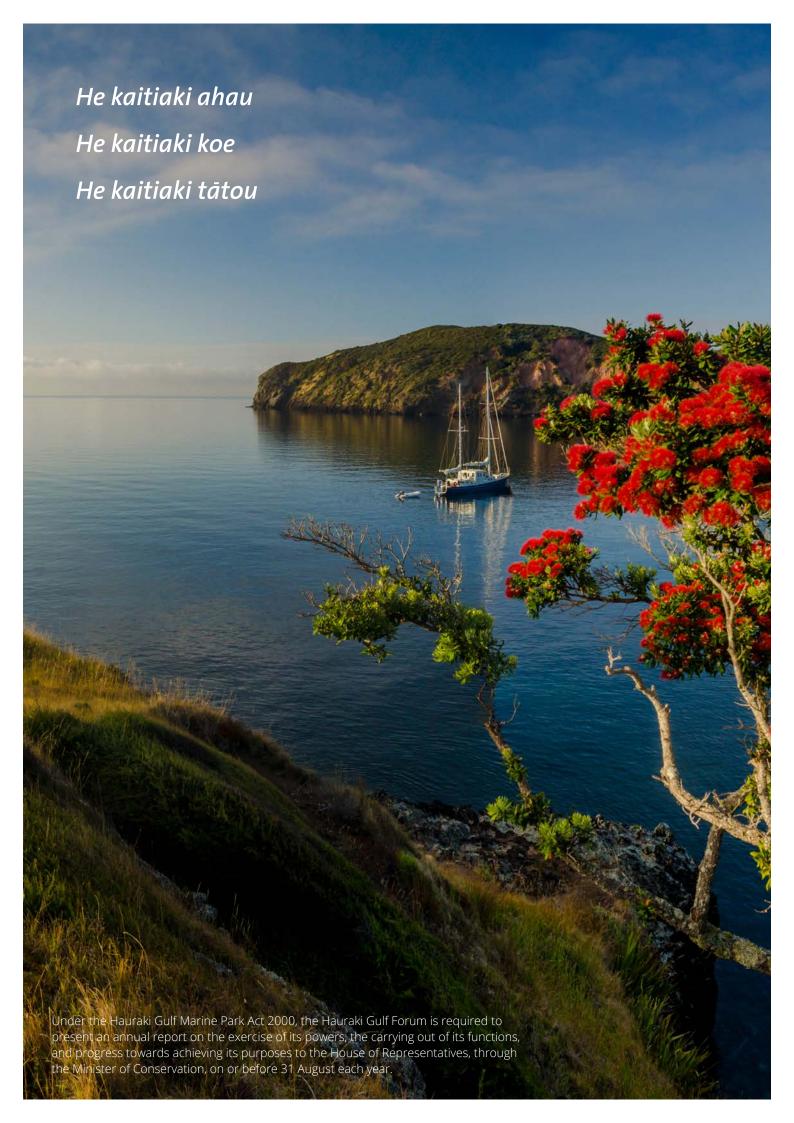
Hauraki Gulf Forum Promoting and facilitating integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf – Tīkapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi







KO Ō TĀTOU MOEMOEĀ Our Vision

Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf is "celebrated and treasured", is "thriving with fish and shellfish, kaimoana", has a "rich diversity of life", supports a "sense of place, connection and identity" and a "vibrant economy".

KO Ā TĀTOU WHĀINGA MAHI

Our Mission

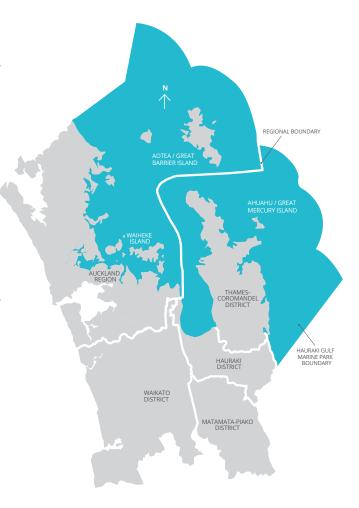
To promote and facilitate integrated and co-ordinated management of the Gulf's environmental, cultural, economic and recreational resources.

