

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 6:42 am
To: Sea Change

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Good day.

What about limiting the sizes of fish taken, every time we go out we are plagued by a never ending amount of snapper 25cm size, literally non stop.

Maybe make the take home sizes between 40cm and 50cm, leave the small to grow and the bigger to continue to breed. Closing off these areas will force fisherman to the other remaining areas and those will be under heavier than usual fishing pressure, cut the take home quantity from 7 snapper.

All for conservation, but please don't cause the decimation of the remaining areas by closing off your proposed areas.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 7:05 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Cathedral cove expansion submission
Attachments: Hahei proposal.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the submission made by my husband and I with our personal beliefs as to why the expansion should not go ahead in its current state.

Our contact details follow.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my Galaxy

This proposal takes away the culture and lifestyle of Hahei and has a negative impact on the locals in order to cater for tourists in a way that minimally serves the purpose of ecotourism.

The local and permanent residents of Hahei have used this area for over 30 years to hunt, snorkel, dive and fish to collect seafood for their families, teach their children about the joys and knowledge of the ocean and its environment and how to provide and self support their families by collecting seafood. This proposal will impact this and more, stopping the exploration and collection even of shells. It will add even greater food sources for predators such as sharks which can endanger the lives of the public with more sightings of closer nature, and offer more

risk of human attacks which can not only be fatal, but will also aid in the loss of tourism and increase the danger of the area.

Furthermore the proposed extension of this reserve will not deter or minimize poaching or offshore anchoring but increase the poaching.

The reserve extension stops those without boats to go fishing or diving to support their families or themselves. This particularly will impact not only ourselves but many other permanent residents.

It's extension will greatly impact those locally who have businesses fishing and touring here which further impedes our abilities to support our families and will add greater pressure to survive financially. It stops much of the local commercial tourism which will make it harder to bring the tourist community in which is a big financial part of our area and lead to these

tourists to explore themselves creating more damage and less knowledge on how to protect our areas and help them flourish

The proposed extension of these reserves means that the most impacted will be our permanent residents and the most benefitted will be those that take the most in our holiday and tourist seasons. Marine reserve means no take, full stop. The commercial and personal losses this will have on many of us who are here permanently is not only unfair but grossly detrimental to us all.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 8:16 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: submission Marine Protection Proposals package

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Submission on Hauraki Gulf Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package

From: s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

I support the Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package.
However, the areas of protection are too small.
Much larger areas of seafloor protection and much larger high protection areas need to be established urgently.

The gulf is severely depleted. Kelp forests have been replaced by kina barrens. This is a biodiversity crisis.
Brood stock of mussels must be protected
Intact ecosystems will be more resilient to future changes, sedimentation, pollution and climate change.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 9:32 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission
Attachments: Hauraki Gulf Submission 281022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Hi There,

Please find attached our submission.

Please confirm via return email that our submission has been received.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)
Office Manager
Sea Urchin NZ Ltd

28th October 2022

Director-General,
Department of Conservation,
PO Box 10-420,
Wellington 6140.
Emailed to seachange@doc.govt.nz.

**Submission on the proposed protection zones designed to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf
and its marine life ("Seachange")**

This is a submission on behalf of Sea Urchin NZ Ltd (SUNZ), C/- s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a) on the Seachange proposals.

SUNZ fishes close to 100% of the SUR 1B quota, which includes the Hauraki Gulf. The Seachange proposals have the potential to close large tracts of coastline which are currently fished for SUR (kina). Hence, the proposals will adversely affect the ability for SUNZ to continue managing kina barrens, and manage new areas of kina barren, within the Hauraki Gulf. SUNZ opposes the gazettal of High Protection Areas and new marine reserves, as outlined in the Seachange proposals, unless the commercial harvest of kina is allowed to continue in those areas.

Consequently, SUNZ supports the submission of the Kina Industry Council (KIC) and endorses all points made in that submission.

If a hearing is to be held, SUNZ wishes to attend. SUNZ also wishes to attend any further consultative meetings on the Seachange proposal.

Your s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a) - manager

Sea Urchin NZ Ltd.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 9:42 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Submission on sea ch

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

I am personally against the ban on fish
Kawau to Mahurangi. As someone who
and fishing I know from personal exper
to fish. I see this as a safety issue espe
wise would need to go further and in m
I'm sure that other options have been
own to consider.

Reducing daily catch.

Setting a boat limit.

Closing off areas during spawning time

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 9:54 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Feedback on Revitalising the Gulf Document

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I'm the s 9 (2)(a)

I've been recreational fishing in the Hauraki Gulf my whole life.

I'm concerned that the research you have on recreational fishing displacement due to your HPA is extremely limited.

I note that the document only considers recreational displacement in terms of snapper, when there are numerous other species with high value for recreational anglers. Kingfish, for example, tend to congregate around reef structures, such as those found around many of your proposed HPA zones (e.g., Mokohinau, Ōtata/the Noises, Aldermans etc.). Therefore, kingfish fishing spots are actually much more limited than snapper fishing spots in the Hauraki Gulf. The displacement will simply increase fishing pressure on the remaining kingfish reefs.

I also note that Ōtata/the Noises was "not considered in [the] analysis." This location is an extremely popular recreational fishing area for a wide range of species.

I believe blanket 'not-take' areas are not the best solution. It seems that once they have been established there is no going back, even if research suggests recreational fishing should be allowed to some extent as environments and stocks improve.

You can look overseas for many examples of better measures to control recreational fishing - such as closed seasons, slot size limits, and permits.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

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s 9 (2)(a) | Editor & Content Director | New Zealand Fishing Media Ltd

Mobile: s 9 (2)(a)



NB Confidentiality: This email and any attachments is confidential to you and may be legally privileged. Any disclosure, or forwarding to other parties is strictly prohibited and if you aren't the intended recipient then please let us know. Thank you. NZ Fishing Media Ltd.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 10:04 am
To: Sea Change
Cc: PFK-Office (Admin, Reporting, etc)
Subject: Submission on proposed marine protection areas
Attachments: PFK Submission on Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

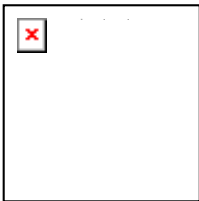
Categories: Recorded

Kia ora,

Please see attached a submission from Pest Free Kaipātiki.

Ngā mihi

s 9 (2)(a)



s 9 (2)(a)
Tree Champion
s 9 (2)(a)



[*Kia ora awa ratu to our sponsors*](#)





Pest Free Kaipātiki Restoration Society Ltd.

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted]

26th October 2022

This submission is made by Pest Free Kaipātiki Restoration Society. We are a community conservation organisation working across Kaipātiki on Auckland's North Shore. We work with volunteers in our community to help protect and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in our local area. Although our work does not directly involve marine protection, the majority of our 55 reserve groups work to restore the environmental health of catchments that contain streams flowing into the Hauraki Gulf and many care for reserves running along the coastline of Kaipātiki. Freshwater health is an issue that our volunteers raise as a priority with us regularly and freshwater systems have a direct impact on the marine environment. We are acutely aware of the connection between the marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The health of one impacts the health of the other and it is clear that the Hauraki Gulf is in decline. The name Kaipātiki, which we use, refers to the abundant flounder fisheries that were formerly found in the coastal waters of the Northern Waitematā. We would love to see the Hauraki Gulf returned to a state where place names reflect the abundant marine life that can be found there.

Through our restoration work we have been witnessing increasing erosion of watercourses as well as increased sediment flowing into our freshwater systems. This has resulted in rapid growth and expansion of mangroves in coastal areas due to higher nutrient levels flowing into coastal water. We are concerned about the impacts of the damage that storm water flows and sedimentation are causing to aquatic and marine life. Sediment, in particular, kills many aquatic and marine species as it clogs gills causing suffocation. It is especially harmful to benthic communities such as shellfish as they become smothered as the sediment settles and blocks their filter-feeding organs. This issue is too large to be resolved with riparian planting alone. Marine reserves and areas of high protection are another positive step towards recognising the immense pressures that our aquatic and marine species are facing and giving them areas of respite.

Pest Free Kaipātiki supports the proposed marine protected areas as set out in the Revitalising the Gulf Information Document. We are particularly supportive of the High Protection Areas proposed adjacent to, or surrounding, current nature reserves and restoration projects such as the Noises Islands, Hauturu/Little Barrier and Motutapu. Our

seabirds face huge challenges to their survival, both on land and at sea. Providing connected terrestrial and marine protected areas is such a sensible proposal that it seems obvious as a solution to better protect seabird populations, which have suffered tremendous declines.

Through our work we have learnt that being able to experience natural environments first hand and witness their recovery is one of the best ways for people to become passionate about caring for our natural heritage. Having greater exposure to marine reserves and high protection marine areas gives more Aucklanders a chance to experience what a protected and recovering marine habitat looks like, as well as greater scope to learn about and appreciate our native marine wildlife.

Nature does not recognise the boundaries that we have drawn over Aotearoa. Native species have life cycles and behaviours that can take them vast distances and for many this includes time both on land and at sea. Pest Free Kaipatiki and our many volunteers work hard to protect shag rookeries, such as the one at Chelsea Heritage Estate, eel habitat in streams throughout Kaipātiki, and galaxid spawning grounds, such as the one in Soldier's Bay. We want to see these taonga species given the best chance of survival throughout their life cycles and this means greater marine protection. We see the proposed protected areas as a fantastic opportunity to begin to improve this and we support the proposed protected areas.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 28 October 2022 4:46 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: FW: What Hauraki Seafood Consumers would Probably Say About Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals
Attachments: Once upon a time in NZ 3.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Recorded

There are a few alterations to the comments sent earlier. Please use this version

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 28 October 2022 12:35 PM
To: seachange@doc.govt.nz
Subject: What Hauraki Seafood Consumers would Probably Say About Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

The attachment comments are not on behalf of any organisation. There is reference to Hauraki Gulf Seafood Consumers but that is just a description of an interest group – there is no organisation with that name, as explained further in the comments. The comments are my own. However, I would not want to waste people's time by compiling some kind of individual perspective, not shared by anyone else.

These are not like that. Instead, I am absolutely sure that they would reflect the views of hundreds of thousands of people in Gulf communities extending from lower Northland to the wider Auckland metropolitan area, northern Waikato, and the entire Coromandel Peninsula. There are suggestions in the comments about where to go to confirm that I have got this right.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Hauraki Gulf Seafood Consumers – Comments on Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposals



Seafood Consumers and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

Quite a long time ago (1983), a new Fisheries Act came into effect. It predated the Quota Management System but introduced a new management system – fishery management plans. These were based on the plans that were being used to manage fisheries in many US coastal regions. The US plans were often based around single species fisheries. In NZ, they were to be regional – northern around the east and west coast of the northern North Island, Central – bottom of the North Island, top of the South, and southern region.

Bodies considered representative of the stakeholders in each region were set up to oversee the preparation of the regional fisheries management plans. They were called Fishery management advisory committees, and their membership was as follows:

“Each such committee shall have as chairman an officer of the Ministry nominated by the Director-General, and may include members representing commercial, processing, wholesaling, retailing, recreational, Maori, and **consumer interests** in the area relating to fish and fishing”.

Consumer interests were seen as key stakeholders when fishery management plans were being prepared. Simply because they were/are by far the most numerous group and had a direct interest in how fishery resources were managed. They were the millions of people who probably rarely or never ventured out fishing, but instead obtained their fish from the markets, fish shops, fast food places, restaurants all over the country.

They obtained their fish in this way for multiple reasons – too busy, too old, don't like fishing, can't afford fishing, live inland, winter time – pretty much a similar set of reasons why most people buy meat rather than by raising farm animals or chickens themselves. Instead, for fish, they relied on commercial fishers to provide one of the healthiest food varieties there is.

Despite the comments about the Hauraki Gulf Plan being the first area based fisheries plan – it wasn't. a fisheries management plan for the northern region was completed and approved, its preparation overseen by the management plan advisory committee, including the consumer interests representative.

But something has happened in fisheries management since then, as seafood consumers have not gone away, but in the Hauraki Gulf proposals our group of stakeholders seems to have been completely forgotten. We are not represented on the Sea Change Steering and Stakeholder Groups, the Ministerial Advisory Committee, or the group overseeing the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan. We are missed out in all of the assessments of the effects of the various Hauraki Gulf proposals on stakeholders. There are no images of seafood consumers in any of the very graphic documents.

There is clearly an assumption that somehow assessing the effects of proposals on income obtained by commercial fishing interests is all that is required to account for the commercial aspects of fishing in the Gulf. It's not. Consumers are at the end of the supply chain. The potential effects of the marine protection proposals on us are in the price we pay for the seafood commercial fishers catch for us.

It is possible that the following statement points to the reason why Hauraki Gulf seafood consumers have been forgotten – “there is a desire for healthy functioning ecosystems that underpin the wellbeing and prosperity of people who live, work and play in the gulf”. Maybe that's it – consumers are not so obvious because they have no presence in the Gulf. Instead, we are all around it.

“We” can be found in places like Toby’s Seafood Massey, the Village Fisheries Mangere, Leigh Fish and Chips, the Mariner Mount Eden, Orewa Beach takeaways, Countdown seafood counter, Oceanz Seafood Botany, Albany, Henderson, the Coromandel Smoking Co, Fish Faze Maramarua, Auckland Seafood Market, Kingi Restaurant, Kaiua Fisheries, PaknSave seafood counter, east Village takeaways Howick, Harbourside Ocean Bar and Grill, Scott Seafood Waitakere, the Wharf Café Thames, FISH nets Warkworth, New World seafood counter, Mairangi Bay Fisheries, Otara Fresh Fish, Silverdale Fresh Fish and Takeaways, Catch 22 Devonport, Avondale Takeaways, the Seafood Collective Mission Bay, Manuka Fish and Chips, Upland Fish Shop, Seafood Central restaurant, Marsic Brothers Glen Innes, Kiwi Fish, Sanford and Son’s Fishmonger, Hunter Fish, Otara, South City Seafoods, Otahuhu, Bishop Fish and Chips Green Bay, Te Atatu Fisheries, Aquarius Fish and Chips Paeroa...etc.

Who are “we”. There is no organisation called “Hauraki Gulf Seafood Consumers”, and it is likely that there never will be. And these comments have not been compiled by any collective group of these people getting together to provide a combined response. We are not associated with any other group with interests in the Gulf. The comments are my own.

But I have absolutely no doubt that they reflect the interests of the hundreds of thousands of people who can be found in all of the outlets in this list, and so many more, on any day of the week, buying fish. It is very likely that any of you from DOC/MPI, who happen to read these comments will be Gulf seafood consumers.

And I know that what I have to say here accurately reflects the views of virtually all these people, because their interests are so simple – they all would like a continued supply of fresh, reasonably affordable snapper terakihi, kingfish and gurnard – preferably taken from close by in the Gulf as it always has been. Given that species like snapper are already at the limits of affordability, while they support marine protection measures, they would be most concerned if any that lead to further price increases, are not of clear benefit for these prime species.

While the number of Gulf seafood consumers exceeds that of any interest group, it is unlikely there will be many submissions from them. That’s simply because these people lead busy lives, and marine protection is complicated even for experts to understand, so compiling submissions, attending meetings, and participating on committees is not something they can be expected to want to do. We don’t see groups forming to represent collective interests in other consumer goods like cosmetics, or toys, or furniture. We might do if there were obvious influences that started to make any of these things more expensive, or scarce.

It would be very easy to obtain confirmation that these comments do reflect what these consumers think about the Gulf marine protection proposals, and all the others outlined in the Spatial Plan. Simply talk to any/all of the people you will meet at the outlets in the above list, and the many more that there are all around the Gulf. Try asking the questions on Page 8 and 9, such as:

“Would you support the exclusion of the fishing methods from the Gulf that caught the fish you have just paid for, if doing so means that fish is no longer available, or only at higher prices?”

... and you will certainly get a clear picture of their views.

Hauraki Gulf Seafood Consumers, Marine Protection Proposals, and our Favourite Species – we are everywhere around the Gulf, these are our favourite species, and we would like marine protection areas that do not unnecessarily change their availability and price



Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals - Hauraki Region Seafood Consumers' Interests

Gulf seafood consumers share the interest of all stakeholders in having a healthy marine environment supporting abundant marine life of all kinds, including sustainable fisheries for the species we most value. There have been commercial fisheries supplying us with fish caught in the Gulf since the later 1800's and between then and now we have enjoyed a mostly reliable supply. But perhaps inevitably with steadily rising prices, so that some of our favourite species like snapper and terakihi are now in a near luxury bracket. But others like gurnard, trevally and kahawai remain reasonably affordable. Our main interest is that fisheries management measures continue to make these species available to us at reasonably affordable prices – so not appreciably adding to catching costs and in turn to prices.

A few of us are aware that the management measure that undoubtedly had the most impact on Gulf fisheries was the introduction of the Quota Management System in 1986. The state of Gulf fisheries at the time, especially for snapper was one of the main reasons this step was taken, as there were obvious signs of depletion and catches were close to unsustainable. Since that time, we think there has been a significant recovery.

This feeling is not based on consideration of research findings – instead it is the experience of some of us who also go recreational fishing, and/or the experiences of friends who do – that over recent years catches have been consistently good. This despite the population around the Gulf having risen to near 2 million, and with a growing proportion participating in increasingly effective recreational fishing. And the prices we pay have remained reasonably stable.

So, we think the Quota Management System has proven itself to be an effective way to manage our most desired species. We also think that the growth of recreational fishing catches has had a significant effect on commercial fishers' ability to catch these species, simply because of the quantity they are taking now. And this will have affected the prices we pay. These things have influenced our thinking on the extent to which additional protection measures, including the marine protection proposals, are needed for our favourite seafood species.

The proponents of the marine protection proposals say that “national and international experts consider area-based marine protection to be one of the most effective methods for protecting marine life”. This is an exceptionally broad and generalised statement, not explained further anywhere in the information document. It doesn't say if such protection is effective in every location, of any size, for every habitat type, and for any/all species – including the pelagic species that we are interested in.

