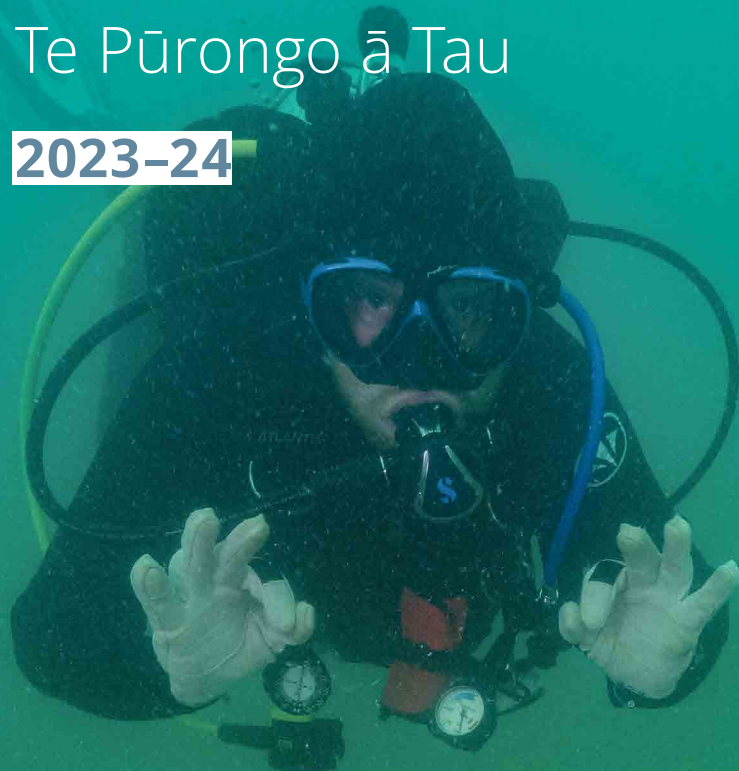


# ANNUAL REPORT

Te Pūrongo ā Tau

2023-24



Hauraki Gulf Forum

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi



He waka kōtuia  
kāhore e tukutukua  
ngā mimira.

*A canoe that is  
interlaced will not  
become separated  
at the bow. In unity  
there is strength.*

August 2024

Cover – University of Auckland trial UV-C lamp system killing exotic Caulerpa on the seafloor at Rakino Island July 2024. 📷 Paul Caiger. All other photography by Shaun Lee unless otherwise captioned.

Under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, the Hauraki Gulf Forum is required to prepare an annual report on the exercise of its powers, the carrying out of its functions, and progress towards achieving its purposes, for the Minister of Conservation, on or before 31 August each year.

## KO Ō TĀTOU MOEMOEĀ Our Vision

Tikapa 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.

## KO Ā TĀTOU RAUTAKI Our Strategic Issues

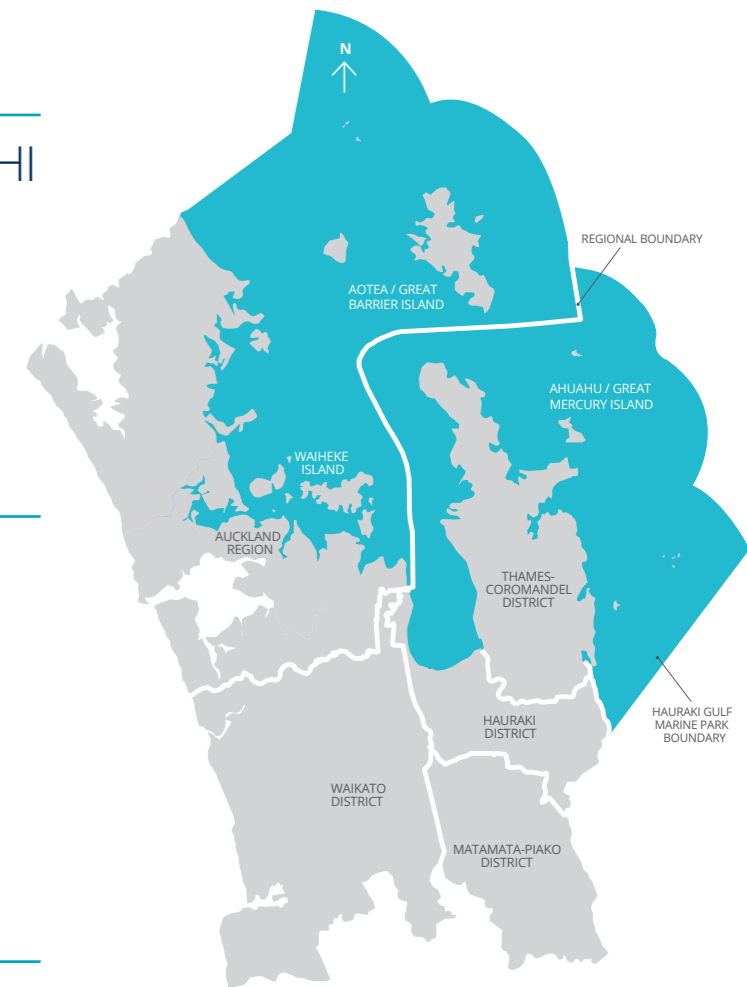
- Integrated management
- Healthy environments
- Marine ecosystems

