

ANNUAL REPORT

Te Pūrongo ā Tau

2024-25



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 2025

COVER: Nanua / Red moki in the Cape Rodney-
Okakari Point Marine Reserve (Goat Island) which
is 50 years old in 2025. 📷 All 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

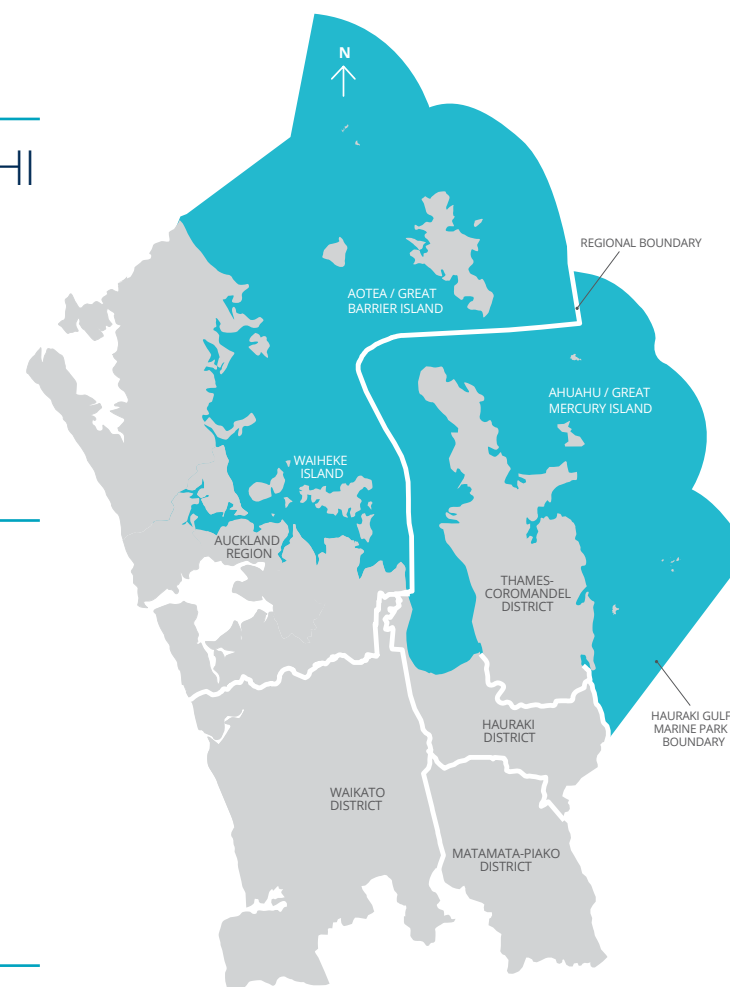
- Integrated management
- Healthy environments
- Marine ecosystems

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

Celebrating Milestones – Confronting Realities

This year marks two significant milestones for marine protection in Aotearoa: 25 years of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and the Hauraki Gulf Forum, and 50 years since the establishment of the Cape Rodney–Okakari Point / Leigh Marine Reserve – the first marine reserve in New Zealand.

These anniversaries are a time for celebration, reflection, and recommitment. They remind us of how far we've come in recognising the value of Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf – our national taonga – and the power of collective action. But they also come at a time of deep ecological stress for the Gulf.

Despite the progress made, Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana continues to face mounting pressure from climate change, sedimentation, destructive fishing practices, invasive species like exotic Caulerpa, and the enduring environmental risk posed by the RMS Niagara wreck. As we

mark these anniversaries, the need for stronger protections and more decisive action has never been clearer.

Lifting Protection, Accelerating Action

A key focus this year has been the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, which aims to establish 19 new marine protection areas across the Gulf. We acknowledge the momentum behind this historic legislation and the many who have worked tirelessly to see it progress. When passed, the Bill will represent a long-overdue step forward – lifting total full protection to around 6 percent of the Gulf.

While this is a meaningful beginning, we remain steadfast in our commitment to achieving 30 percent marine protection by 2030, in line with global targets and ecological recommendations. Safeguarding the future of Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana requires the courage to go further and faster.

Facing the Realities

The Hauraki Gulf is under growing pressure from multiple stressors – some well known, others rapidly emerging.

The spread of exotic Caulerpa remains one of the Gulf's most urgent ecological threats. These fast-growing species smothers native seafloor habitats and undermines biodiversity.