We are not opposed to the concept of protected areas – they undoubtedly have a role to play in habitat protection. We just want to be sure that they will be effective, especially for our favourite pelagic species like snapper, terakihi and kingfish. And we are unconvinced, because there is minimal assessment of the effectiveness of the similar areas in the Gulf where fishing has been prohibited, in some places for many years.

We are aware of and appreciate the success that the Cape Rodney to Okarito Point reserve has demonstrated in providing a haven for snapper and other species. But the more exposed nearby closed area at Tawharanui doesn't seem to have had a similar effect and neither to our knowledge have the Whanganui-a-Hei and Aotea Island reserves.

The effects of the shallower Long Bay, Ponui and Waiheke reserves on enhancing fish populations are also not discussed, although it seems there are no further protection proposals in similar areas.

That means we think the potential effectiveness of the Mokohinau, Te Hauturu-o-toi, Te Ruamahua and Whakahau proposed protected areas and the extension to the Wanganui-a-Hei reserves needs to be carefully assessed, as they correspond to places where our favoured pelagic species may be caught at times.

“Have your say • Is there anything you would like Ministers to consider when deciding the marine protection tool to be applied at these sites? For instance, are there other ecological values you would like them to be aware of?”

Yes there is - in relation to High Protection Areas we would like the Minister to consider whether non-benthic non-harmful commercial fishing methods should continue to be allowed to catch the transient pelagic species such as snapper that we most value, in these areas. The Danish seine method that is used to catch snapper and is not one we would class as having adverse seabed impacts. The species these methods catch show no particular reliance on localised areas within the Gulf – they range over all, so exclusion of fishing for them in localised areas will have minimal effect on their abundance.

So, preventing catch of transient species like snapper, terakihi, and in the High Protection Areas serves no practical protection purpose, since these fish will be there comparatively briefly before ranging out around the wider Gulf. Catch limits and bag limits are the only effective way to ensure sustainable stocks of these species. We doubt that the “national and international experts who consider area-based marine protection to be one of the most effective methods for protecting marine life”, would include protection of pelagic species as effectively protected by area – based measures.

If this was 1984, the 1983 Fisheries Act would have required that the assessment of effects of the protected areas would certainly have included an assessment of restrictions of fishing on consumers. We are still here, and there are many more of us and with increasing interest in healthy food choices. So, it is very likely that the proportion of seafood on our diet is considerably higher now. And there has been much recent interest in supply chains – the sequence from the origin of products through processing, transport, retail and eventual purchase by consumers. It is not possible to change any part of the chain without affecting all others. So it is with capture of seafood – if anything in the seafood supply chain changes (like catching costs), eventually consumers will feel it.

We think that when looking at the impacts of High Protection Areas, simply calculating commercial fishers' lost revenue is not enough. There should also be an estimation of the price implications if fish sometimes caught and supplied to us from such areas, have to be found elsewhere.

The estimates of the level of commercial reliance on these areas indicates it is comparatively small. So price implications for us may also be modest. However, we see any such changes as having to be assessed alongside the ever-expanding recreational catch, that is year-by-year reducing the availability/increasing the price of our favoured species. There is no sign of this trend ending, meaning that potential loss of areas compounds this loss of availability and so should only happen where potential benefits are relatively certain.

We note the influence of recreational fishers is such that it appears added attention will be paid to assessing effects of the protected areas on them. A definition of recreation is: “activity done for enjoyment when one is not working”. We should be so lucky. One reason we are unable to enjoy relaxing in a boat out on the Gulf is that many of us are working. Another is that we can't afford the boat and the gear. They say they are fishing for sustenance/the table. Undoubtedly some are. But

we think the enjoyment factor is pretty high too, with the bonus of fresh, free seafood. For these reasons we think there should also be an assessment of the cost implications for us of commercial fishers being unable to access the high protection areas for the pelagic species we value highly. As a sign of this value – we have to pay for every fish we eat.

We must emphasise again that we fully support measures to protect the Hauraki Gulf marine environment. We note that Maori have been here for hundreds of years. We may have only been here for around 200 years, but we intend to stay for a long time too, and we hope we can continue to rely on the Gulf for the same reasons they do – as one of the best sources of fresh, healthy food that there is anywhere. Increasing the abundance of fish by a combination of most of the protection measures proposed in the discussion document/spatial plan is the best thing that could happen for us, because if fish become easier to catch, the cost of doing so should fall. And if that happens, so should the price.

For that reason, while we are not marine scientists, we think that the benthic protection areas are a positive move as they will protect habitat that the fish species we like are reliant on in some way. Trawling will be displaced from those areas, but we can see that they are out in the Gulf close to broader fishing grounds so improved habitat there could help the stocks in the wider area.

Our reservations about the highly protected areas are only because the years long increase in recreational catches of the species like snapper that we have always been able to buy, have come at our expense. Recreational fishers are affecting the abundance of these species, and through their influence are gradually requiring commercial vessels catching “our fish” to travel further and further offshore. The effects on us at the end of the seafood supply chain are simple - we keep having to pay more.

For that reason, we feel that we cannot afford to lose any of the proposed protection areas where commercial vessels have access, unless it can be clearly shown that their fishing for pelagic species would somehow compromise the special qualities of these areas. We would be more relaxed about total closure if recreational fishers could give an assurance that their catches of these species throughout the Gulf, could be capped at current levels.



A Kind of PS – the Marine Spatial Plan

Comments are not being requested here on the Marine Spatial Plan that appears to be a finalised document. But we will take this opportunity to comment anyway, since no-one thought to ask us before. Instead, while there are references in the plan to community involvement, and stakeholders on consultative bodies who are representative of communities – there is no sign they were representatives of us – the Gulf seafood consumers.

In the lengthy document there is no reference to our surely reasonable desire that there should be a continued supply of fresh, affordable seafood to all of the many seafood outlets all around the Gulf region. And despite much use of graphics there are no images of the kind included here to emphasise that we exist as perhaps the largest group of stakeholders, affected by many of the proposals in the plan.

Instead, there is this:

“A community perspective. Alongside the scientific perspective discussed above (and in Appendix 3), the Stakeholder Working Group has been provided very clear feedback that the ‘social licence to operate’ of the commercial fishing sector is predicated on changing the way in which fishing occurs. There was overwhelming support for the removal of bottom trawling, seining and dredging in the Listening Posts and community surveys we conducted in the initial stages of the Sea Change process. Ongoing discussions with all elements of the communities in which we reside has continued through the Plan development”.

And comments like:

“In the fished areas the management needs a huge shake up; bottom methods like trawling should be kicked out of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park”.

And:

“There is a willingness to compromise and accept recreational fishing impacts – via rāhui, MPAs or catch/size limits – but only if commercial fishing operations are made sustainable, restricted or removed from the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park”.

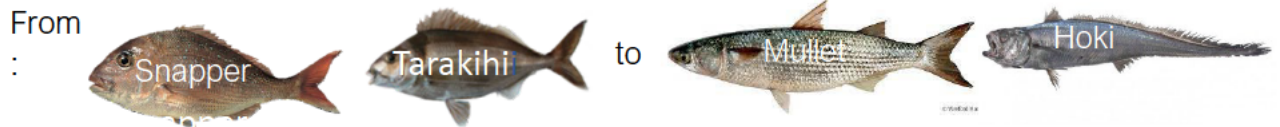
And statements like:

“The desirability of generating the greatest value from the fishery, through encouraging commercial methods that produce the highest quality and therefore highest value fish (e.g. artisanal methods such as long-lining).”

Questions:

1. Were people in the “Listening Posts” made aware that the trawling and Danish seining they seek to remove from the Gulf contribute much of the catch from the Gulf that they most likely buy at their local fish shop/seafood counter/fish market/restaurant?
2. Were people in the “Listening Posts” made aware that the ‘social licence’ of excluding these methods would likely be higher prices for some species, and complete unavailability of a few in local fish shops/seafood counters/fish market/restaurant?

3. Were the people in the “Listening Posts” informed that even if they did not purchase seafood, the ‘social licence’ of such exclusion would mean that their families, their friends, their neighbours who do, may no longer be able to buy and eat prime species like snapper and tarakihi, and that instead less sought after fish like mullet and deep sea species might be all that remain available/affordable.



4. Were any “listening posts” held in places where people were buying/eating seafood, with questions such as “Would you support the exclusion of the fishing methods from the Gulf that caught the fish you have just paid for, if doing so means that fish is no longer available, or only at higher prices?”
5. Do the people making the second to last statement realise that what they are saying is that people who take fish from the Gulf as an enjoyable past time, should be given priority over all of us who value fresh fish obtained in the Gulf as food, that we have been able to buy since the early days of settlement here?
6. Do the people making the last statement realise that favouring methods that produce the highest value fish means that they may well lead to landings of fish that most of us can no longer afford?

We are very concerned about the influence recreational fishers exert on fisheries management, because as participants in a kind of sport, they have incentives to form representative organisations with specialist spokespeople. As the Fisheries Act 1996 and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 require, recreational fisheries management needs to be tailored to the Gulf and its communities. We are definitely a “Gulf community” and think it’s reasonable to expect that our desire to continue consuming affordable, fresh fish caught in the Gulf, is considered in relation to the impact the current level of recreational fishing is having on our access to seafood from the Gulf.

We hope that the people preparing the Gulf Fisheries Plan will be mindful of the kinds of issues this short outline raises. A plan that ultimately ends the supply of the species we enjoy so much, or makes them unaffordable, is hardly one that represents the interests of the wider Gulf community, including us.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 10:06 am
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: Stakeholder submission, Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals
Attachments: Tāmaki Paenga Hira Submission s 9 (2)(a).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora Koutou DoC seachange team,

Re: Submission from Tāmaki Paenga Hira / Auckland Museum to Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

Please find attached an expert stakeholder submission supporting the Rotoroa High Protection Marine Area as part of the Revitalizing our Gulf marine protection proposals.

Can you please confirm receipt of this submission by return email.

Nga mihi,

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)
Tāmaki Paenga Hira / Auckland Museum

The material in this email is confidential to the recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose this communication. If you have received this message in error please notify us immediately by email or telephone s 9 (2)(a) and delete the email. Auckland War Memorial Museum Trust Board ("Auckland Museum") accepts no liability for any viruses carried in this email, or any effects this email may have on the recipients computer systems or networks. The opinions expressed in this email may be from the sender alone and not necessarily reflect the views of Auckland Museum.

To: Minister of Conservation, Hon. Poto Williams and Minister of Oceans and Fisheries,
Hon. David Parker

c/- Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation by email: seachange@doc.govt.nz

Date: 26th October 2022,

Tēnā kōrua, Minister Williams and Minister Parker,

This submission is on behalf of **s 9 (2)(a)** Curator of Land Vertebrates, Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum. I am a conservation biologist and zoologist with expertise in seabirds and over 18 years research experience working on the study and conservation of the seabirds of Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi.

<https://scholar.google.co.nz/citations?user=o6gvQPkAAAAJ&hl=en>

RE: STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSION ON MARINE PROTECTION FOR THE HAURAKI GULF WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROTOROHA HIGH PROTECTION AREA

1. Congratulations on the release of the marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā Toi. I strongly support the creation of a high protection marine area at the eastern area of Waiheke Island encompassing Tarahiki Island and Pakatoa Island – The Rotoroa High Protection Area.
2. Within this proposed protected area **Tarahiki Island** represents the **major breeding ground** in the Hauraki Gulf **for spotted shag** (*Phalacrocorax punctatus*).
3. My research has shown that **spotted shags breeding in the Hauraki Gulf are genetically distinct**, and reproductively isolated, from populations in the southern North Island and South Island¹. A complete taxonomic description of the species is currently underway.
4. **Spotted shags in the Hauraki Gulf are threatened with extinction** having declined from widespread breeding colonies in the gulf of many thousands of breeding pairs in the 20th century to approximately 300 breeding pairs today¹. Approximately 95% of these birds breed on Tarahiki Island with the remainder breeding at two small sub colonies on nearby Waiheke.
5. Annual monitoring of this population over the past ten years suggests **gradual ongoing decline**².
6. **Damage to marine habitats and loss of their main prey** (reef and schooling fishes) has had a **profound impact on spotted shag populations** in the gulf. My research has shown that over the past century the fish dietary component of spotted shags has declined and that birds have been forced to move away from shallow water habitats most impacted by anthropogenic pollution and disturbance³.
7. GPS tracking tags deployed on spotted shags over the past three years have revealed the waters within the proposed **Rotoroa High Protection Area to be extremely important foraging habitat for spotted shags**². In between foraging bouts birds also make use of rock stacks and platforms

on Pakatoa and Rotoroa Islands for resting and preening which is critically important for successful foraging behaviour.

8. **I strongly support** the inclusion of The Rotoroa High Protection Area in the marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf marine park.
9. **Recovery of reef habitats, and thus populations of reef and pelagic fishes**, within this protected area will significantly **benefit spotted shags** and their breeding success on nearby Tarahiki.
10. On Tarahiki Island, nutrient flows from the abundant guano of breeding and roosting spotted shags has a major beneficial impact on marine productivity in the complex nearshore reef systems. As a result of these beneficial relationships between the terrestrial and marine ecosystems **implementation of a high protection area** around this island group **will result in an accelerated recovery** of these important marine habitats.
11. I thank the Government on progressing the proposal for marine protection of the gulf and ask you to move as soon as possible to **enact these marine protection areas this parliamentary term**.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland Museum

¹ Rawlence, NJ, Rayner, MJ, et al (2019) Archival DNA reveals cryptic biodiversity within the Spotted Shag (*Phalacrocorax punctatus*) from New Zealand, *The Condor*, Volume 121 (3).

² Matt J Rayner unpublished data available on request.

³ Rayner MJ, Dunphy BJ, et al (2021) Stable isotope record from a resident New Zealand seabird community suggests changes in distribution but not trophic position since 1878. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 678:171-182.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 10:18 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Feedback for Revitalising the Gulf Marine protection proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I've been recreational fishing in the Hauraki Gulf my whole life.

I'm concerned that the research you have on recreational fishing displacement due to your HPA is extremely limited.

I note that the document only considers recreational displacement in terms of snapper, when there are numerous other species with high value for recreational anglers. Kingfish, for example, tend to congregate around reef structures, such as those found around many of your proposed HPA zones (e.g., Mokohinaus, Ōtata/the Noises, Aldermans etc.). Therefore, kingfish fishing spots are actually much more limited than snapper fishing spots in the Hauraki Gulf. The displacement will simply increase fishing pressure on the remaining kingfish reefs.

I also note that Ōtata/the Noises was "not considered in [the] analysis." This location is an extremely popular recreational fishing area for a wide range of species.

I believe blanket 'not-take' areas are not the best solution. It seems that once they have been established there is no going back, even if research suggests recreational fishing should be allowed to some extent as environments and stocks improve.

You can look overseas for many examples of better measures to control recreational fishing - such as closed seasons, slot size limits, and/or permits.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 10:25 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Marine Protection Program, submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I've been recreational fishing in the Hauraki Gulf my whole life.

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You can look overseas for many examples of better measures to control recreational fishing - such as closed seasons, slot size limits, and/or permits.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a) sent from my iPhone

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 10:45 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Feedback For Proposed Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is s 9 (2)(a)

I'm concerned that the research you have on recreational fishing displacement due to your HPA is extremely limited.

I note that the document only considers recreational displacement in terms of snapper, when there are numerous other species with high value for recreational anglers. Kingfish, for example, tend to congregate around reef structures, such as those found around many of your proposed HPA zones (e.g., Mokohinaus, Ōtata/the Noises, Aldermans etc.). Therefore, kingfish fishing spots are actually much more limited than snapper fishing spots in the Hauraki Gulf. The displacement will simply increase fishing pressure on the remaining kingfish reefs.

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You can look overseas for many examples of better measures to control recreational fishing - such as closed seasons, slot size limits, and/or permits.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 11:10 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf Revitalisation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia Ora,

I am an avid sailor and have logged a significant number of open ocean miles over a 35 year period. I have seen first hand the devastating decline in Ocean life... it's now a desert out there beyond the 200 mile limit. 30x30 (30% of the worlds oceans protected by 2030) is not about some tree hugging, hippy extremism... it's about survival.

Bringing that closer to home (inshore), I can't understand why we wouldn't have complete seafloor protection (SPA) across 100% of our inshore limits (inside 12 miles), and at least 30% of our harbours and gulfs (incl. Hauraki Gulf) as high protection areas (HPA). If we protect larger areas more fish will breed and consequently recreational fishing will be more successful (outside the HPAs').

My submission is;

Much greater level of SPA (100%)

Higher level of HPA (30%)

Leave the marine reserve areas as is - allow people access to the wonders of highly protected areas as a first step.

Also, more communication around what is meant by SPA and HPA is needed; I don't think people in general (other than commercial fishermen) would argue about SPA's, if they understood them better. I also think we need to rely on the science more; and therefore we need marine and environmental scientists to have a stronger voice... how? sorry I'm not sure, but maybe there is space on the TV spectrum (it would be better than Parliament TV!!).

Keep up the good work... and go for more rather than less.

Thanks,

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 11:21 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on revitalising the Gulf
Attachments: Submission on Revitalising the Gulf.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi there,

Please find my submission attached.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission on Revitalising the Gulf

s 9 (2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I don't believe HPA's are the right solution to revitalising the Gulf, there are numerous overseas examples where slot limits, closures over spawning times have proven to be instrumental in improving fish stocks. The main issue with HPA's is they displace fishing pressure into other nearby areas thus having a negative overall effect. A slot limit on Snapper for example would leave larger fish in the area to reduce Kina barrens & promote a healthy breeding stock of larger fish with good genes to pass on to the next generation. This would help the Gulf as a whole vs small HPA areas.

Slot limits would also have a positive effect on species like Kingfish, there are a lot of smaller Kingfish in the Gulf 8 – 15kg, but to bring the larger fish back, in greater numbers, a slot limit of keeping fish in the 75-110cm range would make a positive difference. Also, Kingfish limits in the Gulf should be reduced from 3 fish per person to one per person. In the proposed HPA areas there are a lot of popular recreational kingfish reefs, closing these off will make anglers focus on other areas, again having an over negative impact. This is a good example of where slot limits and reduction in recreational limits would be more beneficial to Kingfish vs HPA's.