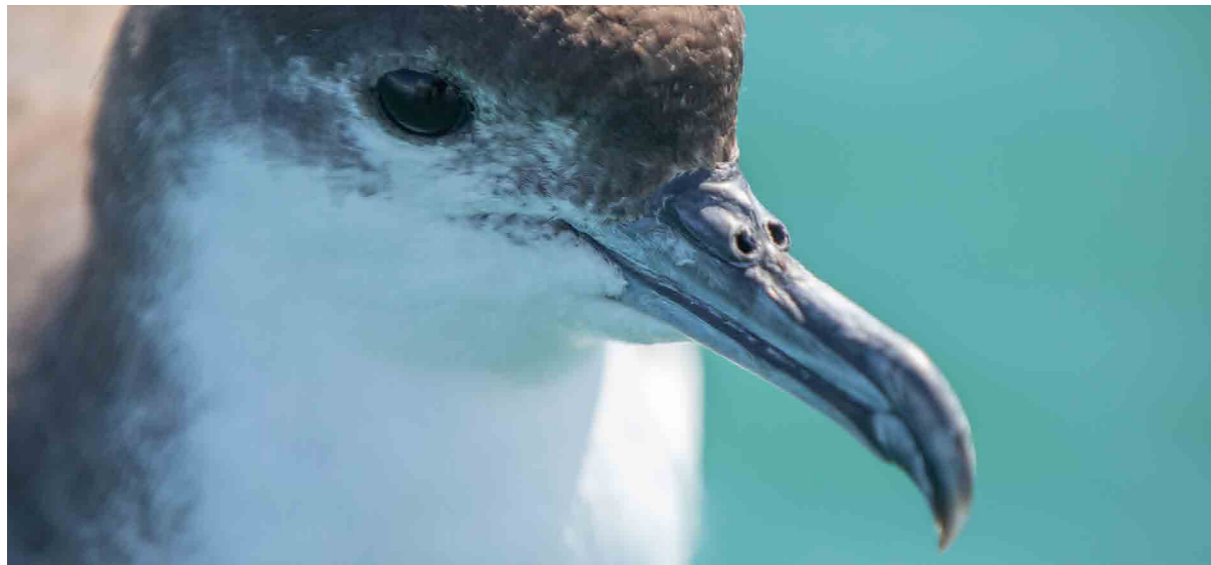
## KO Ā TĀTOU WHĀINGA NUI Our Big Goals

- At least 30% marine protection
- A restored seafloor
- A healthy catchment



**Hauraki Gulf  
Marine Park**  
Ko te Pātaka kai  
o Tikapa Moana  
Te Moananui-ā-Toi





## HE KŌRERO NĀ NGĀ HEAMANA Message from the Co-Chairs

As we reflect on the past year's efforts and accomplishments, it's clear that our taonga Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf continues to face significant challenges. Climate change, marine heatwaves, invasive seaweeds, and frequent storms are all taking a toll on the Gulf's health. The urgency to rebuild a resilient and abundant Gulf has never been greater.

The Forum is focusing on four priority workstreams aimed at protecting and restoring Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf to ensure its vibrancy for generations to come. Let's dive into these critical areas:

### Battling the Invasive Caulerpa Seaweed

One of our most pressing challenges is the invasion of exotic Caulerpa, a fast-growing seaweed that can outcompete native species, forming dense mats that smother the seafloor and impact on our marine habitats. This invasive species

threatens the biodiversity and fisheries of the Gulf, a national site of environmental, cultural and economic significance. Early detection, rapid response, and ample resources are crucial for its eradication. The Government's commitment of \$5 million to accelerate the Caulperpa response was a good start but we believe more must be done. Our three-pronged approach includes:

- **Sustained Management Effort:** We need ongoing funding and a clear, coordinated strategy involving mana whenua and all stakeholders.
- **Diverse Responses:** Beyond suction dredging, we must invest in a variety of removal and restorative techniques suited to different environments and restoration of habitats impacted by Caulerpa.
- **Community Education and Awareness:** Empowering mana whenua and local communities with knowledge about Caulerpa identification, removal and ongoing monitoring and surveillance is vital.

### Ending Destructive Fishing Practices

Destructive fishing methods, like bottom trawling, scallop dredging, and Danish seining, have wreaked havoc on the Gulf's seafloor habitats. These practices not only bulldoze the ocean floor but also release significant amounts of carbon dioxide. The historic shellfish beds, once a cornerstone of our marine park, were decimated by such practices and have yet to recover.

Consultations have closed on proposals to restrict these harmful methods, and while we await the outcomes, continued advocacy is essential. Removing bottom-impact fishing is crucial for biodiversity and ecosystem health, and this is a key action in the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan.



### Addressing the RMS Niagara Threat

Lying over 120 metres below the ocean's surface, the wreck of the RMS Niagara poses a looming environmental threat. This vessel, which sank in 1940, has been leaking oil and deteriorating for over 80 years. The potential for a catastrophic oil spill is a ticking time bomb. A detailed risk assessment and survey are urgently needed to prevent disaster.

Maritime New Zealand must receive the necessary direction and funding to undertake this vital work. The cost of a survey pales compared to the environmental and economic fallout of an oil spill in our already vulnerable Gulf.

### 30% of the Gulf in Marine Protection Areas

The vision of protecting 30% of the Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf by 2030 is essential for its recovery. Marine protected areas (MPAs) allow ecosystems to heal. The *Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill* which will establish new MPAs is a step in the right direction toward restoring the health of the Gulf. Though it will initially bring total protection to approximately 6%, this is insufficient. Further efforts are needed to meet international standards and recommendations of 30% marine protection, alongside safeguarding seabirds. Supporting this Bill and advocating for bespoke fisheries management plans are critical steps toward achieving our 30% protection goal. Unanimous support from the Select Committee for the *Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill* in July is a promising sign of bipartisan understanding of the importance and need for enhanced protection for the Gulf.

