



Hauraki Gulf Forum
Tikapa Moana
Te Moananui a Toi

Weaving the Strands

Promoting and facilitating integrated management around the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui a Toi.

Get involved

A significant milestone was passed on 9 September with the official launch of Sea Change – the process to prepare a Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

Its genesis represents the efforts and interests of many parties in encouraging an integrated approach to management of the Hauraki Gulf.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum assisted in 2011 by commissioning a review of marine spatial planning experience around the world – identifying its potential to address protection and sustainable use in the Gulf.

Sea Change is a partnership involving mana whenua and statutory agencies – Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

The plan will be developed through a collaborative process with stakeholders. Public input is essential and will be encouraged, including through the use of a new tool called SeaSketch.

Information about the process and the opportunity to sign up are provided on the project website www.seachange.org.nz.

Charles Ehler, author of the UNESCO guide to marine spatial planning, joined us at the launch, presenting a session at the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar as well as public talks in Hamilton and Auckland.

It was good to hear, after the long gestation of this project, all the factors he identified as necessary for



success have been anticipated: political will, authority, financing, stakeholder engagement, clear objectives, analytical capacity, best available information and vision.

Charles' presentation, along with other talks from the 2013 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar, is available on our web site.

Co-chairing the project's steering group are Paul Majurey and Auckland Councillor Penny Webster, who noted at the launch:

"The Hauraki Gulf is an extremely precious taonga, highly valued by all people for a wide range of cultural, environmental, social and economic reasons. For example, it is heavily used for recreation and generates more than \$2.7 billion in economic activity each year. But the Gulf's health is deteriorating in a variety of ways due to various pressures on its use and land use in areas near the coast. Sea Change – the

first project of its kind in New Zealand – will identify what we need to do to better safeguard its future."

The steering group will ultimately recommend the plan to councils and agencies for implementation through relevant legislation, rules, plans and activities.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum will support this process and monitor its success, as part of its responsibilities under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act.

Sea Change is an opportunity to craft a new and innovative approach to marine management in New Zealand. Let's make it the people's plan.



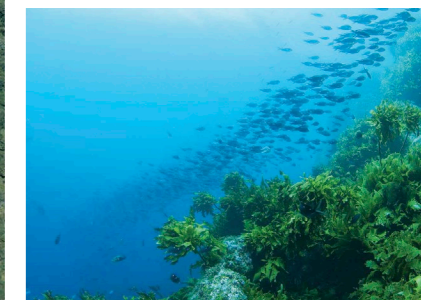
Mayor John Tregidga,
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum



Rats to be removed from Rakitu.



Rena grounding prompted muiOmeter.



Forest and Bird looks at MPA design.

Barrier initiative

Conservation Minister Nick Smith and Auckland Central MP Nikki Kaye have proposed a new Conservation Park for Great Barrier Island.

A new 15,000 ha Conservation Park, about 55 per cent of the island area, would help build recreation and tourism potential says Nikki Kaye.

Currently stewardship land, a conservation park would give greater protection for the island's flora and fauna, and is consistent with a recent report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

The Department of Conservation has been asked to report on the proposal and initiate a process of consultation with local iwi and the Great Barrier and Auckland communities.

Minister Smith also committed funding to make Rakitu Island, off Great Barrier's north-eastern coast, pest free.

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea have kaitiaki responsibilities for Rakitu and know that removing rats is a vital step to reviving the mauri of the island.

Rat eradication on the 327 hectare island would take two to three years to plan and complete.

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-conservation-park-and-pest-free-sanctuary-proposed-hauraki-gulf

MauriOmeter

A new website has been launched to help consider mauri in resource management processes.

Mauri is the life supporting capacity of an ecosystem, including the people who co-exist within its environment. When the mauri is damaged, its restoration requires the recognition of important meta-physical considerations that are not included in conventional impact assessment and decision making.

The website combines assessment of worldviews with indicators of four well being dimensions to determine sustainability and trends over time.

Dr Kepa Morgan of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Indigenous Centre for Research Excellence at the University of Auckland, developed the website to consider mauri in restoration efforts following the grounding of the MV Rena.

www.mauriometer.com

MPA guidance

Forest and Bird have published a new report to guide the design of marine protected area networks.

Marine Protected Area Networks: Process design and ecosystem-based approaches was prepared by Hannah Thomas of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Nicholas Shears of the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Auckland.

The report reviews a selection of recent MPA network design processes from around the world and summarises the key issues for designing networks. It develops recommendations for future MPA design processes, particularly in

relation to no-take zones and the New Zealand MPA Policy, and highlights examples of the benefits of MPAs to fisheries.

Forest and Bird Marine Conservation Advocate Katrina Subedar said she hoped the report would assist in developing a marine spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/files/file/F&B%20MPA%20network%20report.pdf>

Rotoroa targets mice

Rotoroa Island has closed for the winter to enable the eradication of mice and expects to be open to the public again in early October.

Three aerial drops of the household rodent bait, brodifacoum, will be applied by helicopter using a highly accurate on-board navigational system; a technique used successfully on other Hauraki Gulf islands.

Eradication of all rodents from Rotoroa will enable the recovery of dotterel, skink and gecko populations and allow the reintroduction of endangered species such as kiwi and giant weta.

Working alongside Auckland Zoo, the Rotoroa Island Trust is creating a conservation, arts and heritage park on the Salvation Army owned island.

www.rotoroa.org.nz

Customary interest

Several customary marine title applications have been lodged in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park area



Nearly 50,000 submitted on snapper future.



