



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.

Getting cracking

It is good to see the Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari marine spatial plan process gaining momentum.

The recently re-launched project web site includes a survey (see box) inviting Gulf users to identify areas and values important to them.

The information is integrated with SeaSketch, an innovative mapping tool to help identify which places are best suited to protection and use.

A series of face-to-face meetings are also being held around the region to capture community aspirations about the Gulf's future.

A stakeholder working group – selected to represent different sectors and interests through a series of meetings last year - has met several times to consider issues and to receive briefings from subject experts.

This listening phase is important, enabling the working group to identify ways it wishes to address competing demands and a deteriorating environment.

Identifying and testing solutions require an exchange of information and ideas between the working group and communities they represent, so keep a close eye on the website to identify opportunities for further engagement.

The Hauraki Gulf Forum's triennial state of the environment assessment, due in the third quarter of this year, provides an important measure of progress.



The 2011 State of our Gulf report served as a wakeup call, documenting a situation of incremental decline off a historically low environmental base.

How are we faring three years on? Are our environmental resources improving or declining? Will the actions of management agencies be enough to make a difference?

Sea Change is a timely and important process to bind us together and forge a course of action serving us well into the future.



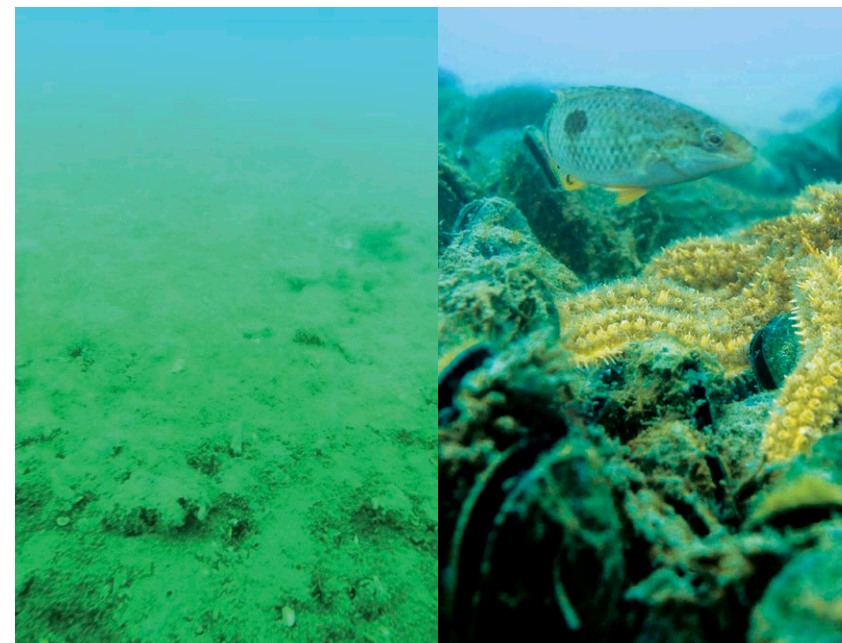
Mayor John Tregidga,
Chair, Hauraki Gulf Forum

Use and values survey

AUT University is conducting a research survey for Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari. The 'Hauraki Gulf use and values' survey provides opportunity to inform the project about your experience with the gulf, the places you visit – sea, coast, islands and land – and why you value these locations.

Visit the Seachange website, seachange.org.nz and click on the link to the survey. Participants can enter a draw to win a family pass for two adults and two children for a Waiheke Island Explorer Tour.

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



Mussels placed on barren, sandy mud in December are now living reefs.

Revival underway

The Revive Our Gulf project released dramatic pictures of the recovery of mussel beds in March (see above).

They reveal a vibrant community of fish and starfish living among the seven tonnes of supermarket-destined mussels laid as trial plots near eastern Waiheke in December 2013.

The community group aims to restore sub-tidal green-lipped mussel beds, common on soft sediments throughout much of the Gulf until destroyed by dredging early-to-mid last century.

Scientists are studying the trial plots to see if spat will settle and enable the reefs to become self-sustaining. Mussels are important filter feeders and community builders. The group aims to prove a restorative technique, enabling enhancement of the Gulf "bay by bay".

www.reviveourgulf.org.nz

Treaty progress

Te Kawerau ā Maki is the latest iwi to sign a Deed of Settlement with the Crown for outstanding historical treaty claims.