The health of the Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf is at a critical juncture. By focusing on these priority areas and working together, we can make significant strides in restoring and protecting this precious environment. Your continued support, advocacy, and action are essential as we navigate these challenges. Together, let's ensure Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf remains abundant and biodiverse for future generations.

**Nicola MacDonald**  
Co-Chair - Tangata Whenua

**Toby Adams**  
Co-Chair





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Known infestations in the Gulf

### Exotic Caulerpa

Since August 2023 there have been several confirmed detections of exotic Caulerpa at new locations: Waiheke Island, the Mokohinau Islands, Rakino Island, and the northern point of the Coromandel from Fantail Bay to Port Jackson. The infestation at Aotea has spread, with Caulerpa being found at Bowling Alley Bay, the Broken Islands, Shag Point, and the eastern coast of Kaikoura Island.

A detection at Omaha Cove, Leigh was successfully removed and no further signs of Caulerpa in the area have been detected. This brings the total number of locations in the Gulf to eight (see map right). The level of infestation at each location varies in density and area with dense carpets in some places and sparse plants in others. Currently it covers more than 1,500 hectares and the amount found suggests it has been in New Zealand for several years. It is also reasonable to assume that there are currently undetected areas of exotic Caulerpa in other parts of the Gulf.



2-4

metre high sediment plumes from bottom trawling can disperse over large distances, affecting areas beyond where the trawl occurred.

### Destructive fishing practices

To address the range of pressures on benthic habitats in the Gulf and support integrated management, the Sea Change Plan recommended that bottom trawling and Danish seining should be transitioned out of the Gulf completely because of the adverse effects on the biodiversity of the seafloor.

The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan proposed that a spatial management approach, known as the 'trawl corridors proposal' would allow evidence-based management of trawl and Danish seine fishing in a manner that could achieve a high level of biodiversity and ecosystem benefit, while providing for continued utilisation and minimising the range of potential impacts of a complete exclusion.

Following multi-stakeholder consultation, options for the placement of trawl corridors were developed and consulted on in late 2023 and the Minister is considering these proposals.

In addition, work on camera-based survey techniques and associated AI has removed the need for dredge-based surveys for tipa / scallops and to increase the efficiency of survey data analysis to reduce impact and lower the cost of future tipa surveys. The stock assessment surveys for SCA 1 and SCA CS were completed in July 2024 which will provide a good comparison across core recreational and commercial tipa beds to assess recovery both at a local bed and wider stock scale.

In a huge win for seabirds, new surface longline fishing rules effective 1 October 2024 will require all boats to use hook-shielding devices or all three other protective measures (bird-scaring streamers, weighted lines, and nighttime line deployment) to reduce seabird bycatch.

### RMS Niagara

While the gold cargo was salvaged in the 1940s through to the 80s, nobody knows how much oil remains.

Recent dives show the 84 year old wreck is disintegrating. Oil continues to surface at the site, evident in a visible slick, putrid smell, and coating boat hulls. A survey is critically needed to establish how much oil remains, as a spill would be a major disaster for the environment from Mangawhai to Goat Island, Aotea, other islands, and further south. It would also be massively expensive to clean up. While monitoring has increased over the past year, the concern is that the approach is simply to keep an eye on it until it collapses.

