



Our view from the water

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- The health of the Hauraki Gulf comes down to one thing.....
- The availability of food
- More Food, More Fish, more Birds



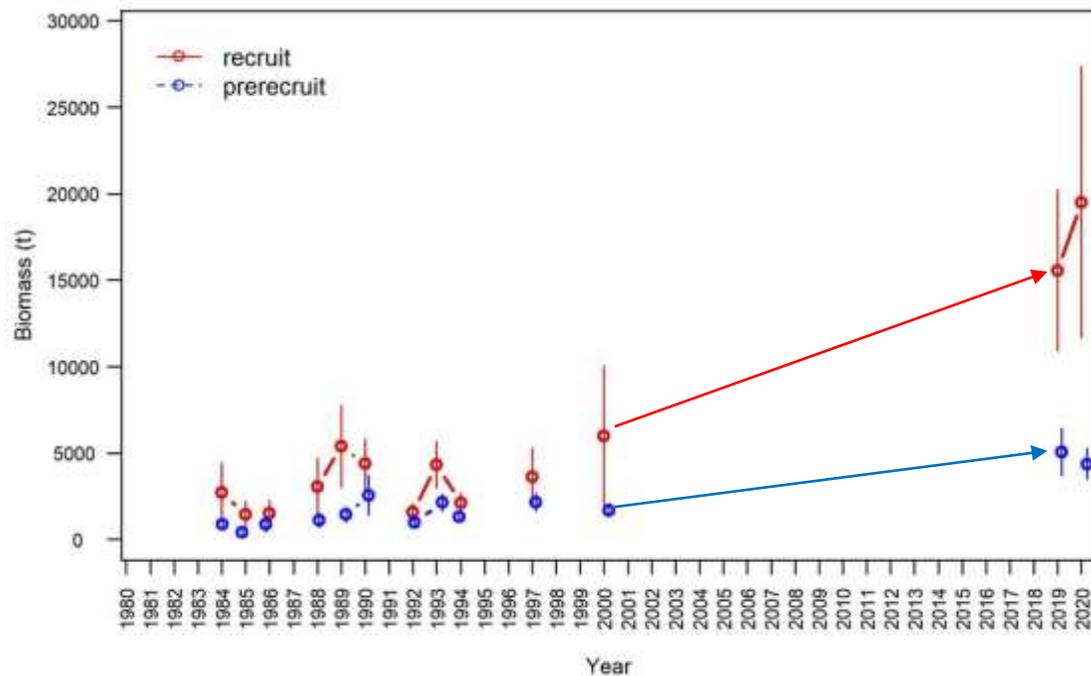
- In the last 15 years too many nutrients and run off from the surrounding land has changed the pattern of how snapper feed as they search for food
- Growth rates of snapper are slowing down in the Gulf as well .
- Snapper growth is at the slowest it has been, to such an extent a 30cm snapper was aged at 19 years . 5 to 6 years would be normal for that size.
- Westcoast would be 3 years.
- At the moment the Gulf has a small but growing percentage of snapper that are paper-thin and no condition on them, they should be fat this time of year, pre spawning.



