generate greater resources to protect kiwi and the places they live.

www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/first-kiwi-release-on-motutapu-island-marks-launch-of-new-kiwi-agency/

History in the making

Legislation to settle the historical treaty claims of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Ngāti Manuhiri passed into law last month.

The claims of Ngāti Manuhiri relate to the loss of land and the actions of the Crown, covering the eastern coastline from Whangaparoa/Orewa to Mangawhai, including Hauturu/Little Barrier Island. Ngāti Manuhiri has around 1200 members. The settlement includes commercial and financial redress worth \$9 million, as well as the return of six culturally significant sites including 1.2 hectares of land on Hauturu/Little Barrier Island.

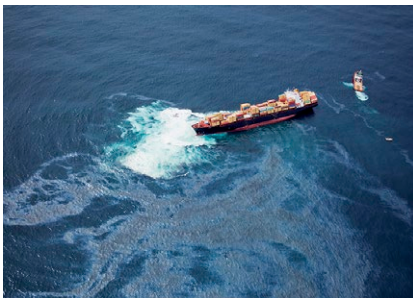
The Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei settlement includes financial and commercial redress worth \$18 million, which includes \$2 million already received by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as redress for the 1993 Railways settlement, and the return of the culturally significant site, Purewa Creek Conservation Area.

Hauraki Gulf Forum Chairman John Tregidga said it was significant that Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei would host the Forum's December meeting on its marae. "There are important opportunities for the Forum and its members in exploring and shaping relationships with tangata whenua in the management of the resources of the Gulf in the post Treaty settlement environment."

www.ots.govt.nz



Copper levels elevated.



Oil spill claims seabirds.



Flesh footed shearwater.



Capturing hearts and minds.



Land and Water Forum addresses limits.



A national plan for seabirds

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation are currently developing a new National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in New Zealand fisheries.

“New Zealand strives to be a world leader in fisheries management and the ongoing sustainability of our natural resources, including the conservation of seabirds,” MPI’s Deputy Director General Resource Management and Programmes, Scott Gallacher, said.

The National Plan of Action – Seabirds will provide a framework to inform management for the next five years and should guide and direct significant improvements in seabird by-catch.

New Zealand has the most diverse seabird community in the world, however a number of species are declining at rates their populations cannot sustain, most notably the Hauraki Gulf’s black petrel.

The plan covers both commercial and amateur fishing impacts and provides overarching strategic goals, but the detailed by-catch reduction targets will need to be set within the 5-year National Fisheries Plans and the Annual Plans for each fishery group.

Seabird advocates will need to remain fully engaged with the process to ensure that meaningful targets are set to ensure seabird populations like the Black Petrel are able to recover.

www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/npoa+seabirds/default.htm

Seabirds vulnerable

A Hauraki Gulf seabird conservation and management plan, commissioned by the Hauraki Gulf Forum and due for release next year, identifies marine pollution as one of four main threats to seabirds in the Gulf. Introduced predators, habitat modification through urban development, and interactions with fisheries are the others.

Researchers examining Bay of Plenty beaches in a five week period following the wreck of the Rena near Tauranga in November 2011 recovered over 2,000 dead birds, two-thirds of which showed external contamination with oil.

Some species appeared particularly vulnerable to the effects of oil with flocking birds such as diving petrels, fluttering shearwaters and Buller’s shearwaters at the top of the list.

Autopsies on the unoiled birds found the most common causes of death to be starvation (17 percent) and amateur fishing-related mortality (9 percent).

Overseas research shows that in such oil spills, only about 10% of birds are recovered suggesting up to 20,000 birds killed in total.

Copper from marinas

A new report shows leaching of paints used on vessel hulls is a significant source of copper in the marine environment.

Copper is now found in almost all antifouling paints in New Zealand, following a 1988 ban on organic tin based paint products for use on recreational vessels.

A survey was undertaken of eight marinas in Auckland and found copper concentrations in most marinas exceeded water quality guidelines for protection of marine life. The report estimated that the total amount of copper being discharged from Auckland marinas to the wider harbour due to vessel hull leaching is approximately 3100 kg/year, roughly double that predicted from stormwater for the entire Waitemata Harbour catchment.

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/aboutcouncil/planspoliciespublications/technicalpublications/TR2012033Antifoulingbiocidesinmarinas.pdf

Mussel tip-offs sought

A new trust which aims to restore the historic mussel beds of the Firth of Thames and Tamaki Strait is seeking help over summer.

It is asking fishermen, divers and boaties to identify areas of remaining mussel beds.

“We are interested in the sub-tidal beds, not mussels on rocks exposed at low tide,” says group chairman John Laurence. “These beds once covered large parts of the Gulf seafloor but were systematically dredged and then poached by divers through the 1910s to 1970s, until today we are not sure of the extent of relic beds or if any remain.”

Studying any surviving beds is an important first step in the group’s vision to restore the Gulf’s mussels.

“Mussel beds support 10 times the number of snapper found on sandy or mud areas, create habitat for a multitude of small animals, and filter

vast amounts of water a day. In many ways they are the lungs of the Gulf and we’d like to involve the community in bringing back this functionality.”

Reports of remnant beds will be treated in confidence and can be sent to

musselreef@gmail.com

Growing minds

The Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi recently launched its Growing Minds education programme, aimed at encouraging more children from lower decile schools to visit the island.

Running Events, an Auckland events management company, has been one of the first to pledge support enabling 1,000 children to travel to Tiritiri Matangi, with ferry company 360 Discovery meeting the cost of accompanying adults and teachers.

<http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/school-visits>

Under consultation

Auckland and Waikato Conservation Management Strategies	Department of Conservation	http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/conservation-management-strategies/
Waitemata Network Discharge Consent	Auckland Council	http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/HaveYourSay/Pages/currentconsultations.aspx

The Hauraki Gulf Forum is a statutory body charged with the promotion and facilitation of integrated management and the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Affairs, elected representatives from Auckland Council (including the Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards), Waikato Regional Council, and the Waikato, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata Piako district councils, plus six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands.

Contact: Tim Higham, Hauraki Gulf Forum Manager, Auckland Council
Ph 09 367 4209 tim.higham@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz

Photo credits: Kim Westerskov, Frédéric Pelsy, DoC, Auckland Council.

Towards Limits

The third and final report of the Land and Water Forum was released last month, covering how to manage within limits, and drawing to a close four years of work by the independent body.

The report recommends integrated decision-making in catchments, continuous improvement of management practices to improve water quality and clearer rights to take and use water within set limits.

“We want to grow the economy and improve the environment,” says Forum chairman, Alastair Bisley, describing the consensus report as “a once in a generation chance to resolve the entrenched problems surrounding fresh water.”

The report has been presented to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Primary Industries and is publically available.

www.landandwater.org.nz

Pest-free warrant

The Department of Conservation, the Auckland Council and Auckland’s maritime industry recently celebrated the first anniversary of the introduction of the Pest-free Warrant scheme.

The biosecurity accreditation programme incentivizes commercial vessel operators and tourism concessionaires to help protect the pest-free islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

The inspection process examines how well operators apply biosecurity measures to their own operations as well as how well they communicate the risks of pest invasions and preventative measures to their customers.

Nineteen companies have been warranted under the scheme to date.

www.treasureislands.co.nz



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi