



# 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



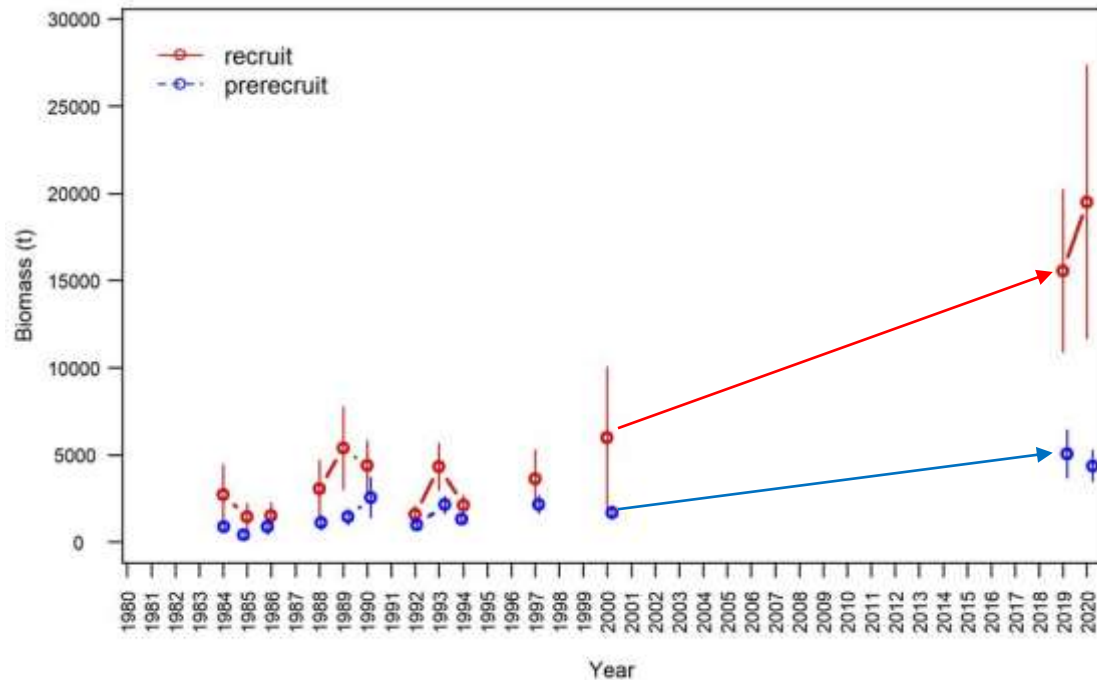
- In the last 15 years too many nutrients and run off from the surrounding land has changed the pattern of how snapper feed as they search for food
- Growth rates of snapper are slowing down in the Gulf as well .
- Snapper growth is at the slowest it has been, to such an extent a 30cm snapper was aged 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.