While Government funding has supported the initial efforts, successful control and eradication will require ongoing investment and a clear strategy grounded in partnership with Mana Whenua, the use of adaptive removal methods alongside habitat restoration, and widespread community awareness and monitoring efforts.

The deteriorating wreck of the RMS Niagara – lying over 120 metres deep – remains a silent but serious environmental risk. A full risk assessment and survey are urgently needed. We continue to call for Maritime New Zealand to be directed and resourced to act now – before disaster strikes.



Sedimentation from land-based activities, coupled with bottom-contact fishing methods like trawling, scallop dredging, and Danish seining, continues to devastate the Gulf's ecosystems. These practices have eroded the health of seafloor habitats, contributed to biodiversity loss, and released marine carbon. The Forum remains committed to advocating for sustainable fisheries management and the retirement of these outdated methods through the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan.

Meanwhile, the Gulf is already feeling the impacts of a changing climate. Long-spined sea urchins are increasing in number and range, threatening kelp forests and the habitats they support. Marine heatwaves are also becoming more frequent and intense. These prolonged temperature spikes are linked to widespread stress on marine species – including tissue breakdown in sponges to harmful algal blooms – and they amplify existing threats across the ecosystem.

Signs of Hope

Amid the challenges, there are also powerful signs of recovery and resilience. Across the Gulf, decades of community-led conservation, ecological restoration, and

predator control are bearing fruit.

Native birdlife continues to rebound across island habitats – from the return of the tieke (North Island saddleback) to Rakitū, and the highest hihi (stitchbird) fledging success recorded in years. These taonga species are not only flourishing, but actively supporting pollination and ecosystem regeneration.

These gains are a testament to the vision and persistence of iwi, hapū, community groups, and agency partners who have worked tirelessly over many years to restore mauri and bring life back to degraded places.

They remind us what's possible when kaitiakitanga, science, and local action are aligned – and why it's essential we continue investing in the restoration of Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana.

Acknowledging Leadership

We warmly acknowledge the service of Mayor Toby Adams, who served as Co-Chair during this period, for his strong voice and practical insight, and Tangata Whenua member Paul Majurey, who has served on the Forum since its establishment. Paul's long-standing leadership and dedication have been central to

shaping the Forum's work over its first 25 years. We thank them both deeply for their service.

A Call to Protect What We Treasure

The 25th anniversary of the Marine Park and the 50th anniversary of New Zealand's first marine reserve are not just symbolic. They are a call to action – to honour the legacy of protection, deepen our efforts, and secure a future where the Gulf thrives.

Te Moananui-ā-Toi / Tikapa Moana is at a crossroads. With the continued support, advocacy, and shared vision of communities, Mana Whenua, and leaders across sectors, we can restore this treasured taonga for future generations.