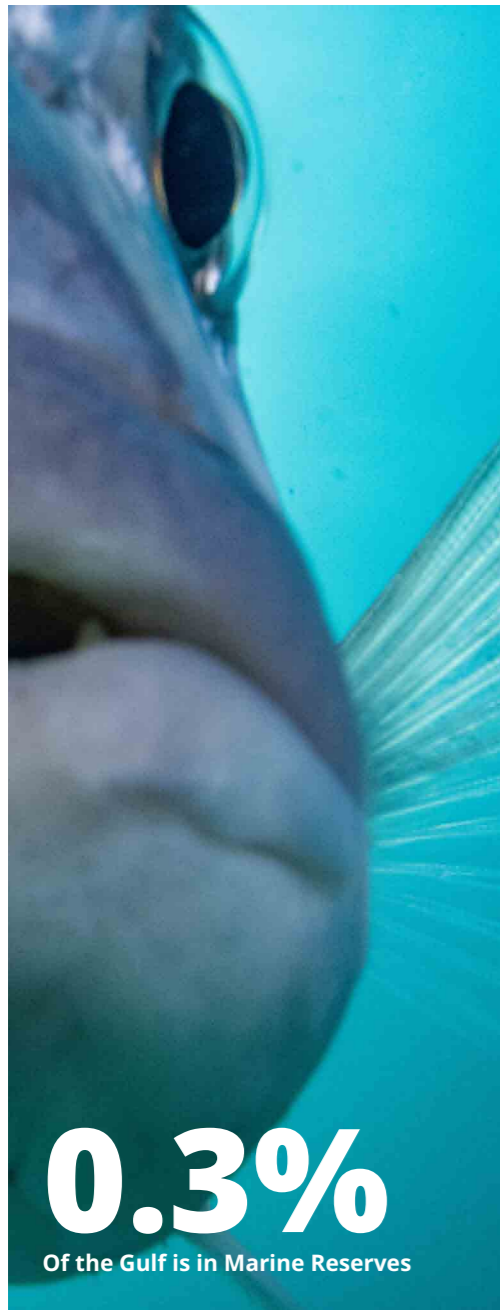


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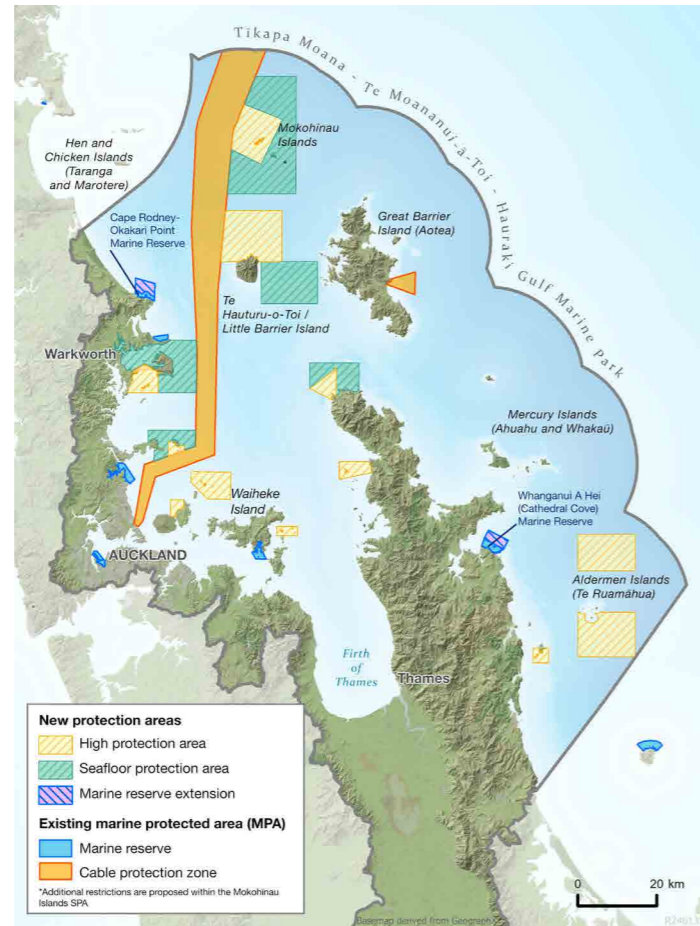
tonnes of oil were on the MV Rena; if the RMS Niagara still has 4,400 tonnes, it could cause a disaster more than twice as severe.

RMS Niagara oil on ROV teather © Ocean Bounty Show





**0.3%**  
Of the Gulf is in Marine Reserves



### Marine Protection Bill

The Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill is the product of years of effort from a wide range of people to restore the Hauraki Gulf. The Bill builds on the foundation laid by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 as an example of legislation that supports cultural, environmental, economic, and social outcomes for the Gulf. In July 2024 the Environment Select Committee unanimously recommended the passing of the Bill, which will establish 12 new high protection areas, 5 seafloor protection zones, and expand 2 marine reserves.

We are one step closer to restoring the Gulf's ecological health and boosting fish populations, as we wait for the second reading of the Bill.



### Introducing Lucy Baragwanath

New Executive Officer

Born and raised around Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf, Lucy brings a wealth of experience to her new role. A specialist generalist with expertise in stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and collective action, she has held senior positions at the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, and AUT, and led the Research and Monitoring Unit at Auckland Council.

She is delighted to support the critical work of the Hauraki Gulf Forum in protecting and enhancing the Gulf.

## WORK PLAN 2024-2026

**OUR VISION:** *Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-ā-Toi, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is celebrated and treasured, is thriving with fish, shellfish and kaimoana, has a rich biodiversity, supports a sense of place, connection and identity, and a vibrant local economy*

### OUR STRATEGIC ISSUES

Integrated management	Healthy environments	Marine ecosystems
Improve integrated management through collaborative planning, informed decision-making, and credible action	Ensure healthy environments by improving water quality and managing land use practices that impact the Gulf	Improve marine ecosystems through recognising critical marine values and advocating for their protection and restoration

### OUR BIG GOALS

<b>A healthy catchment</b>	Advocate for a catchment-wide, ki uta ki tai approach Set up a taskforce to reduce land-based impacts, including sediment runoff	Riparian planting of all waterways in the catchment Stem flows of sediment, microplastic, nutrients, sewage, pollution. Support for pest control and forest health	End marine dumping Use all available tools: legislation, regulation, mātauranga Māori.
<b>At least 30% marine protection</b>	Establish a process for achieving 30% marine protection by 2030		Pass the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill Implementation of Revitalising the Gulf
<b>A restored seafloor</b>	Treat marine biosecurity as seriously as land biosecurity Ensure consistent implementation of Clean Hull Plan Enable marine restoration through regulatory frameworks Investigate the wreck of the RMS Niagara and deal with any risks identified	Address heavily degraded water bodies like the Waitematā and Firth of Thames	Reduce, remove and eradicate Caulerpa Remove fishing methods that damage the seafloor Address kina barren, including achieving 50% biomass targets for predators of kina Restore 1000sqkm of shellfish beds and reefs Mitigate climate change through kelp forest restoration and blue carbon pilots

### ADDITIONAL WORK AREAS

Accountability and visibility of Forum in Member institutions, and specific asks of Members Pursue options to empower the Co-Chairs and Executive Officer for a more impactful Forum Enhance community engagement and funding Maintain bi-partisan government relations approach Establish 'Integrated management pilot areas' – for Waikato and Auckland Enhance coordination and boost investment in marine environmental monitoring	Develop resilient wastewater infrastructure Capture all available data and knowledge for State of the Gulf reports	Pursue ecosystem-based fisheries management Ensure localised abundance of kaimoana Support Ahu Moana areas Partner on specific challenges – e.g. seabird-smart fishing; educating youth; accessibility for volunteer groups Promote citizen-science initiatives Develop new funding sources from HGMP activities to support ecosystem regeneration
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# TAUĀKĪ KĀWANATANGA

## Governance Statement

This Governance Statement replaces all prior versions. It covers how the Forum works, and key roles and responsibilities. The Forum's purposes, membership, functions and powers are set out in detail in Part 2 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMPA) and are not repeated here.

