## HAURAKI GULF MARINE PARK SEMINAR 2019

# State of the Hauraki Gulf ... a global microcosm

Thomas Trnski, Tāmaki Paenga Hira followed by Daniel Hikuroa, University of Auckland



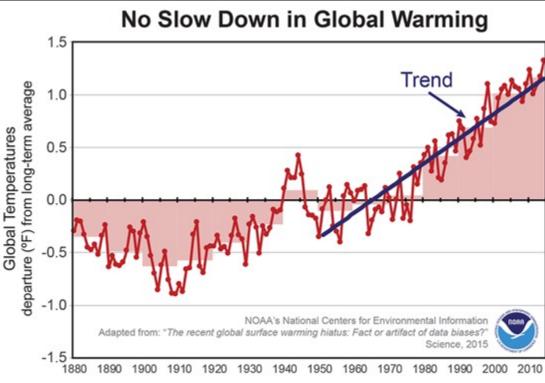


In conversation with my scientific peers ...

Climate change

Biodiversity crisis

# Climate change



Contrary to much recent discussion, the latest corrected analysis shows that the rate of global warming has continued, and there has been no slow down.

## Climate change



## Climate change



## Biodiversity and Biomass crisis

Only 4% (by weight) of the planet's mammals are wild—we and our livestock and pets make up the other 96%.

The weight of our poultry is about three times greater than the weight of all the world's wild birds.

By 2050, plastic in the ocean will weigh more than wild fish.

# State of Hauraki Gulf

### Environmental indicators:

- 1. Fishing
- 2. Toxic chemicals
- 3. Sediment and benthic health.
- 4. Mangroves<sup>4</sup>
- 5. Nutrients
- Microbiological contamination (pathogens)

- Non-indigenous marine species
- Harmful algae, pathogens and mass mortalities
- 9. Marine litter
- Maintenance and recovery of biodiversity
- 11. Coastal development

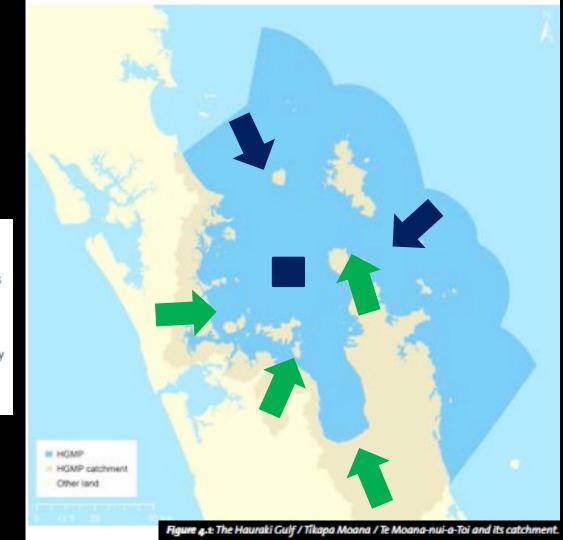


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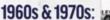
## Shifting baselines

#### **HOW MUCH CAN YOU CATCH FROM A DAY OF FISHING?**

Decades of photographs from Key West, Florida, document the declining size and abundance of fish. On a typical day in the 1950s, a sport fisher could expect to snare several groupers longer than he or she was tall. Fifty years later, the biggest "prize" fish was a little over a foot long.

### 1950s:

Giant groupers dominate the catch. Smaller specimens are not worth keeping.



The biggest fish are no longer bigger than the fishermen

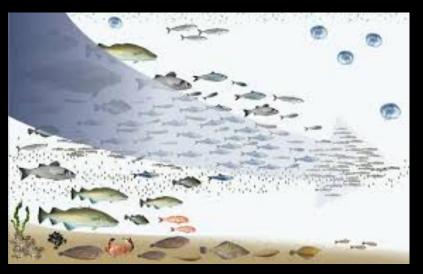
### 1980s:

Giant grouper are gone. Snappers and smaller fish abound.

### 2000s:

The average catch is usually no longer than a foot.





## Shifting baselines



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### 1950s:

Giant groupers dominate the catch. Smaller specimens are not worth keeping.

### 1960s & 1970s:

The biggest fish are no longer bigger than the fishermen

### 1980s:

Giant grouper are gone Snappers and smaller fish abound.

### 2000s:

The average catch is usually no longer than a foot.



Source McCLDACHAN, L. (1989), Decementing Loss of Large Trophy Fall Rose the Florids Kern with Historical Photographs, Conservation Biology, 25: 436-443.



Fig. 6 The Florence Kennedy II, a popular Auckland charter boat, returns to port in 1958 with over 3000 snapper caught by 48 anglers in a 4-h fishing trip in the Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand.

Source: McLenachan 2009 Conservation Biology 23 / Parsons et al 2009 NZJMFR 43

# Shifting baselines



#### Daily size and bag limits for popular finfish species

This is a summary of daily size and bag limits for popular finfish species in the following areas:

- Auckland
- Northland
- Waikato
- Coromandel
- Bay of Plenty
- Kermadec Islands.



#### How to measure your finfish

Measure from the tip of the nose to the end of the middle ray of "V" in the tail.



#### Popular finfish sizes and limits

#### Combined daily bag limit (CDBL) fish

These fish are part of the combined daily bag limit. This means you cannot exceed a total catch of 20 of any combination of the following species that are part of this bag limit.