The settlement deed, signed on 22 February 2014, includes cultural, financial and commercial redress of \$6.5 million and contribution to the establishment of a Te Kawerau ā Maki marae at Te Onekiritea Point (Hobsonville).

Te Kawerau ā Maki has customary interests extending from the Tāmaki isthmus, northwards through Hikurangi (West Auckland) and lands around the

upper Waitemata Harbour and North Shore, and into the south Kaipara and Mahurangi. Cultural redress includes the vesting of nine significant cultural sites to the iwi, including Te Kawerau Pā on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

Meanwhile, the Department of Conservation is working closely with Ngāti Manuhiri to develop a joint management plan for Te Hauturu o Toi/ Little Barrier Island following settlement of the iwi's claim in 2012.

The department is also working with iwi within the Hauraki and Tāmaki collectives to discuss implementation of their impending settlement legislation.

www.ots.govt.nz

Storm petrel egg found

In further good news from Hauturu, scientists have found a New Zealand storm petrel egg.

The NZ storm petrel was presumed extinct then rediscovered in 2003, more than a century after the last sighting. In February last year they were tracked to breeding sites on Hauturu.

Scientists checked the egg was fertile while the female bird was away from its burrow nest. It measured 31mm by 23mm and was white with a fine dusting of pink spots at one end.

The New Zealand storm petrel is a sparrow-sized seabird which spends most of its life at sea, coming ashore only to breed. It is one of five seabird species which breed only in the Hauraki Gulf.

<http://tinyurl.com/mnynj53>



First NZ storm petrel egg seen in over a century.



Propeller injured bottlenose dolphin.

Care around dolphins

Hauraki Gulf boaties need to take greater care in sharing the water with marine mammals, Massey University researchers say.

PhD student Sarah Dwyer recently published a paper documenting severe propeller strike injuries sustained by an immature bottlenose dolphin near Great Barrier Island. Her colleagues have also documented blunt trauma in a common dolphin likely to have resulted from a collision with a jet ski.

Marine Mammal Protection Regulations require vessels to avoid rapid changes in speed and direction, and to not exceed speeds faster than the slowest mammal within 300 metres.

Pest alert

Auckland Council biosecurity staff are urging visitors to the Hauraki Gulf islands to help prevent the introduction of Argentine ants and rainbow skinks.

A recent survey undertaken at 76 high risk business sites in the Rodney area identified 37% of these sites having Argentine ant and/or rainbows skink present. Alarming 80% of these 76 sites supplied goods to Hauraki Gulf islands.

Argentine ants form super-colonies threatening native birds and can be unwittingly introduced with camping gear, luggage and pot plants. Infestations at Kawau and Great Barrier island are being controlled.

Rainbow skinks were also recently discovered near Tryphena wharf on



Coromandel's Otama Beach top break.



Leaders mark Waitawa Regional Park opening.

Great Barrier Island. The introduced lizard is commonly found around gardening supply outlets on the mainland, so checks of building materials and all landscape supplies including potting mix, mulch, bark and potted plants is encouraged before shipment to Gulf islands.

www.treasureislands.co.nz

Kākāpō success

One of three female kākāpō released onto Hauturu o Toi/Little Barrier Island in 2012 has been discovered nesting with three fertile eggs, bringing unexpected joy to the kākāpō recovery programme team.

Nine critically endangered kākāpō were transferred to the island as part of a trial to determine its suitability as a long term, unmanaged site.

It was thought it could take up to 10 years to know whether kākāpō were able to successfully raise their chicks without support.

Transmitter recordings show Heather mated with male kākāpō Dobbie three times between January 29 and February 3. Nests will be closely monitored to see if chicks can be raised successfully.

Apart from Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, where a large proportion of eggs have been found to be infertile, Little Barrier is the only island suitable for kākāpō beyond the swimming range of rats and stoats.

www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/2014/kakapo-successfully-breed-on-hauturu-little-barrier-island/



Kākāpō released on Hauturu surprise recovery team with fertile eggs.

Planning for surf

A new report has been published on planning and management of surf breaks. It examines the natural characteristics of surf breaks and the culture linked to them.