KOĀTĀTOU RAUTAKI Our Strategic Issues

Centralised around three priorities:

- 1. Improving integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making and credible action.
- Central government engagement
- Tangata Whenua participation
- Forum operations
- 2. Restoring water quality values through addressing land use activities that degrade those values.
- Sedimentation
- Coastal development and urbanisation
- Water quality
- Recognising those critical marine values and ecosystems through advocating for protection, restoration and enhancement.
- Marine protected areas
- Biodiversity loss/reduction
- Marine contaminants





KO Ā TĀTOU WHĀINGA NUI Our Big Goals

In May 2019 the Forum voted to recommend two ambitious goals for the Marine Park, consistent with its Strategic Issues:

- That at least 20% of the waters be protected; and
- That restoration efforts establish 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs.

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HE KŌRERO NĀ TE HEAMANA Message from the Chairperson

2018 – 2019 has been a banner year for the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Over the past year we have:

- Reset our Strategic Issues
- Recommended two Big Goals
- Undertaken a Communications Review and developed a Communications Strategy
- Increased our engagement with central government
- Broadened our community outreach

These activities have been facilitated by increasing commitment from the Constituent Parties, the appointment of a new Executive Officer, and a sense of urgency given the opportunities for the Marine Park provided by big events coming to the Gulf's shores in the years immediately ahead.

At our meeting in November 2018 we reset our Strategic Issues to those outlined on the previous page.

These Strategic Issues will guide the Forum's work in the years ahead.

At our meeting in May 2019, we voted to adopt two ambitious goals for the Marine Park, consistent with our new Strategic Issues:

- 1. That at least 20% of the waters be protected; and
- 2. That restoration efforts establish 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs (about 8% of the Marine Park in area).

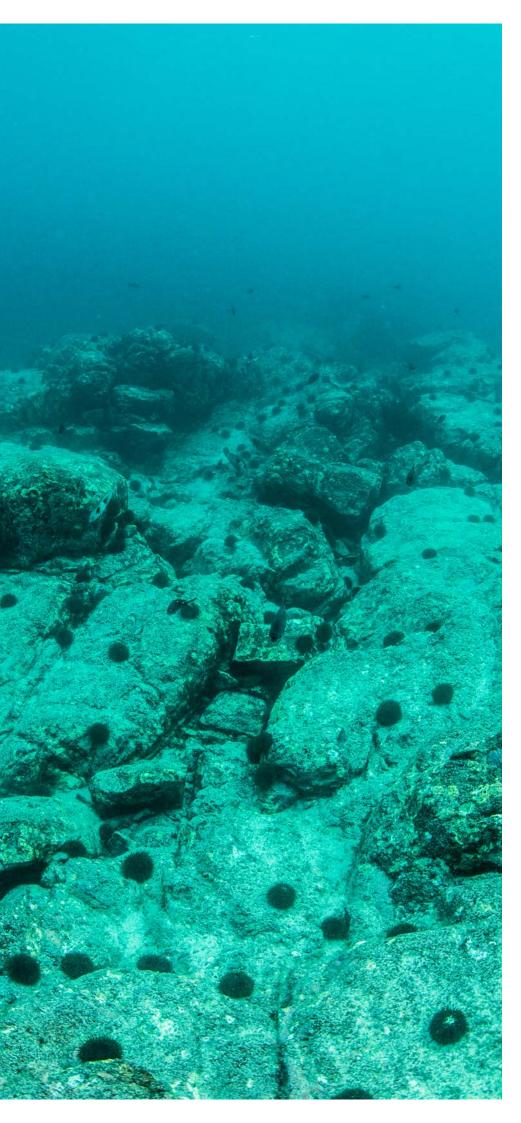
These goals take into account recommendations in the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan, and respond to what science shows we need to do in order to restore the health of and abundance in the Marine Park.

The two Big Goals, and the reasons for them, are elaborated further in this Annual Report.

Also at our May 2019 meeting, we finalised a Communications Strategy for the Forum after an externally conducted review.

This important piece of work was led by a consultant, who took a look at the Forum's effectiveness in communications through fresh eyes. She recommended a number of ways in which to communicate more effectively and connect with all communities around the Gulf. We will be implementing many of these recommendations in the year ahead.