### **He waka kōtuia kāhore e tukutukua ngā mimira.**

**A canoe that is interlaced will not become separated at the bow.**

**In unity there is strength.**

**In the highly developed craft of building ocean going waka the bow section was laced to the centre hull. The waka provides a metaphor for tangata whenua, in that a people interlaced will not be separated and through that unity we find strength.**

### **How the Forum works**

*Te whakahonore i o maatau hononga Tiriti hei painga mo Te Moananui-ō-Toi; Tikapa Moana; Hauraki Gulf.*

The Forum will operate in partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, including the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under Section 6.

It will integrate and respect both Te Ao Māori and other world views.

The Forum's conduct, and all those that interact with it, will adhere to the intent of the following principles:

• **Aroha:** being considerate – having respect for relationships and being of service.

• **Openness and impartiality:** having an open mind when making decisions and listening to other points of view.

• **Tautoko:** supporting others by respecting and upholding others mana, dignity, identity and unique perspective.

• **Manaaki:** caring for others by responsibly valuing

others and ensuring they feel valued.

• **Stewardship:** using powers and resources prudently.

• **Awhi:** helping others by entering into effective engagements in the spirit of co-operation and good faith.

• **Leadership:** inspiring action toward achieving common goals.

• **Tika:** being responsible – doing the right thing with integrity and accountability.

• **Pono:** being effective – building credibility.

• **Ethics:** maintaining the highest standard of ethical conduct.

The Forum will endeavour to meet quarterly, with meetings split between the Auckland and Waikato regions. It will hold additional workshops and meetings as required.

### **Our Roles and Responsibilities**

#### • **Co-Chairs**

– One Co-Chair is from and elected by the membership at large.

– One Co-Chair is from and decided by the Tangata Whenua members.

– Co-Chairs lead the Forum and are its spokespeople.

– Co-Chairs work in partnership with each other.

– Co-Chairs exemplify the principles by which we work.

– Co-Chairs chair Forum meetings, set strategic direction, support and work with all Members, and front public engagement.

*(A separate Co-Chairing arrangement records the practical aspects of Co-Chairing)*

#### • **Members**

– Members support and work with the Co-Chairs and each other to take effective decisions and progress the agenda of the Forum.

– Members bring their expertise and mana to ensure quality decision making in the interests of the Marine Park.

– Members represent their Constituent Party, as defined under the HGMPA.

– Members may send alternates to meetings they are unable to attend so long as this is notified in advance and in accordance with any applicable practice.

#### • **Executive Officer**

– The Executive Officer functions as the Chief Executive of the Forum and is responsible for taking forward resolutions of the Forum, ensuring adherence to the HGMPA, supporting the Co-Chairs and all Members, preparing meeting papers, coordination with external partners, and the Forum's management, contracts, finance and administration.

– The Executive Officer chairs meetings of Technical Officers and works closely with the Governance Advisor.

#### • **Governance Advisor**

– The Governance Advisor is responsible for collating and publishing meeting agendas, writing minutes and providing advice on process.

#### • **Technical Officers**

– Members are encouraged to have Technical Officers to provide them and the Forum with expert

support and advice.

– Technical Officers will work with their Members, the Executive Officer and each other to progress the Forum's resolutions, as appropriate.

#### • **Administering Authority**

– Auckland Council is the Administering Authority (for responsibilities see s28, HGMPA).

#### • **Review**

This Governance Statement will be reviewed every 3 years.

# KO WAI TĀTOU?

## Who we are



Nicola MacDonald  
*(Co-Chair)*  
Tangata Whenua



Mayor Toby Adams  
*(Co-Chair)*  
Hauraki District Council



Charmaine Bailie  
Tangata Whenua



Cr Andrew Baker  
Auckland Council



Cr Christine Fletcher  
Auckland Council



Terrence Hohneck  
Tangata Whenua



Jacob Hore  
Fisheries New Zealand



Tom Irvine  
Tangata Whenua



Cr Mike Lee  
Auckland Council



Cr Kerrin Leoni  
Auckland Council



Cr Warren Maher  
Waikato Regional Council



Martin Mariassouce  
Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of  
Māori Development