New Zealand was the first country in the world to adopt surf break protection within its resource management policy framework and they are now specifically provided for under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

The report assists organisations, community members and local authorities to identify issues and responses to avoid degradation of surf break integrity.

The report by Matt Skellern, Bailey Peryman, Shane Orchard, and Hamish Rennie was prepared for Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and Surfbreak Protection Society.

www.surfbreak.org.nz

New Rangitoto wharf

Work on construction of a new Rangitoto wharf is expected to be completed by mid year. The new \$5.5m facility will have a lifespan of at least 100 years, and is designed to be usable in all sailable weather conditions.

It can handle multiple vessel berths to help cater for the 100,000 visitors to pest-free Rangitoto and Motutapu each year.

www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/2012/new-rangitoto-wharf-to-enhance-island-experience/

Waitawa opens

Auckland's newest regional park at Waitawa opened on 7 March.

The 188 hectare regional park is the first to be opened by the Auckland Council. Purchased nine years ago by the Auckland Regional Council it is made up of three small peninsulas and fronts onto four bays.

Regional and specialist parks manager Mace Ward says Waitawa was purchased and developed "as a place for Aucklanders to play"; with trails for mountain biking, horse riding, walking and kayaking.

The park features the best example of a headland pā in the Auckland region, a homeland for Ngāti Pāoa and Ngāi Tai. From the 1950s, the headland was used for storing and manufacturing explosives and the wharf and buildings are reminders of this industrial past.

<http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitawa>

New snapper rules

The Ministry for Primary Industries is promoting fishing rule changes for snapper on the North Island's East Coast (the Snapper 1 region).

From April 1 the recreational bag limit will be seven snapper per fisher per day and the legal minimum size will be 30cm.

www.mpi.govt.nz



The Forum's four popular marine park poster series are back in print.

New Coromandel plan

The period for public submissions on the proposed Thames-Coromandel District Plan closed on 14 March.

The plan controls the way land is used, developed and subdivided, determines where activities can take place, with or without resource consent, and what natural and cultural features should be protected.

Thames-Coromandel District Council says the proposed plan incorporates changes to legislation and national and regional policies introduced since the current plan was developed in the 1990s, including the requirements of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act. "We realised our District Plan needed to be simpler, more user-friendly and cut through unnecessary red tape to help economic development, while still protecting the qualities that make the Coromandel such a special place."

The next stage in developing the plan will be the publication of a summary of submissions, a further period of submissions supporting or opposing original submissions, and public hearings.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/Have-Your-Say/Current-Items-for-Consultation/Proposed-District-Plan/

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, Shane Kelly, Shaun Lee, Adrian Ackroyd, Ben Sheeran, Sarah Dwyer.

King tides a glimpse of future

A new project to enhance awareness of the causes and effects of sea level rise kicked off during the king tides experienced along Auckland's coasts in February.

King tides, which occur naturally as part of the lunar cycle, show what normal daily high tides may look like in 30 to 50 years' time with projected global sea level rise.

The King Tides Auckland web site and social media platform enables people to photograph and share the effects of king tide on their favourite beaches and to consider the implications of sea level rise for our infrastructure and life styles.

The next king tide event is the 16 June.

<http://auckland.kingtides.org.nz/>

Navigation safety overhaul

The Auckland Council has proposed important changes to its navigation safety bylaw. These include mandatory use of a personal flotation device on board a vessel of six metres or



New snapper rules from April.



This photo attracted 12,000 facebook views.

less in length, compulsory carriage of a VHS radio or mobile phone, new ability for the Harbourmaster to prevent anyone being in charge of a vessel while intoxicated by alcohol or drugs, and better management of moorings sites.

Public feedback on the proposed changes was sought this month and the new bylaw will be in effect for next summer.

Posters back in print

The Hauraki Gulf Forum's popular posters produced with the New Zealand Herald are back in print.

This year's series, distributed during Seaweeek, featured the shorebirds of the Firth of Thames, the boil ups seen on the open water, and the return of seabirds to the outer islands.

Sponsorship by Soar Print has enabled the three earlier series, frequently requested by schools and education programmes, to be reprinted.

www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz



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