Ngā mihi nui,


Nicola MacDonald MNZM
Co-Chair – Tangata Whenua


Warren Maher
Co-Chair



WHAKAHĪRA

SNAPSHOTS / HIGHLIGHTS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO

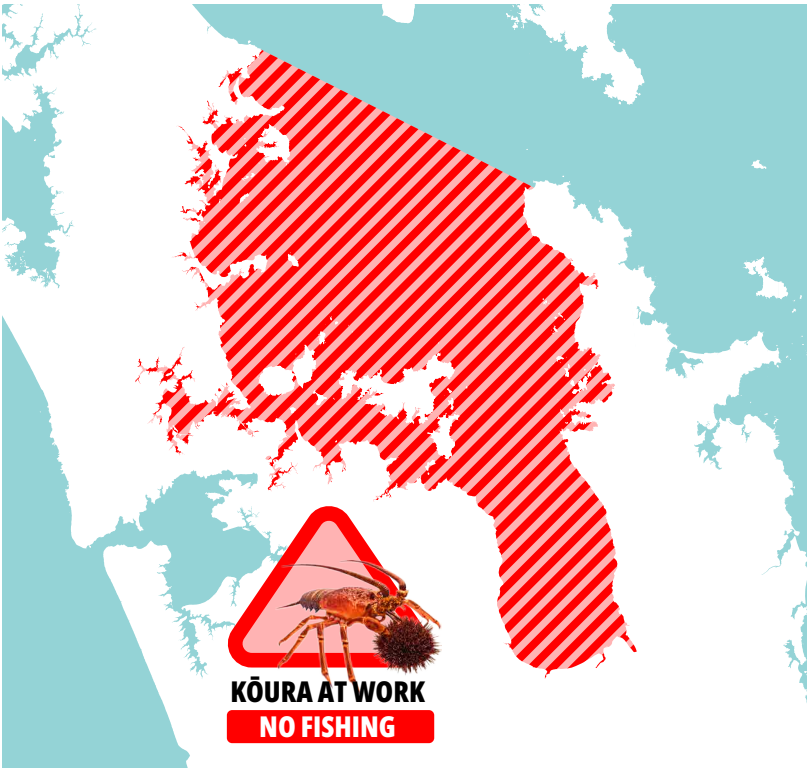
REVITALISING THE GULF

The Revitalising the Gulf programme, led jointly by the Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand, is the Government's response to Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari, the marine spatial plan developed to restore the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi.

Key pillars of the programme include the delivery of new marine protection areas through the Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill (See update on page 6), changes to fisheries management settings via the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, and a stronger focus on ecosystem-based management approaches.

Over the past year, Fisheries New Zealand has made significant progress in implementing aspects of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, underpinned by a collaborative annual planning process involving Mana Whenua and a multi-stakeholder advisory group.

Key actions include:



Kina barren management: A large spatial closure for spiny rock lobster fishing in the inner Gulf took effect in April 2025, alongside increased daily limits for kina (from 50 to 150 per fisher) and the approval of the first special permit for community-led kina removal. Further measures for the rock lobster/kōura fishery in Northland (CRA 1) and the pāua fishery in Northland (PHC 1) are under consideration to address urchin barrens across a broader area.



Scallop fisheries: New surveys and a dedicated scallop advisory group are informing the development of a long-term strategy for the tīpa (scallop) fisheries in Northland, Hauraki Gulf, and Coromandel, which are currently closed.



Fisheries innovation and monitoring: Amateur charter vessels have transitioned to electronic reporting. A new suite of fisheries indicators has been developed with Sustainable Seas Science Challenge to track progress, and onboard camera data is supporting improved management, especially under the National Plan of Action for Seabirds.



Ahu Moana freediver. Schooner Bay, Aotea. © Glenn Edney

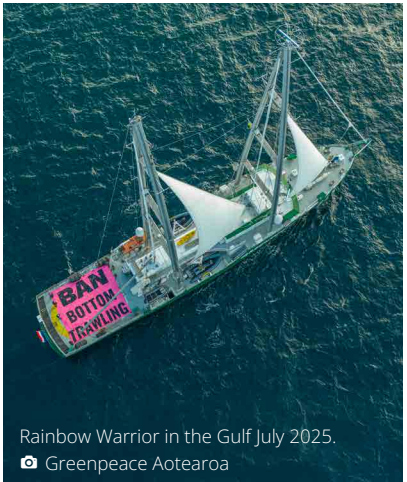
Community and partnership approaches: Fisheries New Zealand continues to develop the Ahu Moana Framework, building on pilot projects to enhance iwi and community involvement in local fisheries management.



NIWA SwathCam five-video panel image from Hauraki Gulf Marine Park seafloor habitat survey, August 2024. FNZ projects BEN202206, BEN 202402

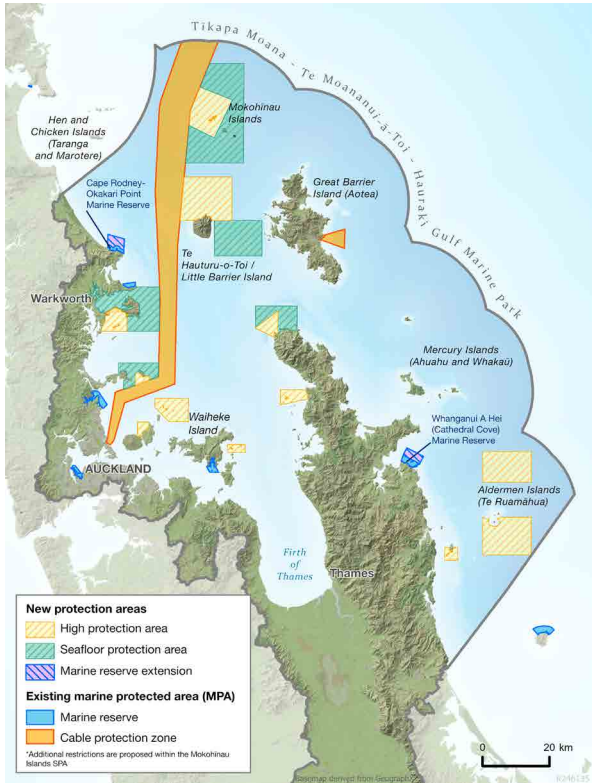
SwathCam field-of-view (width) under good conditions, around 10 m

Habitat mapping and research: A major benthic survey covering over 270 video transects was completed in 2024. Key habitats have also been identified under the new “Habitats of Particular Significance” guidelines to support future ecosystem-based management.