More fish in the water & angling opportunities increases the potential for tourism and attracting people to NZ. Look at places like Cabo San Lucas, people travel across the globe to fish there and the financial benefits to the whole community are significant. Managing the fishery effectively could make the Hauraki Gulf a hotspot on the global fishing map.

My main concerns relate to destructive commercial fishing methods, trawling and dredging destroy the seafloor in the Gulf and are indiscriminate to the sea life caught / destroyed. Removing these destructive methods of fishing from the Gulf will greatly enhance the eco-system. They should be banned totally from the Gulf.

I also believe the commercial seining/netting of baitfish needs to be banned in the Hauraki Gulf. Mass removal of baitfish has a negative impact for all marine mammals, sea birds and sea life. If the goal is to rejuvenate the Gulf and have more abundance, you need to make sure the increased biomass can be supported by baitfish. I'm unsure if this is something you have taken into consideration? Also banning trawling and dredging allows the sea floor to rejuvenate thus creating a more plentiful food source for all of the marine life. Again HPA's are small band-aids when you could be properly addressing the Gulf as a whole for the benefit of all stakeholders and marine life.

I don't want commercial fishing totally removed from the Gulf but believe more sustainable long-lining methods should be used. The quality of the fish is better, and the bycatch is a lot lower.

Allowing customary take in HPA's has negative impacts on many fronts. It leaves the HPA's open to exploitation through customary take and doesn't align with the goal of creating a HPA if sea life is constantly being removed. Customary take permits allow for a significant removal of sea life, therefore is counter intuitive to the goal of HPA's. By not having HPA's customary take pressure won't be focussed on these areas as they will be the first place a holder of a customary take permit will look to execute their permit. I also think the overall backlash from the community would be significantly negative if people have access to take from HPA's. Another reason to reject HPA's.

I don't believe from what I have seen in your reports there has been enough research done into the financial impact HPA's will have on fishing stores & businesses that rely on the Hauraki Gulf recreational fishing. I think more time is required to gain the actual financial impacts that HPA's could have on businesses that rely on the Gulf and these businesses be properly consulted on plans.

From spending my life fishing on the Hauraki Gulf and being involved in the recreational fishing industry for over 20 years, I can categorically tell you from first-hand experience that the Snapper fishing and fishing as a whole, has never been better in the Gulf (In my lifetime at least). In summary, I believe HPA's are a step in the wrong direction and the timeframe these are being rushed through in are too short without the proper consultation. I am all for looking after the Gulf but believe there are better ways to secure the Gulf's future as mentioned in my points above.

Thanks for taking the time to read my submission, feel free to get in contact if required.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 11:38 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf Marine protection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora koutou

Thank you for consultation on marine reserves in the Hauraki Gulf. My name is s 9 (2)(a) and my family has a bach in s 9 (2)(a) so I spend a bit of time there and I will be commenting on the Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve.

I support the expansion of the Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve, I have noticed more and more marine life around the beach and around the offshore islands since the marine reserve has been in place. I am happy for the extension to go along the beach and I hope this will be clearly marked so beach goers can tell where the boundaries are.

Ngā mihi

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 11:47 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Marine protection plan - Hahei Marine Reserve extension

Hahei Marine Reserve extension submission.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

My family has owned a holiday home in s 9 (2)(a) for well over 30 years and **we do not support** the inclusion of any part of **Hahei beach** into the Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Extension.

Our reasons are as follows.

I spent a large part of my youth in Hahei fishing with my Dad on Hahei Beach. I believe fishing off the beach should be protected for future generations. I would argue that the level of recreational fishing that occurs around the beach is not significant enough to adversely affect the fish stock.

I support the creation of marine reserves, but I strongly believe that the location needs to be carefully considered. Restricting fishing off a public beach only penalises the recreational fisher, who usually can't afford an expensive boat to take them out past marine reserves.

The other half of Hahei beach that is not proposed to be included in the marine reserve is usually not suitable for fishing as there is far too much recreational activity from boats, ferries, sea kayaking, and swimming.

The wider proposals in the plan relating to curbing Commercial fishing are weak.

Why not stop all Commercial Fishing within 5 km of the coast? Why not prohibit bottom trawling within 50 km of the New Zealand coastline.

We strongly oppose the inclusion of any part of Hahei Beach in the proposed marine reserve extension.

s 9 (2)(a)
26/10/2022

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 11:53 am
To: Sea Change
Subject: Against sand mining Hauraki Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Kia ora DOC peeps,
I am standing against the sandmining of the Hauraki gulf area.
We are horrified at the potential damage you risk causing to the delicate ecosystem of the gulf and the Mangawhai Pakiri area.
Please let me know where else I can submit AGAINST this proposal.

Nga mihi,

s 9 (2)(a)

--

s 9 (2)(a) | THE BREEZE s 9 (2)(a)

Twitter: s 9 (2)(a)



Phone: s 9 (2)(a)

Attention:

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Thank you.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:05 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Te Whanganui a Hei marine reserve.
Attachments: Reserve submission 26_10_2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

26th October 2022

I am writing this submission in regards to the proposed expansion to the Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve.

Although I support the expansion of the reserve by extending it out to sea I am strongly opposed to the alteration of the Hahei beach boundary line and believe it should remain where it is currently positioned at both the beach end and at Mahurangi Island end.

I can see no benefit in having the beach as part of the reserve and surly if there was a benefit then the Cooks beach end of the reserve should also be included.

I have holidayed at s 9 (2)(a) for 49 years so far and have been a property owner for just over 30 years and enjoy showing visitors the marine life in the reserve.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:16 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf submission, New Zealand Geographic
Attachments: NZGeo_RTG_SubmissionFINAL.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Tēnā koe,

Please find attached the submission of New Zealand Geographic relating to the Revitalising the Gulf proposal. Please ensure this is considered.

Faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)
PUBLISHER

s 9 (2)(a)



October 25, 2022

REVITALISING THE GULF
— A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY —

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Revitalising the Gulf proposal.

1. SUBMITTER

- a. New Zealand Geographic is an independent magazine, digital media outlet and research organisation with an audience of more than a million New Zealanders. It was founded in 1989 and has been published for the past 10 years by Kōwhai Media Limited, a family-owned media company based in Tāmaki Makaurau.
- b. New Zealand Geographic has been reporting on the state of the Hauraki Gulf and the scientific evidence around marine protection for more than three decades.
- c. While it is unusual for an independent media outlet to make a formal submission to Government, in 2020 we changed our media and engagement policy on the subjects of climate and biodiversity, and have since taken a more committed stance to both our reporting and representations. This includes uncompromising journalism and direct submissions to government where the science is unequivocal and necessary actions unambiguous. The concerns included within the Revitalising the Gulf proposal meet those standards.

2. PROPOSAL

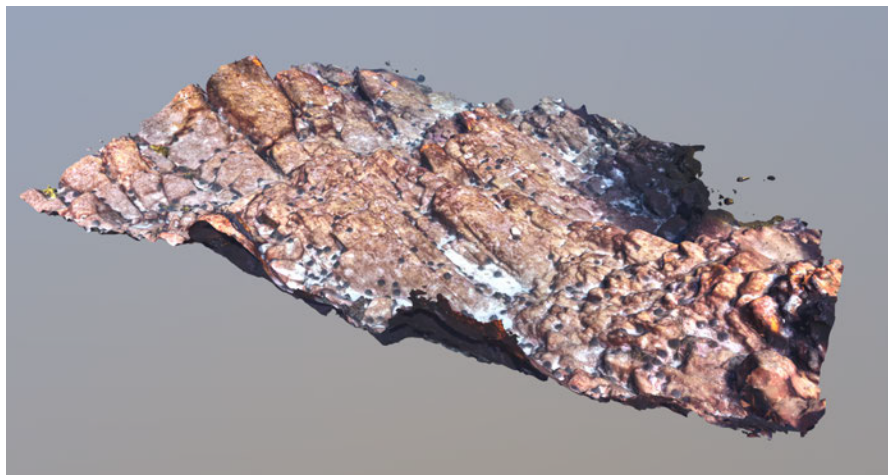
- a. From the perspective of scientific evidence, direct observation, our own research and interviews conducted by our journalists, **Revitalising the Gulf is a proposal critical to the health, biodiversity and resilience of gulf ecosystems and should be strongly supported.**
- b. There are some recommendations and considerations which, in our submission, are relevant to the public process, the drafting of the bill and the implementation of spatial protections.

3. DISCUSSION

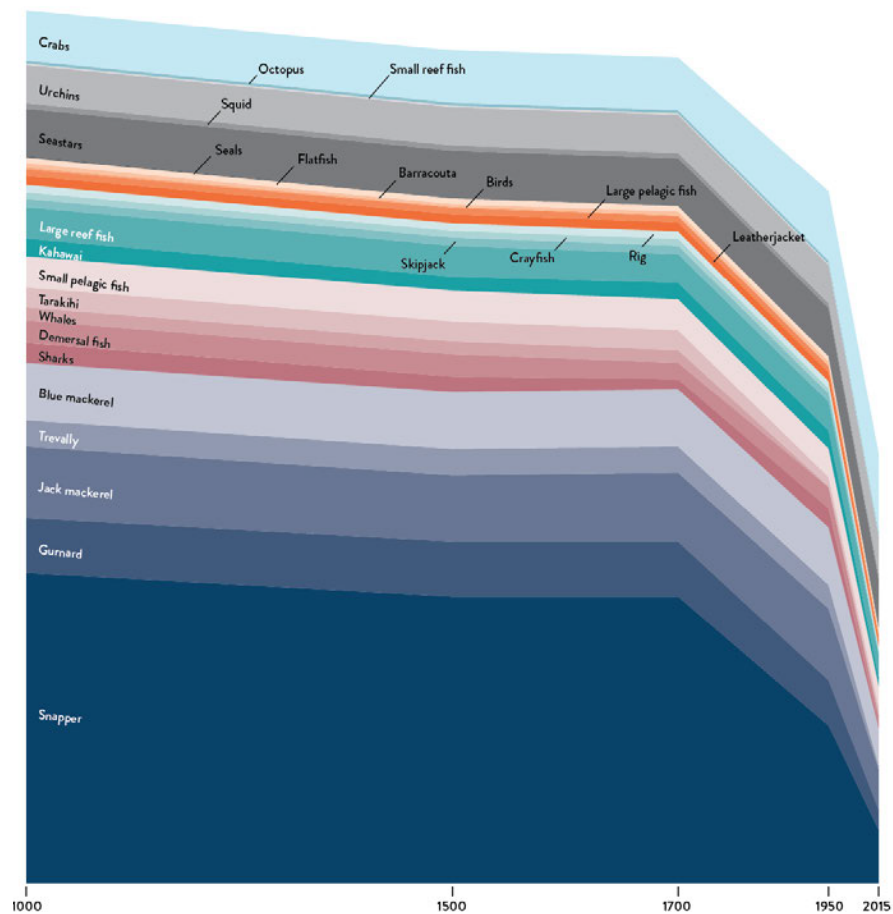
- a. Early issues of New Zealand Geographic documented the battle of marine scientist Bill Ballantine to establish the world's first protected areas at Goat Island and the Poor Knights—areas which have proved overwhelmingly successful over the intervening period. The success of these areas is the subject of numerous scientific papers which document not only the restored kelp forests, biomass and biodiversity of the area within the reserve, but also the benefits that radiate out from the reserve in terms of eggs and larvae, travelling

some 50 kilometres into the wider Gulf and supplying more than 10% of snapper recruitment into that area.

- b. While the Leigh Marine Reserve is widely believed to be too small to meet its potential, it nonetheless contains eight-times more snapper and ten-times more crayfish than surrounding areas, coming close to the abundance of the Hauraki Gulf in pre-human times.
- c. The reserves have also been an overwhelming success from an economic and public-access perspective. Despite covering just five kilometres of coastline, the tiny Cape Rodney-Okakari Point (Goat Island) Marine Reserve receives 375,000 visitors each year (an estimated 6,000 people per day in the peak summer) and generates \$1.5 million worth of snapper, added \$6.4 million to GDP per annum and a further \$16.8 million to the total economic activities associated with all direct, indirect, and induced effects related to the recreational fishing activity.
- d. However beneficial these reserves are for the surrounding areas, though, the primary purpose is the protection of the ecology within them. Sadly, the only intact marine ecosystems from North Cape and East Cape occur within the bounds of the handful of marine reserves. Most of the vast unprotected area has been depleted to an extent that many areas are subject to trophic cascade—the total collapse of the ecosystem.
- e. On rocky reef that is a change from reef dominated by kelp to one dominated by bare rock and kina—so-called urchin barrens that now cover more than half of the rocky reef structures in the Hauraki Gulf. These are regulation failures writ large, so large you can see them from space—light patches on aerial photographs that should be dark and dense with kelp.
- f. On the flats the effect is equally sobering. Large areas of the Gulf have been dredged and bottom-trawled for a century, mowing down benthic structures such as rhodolith beds, mussel beds and corals leaving little to retain larvae and little to avoid the dunes of sediment washing in from land. Rather than a complex benthic ecology, the Gulf is now dominated by monotonous deserts of muck that resist the settlement of life.
- g. This has become particularly apparent with the development of New Zealand Geographic's Seascape technology which can create millimetre-accurate three-dimensional photographic models of the seafloor, allowing an unprecedented view of the benthic environment. We have used this technology to understand biodiversity and changes on shellfish beds, reefs and other structures.



- h. Above, a 3D model of rocky reef habitat at Hauturu/Little Barrier—a island in the outer Gulf that was once one of the most productive temperate marine ecologies in the world, with verdant kelp forest and high biodiversity. The most cursory glance reveals a denuded rock platform, dominated by kina with little or no living structures. The site is in water that experiences little if any influence from run-off or sedimentation; pristine but for the effects of fishing.
- i. The conditions we are seeing in the Hauraki Gulf are the direct result of a century of poorly managed fisheries, which has overlooked the interdependency of species by assessing only the abundance of commercial stocks, and managing those to at a low level—for most species around the soft limit of 20% of virgin biomass. This is without regard for the structuring role that some of those species have in the ecosystem at large.



- j. Today we have a relatively depauperate marine environment with a very different population structure and food web. There is no way back, but amends can be made in relatively small areas to preserve not only a memory of the original ecosystem, but a reservoir to feed and restore the wider environment, like oases in a desert. In time, fisheries management may adopt ecosystem-based regulation that will allowed for recovery of unprotected waters, but for now evidence suggests that marine protection is the only tool capable of remediating biodiversity and biomass.
- k. As such, the case for a network of effective, productive, well-located and well-sized marine protected areas is substantial and urgent.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

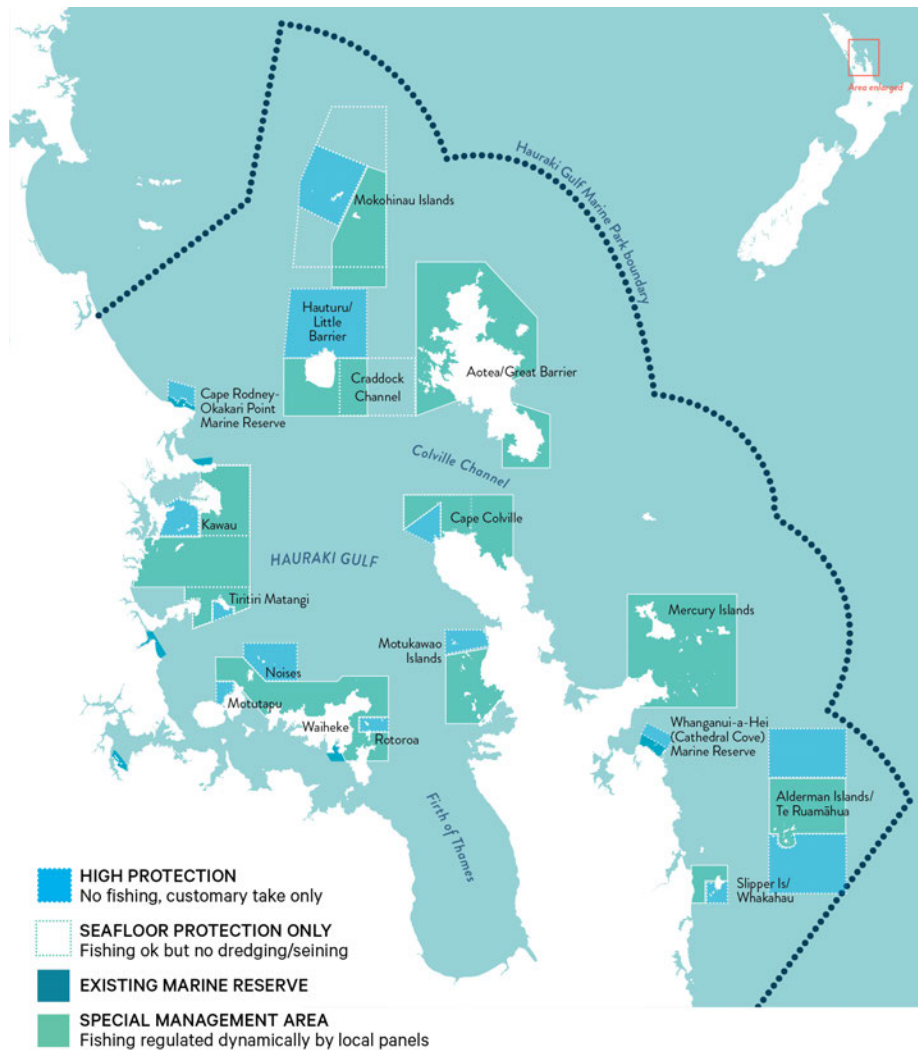
- a. The Revitalising the Gulf proposal meets the expectations of many within the scientific community and fits within the framework of the many stakeholders that New Zealand Geographic has interviewed over decades. While there are many calling for greater protections over greater areas, there are others who balance the necessity for marine protection against economic or recreational concerns and interests.
- b. It should be noted that only no-take reserves—including those that allow limited customary harvest—have proven to be effective in arresting decline in biomass and biodiversity. Only the HPAs in the Revitalising the Gulf proposal meet this standard, or the international IUCN standard that defines marine protected areas. Like Benthic Protected Areas (BPAs), Seafloor Protected Areas do not protect the entire water column, nor do Cable Protection Zones—which additionally fail because they are not sited or sized or managed for biodiversity values. By this measure, HPAs cover just 6.1% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, rather than the 18% DOC and ministers advertise.
- c. We submit that there are a small number of areas where DOC may consider amending the boundaries described in the proposal.
 - i. **Hauturu/Little Barrier Island HPA** touches only the northern coast of the island, but reefs around the circumference were once verdant and productive. Protecting these reefs and restoring the biomass of fish at this central point would make a powerful contribution to the recruitment of snapper, crayfish and schooling fish in the wider Gulf, including the otherwise unprotected west coast of Aotea/Great Barrier and Broken Islands.
 - ii. There is value in extending the **Tiritiri Matangi HPA** to encompass the reefs around the entire island as well as Shag Rock and Shearer Rock. The shallows at this site were once abundant with crayfish and large snapper—an important reservoir for the Gulf. The Sea Change process noted that the “scenario 2” which is close to the proposed design “may be ineffective in meeting the objectives of the Sea Change Plan. The small size of the habitat patches included within the proposed marine reserve, along with the poor reserve design where reef is bisected by the reserve boundaries, would make the reserve unviable.” An extension to include the remaining coast of the island and offshore rocks would address this concern. There is also a logical land-sea connection between the sanctuary ashore (the single-most popular excursion in Auckland according to Trip Advisor) and the fringing reef habitat which is particularly complex on the north side. Much of the recreational fishing activity is on the deeper reef on the north-east side so it may be possible to balance these competing interests.
 - iii. **Mokohinau Islands HPA** should ideally encompass Simpson Rock, a productive pinnacle that sees persistent schools of trevally and pelagic fish. It is also heavily fished with schools halving in extent over the past ten years. There is nowhere else in the Gulf that supports the same persistent feeding activity at the same location.
 - iv. Given the restored ecology ashore at Rotoroa as a pest-free island there is sense to including Rotoroa within the **Rotoroa HPA**. This would also address a concern raised as part of the Sea Change process that

“uncertainty remains regarding a few of the physical habitats present in the proposal being of viable size to meaningfully afford protection to associated species and ecological processes”. Including Rotoroa would protect seven physical habitats and reduce the edge effects also noted in the detailed proposal.