Cr Paaniora  
Matatahi-Poutapu  
Waikato District Council



Dean Ogilvie  
Tangata Whenua



Mr Chris Olliver  
Aotea / Great Barrier  
Local Board,  
Auckland Council



Ms Bianca  
Ranson  
Waiheke Local Board,  
Auckland Council



Alex Rogers  
Department of Conservation



Cr James Sainsbury  
Matamata-Piako District  
Council



Mayor Len Salt  
Thames-Coromandel  
District Council



Cr Wayne Walker  
Auckland Council



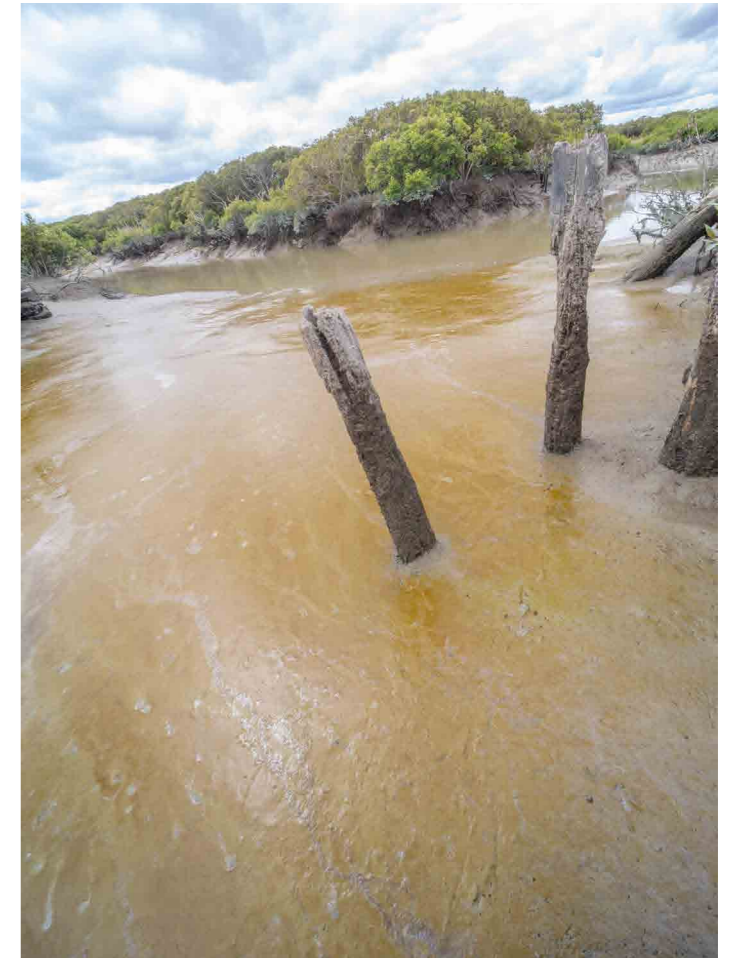
## E TITIRO WHAKAMUA ANA

### Looking ahead

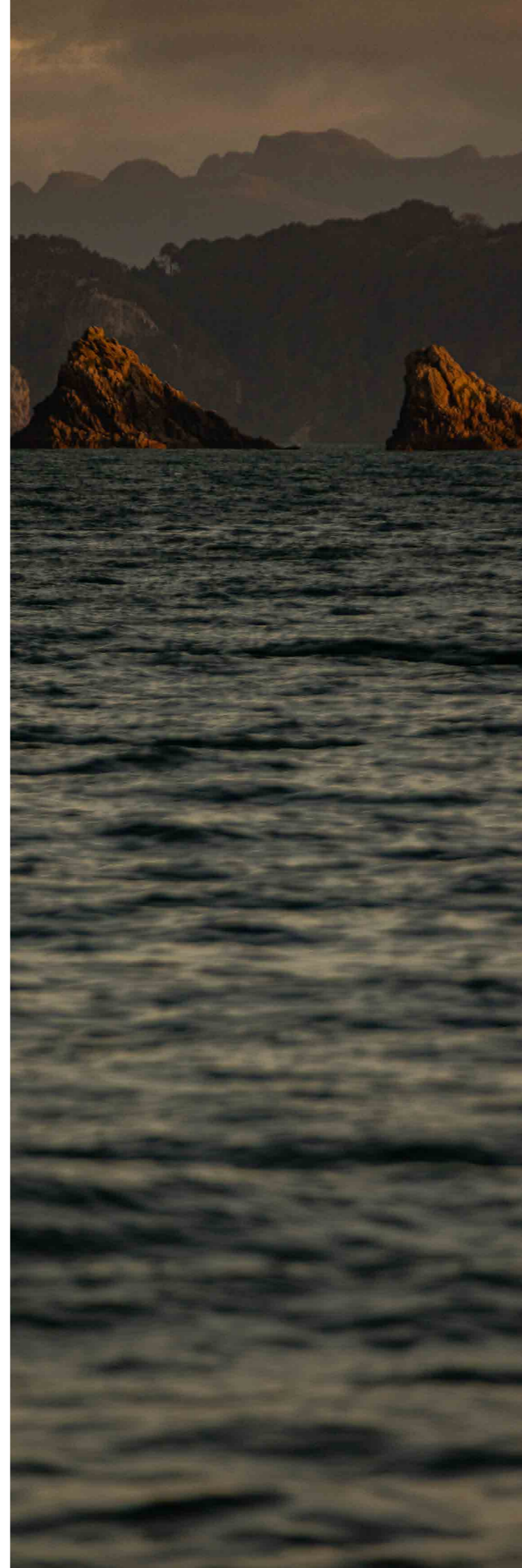
#### 2024 / 2025

The priorities identified will significantly progress our refined workplan for 2024-26.

We eagerly anticipate the enactment of the Marine Protection Bill. While we will continue to battle Caulerpa on every front, while drawing attention to the threat posed by the Niagara, another critical issue is 'mudification'. Great strides have been made in riparian planting but much more needs to be done to understand the scale, source and mitigation needed to prevent the ongoing smothering of the seafloor.







## KO TE PŪTEA UTU WHAKAHAERE Funding and administrative support

Auckland Council kindly fulfils the role as the Administering Authority of the Hauraki Gulf Forum (see section 28, Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000). It employs the Executive Officer and provides governance, finance and admin support functions. Forum members are individually supported

by Technical Officers (normally staff from the constituent party and, in the case of tangata whenua members, appointed by the tangata whenua member). The Forum's \$360,000 budget in 2023/2024 was met through a shared funding formula adopted by the Forum, as outlined in the table below.