It also gives me great pleasure to report that collaboration with central government is going from strength to strength. We are very grateful to Ministers Sage, Mahuta and Nash for their commitment to improved engagement.



The relationship with central government, complementing the greater commitment we have seen from member regional and district councils, is absolutely critical to progressing the Strategic Issues and our new Big Goals.

Finally, let me also acknowledge all the wonderful and tireless efforts that local communities, volunteer groups, mana whenua and individuals continue to do throughout the Marine Park. We have made serious efforts over the past year to connect with as many of those as we can, to understand how we can support their efforts and to thread connections where possible. This is something we will continue to prioritise in the period ahead.

This will be my last Annual Report as my term as Chair will end in mid-October 2019. I am very grateful to all members and the staff of constituent parties for the strong support they have given through my time as Chair and, in particular, to Deputy Chair Moana for her leadership, advice and support.



John Meeuwsen Chairperson Hauraki Gulf Forum

ohn Meeuwsen portrait courtesy of Auckland Cou

HE AHA NGĀ MAHI KUA WHAKATUTUKIHIA E TĒNEI RŌPŪ? What we have achieved

Since the commencement of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, the Forum has shaped understanding and expectations about the way the Gulf should be protected, used and managed.

- **1990** Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park disestablished as government reduces number of environmental and conservation 'quangos'.
- **1991** Minister of Conservation Denis Marshall establishes working party, led by Jim Holdaway, which recommends creation of a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
- 1992 Many iwi of the Gulf meet to consider a marine park and ratify the Motutapu Accord asserting tangata whenua ownership of this taonga.
- 1997 Auckland Regional Council establishes a Hauraki Gulf Forum of local and central government agencies to co-ordinate management of the Gulf.
- **1998** The Waitangi Tribunal considers a claim on the proposed Hauraki Gulf Marine Park legislation lodged by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board.
- **2000** Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (HGMPA) comes into force, with purpose to integrate management and sustain the life-supporting capacity of the environment.
- established to promote HGMPA management objectives; with members from 13 local authorities within the Gulf's catchment, three ministerial representatives and six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Gulf and its islands.
- **2000** Auckland Regional Council acts as administering authority and its Chairman Philip Warren is elected the first **Chairperson** of the Forum.
- **2001** Waitangi Tribunal submits report (Wai 728) on the HGMPA

- claim, encouraging all parties to focus on "the need for the Hauraki Gulf environment to be protected for future generations."
- **2002** Tangata whenua representative Laly Haddon of Ngāti Wai / Ngāti Manuhiri is elected second **Chairperson** of the Forum.
- **2002** Forum publishes first Strategic Issues paper, emphasising the importance of public access.
- **2002** Forum endorses inclusion of 304 ha of covenanted private land on Waiheke Island within the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
- **2003** Report on depletion of shellfish resources commissioned, leading to establishment of the Community Shellfish Monitoring Programme, which has continued since.
- 2004 First state of the environment report published, providing mixed report of environmental declines and improvements.
- **2004** External review of Forum recommends new governance statement, shared budget and dedicated executive support.
- **2007** Hauraki Mayor John Tregidga elected third **Chairperson** of the Forum.
- **2007** Conservation Minister Chris Carter attends Forum meeting and outlines pest eradication programme for Rangitoto-Motutapu.
- **2007** Appointment of jointly-funded Forum Executive Officer.
- **2008** Forum initiates *Weaving the Strands* quarterly newsletter.

- **2008** Cross-boundary planning approach advocated within review of Strategic Issues paper, particularly by tangata whenua members.
- 2008 Second state of the environment report finds regulatory approaches and management arrangements may be inadequate to deal with pressures facing the Gulf. Launched with United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Achim Steiner.
- **2009** *Governing the Gulf* published, to guide implementation of the HGMPA in Resource Management Act policies and plans.
- **2010** *Fishing the Gulf* published, to guide alignment of fisheries management with the HGMPA.
- **2010** Waitākere City Council reserves bordering the Waitematā Harbour and Forest and Bird covenanted land on Waiheke are vested in marine park.
- **2010** 10th anniversary of HGMPA held on Motutapu Island. First Hauraki Gulf Marine Park seminar held with Auckland War Memorial Museum, becoming an annual event.
- **2010** Auckland Council formed, with administrative authority responsibility for the Forum passing to it.
- **2011** Marine park poster series initiated with *New Zealand Herald*, to be repeated in subsequent years.
- **2011** *Spatial Planning for the Gulf* published, noting potential as process to integrate and improve management, consistent with HGMPA.