- v. There is an idiosyncrasy in the plan around the **Alderman Islands HPA**. While sea areas to the north and south of the group have been protected, the area of greatest ecological value and greatest fishing pressure is in a carve-out around the island group itself in recognition of manawhenua who gifted the islands in 1968. The effect of that, however, is that the islands will suffer increased effort and accelerate the collapse. In the interests of maintaining manamoana—which is presumably the concern of iwi—we propose a Special Management Area bridging the two HPA areas which is to be managed dynamically, by iwi or in partnership with iwi. This would satisfy both concerns for biodiversity and kaitiakitanga.
- vi. **Motukawao Group** is classed as an area of Outstanding Natural Character in the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan and of all the proposed locations in the inner Hauraki Gulf is probably the site with the greatest potential for recovery. This is true even in the context of the very high sediment flows into the Firth of Thames from Piako and Waihou rivers and in particular from Colville Bay on the adjacent Coromandel Peninsula. Agencies noted uncertainty due to “viable size” of the proposal and also that the proposal “bisects the Motukawao Group, meaning that significant edge effects are likely to result across the proposed boundary”. Including other islands in the Motukawao Group (Double Island and Rabbit Island) would immediately address both concerns.
- d. While the suggestions above include some criticism of the HPA design in the existing proposal, they are raised to strengthen the overall network and increase its benefits, rather than to imply weaknesses.
- e. The proposed trawl corridors and five relatively small Seafloor Protection Zones appear to be the result of political bargaining with the commercial fishing sector rather than evidence-based policy. New Zealand is one of just five countries in the world that still allows bottom-trawling and dredging, an arcane practice that is objectively destructive to benthic ecosystems, primitive in its targeting and carries a high emissions profile by re-suspending and releasing carbon stored soft sediments. It’s surprising that New Zealand continues to sanction these fishing methods, and indefensible that it does so in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park—the closest thing we have to a national park of the sea.
- f. The scientific consensus strongly suggests that Government should establish a Seafloor Protected Area over the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
- g. Given the efficacy of marine protection in restoring ecosystems, the complexity of these systems, the uncertainties of the design, and the public and industry response over time in terms of spatial substitution, it would be disingenuous to draft legislation limited only to the protections proposed with no means of supplementing with additional protections as required at a later date. Indeed the international commitments of the Government may require such. The Bill should include some means of adding, supplementing or adjusting protections in future, without recourse to new legislation.

5. SPECIAL NOTE: SPATIAL SUBSTITUTION

- a. DOC has completed some modelling based on Bruce Hartill’s research into spatial arrangements of fisheries pressure, finding that, in aggregate and not including the Noises, 5.7% of snapper catch would be displaced by the proposed HPAs. University of Auckland has unpublished data that demonstrates that the displacement of effort from the Noises HPA is significant at 3.6%, bringing the total to 9.6% for recreational and nearly 18% when commercial effort is considered.
- b. This is not diffusely substituted, but will be concentrated in areas that closely resemble the valuable and vulnerable reefs being protected due to the selectivity of fishers. In this way, protecting some areas may result in the collapse of unprotected reef ecologies nearby, though there are some mitigating factors—mainly that snapper on fished-out reefs are transitory, and a doubling of effort doesn’t mean a doubling of catch in depauperate fisheries.
- c. Displacement of effort is not a reason to reject marine protection, but simply a consideration that requires the attention of fisheries management. In this respect, the Auckland-based group Good Fishing has proposed a mitigation measure. The group has defined sites vulnerable to displaced pressure from the proposed HPAs, and suggested Special Management Areas (SMAs) as an existing instrument under the Fisheries Act to address that additional pressure.



- d. A SMA can define limits by species, method, season or user to accurately buffer adjacent areas from the deleterious effects of necessary marine protection, increasing or decreasing protections in order to compensate.
- e. While it requires the cooperation of Fisheries, spatial protections are the best possible response to spatial substitution, and the notion of a responsive SMA tool, locally managed, could also address some of the primary concerns of iwi with manamoana, especially at the Aldermans and Hauturu where protections are respectively too small and unpalatable from a manamotuhake point of view.
- f. Uneven effort—from an ecosystem perspective—is better than even effort. And a patchwork of spatial protections a more effective way to manage marine space than blanket regulations that are unresponsive to local conditions or impacts. SMAs elegantly address these concerns and embrace the overlapping values of this marine space.

6. SPECIAL NOTE: PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

- a. Opening a public consultation process on the marine protection element of the proposal, without final advice from the Fisheries Advisory Group and with little detail on the nature of customary harvest policies has been challenging or organisations and the public alike. These elements are contingent and should be considered together. This has limited and confused the submission process.
- b. Concerns over displacement of effort have led some groups to oppose Revitalising the Gulf. However spatial substitution is merely an effect to be mitigated by fisheries management, and doesn't constitute a reason to reject marine protections. Arguing that displaced effort renders marine protected areas futile ignores the increased productivity of the protected area. No one suggests, for instance, that we should sanction farming within national parks in order to distribute effort more evenly. The argument should be seen for what it is—as a means to justify extraction regardless of the consequences. (It should be noted that the public campaign to ban trawling within the Gulf makes no mention of the effects of displacing commercial effort.)
- c. During the course of reporting, New Zealand Geographic has discovered a frequent imbalance in the submissions of a number of organisations and the views of the members they purport to represent. In assessing these submissions, DOC must balance claims with reality.
- d. A recent Horizon Poll surveying more than 1000 people bordering the Hauraki Gulf demonstrated that 78% supported as much as 30% marine protection. Only 5% opposed. When segmented by those who fish on a recreational basis, the desire for protection dropped only a few points—72% supported and 12% opposed. (The poll had a margin of error of +/-3% with 95% confidence.)
- e. There is no stakeholder group representing the hundreds of thousands users who delight only in the power and beauty of the Gulf without extracting from it. No one from DOC has asked for their views as part of this consultation. DOC must be cautious that the demands of those who already exercise their right to fish across 99.7% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park do not drown out the quiet majority who hope only to treasure 6.1% in a natural state.

7. NOTE: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES
- a. Addressing the rapid decline in biodiversity and associated ecosystem collapse is a conservation imperative. DOC is in possession of high-quality scientific advice, and has a responsibility to proceed with the Revitalising the Gulf proposal in its most complete form.
 - b. Maintenance of indigenous biodiversity is a statutory obligation placed on authorities under the RMA to:
 - i. have particular regard to the finite characteristics of the environment and to maintenance and enhancement of the environment;
 - ii. recognise and provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (SNA) as a matter of national importance;
 - iii. and to, undertake human activity at the same time as “safeguarding the life supporting capacity of ecosystems”.
 - c. New Zealand is also subject to international obligations relating to indigenous biodiversity. It is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which has three main goals:
 - i. conservation of biodiversity;
 - ii. sustainable use of biodiversity; and
 - iii. fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
 - d. Contracting parties have undertaken to develop national strategies, plans, or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, by:
 - i. establishing a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;
 - ii. promoting the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats, and the maintenance of viable populations of species; and
 - iii. rehabilitating and restoring degraded ecosystems and promoting the recovery of threatened species.
 - e. New Zealand has also agreed to the global Aichi targets for biodiversity set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020, which were agreed by parties to the CBD in 2010, including by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
 - f. In addressing biodiversity decline in the marine space, marine protection is the only instrument available to DOC that has scientific support. Fisheries management alone—at least using tools currently practical within the Fisheries Act and stakeholder landscape—is insufficient to prevent trophic collapse. There is more than a century of evidence to support this, including almost four decades under the Quota Management System. The tools are only marginally adequate for managing commercial stocks, and wholly inappropriate for managing marine biodiversity.

8. SUMMARY

- a. After more than 20 years of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, and ten years of stakeholder engagement on Sea Change, Revitalising the Gulf is the only practical proposal to surface that has the potential to move the needle on ecosystem health in this generation. There is no alternative waiting in the wings and no better idea with greater support. There is no alternative path other than that which leads towards the spectre of total trophic cascade.
- b. DOC is compelled by law to advance this proposal expeditiously, compelled by 76% of Aucklanders who support five times more marine protection than is proposed within this document, compelled by a precautionary approach to protect biodiversity, compelled by international obligations, and compelled by the moral certainty that doing nothing will result in permanent ecological collapse and withering of the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf which was once one of the most productive marine ecosystems on the planet.
- c. The audience of more than a million people who connect with New Zealand Geographic, as well as the committed journalists, photojournalists, editors, scientists and publishers of the organisation itself expect the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to advance this proposal to law with urgency, commitment and political confidence. It has our total support.

Faithfully,

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:18 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission
Attachments: s 9 (2)(a) submission marine protection.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

To whom it may concern

Please find attached my personal s **Submission for Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals**

My name is s 9 (2)(a) my email address is s 9 (2)(a)

And I am a resident at s 9 (2)(a).

Thank you

s 9 (2)(a)

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Submission for Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a), 26.10.22

My name is s 9 (2)(a) and I live in s 9 (2)(a)
I care deeply about protecting our marine and seabird life which is so unique to Aotearoa and of great significance to the rest of the world.

Protecting our marine life is crucial to protecting our sea birds. It will also ensure that generations to come will be able to fish for food in our seas. Protecting our sea birds (and ensuring pest-free habitat for birds on islands and the mainland) is crucial to protecting our forests and endemic flora and fauna. Protecting our waterways, harbours and estuarine habitats will further ensure success of our marine nurseries and ongoing marine life.

It is critical that this natural cycle is able to continue and that both land and waterways are protected to ensure that marine life is sustainable for future generations to enjoy. It makes ecological sense to protect marine areas that adjoin land conservation areas. Although this is well recognised in the proposals, it could be extended to include ALL marine areas connected to land that is currently protected for conservation in NZ.

IN GENERAL, I support the 'Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals' package to establish new marine and seafloor protection areas to restore the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/Tikapa Moana/Te Moananui ā Toi.

The Hauraki Gulf is in a biodiversity crisis and ecological collapse. It is time to act for the benefit of future generations and the mauri of our precious moana.

The Government must act with urgency to set in place all proposed 19 protection zones in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park by introducing legislation as soon as possible to enact these marine protection areas.

Marine protection is the only proven way to restore an ecosystem to full health. An intact ecosystem is also more resilient to external pressures such as sedimentation, pollution and the impacts of climate change.

We have seen the direct benefit of marine protection at Goat Island and the Poor Knights. The proposal to protect a range of small areas in the Gulf will bring the same benefits to the wider marine environment, feeding and replenishing unprotected waters.

IN ADDITION, to achieve maximum benefits for revitalising the Gulf, I implore the government to *move with pace* to deliver the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan in close alignment with the marine protection proposals.

The extent of recovery within the High Protection Areas is dependent on how well other proposals in Revitalising the Gulf are implemented and managed over time, in particular, reform to fisheries management through the delivery of the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan.

I ALSO ASK that a pathway for other NEW marine protected areas (to be assessed and included), is provided in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection legislation. Without such a pathway, the legislation will act as a block to the creation of other marine protected areas and/or mana whenua-led initiatives in the Hauraki Gulf in the future.

The current proposals will result in approximately 6% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park being in a form of *no-take marine protection*. This excludes the cable protection zones which don't constitute marine protection under IUCN definitions.

Whilst this is an enormous step forward for the Hauraki Gulf, it is still a very small fraction of the Marine Park and *requires further ambition to reach a 30% target*.

Management of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park must be **active, adaptive and enduring** to meet the current environmental degradation and the uncertainty created by direct and indirect effects of climate change.

FURTHER SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVES AND ADDITIONAL AREAS:

I have personal experience of the following areas and strongly support their protection

- 1. Te Hauturu-o-toi/Little Barrier (#1) and Craddock Channel Seafloor Protection Area (#6)**

The HPA should be extended to include the east coast of Hauturu to include further shallow reef areas that have been excluded from the Seafloor Protection Area.

The currently proposed High Protection Area on the northern coast of Hauturu, New Zealand's premier conservation reserve, will provide for the protection and restoration of a significant area of habitats typical of the Outer Hauraki Gulf. Manta are frequently seen in this area and it is also a highly productive area for seabirds due to upwellings on deep reef structures.

The proposed Craddock Channel Seafloor Protection Area to the east of Hauturu will provide a level of protection for reef and seafloor communities and is relatively large. However the area directly adjoining the east coast of Hauturu has been omitted from the proposal.

There is a strong argument to be made that the entire coast of Hauturu should be protected within a no-take marine reserve to reflect a consistent conservation vision for the land and sea.

- 2. Mokohinau Islands High Protection Area (#8a) and Seafloor Protection Area (#8b)**

The Mokohinau Islands have exceptionally high conservation values both on land and in the sea. They contain highly diverse seabird populations, unique reptiles and land invertebrates. Protection will ensure connection through contiguous conservation reserves from land to sea, and including a range of shallow and deep reefs supporting large schools of reef fish as well as sub-tropical species. The “Mokes” has the potential to rival the Poor Knights as a spectacular land and sea reserve. ***Consideration should be given to extending the HPA to include Fanal Island.***

3. Kawau Bay High Protection Area (#10a) and Seafloor Protection Area (#10b)

This is an area of high geophysical diversity and high habitat diversity that has great potential for restoration and recovery. It has already had considerable recreational use. The Seafloor Protection Area will provide protection to the zone’s seafloor communities including scallop beds and for nursery habitats for snapper, sharks and other species.

4. Cape Rodney-Okarari Point (Goat Island) (#13)

The proposed seaward extension to the existing reserve will significantly improve the ecological integrity of the reserve. The new area is based on better understanding of the movements of lobster and snapper. Goat Island is already an outstanding reserve area and is very popular for recreation – the extension will reinforce its status as an icon of marine conservation in New Zealand.

ADDITIONAL AREAS should be considered for protection at:

5. **Aotea/Great Barrier Island** : the northern coast on both the west and east side of the Needles and an area around Rakitu Island.
6. **Tawharanui Marine Reserve** : this should be extended to seaward (for the same reasons as of Cape Rodney- Okarari Point) and also to east and southern coasts of Tokatu Point.
7. **Leigh coastal area** : I would like to advocate a ban of spearfishing along the coastal area directly adjoining the land, from Goat Island marine reserve to Whangateau estuary, to protect our reef fish and marine nurseries.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:35 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf Submission
Attachments: Revitalising the Gulf.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I attach a submission in response to the DOC's strategy on revitalising the Hauraki Gulf.

My contact details are

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

[Redacted]

<<...>>

Revitalising the Gulf

Government action on the Sea Change Plan

Submission from **s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)**

I congratulate the Department of Conservation in proposing more marine protected areas as High Protection Areas and Seafloor Protection Areas and in working with local communities and groups to investigate and implement more protection areas and active restoration. I also applaud taking an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management.

I have been involved with Revive Our Gulf, Motuihe Trust, and recreational boating. I would like to see more protection and more active restoration undertaken by community groups.

In particular I would like the following matters to be included in the Government's Strategy

1. Increase the HPA around Hauturu Little Barrier Island
 - a. 25 x 25km HPA centered on the Island, 625sq km compared to the proposed 195sq km
 - b. To increase protection for rocky habitat around whole island including Horn Rock
 - c. To provides protection for the scallop beds around the island
2. Increase the MPA around Tawharanui Peninsular
 - a. Include the coastline around the whole Regional Park
 - b. Includes the rocky reefs and habitat from Takatu Point to Jones Bay, including Maori Rock
3. Create a new HPA around Motuihe Island
 - a. The beaches and rocky reefs and the shallow subtidal zones were once habitat to shellfish and seaweed which supported a wide variety of marine life and shore birds
 - b. Shore birds are an integral part of the mammal pest free Conservation island visited by tens of thousands of boaties per year.
 - c. Motuihe Island is 30 minutes from Auckland and is a significant conservation asset, and it makes sense to extend the conservation ethos into the ocean.
4. Increase HPA in Hauraki Gulf to 30%
 - a. The social, environmental, and economic benefits from increasing the HPAs have been well documented
5. Stop all bottom contact fishing and dredging in Hauraki Gulf
 - a. The lobby group wanting to continue with bottom contact fishing and dredging appear to defy basic ecological reasoning.
6. Create a new protection system for all rocky reefs in Hauraki Gulf

- a. Rocky reefs provide structure for seaweeds which in turn are very important habitat for a functioning ecosystem
 - b. Seaweed act as a carbon sink.
 - c. Seaweed loss has ben caused by a number of factors including over fishing of large snapper and crayfish.
7. Do not allow any group to take from a HPA using a permit system
- a. Everyone will benefit from increased HPAs
 - b. Abundance from ecosystem based fishing-management decisions will provide plenty of fish for everyone in non HPAs.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:51 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: Hahei Residents & Ratepayers submission
Attachments: DoCMarineReserveExpansion HRRA_Final_Submission.pdf; Hahei Pages from waikato-cms-volume-one.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora,

Please find attached the Hahei Residents and Ratepayers submission on the proposed changes to Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve.