### 2023 / 2024 Budget

Funding contribution per sector	Authority	Population in the Gulf catchment (2018 Census)	Population (%)	% Contribution per Project, based on population	Land area in the Gulf catchment (2018 region & TLA boundaries)	Land area (%)	% contribution per project based on land area	% population: % land area (60:40 weighting)	Contribution to a budget of \$360,000.00
33.3%	FNZ DoC TPK			11.10% 11.10% 11.10%			11.10% 11.10% 11.10%	11.10% 11.10% 11.10%	\$39,960.00 \$39,960.00 \$39,960.00
<b>Subtotal (FNZ, DoC, TPK)</b>				<b>33.30%</b>			<b>33.30%</b>	<b>33.30%</b>	<b>\$119,880.00</b>
33.4%	WRC AC	89,781 1,169,136	7.1% 92.9%	2.38% 31.02%	585,501 218,875	72.79% 27.21%	24.31% 9.09%	11.15% 22.25%	\$40,153.85 \$80,086.15
<b>Subtotal (Regions)</b>		<b>1,258,917</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>804,377</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33.40%</b>	<b>33.40%</b>	<b>\$120,240.00</b>
33.3%	AC WDC HDC TCDC MPDC	1,169,136 1,272 19,836 29,466 33,531	93.3% 0.1% 1.6% 2.4% 2.7%	31.07% 0.03% 0.53% 0.78% 0.89%	218,875 14,648 123,590 219,169 161,360	29.67% 1.99% 16.75% 29.71% 21.88%	9.88% 0.66% 5.58% 9.89% 7.28%	22.59% 0.28% 2.55% 4.43% 3.45%	\$81,329.38 \$1,025.20 \$9,172.67 \$15,938.75 \$12,414.00
<b>Subtotal (Selected TLAs)</b>		<b>1,253,241</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>33.30%</b>	<b>737,641</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>33.30%</b>	<b>33.30%</b>	<b>\$119,880.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>100.00%</b>			<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$360,000.00</b>

### 2023 / 2024 Expenditure

	Budget	Actual to end of June 2024
Communications	\$90,000	\$49,816
Legislative requirements	\$80,000	\$14,846
Training and travel expenses	\$12,000	\$4,052
HR and administration	\$178,000	\$138,927
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$207,641</b>

### 2023 / 2024 Revenue

	Budget	Actual to end of June 2024
Constituent party contributions FY24	\$198,584	\$200,250
Auckland Council contribution FY24	\$161,416	\$161,416
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$361,666</b>

Revenue less expenditure	\$0	\$154,025
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Accumulated surplus balance as at 30 June 2023		\$276,042
Revenue less expenditure FY24		\$154,025
Accumulated surplus balance as at 30 June 2024		\$430,067

All costs are presented exclusive of GST.

Accumulated surplus includes:		
DOC Necropsies funding likely to be spent in FY25		\$10,000
Constituent party contribution for FY25 paid in advance		\$41,625
Other revenue in advance		\$378,442



# 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.

**2000** The Hauraki Gulf Forum 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.

**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** 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** 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 Waitemata 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.

**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.

<b>R</b>	<b>Regenerating areas</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Enhanced fisheries</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Mana whenua expression</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Active land management</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Knowledge utilisation (ecosystem-based)</b>

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

**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 – Ōkakarī 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** Reset of Strategic Issues around three priorities:

<b>Forum Operations</b>
<b>Water Quality</b>
<b>Marine Ecosystems</b>

**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.

**2020** Sixth state of the environment report published telling the 20-year story of the Marine Park, interweaving Mātauranga and science.

**2020** Adoption of four **Big Goals**

<b>At least 30% marine protection</b>
<b>Restoration of 1000sqkm of shellfish-beds and reefs</b>
<b>Riparian planting of the catchment</b>
<b>Ending marine dumping near the Marine Park</b>

**2020** Adoption of new Governance Statement, including the appointment of Co-Chairs.

**2020** Invited to submit a Briefing to Incoming Government for the first time in the Forum's history.

**2020/2021** Forum supports rāhui by Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Pāoa.

**2021** Hauraki Gulf Kōrero podcast series released.

**2021** Government proposes response to Sea Change 2016.

**2022** Advocacy Position on updating and strengthening the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act presented to Ministers.

**2022** cross-Parliament engagement on future of the Hauraki Gulf.

**2022** Tīpa (scallop) fishery near collapse and closed.

**2023** Valuation finds Marine Park worth upwards of \$100billion NZD

**2023** Seventh state of the environment report published showing the rise in impacts from climate change.

**PAST CHAIRS:**

**2000-02** Philip Warren

**2002-07** Laly Haddon

**2007-18** John Tregidga

**2018-19** John Meeuwssen

**2019-22** Pippa Coom



# WHAKATUTUKITANGA 2023 / 2024

## Achievements 2023 / 2024

### Progress towards achieving the purpose of the Forum

Significant progress has been made in the past year in promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the Gulf.

