

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large colony of seabirds, likely albatrosses, on a body of water. One bird is in sharp focus in the foreground, wings spread wide, appearing to be in motion. Other birds are visible in the background, some in flight and others on the water. The water is a deep blue-green color. A semi-transparent geometric pattern of overlapping diamond shapes is overlaid on the entire image.

Mahere Mahi **Work Plan** 2027-29



Hauraki Gulf Forum

Tīkapa Moana

Te Moananui-ā-Toi

This work plan translates the Forum's Big Goals into a set of priority actions for the 2027-2029 term.

Priority actions were identified by members and give effect to the Forum's purpose under section 15 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (HGMP Act) to support integrated management of the Gulf, facilitate communication and collaboration on matters relating to constituent parties, and recognise the historic, traditional, cultural and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. This provides a clear focus for the Forum's efforts and a basis for measuring progress and accountability over the next three years.

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

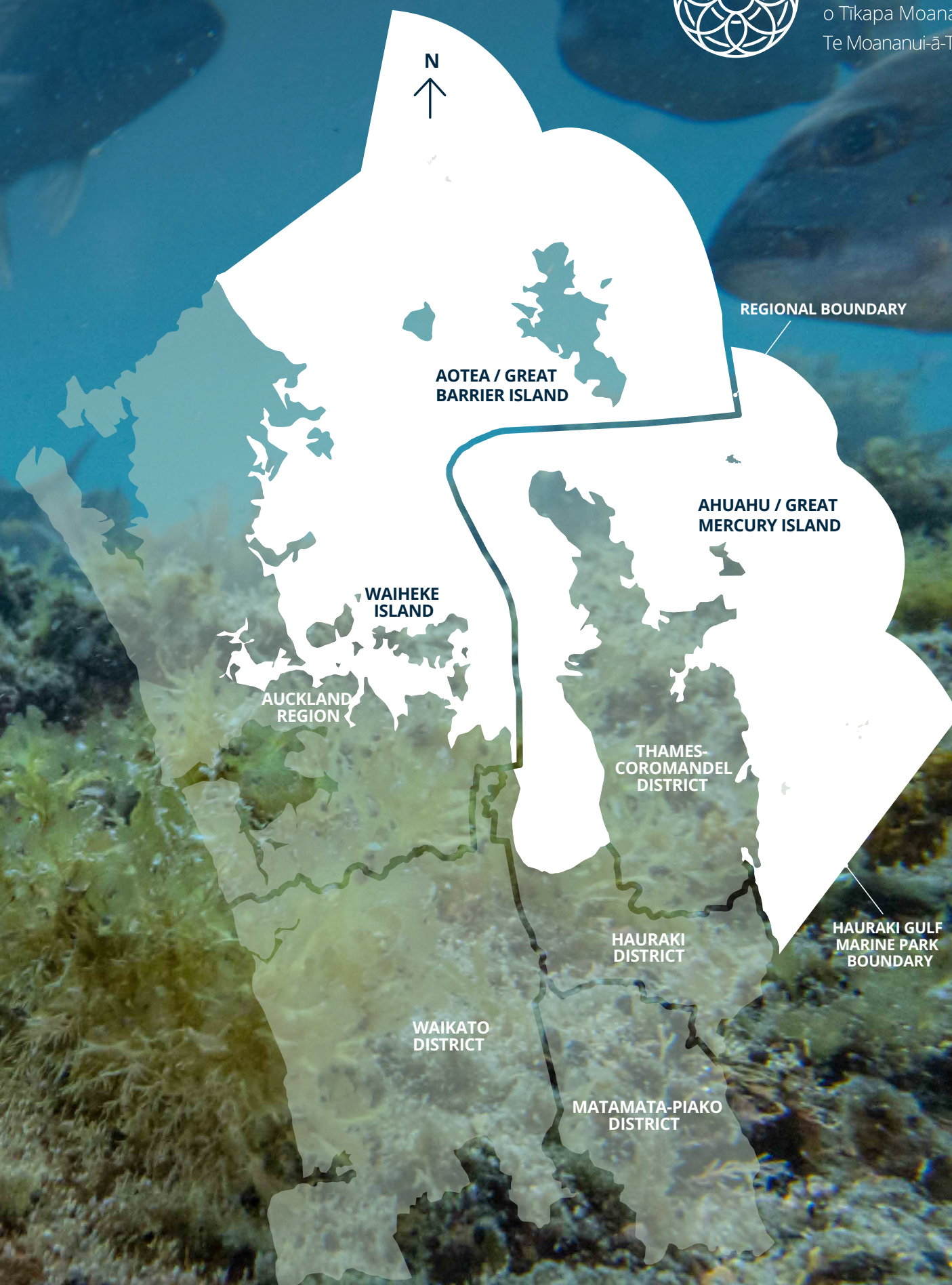
Ko ā tātou whāinga nui

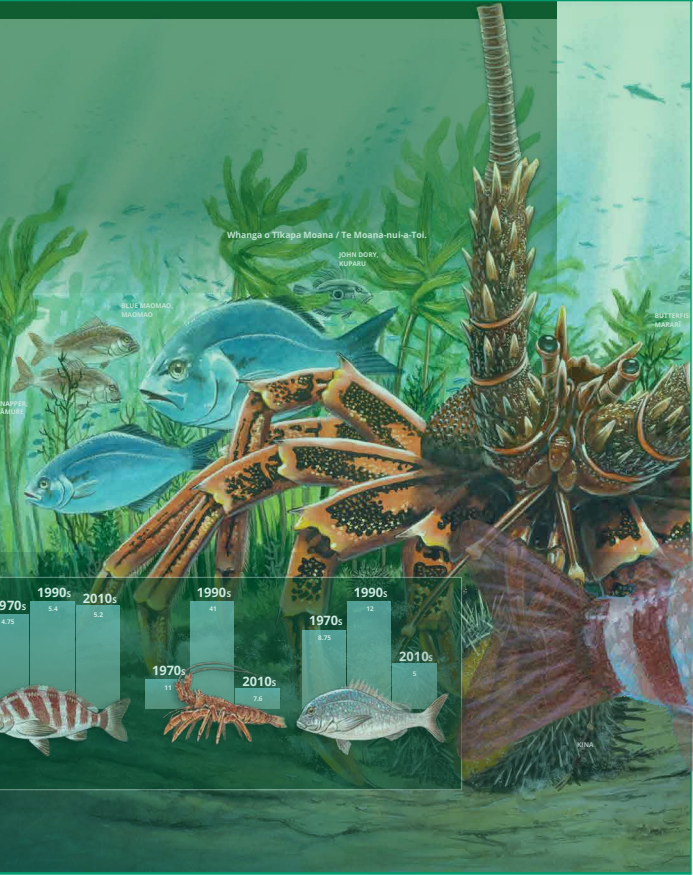
Our Big Goals

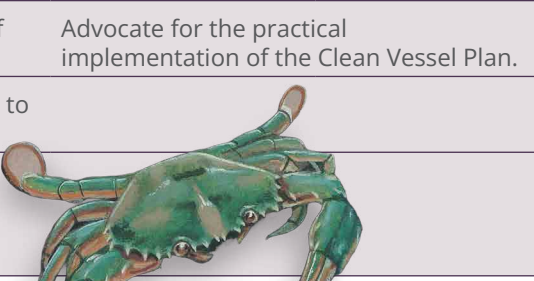
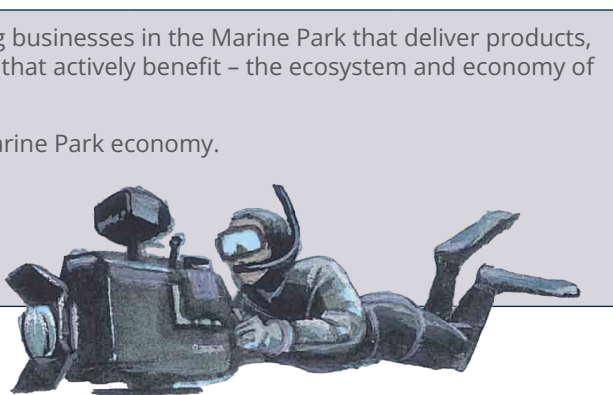
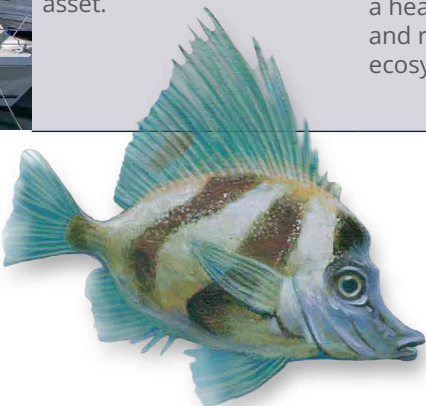
- At least 30% marine protection
- A restored seafloor
- A healthy catchment