Many thanks for the opportunity.

Ngā Mihi,

s 9 (2)(a) MSTJ
Chair | Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.
Dip. Legal Exec | Dip. Real Estate | Dip. Environmental Management | AREINZ

s 9 (2)(a)

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Submission to Department of Conservation Expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve

12 April 2021

Seachange

Department of Conservation

Private Bag

Wellington

On behalf of the Hahei Residents and Ratepayers Association, we wish to make the following submission in relation to the Revitalising the Gulf – Marine Protection Proposals.

Our submission relates solely to the proposed expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve as this will directly affect the residents and ratepayers of Hahei.

This submission is based on an intense debate held at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 22 October 2022. The meeting was attended by 32 residents and ratepayers of our community.

1 Executive Summary

Our community was instrumental in setting up Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and we view it as a very important part of our village. Indeed, the land section of Cathedral Cove was donated to the people of New Zealand in 1972 by Vaughan Harsant a prominent resident of Hahei.

Hahei residents have enjoyed the benefits of Cathedral Cove for many years. We have a strong connection to it and support the expansion, subject to the following:

- **Hahei Beach Encroachment** - we do not wish to see our beach divided and would like the current location, at the northern end of Hahei Beach retained
- **Location of Hahei Beach to Mahurangi Island Boundary** – a large majority of our residents would prefer the current boundary from Hahei Beach to the northern end of Mahurangi Island retained.
- **Extension into Mercury Bay** – we all strongly support the proposed extension of the reserve into Mercury Bay
- **Improved DoC Management of Cathedral Cove** – with the expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve, we can expect more visitors both on land and sea.

Cathedral Cove is one of New Zealand's most popular tourist destinations and it is vital that DoC upgrades its management capabilities for Cathedral Cove. There must be more investment in enforcement, maintenance and other matters relating to long term management of such a wonderful asset.

We will now discuss each item in detail.

2 Hahei Beach Encroachment

We discussed the proposed location of the marine reserve boundary on Hahei Beach at our AGM and could find no support. Our members recommend that the existing boundary is retained for the following reasons:

- ***Right to Catch Fish from Hahei Beach*** – We strongly feel that residents and visitors, particularly children should be able to catch fish and pick up shells along the entire length of Hahei Beach.
- ***Dog Walking*** – Many residents and bach owners of Hahei love to walk their dogs on Hahei Beach. TCDC has range of dog walking restrictions on the beach and dog owners feel it is unreasonable to add more.
- ***Administrative Challenges*** – As with the existing beachfront carpark, there are challenges when DoC and Council have an interface. Who is in charge when it comes to enforcement, signage and management of a busy beach in the summer? On Summer mornings the most beautiful view in Hahei is filled with camper vans in the DoC section of the Hahei beachfront carpark, with no enforcement taking place. Even though freedom camping in Hahei is prohibited by the Council's freedom camping bylaw. The two agencies rarely mesh in their approach, and we anticipate the same on the beach itself.

3 Mahurangi Boundary

The current boundary was agreed by Hahei Residents when the Marine Reserve was created in 1992.

It was felt important to provide a safe, sheltered area to allow very small boats, i.e fishing kayaks and small dinghies (sometimes with small children on board) to fish, whatever the weather conditions. Even in fine conditions these craft can be too small to go further out "through the gap in the rocks" where the swell can be significant.

A large majority of our member still support this view and so we recommend that the current boundary, running from the end of Hahei Beach to the Northern End of Mahurangi Island, be retained.

4 Extension into Mercury Bay

Our members support the proposed expansion into Mercury Bay. Indeed, we would support further expansion towards Cooks Beach, if appropriate. It is vital however, that with a much larger area, DoC increases staff to control fishing by both recreational and commercial fishers.

5 Department of Conservation Management of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove)

With the expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve, it is vital that DoC staff conduct an in-depth review of the management of the area. We worked with DoC staff to prepare the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2014 - 2024, we would be happy to work with DoC to update this plan. For your information, we have attached to this submission the section of this plan relating to Cathedral Cove and surrounding areas.

There are some key issues that must be addressed, particularly with the increased visitor numbers that are likely to occur going forward.

5.1 Enforcement

There is no point in expanding the Marine Reserve without improved enforcement. We know that the local DoC office has staffing challenges and so we suggest that DoC consider security cameras, such as those install at the Kapiti Island Marine Reserve.

5.2 Summer Crowding/Boats

During summer, we are seeing huge numbers of boats, both pleasure boats and commercial operators, visiting and sometimes anchoring in the marine reserve. DoC needs to develop a plan to control this.

6 Community Involvement

Going forward, we strongly recommend that any final decisions relating to Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve, are discussed with our community. Our community has a lengthy and emotional connection to Cathedral Cove, and we are sure many of our residents would participate. We would be happy to organise a workshop at any time convenient for DoC

We look forward to working with you to implement the expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve

Yours faithfully

s 9 (2)(a)

Chair

Hahei Residents & Ratepayers Association

10 Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place

The Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place comprises all public conservation lands and waters from Whitianga Rock Scenic and Historic Reserve to Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve, including Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve⁴⁹ and Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) (refer Maps 8.3 and 8.3.1). Policy direction for this Place includes advocacy priorities for the protection of natural character, biodiversity and landscape values off public conservation land. The public conservation lands and waters within the Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place are as follows:

- Whitianga Rock Scenic and Historic Reserve
- Diggers Hill Scenic Reserve
- Purangi River Marginal Strips
- Cook Bluff Marginal Strip
- Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve
- Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve
- Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve
- Te Pare Point Historic Reserve
- Te Pupuha Recreation Reserve
- Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve
- Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve
- Wigmore Historic Reserve

10.1 Description

The Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place is valued for its scenic coastal landscape, important estuarine and dune ecosystems, cultural heritage, and protected marine ecosystem, as well as land-, island- and water-based recreation and tourism opportunities. It includes the only marine reserve in Waikato and the popular tourist destination of Cathedral Cove, which is one of the most highly visited public conservation sites in Waikato.

The coastal landscape of this Place is characterised by rocky headlands, steep cliffs, and a rocky/platform foreshore with boulder and sandy beaches, and the occasional dune system. The rugged cliff tops provide impressive viewpoints and scenic backdrops. These natural features blend with views of coastal settlements, rural land, historical landmarks, native vegetation and relatively undeveloped areas of coastline. Many sections of the coastline have high visual appeal, stretches of which are protected by the sequence of coastal reserves in this Place. The coastline from Te Pare Point to Hot Water Beach is particularly dramatic and features blowhole formations. The maintenance and improvement of indigenous vegetation cover would enhance the area's natural character and scenic values.

The coastal ecosystems support the Threatened tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel, tōrea pango/variable oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*), taranui/Caspian tern and pohowera/banded dotterel. The marine reserve environment contains a mosaic of habitats that support diverse marine life, including plants, crustaceans, molluscs, more than 50 fish species, 80 algae, and 140 mobile and sedentary invertebrate species.

⁴⁹ 'Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve' is the legal gazetted name of this Marine Reserve.

The Whitianga Rock, Cook Bluff and Cathedral Cove reserves support remnant coastal forest and scrub habitats. Te Pupuha Recreation Reserve is largely covered with mixed native shrubland, while a nationally significant coastal dune ecosystem is found within Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve. The Purangi Estuary, which drains into Cooks Bay, supports significant mānawa/mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) forests and is one of the least modified estuaries on the Coromandel Peninsula. Diggers Hill Scenic Reserve, which is covered in remnant coastal forest, adjoins the estuary.

This Place has a diverse history of Māori and European occupation. Many historic sites, including pā sites, middens, pits and terraces, are evident on coastal reserve headlands. The abundance of kaimoana, combined with a subtropical climate, made the area a desirable place for settlement by Māori. Well-preserved pā sites and sites linked to landings and activities of Captain Cook feature at Whitianga Rock, Cook Bluff/Cooks Bay and Te Pare Point, and a further six archaeological sites are also present along Hot Water Beach. Walking tracks provide access to two pā sites that are actively managed by the Department, on Te Pare Point Historic Reserve and Whitianga Rock Scenic and Historic Reserve, with interpretation also provided. Early farming settlement and coastal World War II watch stations also feature in the European history of the area at Wigmore Historic Reserve, Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Mahurangi Island (Goat Island). Protection of those historic places in Appendix 10 is a management priority.

This Place is of great significance to Hauraki Whānui, particularly Ngāti Hei, who have direct links to historic pā sites that are managed by the Department. The sustainability and protection of kaimoana and traditional, cultural and historic values, both spiritual and physical, are important to Hauraki Whānui.

Land- and water-based recreation opportunities are wide ranging and include sunbathing, swimming, snorkelling, scuba-diving, marine mammal viewing, fishing (outside the Marine Reserve), boating and kayaking, walking, picnicking and enjoying the natural beauty and, in some locations, the sense of isolation of the coastline. Coastal walking tracks are a feature, and there is scope for additional opportunities within the existing reserve network, and for improved linkages with reserves administered by Thames-Coromandel District Council. Balancing the demands from increasing visitor pressure with maintenance of the values on which these experiences are based is a key management issue for this Place.

Most commercial activity at this Place occurs in Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and the Marine Reserve. Activities include the sale and hire of goods and services to the public in the Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve, guided walking and kayaking tours, and boat tours to Cathedral Cove. Filming is popular within this Place, especially at Cathedral Cove, and marine mammal viewing is undertaken in the Marine Reserve.

The Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place and surrounding area experiences high levels of visitor use over the summer months. Whitianga has been identified as the Peninsula's settlement hub in the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint Plan. This is likely to increase demand for coastal subdivision and development in surrounding areas, which, in turn, has the potential to impact on the significant conservation values and highly valued coastal scenery in this Place.

The popularity of this Place, particularly Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve, Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve and on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) Recreation Reserve, puts considerable demand on facilities while also providing opportunity for commercial activities. However, if not carefully managed, this has the potential to have adverse effects on the natural values and the recreation settings that have made this Place so popular. The management issues in this Place are complex and in some instances linked to management responsibilities of other agencies, particularly Thames

Coromandel District Council. High visitor numbers and, at times, overloading of facilities, particularly at Cathedral Cove, have resulted in flow-on impacts into the local community, such as traffic congestion and illegal parking. The most important issues for the Department include: the integrated provision and management of recreation opportunities and facilities across this Place; establishing the social and environmental carrying capacity limits of, and levels of service provision needed at, highly visited sites; and limits and controls on commercial activity. The Department intends to work closely with local authorities, Hauraki Whānui, tourism agencies and the local community to resolve these issues, including the assessment and further development of options for the provision and management of recreation opportunities, recreation facilities and commercial activities in this Place. This may result in an amendment to this CMS in the future.

Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve

Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve is a very popular destination and features strongly in international tourism marketing campaigns. In 2011/12, 140 000 visitors used the car park and track system (excluding those accessing the reserve by boat)⁵⁰. Peak visitation occurs between December and March, with relatively low numbers during winter. Infrastructure and services, managed by the Department and local authorities, are placed under significant pressure during the peak visitation period. The recreation facilities within the reserve are managed as an Icon destination, which also includes the track on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island).

The undeveloped and outstanding coastal scenery is the main attraction for visitors to the reserve and adjacent Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve. Cathedral Cove and Mares Leg Cove include a natural amphitheatre, the iconic archway, golden sand beaches, and significant geomorphological and coastal landscape features. The underlying geology of the reserve means that it is prone to erosion, and instability of rock material in the archway and along coastal cliffs has, at times, posed a significant risk to public safety. Good vegetation cover across the reserve is important to ensure stability, and the restoration of native vegetation cover, via a planned restoration programme, would also enhance the natural character of the reserve.

The walking track from Hahei Beach to Cathedral Cove is the only land access to the bays and coves within the reserve, and is an integral part of the visitor experience. Large crowds at Cathedral Cove and Mares Leg Cove during peak periods can at times alter the visitor experience. Gemstone Bay, Stingray Bay and bays northwest of Cathedral Cove (the latter being accessible by water only) have lower visitation and provide a more peaceful setting for visitors. The reserve also provides land access to the adjacent Marine Reserve. Maintaining this range of visitor experiences is a management priority. The high visitation also presents an opportunity to increase understanding through interpretation of the natural, cultural and historic values of the reserve and adjacent Marine Reserve. Historic values at Cathedral Cove include a pā site above the archway.

To manage the effects of reserve use, the Department intends to control commercial activities and closely manage recreational use within the reserves. This will include extending the reserve boundary to Mean Low Water Springs, investigating options for creating a commercial hub at the car park, including consideration of car parking requirements (with the possibility of charging for parking), and managing the number and spread of visitors across the reserve to protect the natural setting and visitor experience, particularly during periods of peak visitation. Specific mechanisms include

⁵⁰ Unpublished data, Department of Conservation.

the provision of visitor facilities to support the projected level of use, the creation of designated coastal landing sites and the control of some activities, including commercial passenger services (e.g. water taxis), kayak tours, and the sale and hire of goods and services to the public. The Department may also seek mechanisms to control private watercraft use and other commercial activities, should these have adverse effects on the conservation values and visitor experiences of the reserves. As outlined above the Department intends to work with others to inform the management of these reserves.

Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve

Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve provides long-term legal protection for important intertidal, subtidal and deep water ecosystems and habitats. The Department manages this area of the sea and foreshore to preserve marine habitats in their natural state for scientific study and education. It is also part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (refer section 7). All marine life, the seabed and the foreshore are protected, and annual biological monitoring informs management about the health of the marine ecosystem. The Marine Reserve is accessed from Hahei Beach and Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve, which provides an opportunity to showcase the marine environment in a location that is popular with domestic and international visitors. In particular, the Gemstone Bay snorkel trail provides a recreation and educational opportunity for visitors to experience and learn about the marine ecosystem. Adjacent terrestrial reserves and associated indigenous vegetation cover provide an important buffer between farmland and the Marine Reserve.

Illegal fishing, user conflicts (especially between motorised and non-motorised water-based activities in the Marine Reserve) and the large number of people enjoying the reserve during the peak visitor season are key issues. Minimising conflict between water users is a focus for management; however, the absence of legal authority to control commercial and water-based activities in the Marine Reserve does limit the mechanisms available for management by the Department. The Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee, which includes community, tangata whenua, technical and Waikato Conservation Board representation, advises the Department on issues concerning the Marine Reserve. The long-term viability of the Marine Reserve requires the cooperation and support of all users, including commercial operators.

Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve

Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) is highly modified as a result of previous farming activity. Vegetation cover includes regenerating and replanted coastal indigenous forest, and areas of grassland and kōti/gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). It supports remnant coastal forest, recovering scrub habitat, the Threatened fireweed *Senecio scaberulus* and tara/white-fronted tern, and is free of introduced mammals. The At Risk Mahoenui giant wētā and giant-flowered broom (*Charmichaelia williamsii*) have been established on the island. The legal status of Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve and its island classification as an Open (island) Sanctuary⁵¹ allows for controlled recreation and nature tourism opportunities. Opportunities include kayaking, day visits and walking. There is the potential for small group tours, and other nature tourism opportunities. Public access to the island could be provided by a regular water taxi service. The community currently helps the Department with conservation management on the

⁵¹ Department of Conservation 2010: The Island Strategy: guidelines for managing islands administered by the Department of Conservation. Ecosystems Management Group, Department of Conservation, Christchurch, New Zealand.

island and there is significant potential for increased community assistance with island restoration. Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) is also an ideal site for interpreting island biodiversity values in Waikato and the Department's approach to island management in general (refer section 8).

Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve

Situated north of the Hot Water Beach township, Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve was created to facilitate public access to the beach, and to protect the sand dunes and undeveloped scenic backdrop. The coastline south of the reserve, which incorporates the Hot Water Beach thermal springs, is administered by Thames-Coromandel District Council. The scenic and fragile system within the reserve is a priority ecosystem site for the Department, and the foreshore hosts coastal bird populations, including the Threatened tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel. Public access to the beach and foreshore is currently provided on land adjacent to the reserve that is administered by Thames-Coromandel District Council. Unauthorised motorised vehicle use (four-wheel drives and all terrain vehicles (ATVs)) has the potential to have a significant impact on biodiversity and landscape values. Protecting and restoring the sensitive dune ecosystem and maintaining an undeveloped coastal landscape for public enjoyment are key management priorities for this area. The legal status of the reserve as a recreation reserve does not reflect the high priority biodiversity and scenic values present. Therefore, a change in status to scenic reserve will be sought.

10.2 Outcome, policies and milestones for the Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place

10.2.1 OUTCOME

The inherent natural values, natural character and dramatic coastal landscape of the Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place are protected and restored and remain a draw card for national and international visitors and locals alike.

Priority threatened and at risk coastal and wetland bird populations and other threatened and at risk species are thriving. The ecological health of marine, island, coastal, estuarine and dune ecosystems within this Place is improving. Increased indigenous vegetation cover enhances ecosystem integrity, wildlife habitat and natural character, and contributes to improved land stability.

There is a vegetated buffer zone between the coastal-marine ecosystems and adjacent farmland.

The community, alongside the Department, makes a significant contribution to ecosystem conservation and the restoration of native vegetation cover.

The natural character of estuaries of the foreshore and the margins of the coastal reserves is maintained and enhanced, with minimal built structures present.