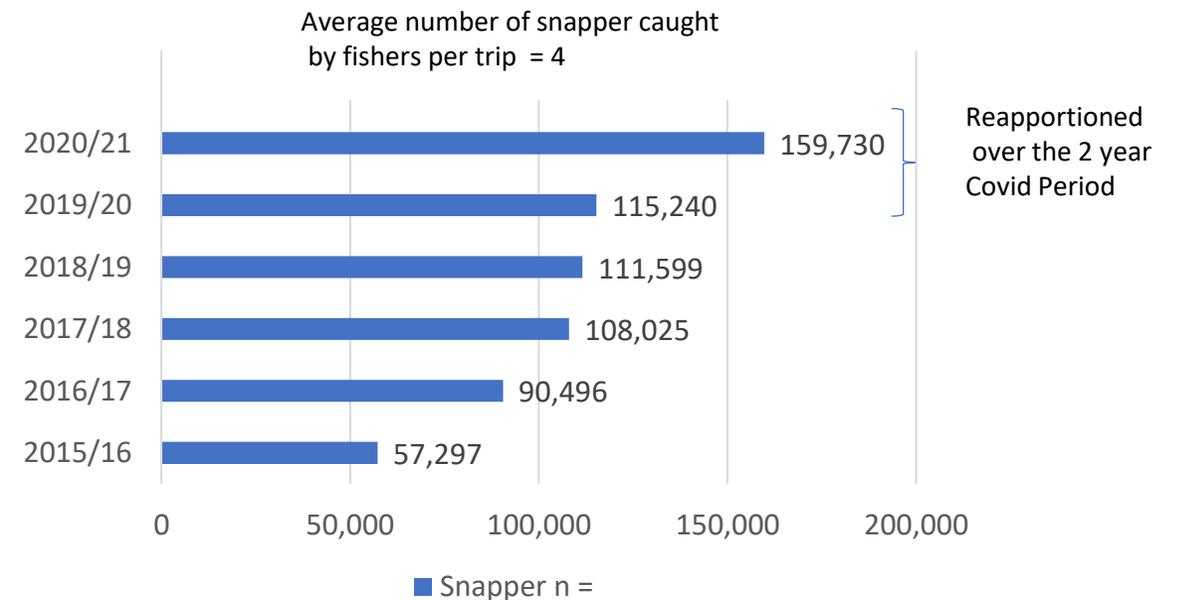
But snapper are very adaptive

- There is a great abundance of snapper stock in commercial mussel farms, feeding when they are reseeded and harvesting.
- And with less commercial pressures on the Gulf snapper fisheries, snapper stocks have recovered considerably over the last 10-15 years; trawl survey and charter boat data supports this

Fishery independent trawl surveys



Snapper caught and retained by charter boat operators inner Gulf



BUT it's a different story for the species that can't move

- Sedimentation runoff is the destroyer of their environment
- Shellfish Crabs, Worms smothered in silt will die off.
- Scallops disappearing as a result of poor water quality is like THE Canary in the mine.
- Mussel farm growth rates in the Firth are taking much longer, originally one year to harvest has now extended to three years.



Sediment runoff is like a cancerous growth

- The Waitemata Harbour is completely stuffed, the run of snapper up the harbour in January/ February has been non-existent in the last 6 plus years.
- The mudflats in the harbour are covered in a green growth that is getting larger each year that swans now feed on.



Sediment run off and pollution does not respect the boundaries of a local marine reserve.

We would like to applaud all of you for caring about the Gulf.

Unfortunately you are looking the wrong way.

Instead of looking out to sea for a few boats you should be looking inward on land at the impact of millions and the cancerous growth of discharge of city, suburbs and rural land practices.