2011 Third state of the environment report published, concluding incremental, ongoing decline off a low environmental base, with bold steps needed for change.

2012 REMAK Strategic Issues framework identified in response to state of the environment report.

R	Regenerating areas
Е	Enhanced fisheries
M	Mana whenua expression
Α	Active land management
K	Knowledge utilisation (ecosystem- based)

2012 Forum meets on Great Barrier Island. Visits Glenfern Sanctuary. Seeks to broaden involvement and ownership of stakeholders in resolution of Gulf issues.

2012 Collaborative group initiated to examine ship strike, prompting Ports of Auckland transit protocol a year later, and progressive reductions in ship speed.

2012 New community group formed to explore restoration of mussel reefs following Forum seminar.

2012 Commissioned report indicates economic activities in the Gulf generate over \$2 billion annually and have "environment at the very core of their value proposition".

2012 Forum briefed on the significance of new legislation to settle the historical treaty claims of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Ngāti Manuhiri and provide financial and cultural redress. Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier returns to Ngāti Manuhiri and is then gifted back to the people of New Zealand as a nature reserve.

2012 Meeting at Ōrākei Marae supports marine spatial plan project design with Forum role on steering group.

2013 Seabirds of the Hauraki Gulf published, helping, along with other initiatives, to promote the Gulf as a 'seabird hotspot'.

2013 Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari marine spatial plan process launched.

2013 Auckland War Memorial Museum's *Moana–My Ocean*, prompted by the Forum's *State of our Gulf* assessment, becomes its most popular temporary exhibition.

2013 Forum supports Southern Seabird Solutions Trust to promote seabird smart fishing in the Gulf.

2013 Inaugural Holdaway Award for leadership introduced as part of marine park seminar.

2014 Forum briefed on Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act which provides mana whenua with ownership and governance responsibilities for maunga and motu. Interests in harbours are signalled.

2014 Fourth state of the environment report published, reiterating environmental decline and ongoing challenges for integrated management.

2015 Independent 10-year review challenges Forum to strengthen its influence in promoting Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act objectives.

2015 Forum notes signing of Treaty settlement with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki.

2016 Online *Gulf Journal* initiated to support inspired management and action around the Gulf.

2016 Forum draws attention to marked decline in crayfish within Cape Rodney – Ōkakari Point Marine Reserve at Leigh.

2016 Foundation North announces \$5 million Gulf Innovation Fund Together (GIFT) to respond to issues identified in State of our Gulf reports.

2016 *Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari* plan released.

2017 Marine scientist tells Radio NZ "Hauraki Gulf Bryde's whale crisis averted".

2017 Fifth state of the environment report published presenting a well-articulated, clear pathway for addressing some of the issues facing the Gulf.

2018 Mayor John Tregidga retires as Chairperson of the Forum after 11 years' service.

2018 John Meeuwsen is elected fourth Chairperson of the Forum.

2018 Reset of Strategic Issues around three priorities:

Forum Operations

Water Quality

Marine Ecosystems

2019 Recommendation of two Big Goals for the Marine Park: (1) at least 20% of the waters protected; (2) 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds restored.

2019 Communications Strategy and Review.

KOĀTĀTOU MAHITĒNEITAU Our work this year

The Forum meets quarterly to receive reports and examine issues essential for integrated and effective future management of the Gulf.

Big Goals

In May 2019 the Forum voted to recommend two ambitious goals for the Marine Park, consistent with its Strategic Issues:

- That at least 20% of the waters be protected; and
- That restoration efforts establish 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs

Why did we recommend these goals?

By way of background, throughout the Forum's 19-year history, its reports and other outputs have pointed to the continued ecological decline of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park as pressures on it escalate. The story is more mixed above the waterline, with significant efforts carried out on the mainland and most of the islands the Gulf. Some substantial progress has been made - for example, most of the islands are now predator-free. However, below the water line the story is unequivocal: the ecosystem has continued to deteriorate. Incremental, small-scale changes are insufficient to counteract the legacy of adverse impacts and the increasing pressure on the marine environment from a rapidly expanding population and continued over-exploitation.