### Integrated management and promotion of conservation

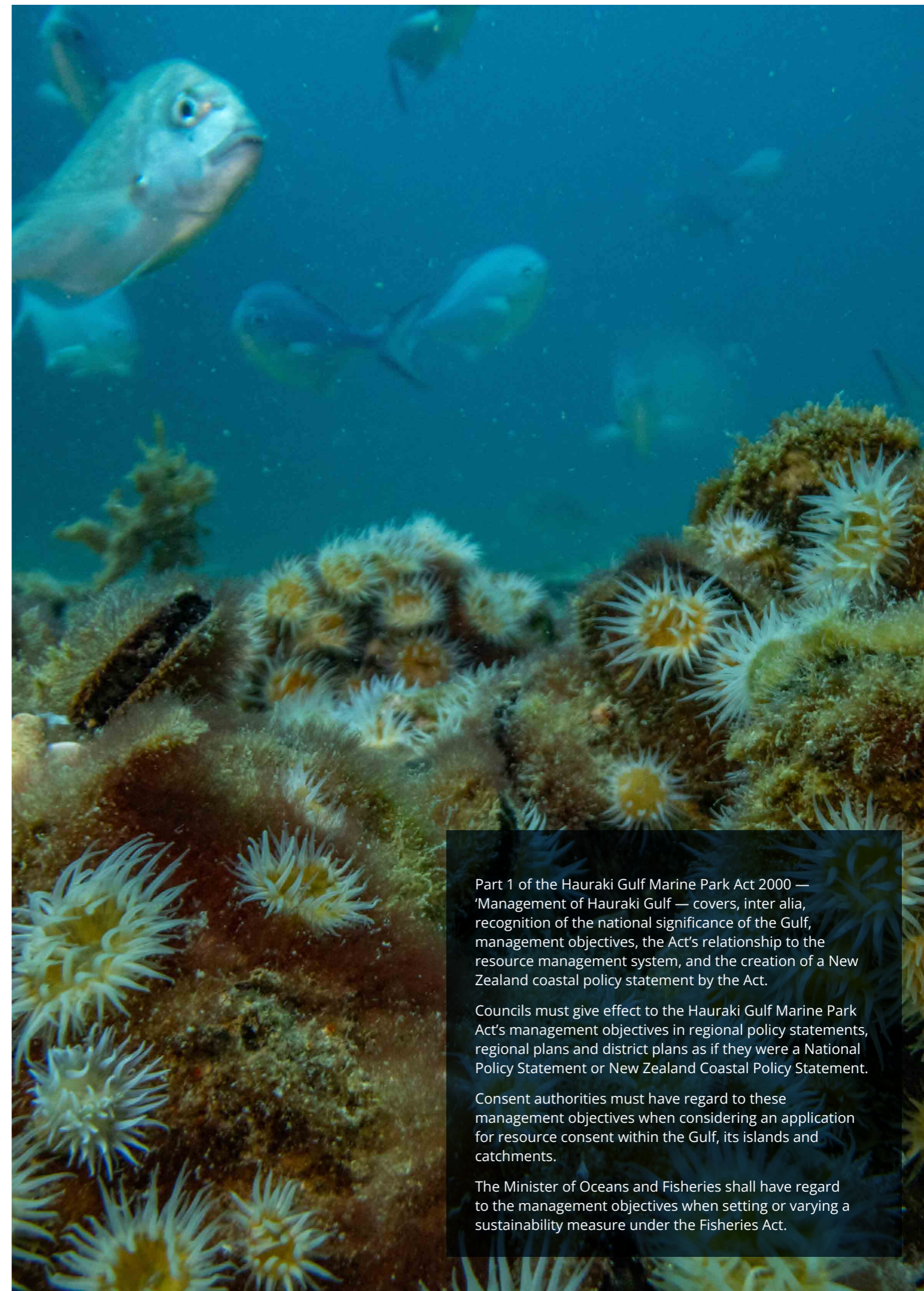
- Three-year Workplan 2024-26 enabling an integrated and holistic approach to tackling threats to the natural, historic and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf developed and adopted
- Advocacy for investment by Watercare in the restoration of the Gulf following the Parnell sinkhole
- Opposition to proposal to pipe treated sewage into the Gulf.
- State of the Gulf 2173 report produced which sets the vision of a fully restored, thriving and abundant Gulf and the actions needed to achieve it.
- Advocacy to support the development and passage through the House of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill resulting in unanimous support from the Environment Select Committee. Further progress requires Government to enact the legislation to materially advance the protection of the Gulf.

### Facilitating communication, co-operation, and co-ordination

- Sold-out launch of State of the Gulf report, 30 media interviews/stories
- Exotic caulerpa roadshows to raise awareness of the threat posed and actions that can be taken
- Briefing Minister for Biosecurity on exotic caulerpa
- Commissioned NZIER report on the economic value of the Gulf to support advocacy to promote conservation and management of the Gulf
- Funded pilot campaign in Mercury Bay and Tairua to engage recreational fishers in practicing seabird-smart fishing
- Meeting with political parties and MPs to raise profile of critical issues and identify points of action
- Facilitated and hosted hui about the RMS Niagara wreck
- Submissions on Marine Protection Bill, Bottom-Fishing Access Zones, Draft Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.

### Recognising the relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf

- Working with tangata whenua to achieve shared aspirations including eradication of exotic caulerpa at Omaha Cove, submissions in support of rāhui, temporary fisheries closures, kina removal and Te Puru Business Park
- Nicola MacDonald (Ngāti Manuhiri) recognised as Environmental Hero of the Year.



Part 1 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 — 'Management of Hauraki Gulf — covers, inter alia, recognition of the national significance of the Gulf, management objectives, the Act's relationship to the resource management system, and the creation of a New Zealand coastal policy statement by the Act.

Councils must give effect to the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act's management objectives in regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans as if they were a National Policy Statement or New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Consent authorities must have regard to these management objectives when considering an application for resource consent within the Gulf, its islands and catchments.

The Minister of Oceans and Fisheries shall have regard to the management objectives when setting or varying a sustainability measure under the Fisheries Act.





## Hauraki Gulf Forum

Tikapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi

*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 / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. The Forum has representation on behalf of the Ministers of Conservation, Oceans and Fisheries and Māori Development, elected representatives from Auckland Council (including the Aotea 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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