Rainbow Warrior in the Gulf July 2025. © Greenpeace Aotearoa

The Forum has consistently raised concerns about destructive fishing practices, particularly bottom trawling and Danish seining. While the Fisheries Plan includes “trawl corridors,” these remain incompatible with genuine seafloor regeneration and restoration goals. The Minister of Oceans and Fisheries has also signalled that further restrictions will not be progressed this term, meaning no immediate changes to trawl areas are expected. This is a setback for the Forum's aspirations for seafloor recovery and highlights the need for strong, ongoing advocacy. The Forum continues to urge a transition to more selective, sustainable fishing methods that align with the long-term vision of a thriving and abundant Gulf. At the same time, the Forum supports the intent of the Revitalising the Gulf programme and monitors progress, with the Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand providing regular updates at meetings. Revitalising the Gulf remains an important platform for change, but its success depends on continued investment, effective inter-agency coordination, and the courage to act on the measures that will make the greatest difference.



STATUS OF THE HAURAKI GULF / TĪKAPA MOANA MARINE PROTECTION BILL

The Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill reached a pivotal milestone in June 2024, when it was reported back from the Environment Select Committee. The Committee provided unanimous support, affirming the proposal to create 19 new marine protection areas, comprising 12 High Protection Areas (HPAs), five Seafloor Protection Areas, and extensions to two existing marine reserves

Following its unanimous endorsement, the Bill advanced through the second reading in December 2024, again receiving broad cross-party support. Parliament approved the establishment of new marine protection areas, aiming to increase genuine protection from around 0.3 percent to approximately 5.9 percent of the Gulf.

Shortly before the vote, the Government introduced a late-stage amendment allowing commercial ring-net fishing in two proposed High Protection Areas (HPAs) – Kawau Bay and Rangitoto-Motutapu. This move drew strong criticism from iwi, conservation groups, and community stakeholders, who saw it as a setback for marine protection and a break from earlier cross-party support. Iwi leaders challenged the rationale provided by Ministers, particularly the claim that ring-net fishing supports food security for low-income communities, citing a lack of evidence. The amendment went against advice from both the Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand, who warned

it could compromise biodiversity outcomes and erode public confidence in the protection process.

The Forum expressed strong disappointment and called on the Government to reconsider, stressing that permitting commercial fishing in HPAs undermines the Bill's intent to restore marine biodiversity and resilience. Maintaining the integrity of these areas is vital to achieving the Gulf's long-term ecological recovery.

Nonetheless, the Forum has continued to advocate strongly for the Bill's timely passage into law, emphasising its potential to support biodiversity recovery and uphold tangata whenua aspirations for kaitiakitanga. While progress has slowed since the second reading, the Forum has remained engaged with Ministers, Members of Parliament, and officials to maintain momentum and ensure the legislation remains a live priority for the Government.



CLIMATE

Centrostephanus rodgersii

Despite being native, the long-spined sea urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* has undergone a dramatic population boom along the north-east coast of New Zealand and populations are expected to grow. Long-term monitoring by the University of Auckland at the Mokohinau Islands has identified a significant increase in the numbers of long-spined sea urchin and extent of barrens associated with this species. Warmer waters and fewer predators are believed to be key factors driving the increase. Both long-spined sea urchins and kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*) are opportunistic feeders, grazing on a variety of seaweeds, encrusting algae, and invertebrates. However, long-spined sea urchins can graze at much greater depths than kina, consuming deep kelp forests and creating extensive barrens in areas that are harder to reach, making both ecosystem recovery and management interventions significantly more challenging.