1) Marine Protection

In terms of marine protection, the Forum, and the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan, have sought to advance marine protection to restore the mauri of Tikapa Moana. Sea Change has recommended scenarios under which marine protection could be extended, through a variety of protection mechanisms. However, at present the percentage of the waters in the Gulf set aside as marine reserves remains at a tiny 0.3% of the Marine Park.

The best available science shows that ideally about 30% of an area should be protected to support recovery and resilience of marine ecosystems - and where possible the highest form of protection: no-take marine reserves that are representative of the full range of habitats. Marine reserves in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, for example, were extended to 33% from less than 5% in 2004, and subsequent studies by the Australian Government (Australian Institute of Marine Science) have now documented a broad range of benefits from this bold action, including increased fish stocks, and economic benefits from increased tourism. Studies have also shown how public support for notake marine reserves, including from the fishing community can change over time. It can start out quite even but increases with the age of the reserve, as all communities see the benefits from marine protection.

Closer to home, studies have also demonstrated the benefits of the Cape Rodney – Ōkakari Point Marine Reserve (Goat Island) – for example, its role as a thriving snapper nursery for the wider region – but also its limitations, as its small area does not protect mobile stocks that do not respect boundaries on a map and get caught the moment they stray outside the reserve.

As things stand, there is no 'network of marine protection' in place for Tīkapa Moana. This must change if the life-supporting capacity of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is to be maintained and enhanced, as per the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.

There are broad benefits to be gained from at least 20 percent protection. These include increasing stocks outside the protected areas, greater diversity of species, increased resilience of the marine system to major environmental impacts, a nursery source for the wider region, increased food for birds, economic benefits from tourism, increased community engagement and awareness, and education. This is ultimately about marine ecosystems, not area, and about the long-term, not the immediate, in line with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.



2) Shellfish Restoration

Complimentary to marine protection, the Forum has also advocated for shellfish restoration efforts. Similarly, the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan process recommended the restoration of historic ecosystem functionality of bivalve beds by 2040 to recover self-sustaining, expanding, filtering capacity and secondary production.

Shellfish-beds and reefs are among the most degraded habitats in the Hauraki Gulf. Historical records estimate some 1500 square kilometres of beds and reefs were present in Tīkapa Moana around 200 years ago. At that time, those extensive shellfish networks not only provided the base of the ecosystem, from which the rest of the marine environment flourished, but they also filtered the water of the Gulf with extraordinary efficiency. To say that those shellfish beds and reefs have been severely degraded is an understatement. They have been largely obliterated. And the damage continues - not just from trawling, and exploitation, but also from sediment and nutrient run-off from land.

Those once great swathes of shellfish-beds and reefs have been replaced by a mix of featureless muddy seafloor and barren rock which provide little protection, shelter or food for fish and other marine life.

In recent times, a range of individuals, organisations – including the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust – and mana whenua have started actively restoring shellfish-beds (greenlipped mussels) in the Gulf and have deployed around 150 tonnes in total. They should be commended for this effort. However, efforts have been hampered by biosecurity and other restrictions, available funding and limited resources.

In addition to the push given by Sea Change, and complimentary to the recent work being supported by The Nature Conservancy to establish a Shellfish Restoration Coordination Group, it is important to have an aspirational, long-term target.