European and Māori history and cultural heritage is preserved, showcasing Māori settlement and early European arrival.

Visitors enjoy a diversity of land- and water-based recreation experiences, including accessible short walks, camping, swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving and kayaking. These experiences connect people with the values present, and they leave with fond memories and a greater appreciation of the Place. The number of people encountered varies depending on the time of year and site visited.

Visitors rarely encounter aircraft on public conservation lands and waters, particularly during the peak visitor season.

The Department collaborates with Hauraki Whānui, including local marae, hapū and iwi, the community and local authorities to achieve integrated management of the natural, cultural and historic values of this Place.

Commercial activity is consistent with and does not detract from the landscape, natural, historic, cultural and recreational values of the Place. Conflicts between user groups or activities are avoided.

Whitianga Rock and Te Pare Point

As part of the landscape, the headland pā sites at Whitianga Rock and Te Pare Point are preserved through the retention of vegetation cover and complementary restoration of indigenous vegetation. Visitors to Te Pare Point experience a walk that is sympathetic to the cultural landscape, enjoy uninterrupted views of the coastline and leave with an appreciation of the site's historic significance to Hauraki Whānui. Walking tracks at and between Whitianga Rock and Cooks Beach are integrated with walks managed by Thames-Coromandel District Council, along which is interpretation of European and Māori heritage associated with Captain Cook and Māori occupation.

Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve

The natural values, outstanding coastal landscapes and natural features of these reserves are protected, and cherished by Hauraki Whānui, visitors, the local community and concessionaires. Cathedral Cove remains a popular destination in this Place. Access is by walking tracks, or by boat through the Marine Reserve. The track system is managed as an Icon destination, and weaves through restored native vegetation to the coast. Track design facilitates access and helps to reduce the frequency of visitor encounters. People are aware of the presence of significant natural hazards. Visitors to Cathedral Cove and Mares Leg Cove expect to encounter other visitors, including land- and water-based guided tours, motorised and non-motorised watercraft, and independent visitors, especially during the peak visitor season. Gemstone Bay, Stingray Bay and the coastline to the northwest of Cathedral Cove (Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve) offer a quieter, more secluded experience, with fewer people and an absence of commercial activity, apart from the occasional tour group. Commercial activity within the reserve and along the foreshore does not detract from the natural values that prevail, and has a minimal impact on the natural setting and the experiences of others.

Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve

Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve is maintained or restored to a natural state as far as possible. Marine life is thriving, and research and monitoring has led to increased knowledge about the status of the marine ecosystem and species. The Marine Reserve is a popular hub for water-based recreation within this Place and is recognised as a best practice model for marine education. Users respect biodiversity values within the reserve, and conflict between users is minimal. People visit the reserve to experience and learn about marine ecosystems. Land-based access and interpretation is provided from Hahei Beach and Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve, and the Gemstone Bay snorkel trail connects visitors to the marine ecosystem. The community, iwi, visitors and concessionaires benefit from the Department's cooperative approach to reserve management that reduces user conflict and minimises adverse effects on marine values and the adjacent Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve.

Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve

Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) is a biodiversity 'showcase' island destination, on which recreation and conservation occur in close proximity to each other. Free of

introduced mammals, the island supports healthy populations of threatened and at risk birds, plants and wētā, and is an important site for the reintroduction of other threatened and at risk flora and fauna. Biosecurity ensures that the risks of pest incursions are minimised. Restored indigenous forest and scrub habitats cover a large proportion of the island. The public enjoys a small range of island recreation experiences, through day visits focused on walking opportunities in a peaceful, secluded setting. Simple, quality facilities are provided to support these experiences and facilitate access onto the island. The island walking track immerses visitors in the natural, historic and cultural values of the island. The island is also a focal point for interpreting conservation management on other Hauraki Islands. As a centre for conservation volunteer opportunities, biodiversity values on the island are enhanced through restoration programmes, with assistance from the community. Small-scale guided nature tourism and commercial water taxi services enable visitors to access and enjoy an ‘island experience’ and contribute to island restoration.

Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve

The undulating dune landscape and priority ecosystem provides an intact natural and scenic backdrop to Hot Water Beach. This important ecosystem is healthy and functioning with improved natural character. The tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel population is thriving. Visitors enjoy and appreciate the undeveloped natural coastal landscape and peaceful setting, and respect and learn about the dune ecosystem as part of this experience. Infrastructure necessary to protect public safety is located in a small, highly modified area at the southern end of the reserve, to protect natural and scenic values.

10.2.2

POLICIES

- 10.2.2.1 Advocate for, and work with landowners, iwi, local authorities and others to achieve, the protection of the following conservation values within and adjacent to this Place:
- a) the highly valued scenic coastal landscapes, geological features and landforms, including natural character, that underpin the experiences and popularity of this Place;
 - b) coastal ecosystems, including dune systems, beaches and estuaries, and those ecosystems that provide habitat for threatened and at risk species, particularly shorebirds and wetland birds;
 - c) the maintenance of indigenous vegetation cover that contributes to biodiversity, natural character and land stability; and
 - d) marine ecosystems and species in the Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve.
- 10.2.2.2 Work cooperatively and in collaboration with Thames-Coromandel District Council to facilitate integrated management of recreation opportunities and associated infrastructure between sites administered by the Council and the Department.
- 10.2.2.3 Further develop the relationship with Hauraki Whānui, including local marae, hapū and iwi, to enhance their special connection with this Place, particularly with respect to sites of cultural significance and their role as kaitiaki.
- 10.2.2.4 Should not allow the construction of built accommodation within this Place, to protect the natural character and dramatic coastal landscape of this Place.

- 10.2.2.5 Minimise the placement of structures on Te Pupuha Recreation Reserve, and ensure any structures are small scale and blend into the landscape to protect its scenic values, particularly when viewed from the sea.
- 10.2.2.6 May allow aircraft take-offs and landings in this Place, shown as Orange Zone on Map 4, only in accordance with the criteria listed in Policies 16.3.5.1, 16.3.5.5, 16.3.5.6 and 16.3.5.8 in Part Three, and provided that:
- a) there is a maximum of 20 landings in any year across the Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place Orange Zone;
 - b) the activity only occurs on week days between 1 March and 30 November (inclusive) in any year, excluding public holidays; and
 - c) landing and take-off (including hovering) sites are identified during the assessment process.
- 10.2.2.7 Integrate and manage the provision of recreation opportunities and limits and controls on commercial activities in this Place, consistent with the social and environmental carrying capacity of public conservation lands in this Place, particularly Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve, Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve and on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island). To achieve this, undertake a process for this Place, in close consultation with Hauraki Whānui, local authorities, the community, tourism organisations and other interested parties, to establish: (1) carrying capacities; (2) the range and spatial allocation of recreation opportunities and facilities; and (3) limits and controls on commercial activities (in addition to those specified in the following policies). Should any limits or controls specified in the policies in this Place require review, then a publicly notified partial review of, or amendment to, this CMS will be undertaken to amend the controls and limits set in those Policies.

Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve

- 10.2.2.8 Work cooperatively with Thames-Coromandel District Council, tourism organisations, Hauraki Whānui, adjacent landowners and the local community to facilitate the Department's management of infrastructure, services and the visitor experience at Cathedral Cove.
- 10.2.2.9 Extend the seaward boundary of Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve to Mean Low Water Springs.
- 10.2.2.10 Consider further restrictions on freedom camping at Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve in consultation with interested parties.
- 10.2.2.11 Manage activities and water-based access in Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Cook Bluff Scenic Reserve in accordance with Policies 10.2.2.12-10.2.2.21 for this Place, and subject to Policy 10.2.2.7 for this Place, to reconcile conflicting user demands and to protect natural scenic values and the visitor setting.
- 10.2.2.12 Should confine all commercial watercraft landings and commercial kayak tour landings to the designated Coastal Landing Sites at Cathedral Cove and Mares Leg Cove, as shown on Map 8.3.1, to minimise the disruptions to people using the beach. The Mares Leg Cove Coastal Landing Site should be used as an alternative landing site only when conditions are not safe to land at the Cathedral Cove Coastal Landing Site.
- 10.2.2.13 Should not provide or permit any landing structures for watercraft within the reserves to maintain the coastline as a place of unmodified natural beauty.

- 10.2.2.14 Limit commercial watercraft landings and passenger services (number of concessions, frequency of visits, location and number of landing sites, vessel sizes, and party sizes/number of passenger movements) to ensure that actual or potential adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated so as to protect reserve values and other users (including their experience). Set limits through the process specified in Policy 10.2.2.7.
- 10.2.2.15 Limit commercial kayak landings (number of concessions, frequency of visits, location and number of landing sites, number of kayaks, and party sizes) to ensure that actual or potential adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated so to protect reserve values and other users (including their experience). Set limits through the process specified in Policy 10.2.2.7.
- 10.2.2.16 May seek a bylaw to manage the use of private watercraft within the reserves, such as the number of watercraft landing on beaches, to minimise disruption to people using the beach.
- 10.2.2.17 Should not allow private or commercial use of motorised vehicles (including hybrid land/watercraft) on beaches within the reserves, except as provided for by Policies 10.2.2.12 and 10.2.2.14 for this Place, to minimise disruption to people using the beach.
- 10.2.2.18 Minimise the provision of visitor facilities and other structures along coastal sections of the Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve by concentrating visitor facilities and structures at the reserve car park, and ensuring that those facilities are set back from the coastal margin, to protect the coastline of the reserve as a place of unmodified natural beauty and the scenic viewing opportunities from the reserve car park.
- 10.2.2.19 May allow the commercial provision of visitor information and the sale and hire of goods or services only in accordance with the following criteria, to protect the unmodified natural beauty of the coastline and the visitor setting:
- a) the activity (including mobile vendors) only occurs within or directly adjacent to the reserve car park;
 - b) it complements the visitor experience by being directly related to the public use and enjoyment of Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve;
 - c) it does not detract from the natural setting;
 - d) it is at a scale that is in keeping with the capacity of the reserve car park;
 - e) preference is given to operators offering a scheduled service to the public; and
 - f) it is assessed in terms of Policy 10.2.2.20 for this Place where the activity involves construction of temporary or permanent structures.
- 10.2.2.20 May allow structures, such as the development of a combined café-type facility and visitor information centre only in accordance with Policies 10.2.2.18 and 16.2.1.5 in Part Three and the following criteria, to protect the unmodified natural beauty of the coastline and the visitor setting within the reserve:
- a) any structures are located within or immediately adjacent to the reserve car park, and sited away from the coastal margin of the car park; and

- b) any structures are sympathetically designed to minimise adverse effects on the surrounding landscape and natural values.
- 10.2.2.21 May allow other activities and events, including organised sports events and filming, only in accordance to the following criteria, to protect the unmodified natural beauty of the coastline and the visitor setting within the reserves:
- a) the activity occurs between 1 March and 30 November (inclusive) of any year, excluding public holidays and weekends⁵²;
 - b) in the case of events that by design or purpose must occur during weekends, they only occur on weekends during the period specified in subsection 'a' of this Policy, excluding public holiday weekends;
 - c) adverse effects on the experience of other visitors, including visual and physical intrusion to the reserve, are minimised;
 - d) the public's right to freedom of entry and access is unconstrained unless it is necessary for their protection in using the reserves;
 - e) adverse effects on natural, cultural and historic values of the reserve are minimised; and
 - f) in the case of filming, the activity is also considered in accordance with the criteria in Policies 16.11.1.1 to 16.11.1.3 in Part Three.

Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve

- 10.2.2.22 Develop, implement and promote a 'share with care' code of conduct for users of the Marine Reserve, in collaboration with the community, commercial operators, iwi and local authorities, and promote adherence to it by all users of the Marine Reserve.
- 10.2.2.23 Support and facilitate a cooperative working relationship with Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee.
- 10.2.2.24 Monitor the compliance of activities undertaken in the Marine Reserve and prosecute alleged offences.
- 10.2.2.25 Promote marine conservation within the reserve via conservation events such as Sea Week.

Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve

- 10.2.2.26 Manage activities and access in accordance with Policies 10.2.2.27–10.2.2.32 for this Place, to protect biodiversity values and the visitor setting on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island).
- 10.2.2.27 All commercial watercraft pick-ups/drop-offs and commercial kayak tour landings should occur in the designated Coastal Landing Site on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island), as shown on Map 8.3.1, to protect biodiversity values and the visitor setting.
- 10.2.2.28 Provide a landing platform or similar structure for public and commercial use in collaboration with concessionaires and other interested parties at the Coastal Landing Site on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island), to facilitate and

⁵² Consideration outside this time period may be given where the proposed activity is demonstrated to have low impact on conservation/reserve and recreation values, is for a short duration and does not coincide with the busiest times of the day for visitor use and enjoyment.

manage access to Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) and thus protect biodiversity values.

- 10.2.2.29 May allow limited guided nature tourism on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) only in accordance with the following criteria, to protect biodiversity values:
- a) the activity is directly related to the appreciation of conservation values of the island;
 - b) the activity contributes to island restoration and conservation activities on the island;
 - c) the activity meets the requirements of the Waikato Island Biosecurity Plan (draft);
 - d) the activity is consistent with the Department's Island Strategy (November 2010), or any subsequent strategy, and the island classification for Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) (Open Sanctuary);
 - e) access for commercial activities is by motorised watercraft (e.g. a water taxi service) or kayak only:
 - i) watercraft are able, and of an appropriate size, to moor alongside a small platform;
 - ii) preference is given to operators offering a scheduled service to the public; and
 - iii) public access to the island by watercraft and kayaks is unrestricted by commercial activity;
 - f) a maximum of 55 people visit the island per day with concessionaires.
- 10.2.2.30 May allow the maximum daily limits specified in Policy 10.2.2.29 for this Place to be exceeded for the purposes of transporting volunteers to the island for conservation restoration activities or for holding conservation events.
- 10.2.2.31 Manage island biosecurity in accordance with the Waikato Island Biosecurity Plan (draft).
- 10.2.2.32 Should not allow camping or overnight stays on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island).
- 10.2.2.33 Develop recreational facilities in a manner that does not negatively impact on biodiversity values and restoration.
- 10.2.2.34 Promote recreation and volunteer opportunities on Mahurangi Island (Goat Island).

Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve

- 10.2.2.35 Manage public access and vehicle use to protect the fragile dune ecosystem and shorebirds in accordance with Policies 16.3.1.6 and 16.3.1.7 in Part Three.
- 10.2.2.36 Investigate reclassification of the reserve to scenic reserve status, to afford more appropriate legal protection to the scenic landscape, sensitive dune ecosystem and threatened and at risk species present.
- 10.2.2.37 Should not allow development, including structures, in Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve, except as provided for in Policy 10.2.2.38 for this Place, to protect biodiversity values and the intact natural and scenic backdrop.
- 10.2.2.38 May allow limited structures within the designated area at the south end of the Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve, as shown on Map 8.3.1, to protect

biodiversity and scenic values only in accordance with Policy 16.2.1.5 in Part Three and provided that:

- a) any structure and associated activity is for the purpose of providing an essential service for public safety only;
- b) any structure blends in with the surrounding landscape, is single storey and not visible from the beach, except for that part of a structure which is essential for public safety surveillance of the beach (e.g. an observation tower);
- c) the footprint of any structure and associated activities, including vehicle access, is minimised; and
- d) any structure is located on a modified site dominated by exotic vegetation, and the site landscaped in a manner that restores and enhances ecological values and indigenous species present on the reserve.

10.2.3 MILESTONES—OUTPUTS

Completed by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2017)

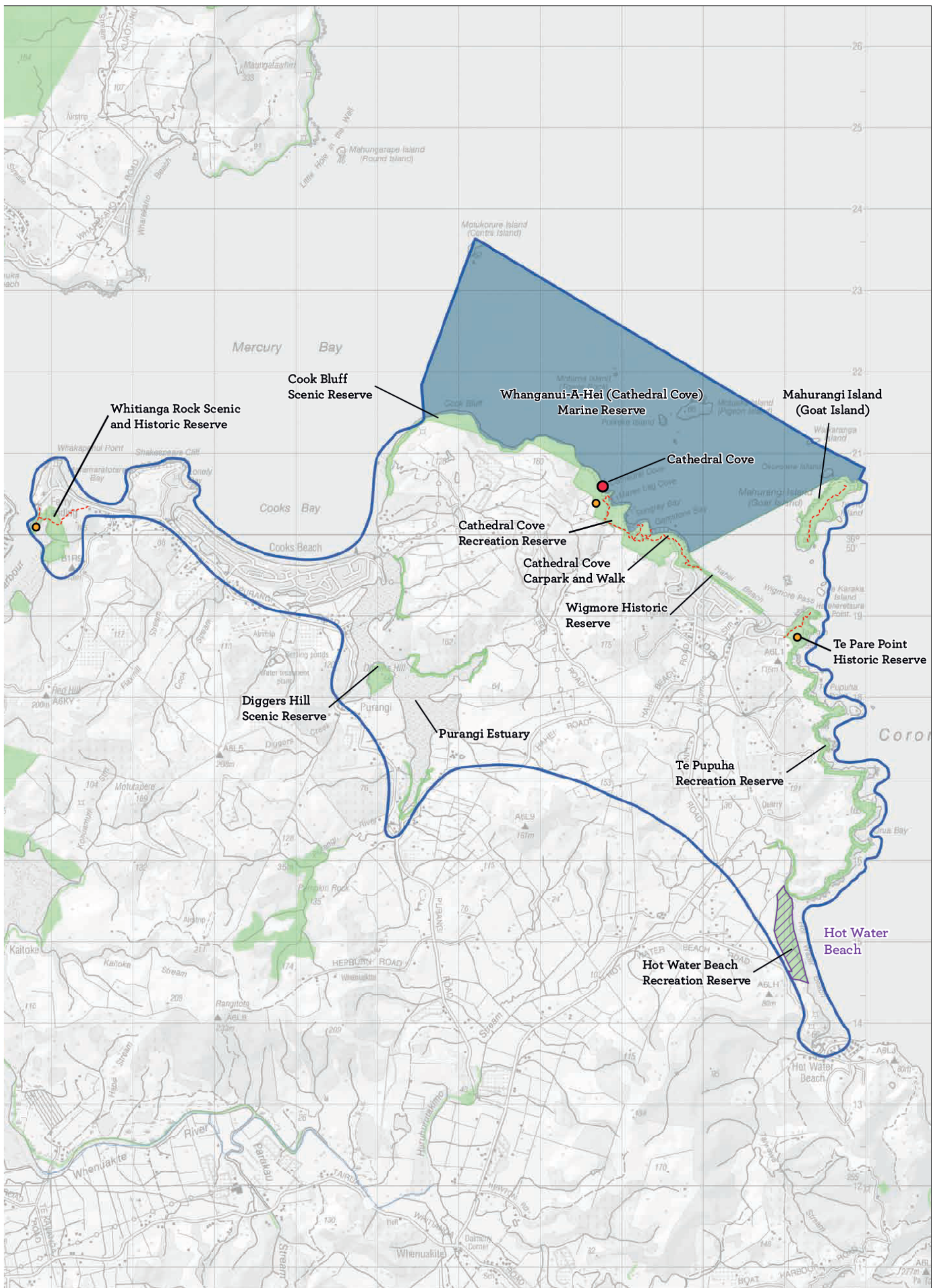
- 10.2.3.1 Scheduled outputs identified in approved work programmes for the priority ecosystem units located in this Place.
- 10.2.3.2 Scheduled outputs for nationally threatened and at risk species in this Place outside priority ecosystem units for which a work programme is underway (if any).
- 10.2.3.3 A 'share with care' code of conduct for Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve has been developed and promoted.
- 10.2.3.4 Experiential development assessments have been completed for the Icon destination within Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve and Mahurangi Island Recreation Reserve and other popular visitor destinations within this Place.
- 10.2.3.5 Outcomes resulting from the actions identified in Policy 10.2.2.7 have been integrated into operational work programmes and implementation is in progress.