Marine Heatwaves

Monitoring by the Moana Project and the University of Auckland's Institute of Marine Science demonstrate that marine heatwaves and increased water temperatures throughout the autumn and winter months continue to be a common occurrence in the Hauraki Gulf in 2025. Marine heatwaves have direct impacts on marine species and have been associated with necrosis (melting) and bleaching in sponges and are likely leading to a southwards expansion of the ranges of warm water species. Marine heatwaves can lower oxygen levels and reduce water quality, and in recent years have been linked to longer-lasting algal blooms. As marine heatwaves exacerbate existing stressors, they will continue to cause stress at all levels of the Hauraki Gulf marine ecosystem including on shellfish, fish, seabird and marine mammals.

UPDATE ON EXOTIC CAULERPA

Exotic Caulerpa is spreading, posing a growing threat to biodiversity, ecosystem services, and cultural



values across Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. Over the past year, at least ten confirmed infestations have been recorded across the upper Gulf and the northern and eastern Coromandel, including recent

detections near Cuvier / Repanga Island and Te Hauru-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island. The severity of infestation varies by site, ranging from sparse patches to dense, smothering mats. Undetected populations are also likely to exist elsewhere in the Gulf.

This geographic expansion has intensified community concern and triggered a more focused response from authorities. The 2024/25 year has seen a shift toward greater coordination, innovation, and on-the-ground action. A multi-agency response is now more firmly in place, with regular coordination between Mana Whenua, Auckland Council, MPI, DOC, and local communities.

A National Advisory Group was established in 2024 to guide MPI's allocation of the additional \$10 million in government funding committed to the response. In parallel, Hauraki Iwi (via the Pou Rāhui research programme) delivered a jointly developed "Better Business Case" to Government, setting out the rationale for a more substantial and sustained investment to meet the scale of the challenge.

MPI continues to trial emerging tools for large-scale removal, including suction dredging and UV-C light treatments, but managing exotic Caulerpa remains highly complex, resource-intensive, and costly. Surveillance and reporting have also been strengthened, supported by tools such as the Exotic Caulerpa Community Viewer, which is improving public visibility and data sharing across agencies.

To better understand the ecological and economic stakes, the Forum commissioned an independent valuation study in 2024, delivered by NZIER, to assess the risk of exotic Caulerpa to the ecosystem services provided by the Hauraki Gulf, finding the invasive species could cost up to \$154 million annually through damage to ecosystem services - reinforcing the urgency of sustained and strategic action.

The Forum, in partnership with Auckland Council, also supported the establishment of the Exotic Caulerpa Community Information Forum, a platform convened by Revive Our Gulf to enable open information sharing and collaboration.

Although the response has escalated meaningfully over the past year, the continued spread of exotic Caulerpa underlines the need for sustained vigilance, resourcing, and innovation. It also highlights the importance of building proactive biosecurity capability — through increased surveillance in high-value ecological and cultural areas (not just ports), and the development of rapid response plans to prevent and contain future incursions. An integrated, long-term approach will be essential to better understand and address this unprecedented marine biosecurity threat.

NGĀ MANU / OTHER ISLAND UPDATES

Native bird populations across the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi are showing encouraging signs of localised recovery, thanks to decades of coordinated predator control, ecological restoration and enduring community-led and Mana Whenua-led conservation. While these gains are cause for optimism, they remain uneven, with many species, particularly seabirds, continuing to face significant threats linked to marine ecosystem decline.

Hihi Recovery on Islands and the Mainland

A record 277 hihi (stitchbird) successfully fledged on Tiritiri Matangi Island during the 2024/25 breeding season - the highest count recorded to date on the island. This milestone reflects the combined impact of sustained pest control, targeted habitat restoration, and an abundant flowering season for key food sources such as harakeke and cabbage trees. In May 2025, 40 adult hihi were translocated to Shakespear Open Sanctuary, marking the second phase of reintroduction to the mainland. The 2024 release has already produced more than 60 fledglings, with continued growth supported by volunteer-led feeding, nest box monitoring, and acoustic tracking. The programme, delivered in partnership with Ngāti Manuhiri, the Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, and community groups, exemplifies the collaborative restoration of taonga species.

Tieke return to Rakitū Island

In June 2025, tieke (North Island saddleback) were successfully reintroduced to Rakitū Island - their first return in more than 50 years. Forty birds were translocated from Taranga (Hen Island), undertaken in partnership between Ngāti Rehua and the Department of Conservation. This was the first official reintroduction since rats were eradicated from Rakitū in 2018. Since then, the island has shown strong signs of regeneration — including the return of native understory plants such as rangiora, tawa, and kawakawa, and increasing gecko and skink presence, evidenced through tracking card monitoring. This reintroduction reinforces the power of predator eradication and Mana Whenua partnership in restoring biodiversity and ecological function.