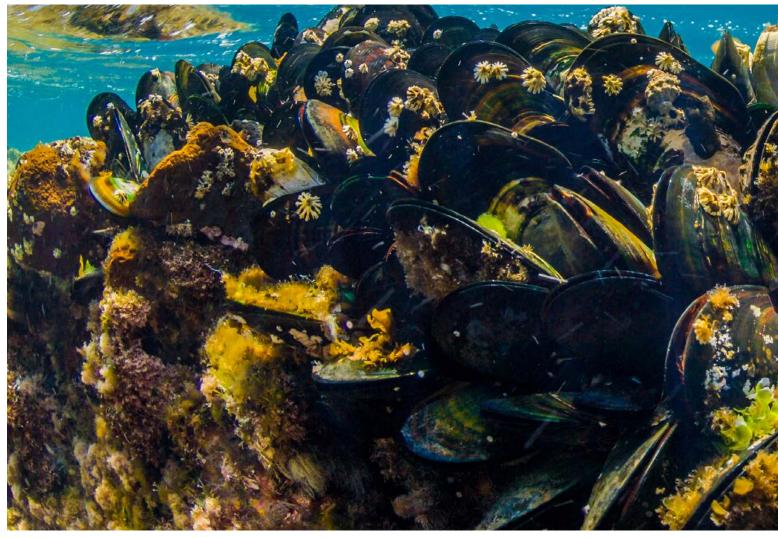
There are broad benefits to be gained from large-scale restoration efforts to establish 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs (about 8% of the sea floor of the Marine Park), including provision of food for marine life, increased shellfish populations for human harvest, reduction of sediment, nutrients, carbon and heavy metals from the water, and increased biodiversity particularly for juvenile fish, octopus and crabs. Shellfish reefs may also assist in tempering the effects of storms on coastal erosion. As climate change accelerates this will only become more important.



Top: The Forum's 2018 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Seminar

Bottom: The Forum's 2019 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Poster









Continuing education and building profile

The Forum has continued to communicate the distinctive character of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in collaboration with New Zealand Media and Entertainment Limited (NZME), through the publication of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park poster. Now in its tenth year, 140,000 copies of the this poster were distributed through the New Zealand Herald on 1 March 2019 to coincide with Seaweek – Kaupapa moana. The 2019 poster showed the boundary of the Marine Park.

Thousands more posters were distributed directly through Young Ocean Explorers, mainly to schools, plus approximately 1,000 more via Forum members, Fullers360, the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE), Department of Conservation (DoC) and others. The poster series is made possible through funding from Foundation North, Fullers 360, DoC, and in-kind support from NZME.

The Gulf Journal, initiated by the Forum in 2016, provides a quarterly platform to explore Gulf issues and initiatives in depth, alongside a summary of news stories and access to the Forum's knowledge products. Four issues have been released this year, the timing of which coincides with the Forum's meetings.

The annual Hauraki Gulf Marine
Park Seminar held in partnership
with the Auckland War Memorial
Museum took place on 6 September
2018. The event centred around
storytelling and gave a platform to
poets, writers and songwriters who
have drawn inspiration from Tikapa

Moana, including singer/songwriter Jamie McDell, poet and sculptor Mike O'Donnell, award winning novelist Paula Morris and historian Vincent O'Malley. Master waka voyager Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr and those involved in the Aotea Dark Sky Sanctuary also shared their stories. Researchers striving to understand and build knowledge of the Hauraki Gulf and its inhabitants shared findings about bird dialects, shellfish populations, spotted shag colonies and the impact of man-made noise in the marine environment to marine species.

The presentations left attendees in no doubt of the diverse and special nature of Tīkapa Moana.

Collaboration with a species focus

The Hauraki Gulf Forum continues to act as the secretariat of the Bryde's Whale Ship Strike Collaborative Group and supports and regularly hosts meetings of the Black Petrel Working Group.

Following the implementation of a voluntary speed reduction protocol in 2013, large vessel speeds through the Hauraki Gulf are now at or below the internationally-accepted target speed of 10 knots, with only one whale killed since the protocol was introduced (compared to an average of two fatalities per year previously).

The Black Petrel Working Group, which initiated and operationalised a pledge to seabird smart fishing in 2014, has successfully trialled the use of on-board cameras to monitor performance and accidental captures, initiated and implemented seabird smart fishing practices training and, throughout this year, investigated a safe seabirds assurance scheme with industry.

The Forum remains interested in exploring other collaboration opportunities to address detrimental activities within the Hauraki Gulf.