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



		Focus area	Context			
		Education & engagement Provide opportunities for young people and the public to learn about and act for the Marine Park, whilst building connection and knowledge/resource-sharing opportunities with relevant organisations in Aotearoa and overseas.	The purpose of the Forum is to promote the conservation and management in a sustainable manner, of the natural, historic, and physical resources of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and catchments, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and communities of the Gulf and New Zealand.	2027	2028	2029
				Deliver Marine Park Conference 2027 Seek engagement and knowledge-sharing opportunities with international counterparts (Marine Parks and overseas designated areas), and forge connections with values-aligned funding sources. Activate digital channels to meet audience requirements (demographic / geographic) Submit advice on matters relating to the Marine Park, where appropriate, and in accordance with the HGMP Act. Provide regular public updates on progress/setbacks regarding the integrated management and protection of the Marine Park through appropriate formats (social media, press releases, features and film content). Address Forum website to enable hosting of tools and resources online. (Submissions / Press releases). Enable participation by young people in Forum mahi, providing opportunities such as work shadowing, internships, event attendance, delegation participation, self-directed study. Provide grant funding to support projects that align with and progress the Forum's goals. Identify knowledge and information gaps and commission / publish research to support decision making / action in the Marine Park that progresses the Forum's focus areas. Enable topical presentations from organisation/individuals at each of the Forum's hui (four per year) Host one hui per year in support of the Gulf Island Trusts Deliver annual reports relating to the Forum's purpose to the Minister of Conservation (DOC).	Host topical events to progress outcomes of 2027 conference. Attend UN Oceans Conference 2028. (TBC) Enable Forum artwork to be on public display at educational settings.	Deliver State of our Gulf Report 2029
		Seabird declines Investigate the reasons for ongoing seabird declines and seek action to mitigate/address this and enable recovery.	The Gulf is a globally significant seabird hotspot and a critical breeding ground for 27 species—some of which nest nowhere else on Earth.	Work with partners to identify knowledge gaps (ie, climate change effects, bycatch) and undertake research where needed, promoting findings. Identify good practice (national/regional) and seek knowledge sharing opportunities / field trips to strengthen connections / collective progress. Promote/ support mana whenua and community-led seabird monitoring and conservation efforts	Promote good practice in seabird-friendly commercial fishing that enables economic advantage/product premium.	
		Sustainable fishing Seek areas of alignment to enable progress on transitioning to sustainable fisheries settings and technology.	Activating ecosystem-based management.	Meet with stakeholders to facilitate progress on key areas of alignment to support a transition away from destructive fishing practices within the Marine Park. 	Participate in the review of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries plan led by MPI. Ensure ecosystem-based fisheries management.	Hold to account agreements made in the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan review.
		RMS Niagara wreck Facilitate action on Maritime NZ's recommendation to survey oil on board the RMS Niagara wreck.	Sunk in 1940, the RMS Niagara is an 86-year-old environmental time bomb resting within the Marine Park with an unknown quantity of heavy fuel oil on board.	Find technical, cultural and financial project partners needed for a working group that could progress Stages 1 and 2 of Maritime NZ's suggested survey. 	Initiate a working group and project plan that can be collectively activated with support from Government.	

	Focus area	Context		2027	2028	2029	
	Biosecurity Seek a biosecurity approach that prioritises marine and land environments equally.	Marine pests are impacting habitats and ecosystems in the Gulf.		Call for immediate progression to public consultation of the Clean Vessel Plan. Advocate for investment in monitoring and surveillance to prevent new incursions of (marine) invasive species. Support collaboration across national and regional government, iwi, communities and private sector.	Advocate for the practical implementation of the Clean Vessel Plan.		
	30% Marine protection Maintain pressure for a marine protection target of 30% within the Marine Park by 2030.	Protected areas are nurseries for marine life, allowing people to experience an abundant thriving ocean.		Continue to support cultural practices, such as rāhui, and kaitiakitanga more broadly. Advocate for adjustments to the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act 2025 that uphold the rigour of designations, and enables tools to increase protections.	Scope new areas of protection / types of protection with interest groups, tangata whenua and government representatives.		
	Sedimentation & pollution Develop a practical / ki uta ki tai strategy to identify sediment and run-off hotspots, opportunities to address drivers and extend active restoration.	Mud washing off the land clouds the water, smothers seafloor habitats, and degrades the whole Marine Park.		The Forum will work with constituent parties and stakeholders to address the degraded the Firth of Thames, seeking stronger interventions in the region to reverse the decline of this locally and internationally significant waterway. Collate information on drivers of sedimentation and pollution (nitrogen, overflows / leaks). Work with constituent party organisations on preventative actions and (through spatial planning) to identify habitat types (wetlands) that can mitigate impacts. Connect with mana whenua and locally-led planting rōpū to understand gaps in resources and prioritise areas of action / restoration investment.	Develop resources to articulate problem areas, successful interventions, priority actions and local knowledge/skills, resources available or required. Facilitate new partnerships to increase active restoration.	Track interventions, investments and actions.	
	Vibrant Marine Park economy Recognising and protecting a \$5.14 billion per year asset.	Long-term economic prosperity across tourism, marine industries, and local communities directly depends on maintaining a healthy, functioning, and restored marine ecosystem.		Support new commercial opportunities / existing businesses in the Marine Park that deliver products, services and methodologies in balance with – or that actively benefit – the ecosystem and economy of Tikapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi. Advocate for investment to support a vibrant Marine Park economy.			
							



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, six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands and 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.

The Forum's Governance Statement, and Service Level Agreement with Auckland Council, were reviewed and agreed in 2025. Both documents are available on the Forum's website:

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