Tūi activity expands

Tūi remain among the most visible indicators of ecological recovery across the Gulf. Restoration planting of nectar-rich native species such as pōhutukawa, rewarewa, and harakeke has improved habitat connectivity and food availability. Tūi are now regularly observed in previously degraded sites, supporting native pollination and seed dispersal and signalling the strengthening of ecological function on land.

Seabirds: The good news

The New Zealand storm petrel, a species thought extinct until its rediscovery in 2003, is showing signs of increasing in number. At-sea sightings have risen significantly since the first population estimate in 2017, and a land-based survey on Hauturu-o-Toi, the only breeding island, is underway to confirm this trend.

Tara iti (New Zealand fairy tern), Aotearoa’s rarest endemic breeding bird, is benefiting from community advocacy, increased investment and resources, ranger activities, predator control, habitat enhancement, proactive rescues, and the development of a captive rearing programme between DOC and Auckland Zoo. At the end of the 2024/25 season, the project team was cautiously optimistic that eight captive-raised chicks, added to ten wild-reared fledglings, would help boost the overall population.

The Tāwharanui seabird restoration project has also demonstrated how sustained predator exclusion can re-establish seabird populations on the mainland using acoustic attraction methods. From a remnant population of ōi (grey-faced petrels), the site is now home to four breeding species of petrels and shearwaters - including the first mainland breeding pair of titi (Cook’s petrels) in living memory.

Seabirds: Still under threat

Despite these successes, many seabirds across the Gulf face serious and systemic pressures. Onboard camera trials revealed that seabird bycatch in commercial fisheries may be significantly under-reported, with capture rates nearly doubling on monitored trips. This poses ongoing risks to species such as the endemic tākoketai (black petrel) and toanui (flesh-footed shearwater).

Studies of pakahā (fluttering shearwater) and rako (Buller’s shearwater) show these species are beginning to struggle with warming seas. In marine heatwave years, adults can take twice as long to forage for chicks. Increasing storm events further affect species such as kororā (little penguins) and shags, which rely on underwater sight to catch prey. Kawau tikitiki (spotted shag) numbers have fallen from thousands to around 250 individuals over the past 50 years, with a further 5–10 pair decline each year. A recent tracking study confirmed set-net fishing as a major ongoing threat.

Community monitoring, such as the Leigh Penguin Group and the 2024 Aotea Bird Count, reflects growing local and Mana Whenua engagement in long-term seabird surveillance. Yet land-based conservation efforts cannot succeed if there is insufficient food in the marine system to sustain populations.



WHAKATUTUKITANGA 20234 / 2025
Achievements 2024 / 2025

Progress towards achieving the purpose of the Forum

The past year has seen continued efforts to promote the sustainable management and conservation of the Gulf.

Integrated management and promotion of conservation

- Continued advocacy by the Forum propelled the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill through its second reading in Parliament on 18 December 2024. The Forum continues to call for it’s enactment to formalise 19 new marine protection areas, representing a significant step forward for biodiversity and habitat protection in the Gulf.
- The Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan is now under implementation. While early Ministerial decisions have allowed for increased harvest of kina, the Forum has expressed concern over the lack of progress on bottom-trawl corridors.
- The Forum submitted to Fisheries New Zealand on the CRA2 review, advocating for the retention of current catch limits and calling for closure of the inner Gulf, including the area surrounding Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, to rock lobster fishing, to support stock recovery.

Facilitating communication, co-operation, and co-ordination

- The Forum commissioned NZIER to quantify the potential impact of exotic Caulerpa, finding the invasive species could cost up to \$154 million annually through damage to ecosystem services.
- The Forum supported the establishment of the Hauraki Gulf Exotic Caulerpa Information Forum, in partnership with Auckland Council and Revive Our Gulf, to coordinate community response efforts, and share scientific and local knowledge.
- The Forum continued its partnership with seabird-smart fishing campaigns to support education to reduce seabird bycatch.
- The Forum engaged regularly with Ministers, MPs, and political party representatives to raise the profile of key issues affecting the Gulf, provide briefings on the Marine Protection Bill, and seek cross-party support for urgent conservation action.