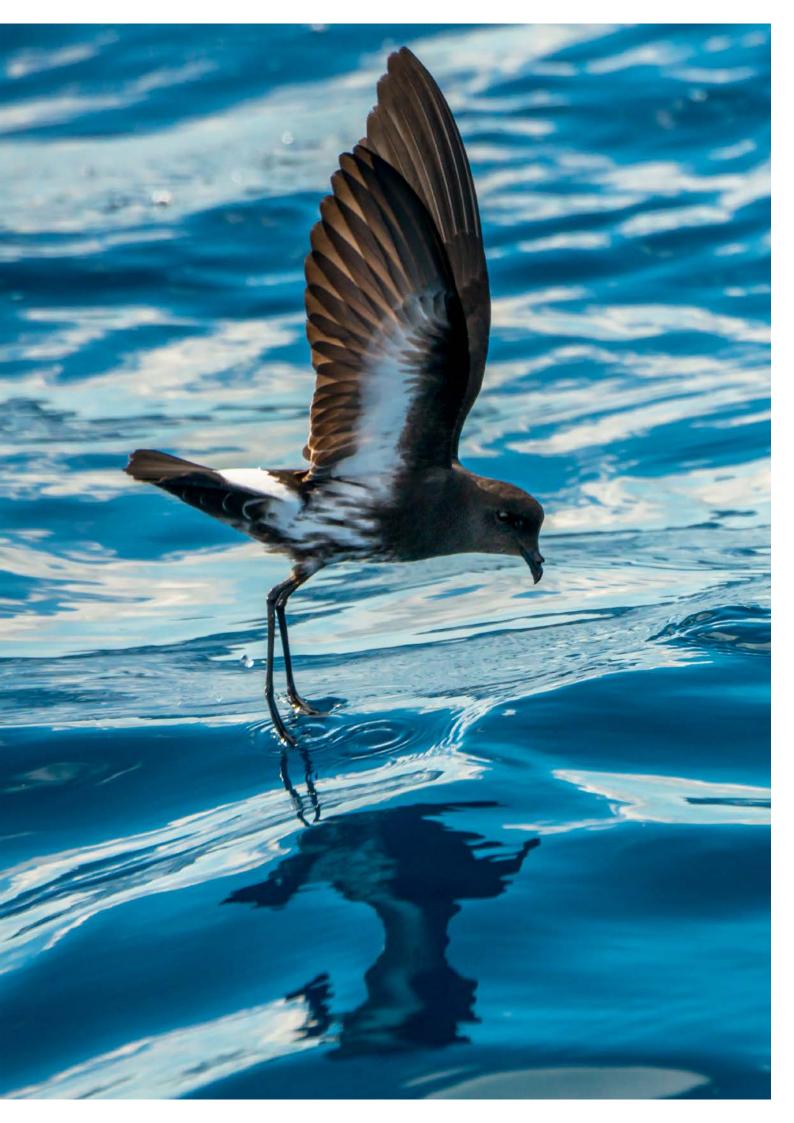
Other issues considered

Additional items considered by the Forum over the past year include:

- Increasing sediment in the Marine Park (both in general, and with specific regard to the Okura-Long Bay Marine Reserve)
- Marine dumping (both the Coastal Resources Limited application, to which the Forum made a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency, and the non-notified Ports of Auckland application)
- Marine pest-management (interregional)

The Forum also had discussions with the Ministers of Conservation, Māori Development, and Fisheries.

At the meeting with the Minister for Māori Development, the Forum was challenged to do more to deliver for tangata whenua. The Forum has since moved to ensure Te Ao Māori is interwoven in the forthcoming 2020 State of the Environment Report, and made engaging Māori communities a focus for its Communications Strategy.



KO WAI TĀTOU? Who we are



John Meeuwsen (*Chairperson*) Waiheke Local Board, Auckland Council



Moana Tamaariki-Pohe (Deputy *Chairperson*) Tangata Whenua



Andrew Baucke Department of Conservation



Jeff Cleave Great Barrier Local Board, Auckland Council



Cr Paul Cronin Matamata-Piako District Council



Cr Christine Fletcher Auckland Council



Mayor Sandra Goudie Thames-Coromandel District Council



Steve Halley Ministry for Primary Industries



Cr Richard Hills Auckland Council



Terrence Hohneck Tangata Whenua



Cr Michael Lee Auckland Council



Nicola MacDonald Tangata Whenua



Paul Majurey Tangata Whenua



Cr Rob McGuire Waikato District Council



Cr Dal Minogue Waikato Regional Council



Liane Ngamane Tangata Whenua



Dean Ogilvie Tangata Whenua



Martin Mariassouce Te Puni Kökiri, Ministry of Māori Development



Mayor John Tregidga Hauraki District Council



Cr Wayne Walker Auckland Council



Cr John Watson Auckland Council



E TITIRO WHAKAMUA ANA Looking ahead

2019



Making Waves

This year's Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Conference on 27 August 2019 at Auckland Museum will focus on working together to take forward the Hauraki Gulf Forum's recently announced Big Goals for the Marine Park.