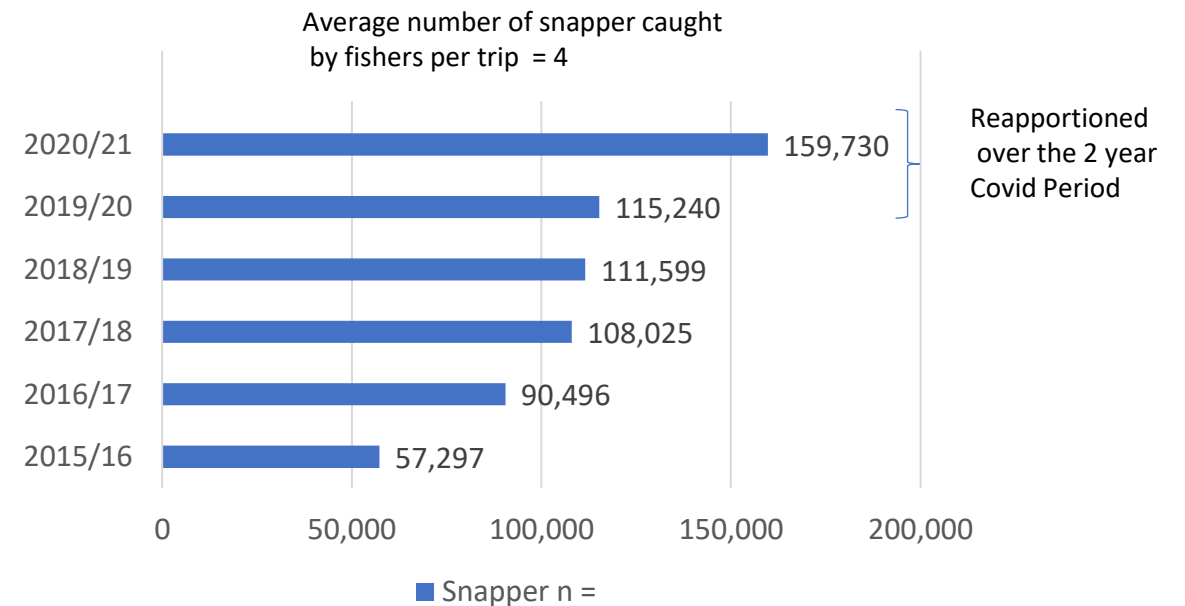
# But snapper are very adaptive

- 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.*

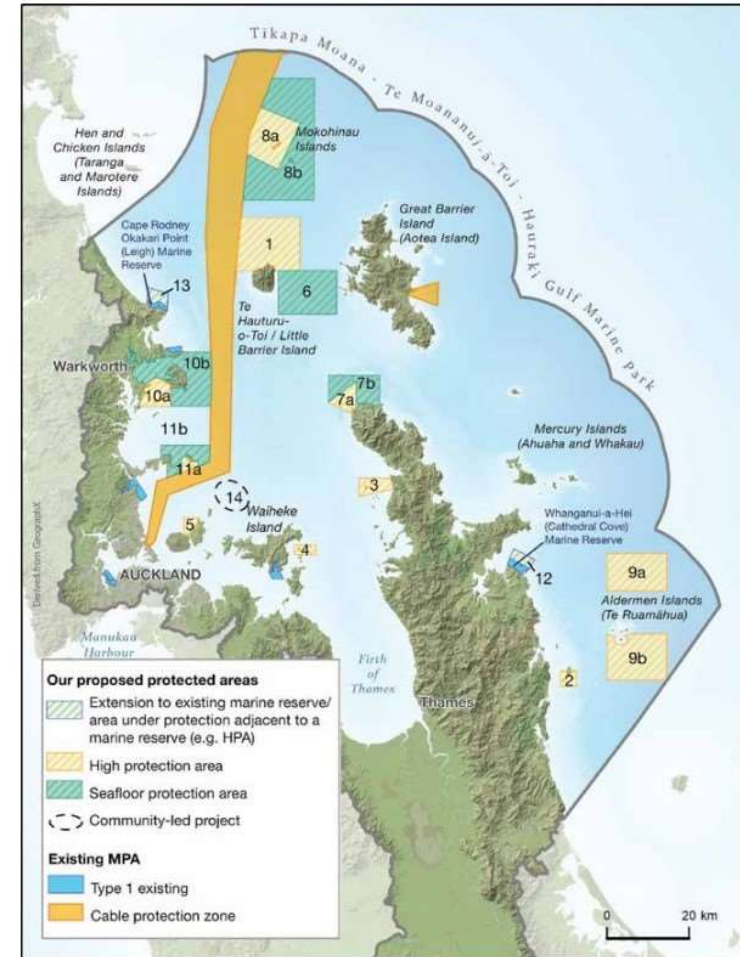


Figure 1: Locations of the protected area proposals that we will engage and consult on.

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

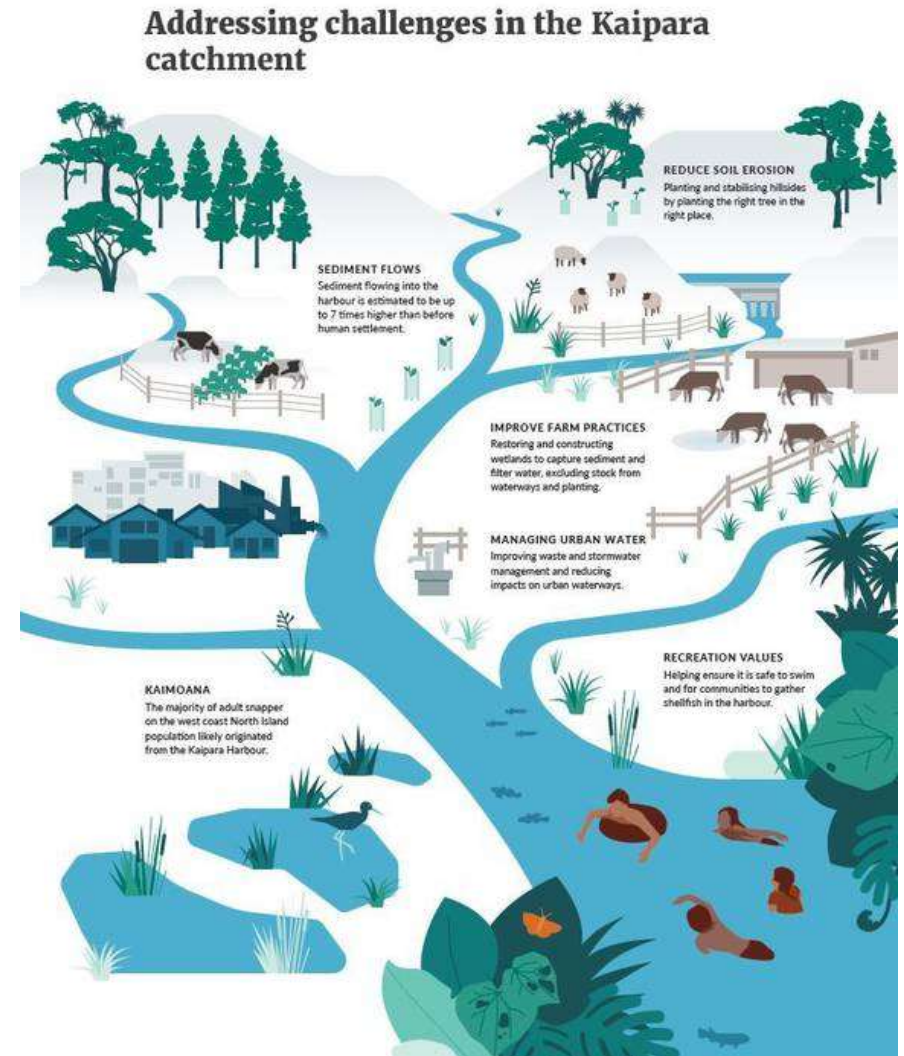
- Halong Bay, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- But the inner waters of the bay are essentially dead, no fish can live and swimming is not advised.
- This is not just due to poorly controlled tourist pressure but to stream run off and leachates from local industrial sites
- As Auckland's living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