Recognising the relationship of tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf

- The Forum worked closely with tangata whenua to progress shared aspirations, including support for exotic Caulerpa response efforts, submissions in support of rāhui, temporary fisheries closures, and culturally grounded management responses across rohe moana.
- In 2024, new Tangata Whenua Member, Tom Irvine (Ngāti Whatua Orakei), was appointed to the Forum by the Minister of Conservation.

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 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.

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 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 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.

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

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**

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

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 releases response to Sea Change 2016.

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

2022 Tipa (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.

2023 Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, New Zealand’s first area-based fisheries plan, was approved by the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries.

2023 Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill was introduced to the House of Representatives.

2024 Forum supports the extension of temporary fishery closures requested by Ngāti Paoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaterā, and Ngāti Hei.

2024 Initial valuation estimates the annual economic impact of exotic *Caulerpa* at up to \$154 million.

PAST CHAIRS

2000–02 Philip Warren
2002–07 Laly Haddon
2007–18 John Tregidga
2018–19 John Meeuwsen
2019-22 Pippa Coom
2023-24 Toby Adams

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 TE PŪTEA UTU WHAKAHAERE

Funding and administrative support

Auckland Council 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 each member's constituent party and, in the case of tangata whenua

members, appointed by the tangata whenua member). The Forum's \$375,000 budget in 2024/2025 was met through a shared funding formula adopted by the Forum, as outlined in the table below.

2024 / 2025 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 \$375,000.00
33.3%	FNZ DoC TPK			11.10% 11.10% 11.10%			11.10% 11.10% 11.10%	11.10% 11.10% 11.10%	\$41,625.00 \$41,625.00 \$41,625.00
Subtotal (FNZ, DoC, TPK)				33.30%			33.30%	33.30%	\$124,875.00
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%	\$41,826.92 \$83,423.08
Subtotal (Regions)		1,258,917	100.0%	33.4%	804,377	100.00%	33.40%	33.40%	\$125,250.00
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%	\$84,718.10 \$1,067.92 \$9,554.87 \$16,602.86 \$12,931.25
Subtotal (Selected TLAs)		1,253,241	100.00%	33.30%	737,641	100.00%	33.30%	33.30%	\$124,875.00
TOTALS				100.00%			100.00%	100.00%	\$375,000.00

2024 / 2025 Expenditure		
	Budget	Actual to end of June 2024
Communications	\$95,000	\$31,429
Legislative requirements	\$85,000	\$11,479
Training and travel expenses	\$10,000	\$5,150
HR and administration	\$185,000	\$149,236
Total expenditure	\$375,000	\$197,293

2024 / 2025 Revenue		
	Budget	Actual to end of June 2024
Constituent party contributions FY25	\$206,859	\$165,234
Auckland Council contribution FY25	\$168,141	\$168,141
Total revenue	\$375,000	\$333,375

Revenue less expenditure	\$0	\$136,082
--------------------------	-----	-----------

Accumulated surplus balance as at 30 June 2024		\$430,067
Revenue less expenditure FY25		\$136,082
Accumulated surplus balance as at 30 June 2025		\$566,149

All costs are presented exclusive of GST.

Accumulated surplus includes:		
DOC Necropsies funding		\$10,000
Other revenue in advance		\$566,149

The total amount spent on fees and payments to the Hauraki Gulf Forum's tangata whenua representatives and their technical officers, by the Department of Conservation in the 2024/2025 financial year was \$31,510

KO WAI TĀTOU?

Who we are



Nicola MacDonald
(Co-Chair)
Tangata Whenua



Cr Warren Maher
(Co-Chair)
Waikato Regional Council



Mayor Toby Adams
Hauraki District Council



Charmaine Bailie
Tangata Whenua



Cr Christine Fletcher
Auckland Council



Terrence Hohneck
Tangata Whenua



Jacob Hore
Fisheries New Zealand



Tom Irvine
Tangata Whenua



Cr Mike Lee
Auckland Council



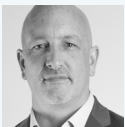
Cr Kerrin Leoni
Auckland Council



Martin Mariassouce
Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of
Māori Development



Cr Paaniora
Matatahi-Poutapu
Waikato District Council



Dean Ogilvie
Tangata Whenua



Mr Chris Ollivier
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



Cr John Watson
Auckland Council

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

Tīkapa 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 / Tīkapa 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.

Private Bag 92300

Auckland 1142

www.haurakigulfforum.org.nz

info@haurakigulfforum.org.nz