Completed by the end of Year 5 after CMS approval (2019)

- 10.2.3.6 Outcomes resulting from the actions identified in Policy 10.2.2.7 have been integrated into operational work programmes and implemented.
- 10.2.3.7 Visitor monitoring data (qualitative and quantitative) have been analysed and reviewed for land- and water-based activities on public conservation lands in this Place and the Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve.
- 10.2.3.8 Hot Water Beach Recreation Reserve reclassification.

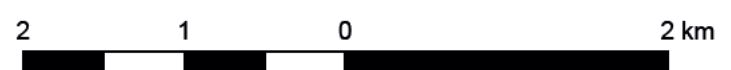
Completed by the end of Year 10 after CMS approval (2024)

- 10.2.3.9 Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve 10-year vegetation restoration plan has been implemented.
 - 10.2.3.10 The success of outcomes resulting from the actions identified in Policy 10.2.2.7, and the implementation of those outcomes has been reviewed and recommendations implemented.
-



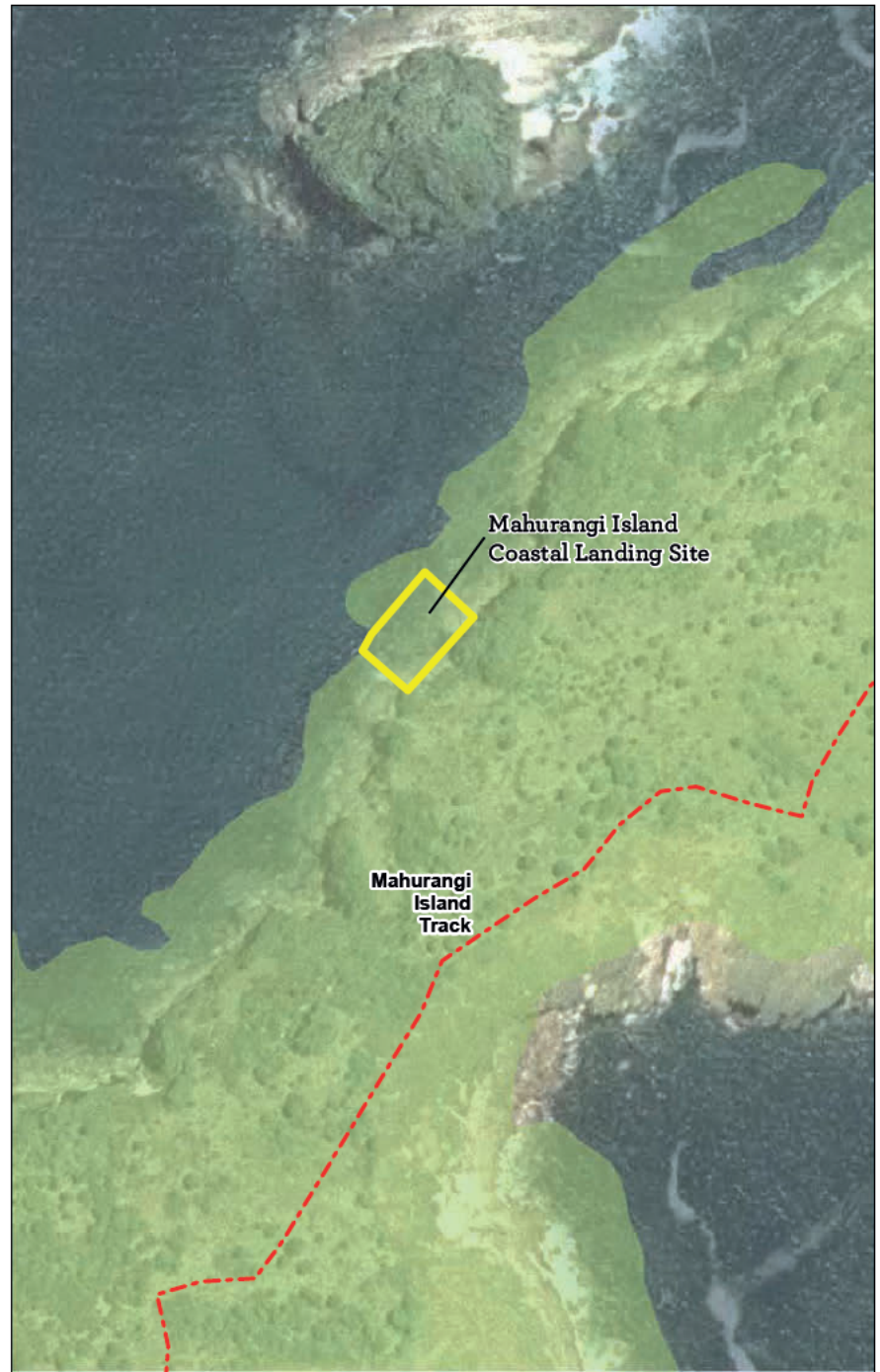
Map 8.3 Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place

Conservation Management Strategy
Waikato





Cathedral Cove and Mares Leg Cove Coastal Landing Sites



Mahurangi Island (Goat Island) Coastal Landing Site



Hotwater Beach Recreation Reserve: Designated area for structures

Map 8.3.1 Hahei Coast and Marine Reserve Place detail
 Conservation Management Strategy
 Waikato



Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 12:55 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Opposition to Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Expansion Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to submit my opposition to the proposed Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Expansion.

As a s 9 (2)(a) and recreational fisher, I feel the existing Reserve is effective in providing shelter for marine life as it already encompasses an extensive amount of reefs, many of which are sheltered by the islands. Expanding the Reserve will not increase the size of Cathedral Cove or Stingray Bay and will cause more water traffic in the area than there is there now. The proposed extension will affect boating safety adversely as the new area is where one can fish with the security of being visible to the populated area. Including 'Half' or any of the beach will not alter the accessibility to the reserve as this is still weather dependent by sea. The proposed expansion including the beach is a common place for safe surfcasting, and unless drone fishing, you cannot cast near the Reserve from the beach. It will also mean I/we are unable to walk/run our dog the full length of the beach.

Ultimately, a larger Reserve will lead to more visitors. The Cathedral Cove Beach toilet, the toilet block at the Cathedral Cove Lookout and the local Hahei infrastructure are already not adequate for the Summer visitor influx and reducing pollution should be a higher priority than increasing the Reserve size.

I also feel it pointless to extend when it is not particularly well policed at the size it is.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 1:27 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: "Support for Revitalising the Gulf"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi,
I live in s 9 (2)(a) but believe we are harming our oceans in ways that may be irreversible. Please, listen to the to us and 'Revitalise the Gulf' in every manner possible.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 1:46 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

seachange@doc.govt.nz

Your Name: s 9 (2)(a)

Your Email: s 9 (2)(a)

Address: s 9 (2)(a)

Subject: Submission Revitalising the Gulf

Message

Hi,

I would like to try and communicate my utter disgust at the proposed changes to the gulf. I honestly could not believe my eyes as I was reading it. Your proposal suggests creating zones where depending on the my ancestors I am either allowed to fish or I am not. I don't think you could get a clearer example of a racist policy if you tried. I just dont understand how you can even suggest creating racist policies in this modern age. I thought we had left all of this in the dark ages. I 100% support the creation of marine reserves, in fact I think you should go further, and place restrictions on at least 30% of the gulf. However, how in your right mind can you think that creating protection zones, and then allowing one race to fish there but not another is helping anyone. If you are actually serious about solving the issues with the gulf then you need to remove the race card from the discussions and just look at the ecological issues at hand. I cant believe I even have to say this, as its so obvious.

Anyway, please, for the love of the gulf, don't go and screw it all up by creating totally racist policies in the name of protection, because I can tell you it wont help anyone, especially not the gulf itself.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 1:51 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Protection Zones Submission
Attachments: Protection Zones Submission.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please find attached my submission on the creation of race based protection zones.

Yours Sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

Hi,

I am making this submission on behalf of David Lyons, a private individual. These views are my own and do not represent any other organisation or persons.

I would like to try and communicate my utter disgust at the proposed changes to the gulf. I honestly could not believe my eyes as I was reading it. Your proposal suggests creating zones where depending on the my ancestors I am either allowed to fish or I am not. I don't think you could get a clearer example of a racist policy if you tried. I just don't understand how you can even suggest creating racist policies in this modern age. I thought we had left all of this in the dark ages. I 100% support the creation of marine reserves, in fact I think you should go further, and place restrictions on at least 30% of the gulf. However, how in your right mind can you think that creating protection zones, and then allowing one race to fish there but not another is helping anyone. If you are actually serious about solving the issues with the gulf then you need to remove the race card from the discussions and just look at the ecological issues at hand. I cant believe I even have to say this, as its so obvious.

Anyway, please, for the love of the gulf, don't go and screw it all up by creating totally racist policies in the name of protection, because I can tell you it wont help anyone, especially not the gulf itself.

You can contact me at **s 9 (2)(a)**

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 3:43 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: Submission - Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals
Attachments: Revive Our Gulf - Submission on Revitalising the Gulf - Marine Protections - 261022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora Sea Change team,

On behalf of the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust, please find attached submission.

We would be grateful for your acknowledgement of this.

Ngā mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

The Mussel Reef Restoration Trust
Revive Our Gulf project
www.reviveourgulf.org.nz

Submission to: Revitalising the Gulf Marine Protection Proposals

26 October 2022

Contacts:

s 9 (2)(a)

Trustee & Policy Lead

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Kaihautū / Programme Director

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Advisor

s 9 (2)(a)

About us

1. The Revive Our Gulf project is an initiative to restore the seabed kūtai / green-lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) reefs of Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā-Toi / The Hauraki Gulf.
2. The project vision is a Hauraki Gulf ecosystem with restored mauri / life essence, and returned to a state of natural biodiversity and abundance.
3. The project has three core collaborative partners: the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT), an NZ registered charity; The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a global environmental organisation; and the University of Auckland (UoA). We work in partnership with iwi / hapū across Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi / The Hauraki Gulf on mussel reef restoration projects.
4. The opinions expressed in this submission are those of the MRRT backed up by science from the Institute of Marine Science UoA. This submission does not reflect the views of TNC or our tangata whenua partners.

General comments of support

5. **We support the Revitalising the Gulf, Marine Protection Proposals package** to establish new marine and seafloor protection areas in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park / Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui-ā-Toi (the Gulf).
6. **We encourage Ministers to proceed as quickly as possible** to implement these much needed changes.
7. We support the Hauraki Gulf Forum in its stated goals to protect 30% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park and restore 1,000 sq km of shellfish-bed and reef.
8. There is broad scientific consensus that protecting or conserving at least 30% of land and oceans is the minimum needed to curb biodiversity loss and to reach global climate goals. The Hauraki Gulf Forum's 30% marine protection goal accords to the proposed United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity target of 30% marine protection by 2030.
9. MRRT is a member of The Hauraki Gulf Alliance – a collaboration of environmental and recreational fishing organisations – calling for an end to destructive mobile bottom contact fishing methods that impact the seabed in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
10. Globally, marine areas that abound densely populated cities are under significant pressure. Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park are not unique in this challenge, and increasing protection and more careful management of inshore coastal areas is vital.

Why marine protections are important to us?

11. The Revive Our Gulf project is all about regenerating ecosystems which have been removed from the Gulf or are severely depleted. Marine protection is critically important to the success of our kaupapa.
12. Marine protection will protect some known critically important wild mussels. These remaining, older wild mussels are vital brood stock. Large adults make a disproportionate contribution of eggs and sperm. They are now incredibly valuable as a source of scientific study and as potential brood stock while we are attempting to regenerate the reefs.
13. New research indicates that mussel farms may not add to viable larval flow indicating the importance of wild stock (Toone et al. 2022). The intention of the Revive Our Gulf project is to create large kūtai/mussel beds that will increase larval supply and stimulate natural recruitment.
14. The proposed marine protection package includes areas where we are currently undertaking active restoration and others areas we are planning restoration work. Protection helps insure our investment in this mahi.
15. Kūtai are dependent on algae species to complete their lifecycle, specifically, larvae usually settle first on flexible filamentous surfaces such as seaweed. Reducing fishing effort (by creating HPAs) should aid the restoration settlement substrate needed for kūtai, and we note that kūtai are farmed extensively and available cheaply at the supermarket.

Support for customary practices, special legislation and active restoration

16. We acknowledge and support the Government's work to recognise customary practices of Mana Whenua while meeting the needs of marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf.
17. We request that the Government puts appropriate effort into public education around customary practices as, presently, little information is available to support public understanding.
18. We support customary management tools such as rāhui, and observe that their increasing use in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is symbolic of a failure of Government agencies to manage and protect the Gulf's marine ecosystem through current legislative and regulatory tools.
19. **We therefore support the Government creating special legislation** (i.e. the Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill) for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
20. In creating special legislation **we request the Government be future focussed and:**

- Provide a mechanism to introduce additional marine protected areas over time.
 - Include a marine protection target of 30% marine protection for the Hauraki Gulf, to provide clear points of reference for ongoing engagement with iwi and stakeholders and to align to the goals already set by the Hauraki Gulf Forum.
 - Be based on best practice marine protected area design principles: no take, well enforced, old (>10 years), large (>100 km²), and isolated by deep water or sand (Edgar et al 2014).
 - Recognise ecosystem based management principles, including explicitly acknowledging the interconnectedness among systems, such as between land and sea; and recognising the strong interdependencies between ecological, social, economic and cultural perspectives. (TNC Marine Spatial Planning).
21. In a New Zealand context, an ecosystem based management approach would also incorporate both science and mātauranga measures to recognise and meet Tīriti obligations and because such an approach should get the best results for the environment.
22. **We support the inclusion of “active habitat restoration initiatives**, such as the removal or addition of marine life (translocation) to improve habitats of interest” in the HPA proposals.
23. Our research shows that active restoration alone is unlikely to restore the Gulfs historic kūtai reefs at any scale. Passive restoration will need to work hand-in-hand with active restoration to reduce the cost of the restoration effort in order to achieve square km scale.
24. **We request that the Government take care when designing the legislative provisions for active habitat restoration, so as to enable the ability to add species and also supporting material, such as substrates, and structures.**
25. We also request that care be taken to ensure the planning and consenting processes for such activities are pragmatic and able to be responsive to urgent situations and opportunities. For example, earlier this year, Revive Our Gulf prepared and undertook a large mussel deployment in just six weeks, to coincide with the first Matariki public holiday, at the request of one of our iwi partners.
26. The Government could consider allowing Territorial Authorities to manage such permissions under regional plans and consenting processes, or in the very least, ensure that the responsibilities between the Territorial Authorities and the Department are clearly articulated.
27. We are interested in undertaking mussel reef restoration in several of the HPAs. **We would therefore kindly request to be included in discussions with Mana Whenua about biodiversity objectives.** We are also working on translocations of other species which may accelerate biodiversity goals.

28. We already have relationships and plans with several Tangata Whenua for mussel reef restoration in their respective rohe. We believe by being included in the kōrero about biodiversity objectives we may be able to offer our support to realise those objectives faster.

Seafloor Protection Areas (SPAs)

29. As noted above, MRRT is a member of The Hauraki Gulf Alliance – a collaboration of environmental and recreational fishing organisations – calling for an end to destructive mobile bottom contact fishing methods that impact the seabed in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
30. We support the Hauraki Gulf Forum’s policy to remove all industrial bottom trawling and scallop dredging harvest techniques from the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
31. These fishing techniques were responsible for the loss of huge (100s of square kilometres) kūtai ecosystems in Aotearoa New Zealand.
32. Although we would like to see the entire seafloor of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park protected, we were also involved in the Hauraki Gulf - Benthic Spatial Planning Advisory Group (HG-BSPAG) with DOC which was run by Fisheries New Zealand. In the design process, the SPAs were useful in limiting the impact of bottom trawling and Danish seining on the seafloor, and in that vein, we understand that the SPAs are critical to the design of the bottom trawling corridors.

Regular review and adaptive management

33. *Revitalising the Gulf* refers to the development of a monitoring and reporting framework for the Hauraki Gulf, which will be underpinned by an adaptive management cycle to ensure management actions can be adjusted based on regular evaluation.
34. The *Marine protection proposals* consultation document is currently silent on the matter of evaluation.
35. Although we understand the sense of review to assess progress and refine goals and conservation targets, we suggest the Government exercise caution when defining how regular evaluation will take place. The IUCN definition of a marine protected area includes that the area should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy (IUCN 2008,2013).
36. *Revitalising the Gulf* also refers to the development of a monitoring and reporting framework, and the development of a Gulf research plan.