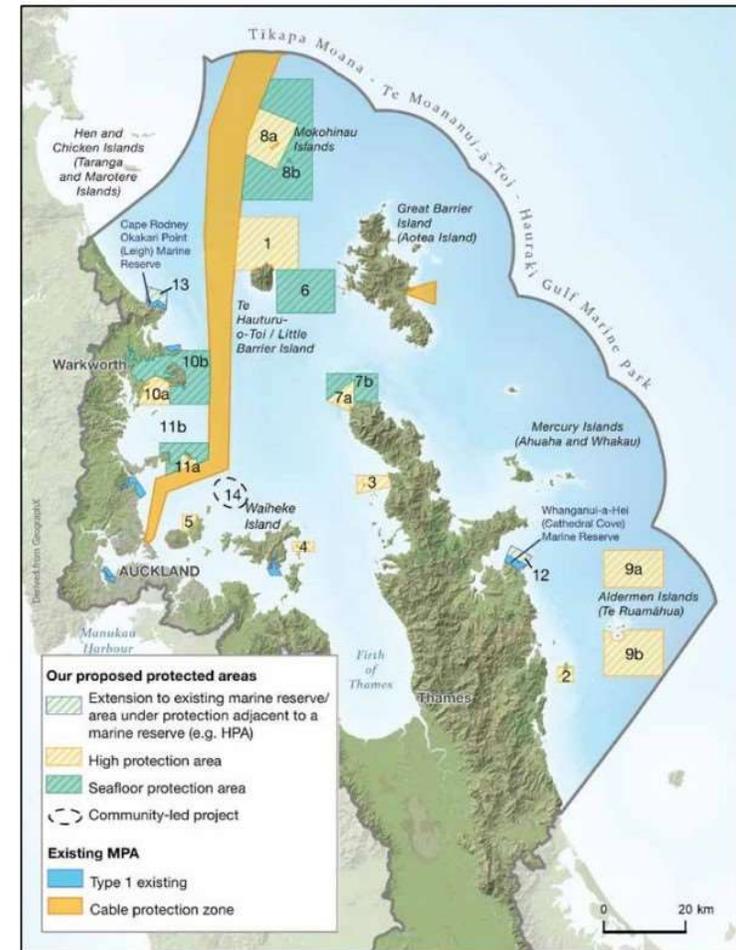


Figure 1: Locations of the protected area proposals that we will engage and consult on.

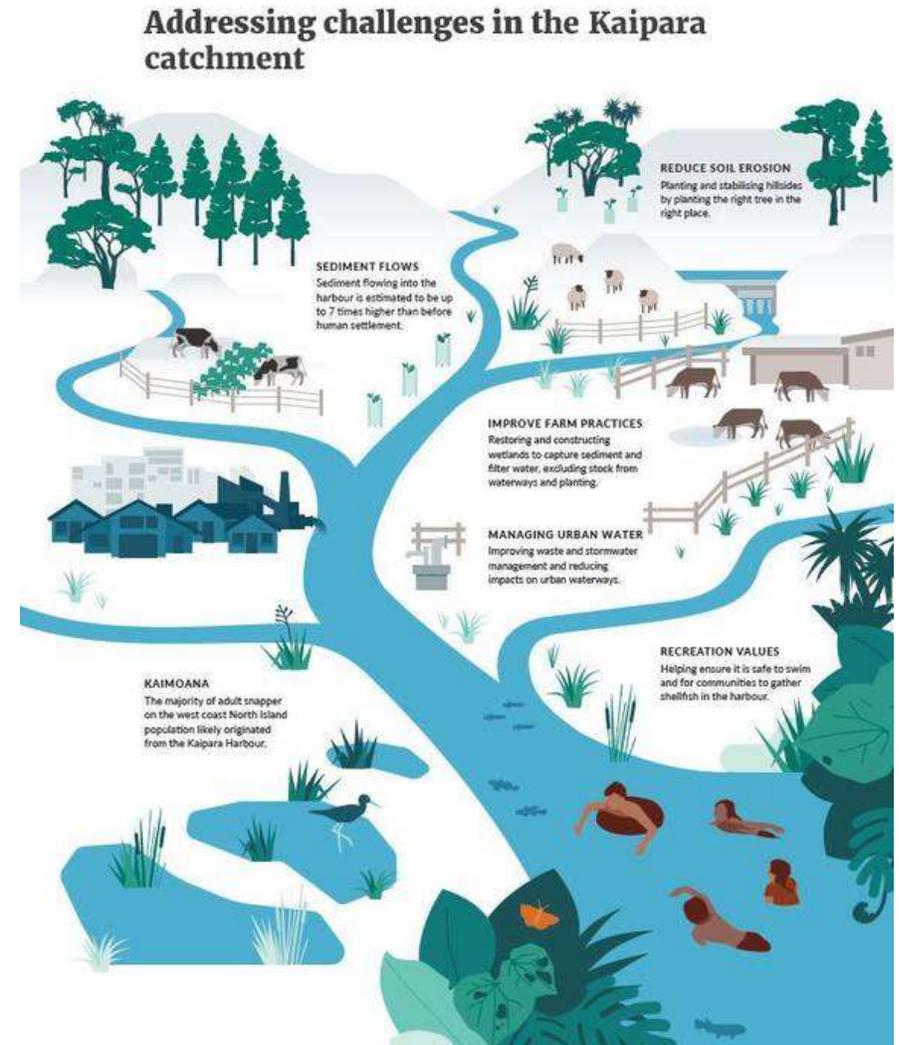
The establishment of marine reserves, is on its own, NOT the silver bullet solution

- Halong Bay, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- But the inner waters of the bay are essentially dead, no fish can live and swimming is not advised.
- This is not just due to poorly controlled tourist pressure but to stream run off and leachates from local industrial sites
- As Auckland's living densities are being legislated to increase we need to learn to avoid the mistakes from other parts of the world



What can we do to protect and revive our harbours and the Gulf ?