#### Tarakihi



















#### John Dory/Kuparu







#### Trevally/Araara













#### In addition you may also take the following

#### Snapper/Karati/tāmure





















#### Kingfish/Haku









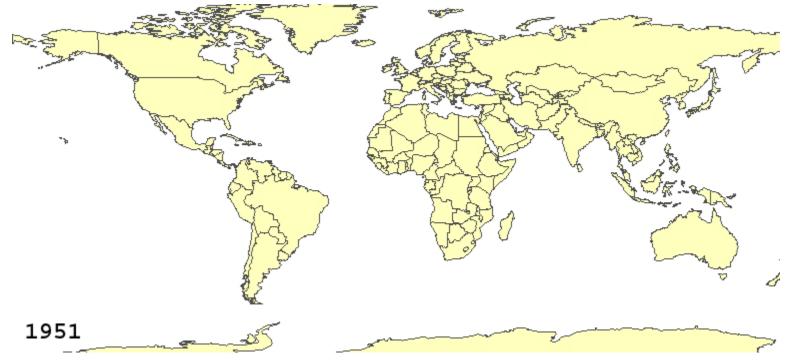




In the Hauraki Gulf, recreational catch likely exceeds commercial catch

Source: MPI/Pine Harbour Marina

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## Unsustainable?

- Snapper
- Rock lobster
- Tarakihi



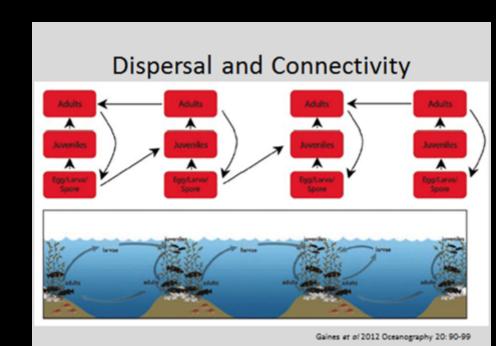




# Tragedy of the commons



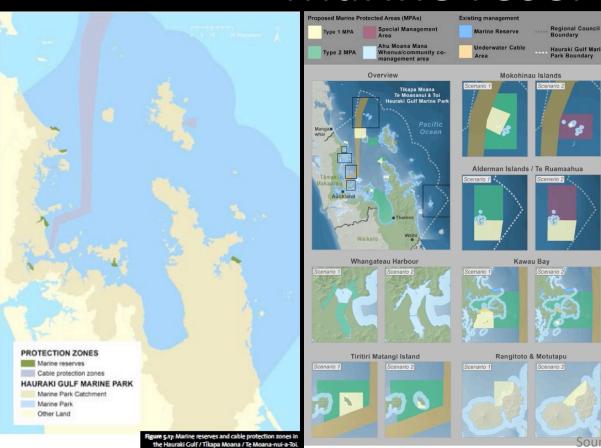
## Marine reserves



## Marine reserves



## Marine reserves



20% target by HGF 30% science recommendation

Models:
No take MPAs
Limited take MPAs
Rāhui
Dynamic rāhui
Mātaitai
Taiāpure

Source: HGF State of the Gulf 2017/Seachange Tai Timu Tai Pari

## **Okahu Bay**



Source: RNZ

**Boats removed from Okahu Bay:**'The mauri has been restored'



## **Noises Islands**

Predator free





Source: Wikipedia/Rob Treacher

## **Noises Islands**

Recreational fishing Scallop dredging Coastal gathering



Source: Wikipedia/Rob Treacher

### **Noises Islands**

Weed removal Seabird recovery Marine habitat recovery



Figure 22: Examples of dog cockle (*Tucetona laticostata*) habitat from the Noises Islands, inner Hauraki Gulf. a) surface of a dog cockle bed with dead shell, b) close-up of dead shell lying on sediment surface (note also presence of rhodoliths), c) mixture of dead dog cockles, and live scallop and horse mussel. (Source: S. Dewas, AUT University).



## **Noises Islands**

Weed removal Seabird recovery Marine habitat recovery



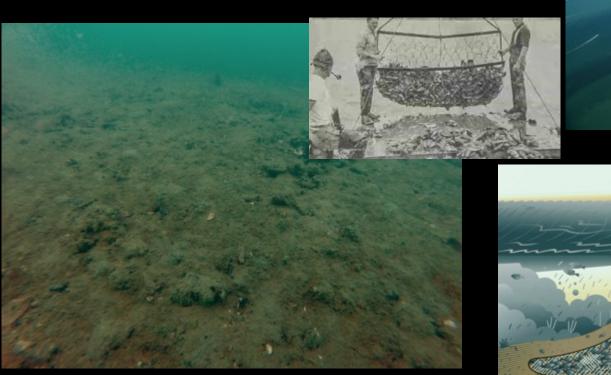


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Source: U. Auckland







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## Shellfish recovery







## Shellfish recovery







Led by: Community groups Private landowners Iwi

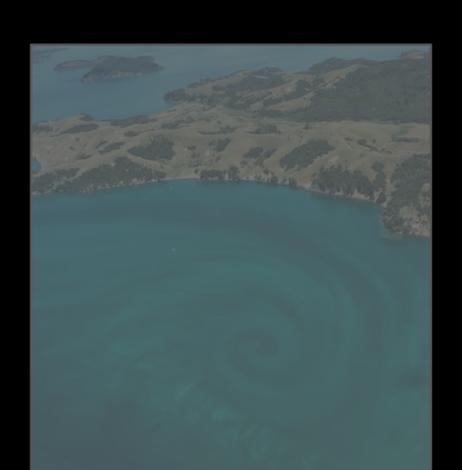






What?

Where?



What?

Where?



How?

# A connected approach