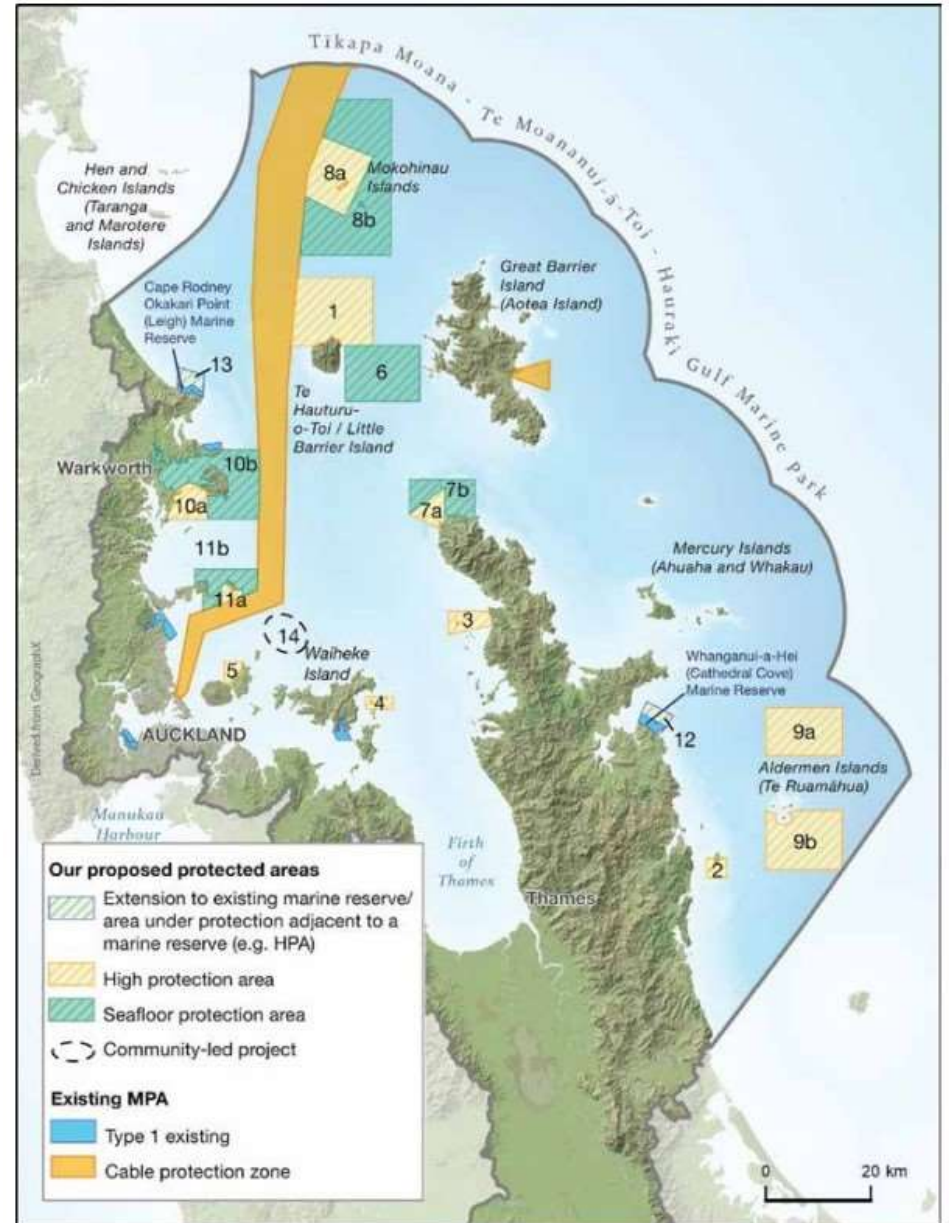


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