Aerial drop on Rotorua targets mice.



Cruise ship spend set to grow.



Whale, shorebird and seabird champions are recognized.



Jim Holdaway at the marine park 10th anniversary.

under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.

They include areas bordering Kennedy/ Harataunga Bay and Mataorā Bay on the Coromandel Peninsula and Pākiri Beach.

Customary marine title is a common law concept which recognises property rights of indigenous people that have continued since or before acquisition of Crown sovereignty to the present day.

Further information on the applications and the provisions of the Act are available from the Ministry of Justice website.

www.justice.govt.nz/treaty-settlements/office-of-treaty-settlements/marine-and-coastal-area-takutai-moana

Measuring up?

The Auckland Council has released its second annual State of Auckland report cards, to provide a picture of how the region is doing, socially, economically and within built and natural environments.

The report cards are prepared for each local board area and include marine water and sediment quality categories.

The top monitoring sites for both categories occur at coastal sites north of Auckland. Sites in the Central Waitemata and Tamaki Estuary were ranked in the bottom five for levels of sediment contaminants such as heavy metals.

Meanwhile a new report by Waikato Regional Council on water quality trends in Waikato rivers between 1993 to 2012 paints a mixed picture, with

improvements in some measures but important declining trends when it comes to nitrogen content, clarity and turbidity.

Concentrations of total nitrogen were found to be increasing in the region, through runoff and leaching from pastoral farming, with important deteriorations noted at some sites in the Waihou catchment and Piako Rivers and their tributaries. However, improvements in concentrations of total phosphorus occurred at about half of all sites in the wider Hauraki catchment.

<http://stateofauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/>

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/PageFiles/26868/TR201320.pdf

Estuary plea

A plea for estuaries ended a recent meeting of New Zealand's freshwater and marine science societies in Hamilton.

Dr Clive Howard-Williams, Chief Scientist of Freshwater and Estuaries at NIWA, said New Zealand's 300 estuaries are important nurseries for fish, they filter out contaminants and are a 'hot spot' for wildlife and ecosystem services.

"Research is falling between the cracks" he said. "Managing to limits – a key tenet of current freshwater reforms – may be extremely difficult to achieve in estuaries."

Members of the two societies called for a fully integrated approach to managing estuarine health, involving improved agricultural practice and better management of urban stormwater and

wastewater, underpinned by interdisciplinary research across the freshwater-marine space.

<http://freshwater.science.org.nz/index.php/news/nzfss-and-nzmss-2013-media-statement>

Ups for Motu Kaikoura

The Minister of Conservation has affirmed the work of the Motu Kaikoura Trust after reviewing its management of the island in Great Barrier's Port Fitzroy since 2005.

Achievements include eradication of deer, implementing a comprehensive weed control programme, producing a draft management plan, initiating steps to rationalise and improve island infrastructure, and making it accessible to young people through an agreement with the Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Attempts to eradicate rats proved unsuccessful due to re-invasion from adjacent mainland areas.

www.motukaikoura.org.nz

Tax break

The Minister of Conservation announced in July that amendments made to the Income Tax Act 2007 will now allow farmers to deduct riparian planting for conservation purposes as an operational expense rather than being classified as capital expenditure for taxation purposes. This will provide further encouragement to farmers to undertake planting on riparian margins for conservation purposes.

www.beehive.govt.nz/release/tax-reform-encourages-conservation-planting

Holdaway Awards

The inaugural winners of the Holdaway Awards were announced at the 2013 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar on 9 September.

The awards recognise the legacy of Jim Holdaway, who championed the creation of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in a career characterised by courage, service and leadership.

Hauraki Gulf Forum Chair John Tregidga said the awards looked to recognise those same qualities in active leaders, able to grow and utilise the mana of the award to further their influence in important contemporary issue areas. The winners are:

Dr Rochelle Constantine, University of Auckland, for her advocacy for the Hauraki Gulf Bryde's whale population.

Keith Woodley, Manager of the Miranda Shorebird Centre, for encouraging awareness of the shorebirds of the Firth of Thames and protection of the environments on which they depend.

Chris Gaskin, independent researcher, for his contributions to research, conservation and management of seabirds.

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.

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Photo credits: Auckland Council, DoC, Ngaire Wallen.

Snapper future

A decision on the future management of snapper in the Hauraki Gulf is expected before the beginning of the fishing season on 1 October.

A discussion paper released in July by the Ministry for Primary Industries noted that while overall snapper numbers in SNA 1 (North Cape to East Cape) have risen by 70 percent over the last 15 to 25 years, they are still only about half the level of the current management target of 40 percent of original biomass.

Submissions closed on 23 August after 47,709 submissions were received. A copy of the Final Advice Paper and the Minister's letter setting out his final decisions will be posted on the MPI website as soon as these become available.

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm>

Shed 10 transformed

The new cruise ship terminal at Shed 10 will service its first ship in October and help push earnings from cruise ship visits to \$150m in next 5 years, says Auckland Mayor Len Brown.

One hundred cruise ships visited Auckland last season bringing \$116 million into the region's economy.

"I'm confident we can grow that by creating the capacity for more and larger cruise ships, and by encouraging passengers and crew to spend more money and time in Auckland. That's not just business for retailers in the CBD, it's market gardens in Pukekohe, vineyards in Waiheke and truck firms in South Auckland," said Mayor Brown.

Shed 10, a refurbished cargo shed on Queens Wharf, officially opened as a cruise ship terminal in August.

www.queens-wharf.co.nz/Queens-Wharf/cruise.aspx