- Apply the learnings from the Kaipara Harbour clean up to the Hauraki Gulf .
- Match the growth and intensification of Auckland to its ability to handle sediment run off into the waterways
- Actively monitor the flow and build up of sediment in the inner gulf's marine reserves



SEDIMENTATION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

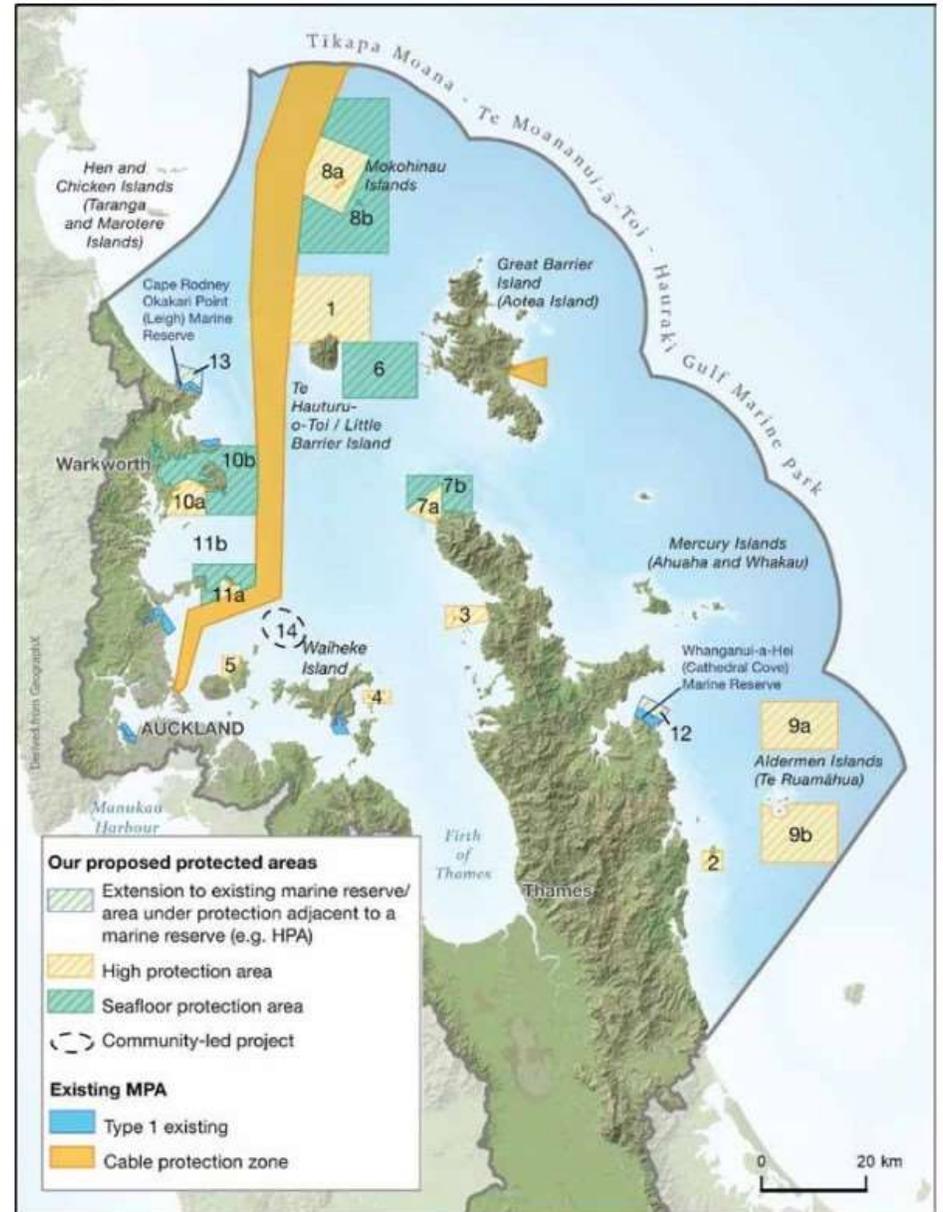


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