Transition

Following the 19 August Forum meeting and 27 August Conference, the Forum will enter a transition phase with regional and local government membership reset following the Local Body Elections of October 2019.

An Interim Chair will guide the Forum through the October – February period, and once the new composition of the Forum membership is known an election will be held for the positions of Chair and Deputy at the first meeting of 2020.

2020

The 27th of February 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. This anniversary will create an opportunity for the Government and communities to celebrate, reflect and ensure an ongoing legacy of protection and enhancement.

The Forum is targeting this date for release of both the 2020 State of the Environment Report, and the 2020 Marine Park Poster.

2020 will also see the conclusion of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari, and the anticipated release of the Government Response Strategy.

2021

The America's Cup, Te Matatini, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) return to the shores of the Gulf.



KO TE PŪTEA UTU WHAKAHAERE Funding and administrative support

Auckland Council acts as the administering authority of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. It provides support for the meetings of the Forum as a joint special committee of the council.

In January 2019 the interim Executive Officer, Ms Katina Conomos, finished her much-appreciated work in support of the Forum, and the new Executive Officer, Alex Rogers, started in the role.

Forum Members are individually supported by Technical Officers (staff from the constituent party, and in the case of tangata whenua, Technical Officers are appointed by the tangata whenua member).

The Forum's \$262,276 budget in 2018/2019 was met through a shared funding formula adopted by the Forum, in the table below.

The Department of Conservation also contributes separately to the remuneration and costs of tangata whenua members and their technical officers. In 2018/2019 this amounted to \$49.922.

2018 / 2019 Budget

Funding contribution per sector	Authority	Population in the Gulf catchment (2006)	Population (%)	Land area in the Gulf catchment (ha)	Land area (%)	% contribution per project	% population: % land area (60:40 weighting)	Contribution to budget
33.3%	MPI DoC TPK					11:1 11:1 11:1	11:1 11:1 11:1	\$29,110 \$29,110 \$29,110
33.4%	WRC AC	75,624 985,029	7.13 92.87	565,137 217,080	72.25 27.75	24.13 9.27	11.08 22.32	\$29,057 \$58,534
33.3%	AC WDC HDC TCDC MPDC	985,029 1,776 17,757 25,944 30,147	92.87 0.17 1.67 2.45 2.84	217,080 15,051 124,355 218,980 161,567	29.45 2.04 16.87 29.71 21.92	9.81 0.68 5.62 9.89 7.30	22.48 0.31 2.58 4.45 3.49	\$58,594 \$813 \$6,766 \$11,670 \$9,153
Total		1,060,653	100.00	737,033	100.00	100.00	100.00	\$262,276



2018 / 2019 Expenditure

	Forecast	Actual to end of June
State of the Environment report	\$50,000	\$0
Communications	\$40,000	\$64,681
Facilitation of response to issues	\$10,000	\$9,891
Education project	\$10,000	\$23,505
Executive support	\$152,250	\$162,820
Funds for communications and publicity strategy	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total expenditure	\$277,250	\$275,897

2018 / 2019 Revenue

	Forecast	Actual to end of June
Constituent party contributions	\$144,445	\$144,445
Auckland Council contribution	\$117,805	\$153,303
Sponsorship towards the gulf posters project	\$0	\$20,000
Other income	\$0	\$527
Total revenue	\$262,250	\$318,275

Forecast revenue less expenditure	(\$15,000)	\$42,378

Accumulated surplus balance as at end of June 2018	\$101,540	\$101,540
Forecast revenue less expenditure 2018/2019	(\$15,000)	\$42,378
Accumulated surplus balance as at end of June 2019	\$86,540	\$143,918

All costs are presented exclusive of GST.