37. As an organisation that invests in and undertakes considerable research and development we would be interested to work with the Government in preparation of its research plan.
38. Over the last four years the Government has provided some seed funding for mussel reef restoration – for which we are grateful. MPI/FNZ has also put in resources, created the biosecurity risk assessment and given guidance on mapping.
39. MRRT already has a good understanding of most of the topics identified for the *Habitat Guidance Framework*, the key deliverable for Active Habitat Restoration identified in Revitalising the Gulf. A bigger impediment to progress is the lack of funding needed to develop capability and capacity.
40. In the short-term, funding is required to undertake extensive habitat mapping and to establish collaborative projects with Mana Whenua. Over time, funding to build capacity for scale will be needed. In 2020, Australia’s Federal Government invested [\\$20 million \(AUD\)](#) in shellfish restoration (TNC 2020).
41. The Sea Change Ministerial Advisory Committee report noted that “Our major concern with this part of the strategy is a complete lack of reference to funding sources for restoration. While identifying regulatory barriers is mentioned, there is no mention of funding barriers, which are arguably just as significant. Active restoration efforts will require resources to implement and sources of funding should be identified.”
42. We request the Government allocate funds for monitoring, research and reporting for the Hauraki Gulf, to match the scale of the problem we are working with.

Conclusion

43. If implemented along with the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, the marine protection proposals have the potential to move the needle on ecosystem health for Tīkapa Moana / Te Moananui ā-Toi / The Hauraki Gulf.
44. It has now been almost 10 years since stakeholder engagement on Sea Change commenced.
45. There is broad public support for more marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf. **77% of respondents supported the idea of putting 30% of the Hauraki Gulf into marine protected areas. Only 5% were opposed in a [recent Hauraki Gulf Forum research poll](#)** conducted by Horizon Research. There is clear mandate to proceed with this proposal, and more substantial protections in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.
46. Along with many other organisations, including land based restoration activities, Revive Our Gulf is working to build a healthier, more vibrant moana, but it is the Government that holds the keys to unlock the benefits that would result from marine protection of this scale. We need all these efforts combined.

47. Urgent action is needed to repair damage to the Gulf and to stop it degrading further. We encourage Ministers to proceed as quickly as possible to implement these much needed changes. It has our absolute support.

The Mussel Reef Restoration Trust / Revive Our Gulf project
www.reviveourgulf.org.nz

References

- IUCN. 2008,2013. *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21. N.p.: International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- Edgar, G., Stuart-Smith, R., Willis, T. *et al.* Global conservation outcomes depend on marine protected areas with five key features. *Nature* **506**, 216–220 (2014).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature13022>
- Toone, Trevyn, Emilee Benjamin, Sean Handley, Andrew Jeffs, and Jenny Hillman. 2022. “Expansion of shellfish aquaculture has no impact on settlement rates.” *Aquaculture Environment Interactions* 14 (135-145).
- TNC, Marine Spatial Planning, What is Ecosystem-Based Management,
https://marineplanning.org/overview/tnc_approach/what-is-ebm/

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 3:46 pm
To: Sea Change
Cc: s 9 (2)(a)GMail s 9 (2)(a)
Subject: Submission

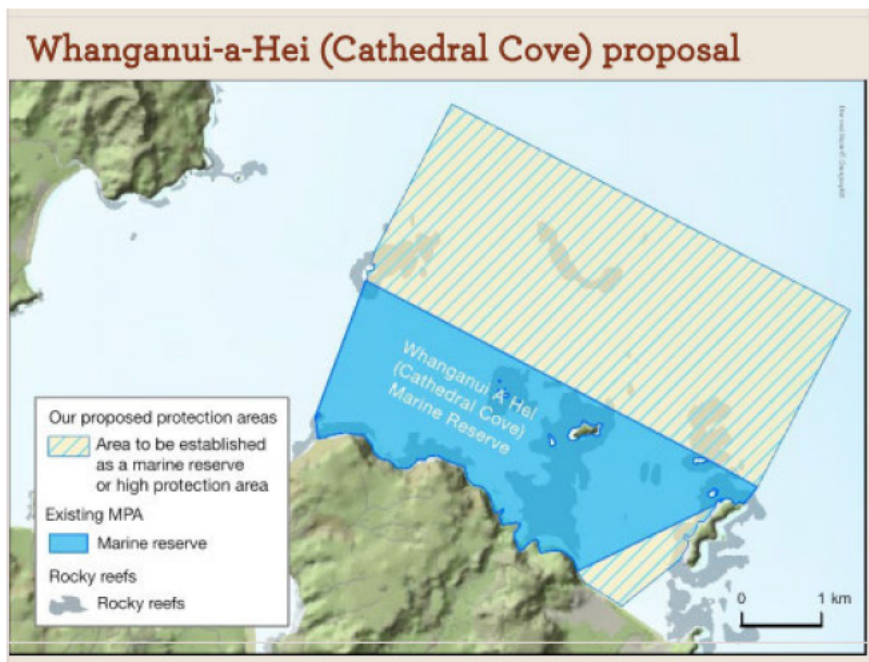
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Submission regarding to the expansion of Te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve

I am submitting this application on behalf of the owners of s 9 (2)(a) and our families. Our family have owned this property for 47 years.

1. We fully support the proposed boundaries of the expansion of Te Whanganui A Hei. See below.



2. Regarding the type of protection tool to be applied to the proposed new area, we support whichever of the tools (HPA or Marine Reserve) are preferred by mana whenua following that DOC consultation.
3. We are members of the Hahei Residents and Rate Payers Association. We do not support their submission. Their submission does not represent our views.

Nga mihi

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Postal
Phone

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:17 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Endangered Species Foundation - Revised submission
Attachments: ESF submission - Hauraki Gulf Consultation 2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

Kia ora,

Following further expertise advice, we are now recommending that the Pakiri / Mangawhai area should be a High Protection Area to give this area the best chance of regeneration.

I have updated our submission accordingly, and this is now attached. My apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Ngā mihi nui,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

General Manager

Mobile: s 9 (2)(a)

www.endangeredspecies.org.nz



**Endangered
Species**
Foundation



Endangered Species Foundation

Submission in response to 'Revitalising the Gulf' marine protection zones proposed by the Department of Conservation.

Link: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/haveyoursayonthegulf>

Nature of submission

The Endangered Species Foundation opposes key elements of the current proposal for the entire Hauraki Gulf, and particularly in relation to the Pakiri and Mangawhai coastal areas.

This submission supports the ending of bottom trawling and seabed mining in the Hauraki Gulf, including the creation of a High Protection Area in the Pakiri / Mangawhai rohe.

Date:

18 October 2022



On behalf of The Endangered Species Foundation and its 2200+ supporters.

The Endangered Species Foundation (ESF) is a registered charitable organisation supporting high-priority conservation projects that protect New Zealand's most vulnerable indigenous species and habitats from extinction.

Our vision is to enable sustainable, long-term support needed for endangered species and to provide a way for all New Zealanders to get involved and to make a lasting contribution.

ESF is backed by 2200+ supporters and supports submissions by other groups and individuals who we are in coalition with to protect the habitat of endangered species and their ecosystems including Te Whānau o Pakiri, Friends of Pakiri Beach, Save our Sands Mangawhai Pakiri, and the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration group.

The destructive effects of seabed mining and bottom trawling

ESF compare the impact of sand-mining, seabed bottom trawling and Danish Seining to the destruction of 190 million years of kauri forests over a period of a few decades to the benefit of a very few and the long-term damage to the environment and the people of New Zealand.

According to Professor Mike Hilton, these processes at best leave a 'ploughed paddock' in their wake, at worst a desert where nothing can live or grow and many hundreds of years will be needed to recover if they recover at all.

We also concur with statements made by experts asked to submit to the panel on seabed mining Professor Mike Hilton and Doctor Shaw mead as below;

"The results of the DML survey also provides further support to the conclusions I have so far presented, and raise concerns about the environmental impacts of dredging the offshore area of the Mangawhai-Pakiri embayment. The current application worked on the assumption that the large scale impacts now visible in seabed imaging by DML were not occurring, and as a result there are assumptions and conclusions that are likely no longer valid with respect to both physical and biological impacts. Had the conditions of the consent been correctly exercised and regulated from when dredging began and produced such as those in the recent seabed imaging, it is questionable whether 5 dredging would have continued in the same way it has until today, or indeed whether it would have been allowed to continue at all."

"The available evidence indicates that the current trend is one of erosion/retreat and a lack of expected recovery following storm events, which are projected to become increasingly more energetic due to climate change".

Dr Shaw Mead, 27 years' experience in coastal restoration technologies

“The data gained by DML Ltd provides a very worrying picture of the extent and density of trenches and marks on the surface character of the Pakiri seabed. The pattern and close spacing of trenches, compared with areas of seabed outside the mining areas, is suggestive of a ‘ploughed paddock’, one that is tens to hundreds of hectares in area. This intensity of extraction, over a large area, must raise questions as to the extent to which the activity is consistent with the imperative to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.”

Professor Mike Hilton

“Sand mining was stopped off Mt Maunganui Beach in 1976. Today the Mount has a well-formed beach. Mangawhai and Pakiri Beaches ecosystems are presently revealing increasing symptoms of unsustainable and induced sand budget deficits; the protracted long-term offshore dredging activities are now impacting and damaging existing back-beach and foredune zones”.

Gregory Jenks, 25 years’ experience in marine research and consulting, reported:

These views are not only held by academics and environmental groups -individual members of the public have seen the degradation that has occurred over the years and on 19 November 2021, a Horizon Research poll, commissioned by the Hauraki Gulf Forum, showed that;

84% of the public who live in the vicinity of the Hauraki Gulf oppose mobile bottom contact fishing to continue due to the destructive impact it has on marine species and ecosystems on the seafloor. This is in contrast to the recent Revitalising The Gulf proposal which suggests allowing these activities to continue in the future.

ESF’s Principal Concerns around the ‘Revitalising the Gulf’ proposal and the lack of protections across the Gulf include;

1. The threats to endangered marine and bird life;
2. The lack of recognition and impact of global warming;
3. The current fragile state of this area, linked with seabed damage, finite sand supply and declining marine life;
4. The lack of recognition and provision for Māori cultural practices (tikanga) , and the Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
5. The lack of recognition of proven environmentally sustainable, commercially viable alternatives;
6. The irreversible destruction of seabed eco systems;
7. The operational integrity of the commercial interests involved.

A great deal of damage has already occurred to the Hauraki gulf through sand-mining, seabed bottom trawling and Danish Seining. Sand mining has been occurring for over 70 years, causing huge loss of biodiversity in the area including species of fish, crayfish, scallops and horse mussels to name a few. This not only impacted on the ability of sea birds to source food for themselves and their chicks but also local iwi's traditional rights to source kaimoana in the area.

There are significant impacts from the practices of Danish seining, bottom trawling and suction hopper dredges, which plough the seabed, smash corral, destroy mussel beds and catch non-target species as well as smothering marine plants and wildlife. As well as this physical damage there are negative effects on marine species from noise pollution and sediment plumes.

Seabed mining at the Pakiri coastline to the Mangawhai sandspit threatens whole ecosystems

ESF's view is that threatened, at risk and endangered marine life and birds have been negatively impacted by the sand mining and seabed bottom trawling particularly at Mangawhai and Pakiri.

Several species of bird in this area are declining or critical, most obviously and critically the tara iti, NZ fairy tern. The tara iti is listed as "nationally critical" which is the highest threat ranking for any endangered species. With only 10 breeding pairs left it is New Zealand's rarest endemic breeding bird with a current population of just 37 birds.

Once widespread around North Island coasts, its current breeding sites are Waipu, Mangawhai, Te Arai, Pakiri and Papakanui Spit. The damage being caused by seabed bottom trawling is more difficult to see but it is clear much damage both to the seabed ecosystem and the fauna and flora living there is occurring.

According to an expert on birds, Ian Southey MSc (Hons) the degradation of fairy tern nesting areas and feeding areas caused by the sand mining could lead to their functional extinction in the region. It is clear that the encroachment of human activity on their nesting grounds is a major threat to these birds.

"Beach narrowing, due to loss of sand, forces the terns to nest closer to the sea, putting their eggs at risk during storms and king tides".

Mangwhai harbour is also home to 26 threatened and at-risk species of birds and continued mining in this area puts the habitats of all these birds at risk:

Threatened species	Threat category
White Heron	Nationally critical
Fairy Tern	Nationally critical
Australasian Bittern	Nationally critical
Reef Heron	Nationally endangered
Grey Duck	Nationally vulnerable
Caspian Tern	Nationally vulnerable
Wrybill	Nationally increasing
Brown Teal	Nationally increasing
New Zealand Dotterel	Nationally increasing

At Risk species	
New Zealand Pipit	Declining
North Island Fernbird	Declining
Lesser Knot	Declining
Banded Dotterel	Declining
Banded Rail	Declining
South Island Pied Oystercatcher	Declining
Black-billed Gull	Declining
Red-billed Gull	Declining
Bar-tailed Godwit	Declining
Spotless Crake	Declining
White-fronted Tern	Declining
Variable Oystercatcher	Recovering
Pied Shag	Recovering
Black Shag	Relict - population now survives in only a few localities
Little Shag	Relict - population now survives in only a few localities
Little Black Shag	Nationally uncommon
Royal Spoonbill	Nationally uncommon

Sandmining in this rohe / area, does not consider the kaitiakitanga values of tāngata whenua, whānau and hapū and the communities most directly impacted by the activity. It is a direct breach of the duty of active protection of taonga (treasures) including the restoration of mauri (life-force). The proposed activity impacts adversely on marine environment, cultural values, customary activities and way of life.

ESF opposes the current proposal which will enable sand mining, seabed bottom trawling and Danish Seining in the Hauraki Gulf.

We want to see an end to seabed mining and bottom trawling in the Hauraki Gulf, and are calling for the Pakiri / Mangawhai area to be designated as a High Protection Area.

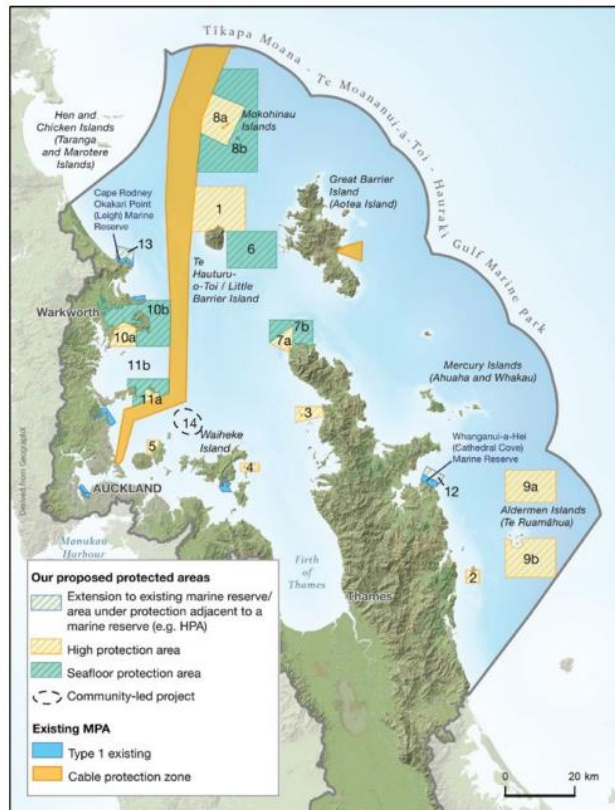
While research and data indicate these practices should be off limits for ever, they should be stayed at least until further work can be carried out to understand the true impact of them on fauna and flora and consultation is properly held with of tāngata whenua, whānau and hapū and the communities most directly impacted by these activities.

We believe that the bare minimum, in the short-term, given the rampant desecration and destruction of this sea floor area a High Protection Area is needed in the Pakiri / Mangawhai area to:

- maintain, restore and protect ecologically important habitats while allowing for compatible uses.
- protect seafloor habitats and communities susceptible to damage from activities such as fishing (particularly dredging, bottom trawling and Danish seining), sand extraction and mining.

On an ongoing and longer-term basis, the management to enable restoration of the mauri and mana of the Pakiri / Mangawhai area, and any activity that takes place, needs to be done in partnership and collaboration with Ngāti Manuhiri, who are the recognised tāngata whenua of this area. We need to enable this iwi to lead so that collectively we can embrace the concepts and values of te Ao Māori and enable true kaitiakitanga for this rohe.

Figure 8: Locations of the protected area proposals that we will engage and consult on.





Finally

The many organisations and individuals fighting to save the seabed, marine life and species such as the tara iti in this area do not have equal resources in regards to commercial interests but we do have numbers, the people of the area do NOT want these practices to continue, they want sustainable practices led by the kaitiakitanga values of tāngata whenua, whānau and hapū and the communities most directly impacted by the activity to get the required studies completed and make good, long term decisions on managing this iconic area.

2022 is not the time to turn a blind-eye to the long-term damage that has been and is still occurring in the seabed and foreshore which has benefited a very few individuals and companies to the cost of every other New Zealander, this is the time for change, for making some tough decisions in the hope that some of these wrongs can be righted and that our mokopuna have something to thank us for.

Species such as the tara iti can never be replaced, and decisions such as enabling further sand mining must be delayed until all the required information is gathered, analysed and can be used for ensuring the best decisions are made for all parties.

We need to take action today to end destructive seabed mining, bottom trawling and Danish Seining and support more sustainable practices for future generations and te taiao.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:41 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Sand Mining & Botton Trawling.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to register concern with the continuation of Bottom Trawling, based on the scientific evidence of environmental damage. The continuing sand mining in Mangawhai also needs to be stopped for the same reasons.

Regards s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:47 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: My submission..

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please stop allowing bottom trawling and sand mining in our Hauraki Gulf.

We need to preserve our environment for future generations and these abuses are counter to this objective.

Thanks, s 9 (2)(a)

--

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:48 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I wish to record that I am totally against further sand mining and bottom trawling in the gulf, and also elsewhere in the country.

We need to put in place as many protective measures as possible, not destroy our taonga.

We need to increase the number of marine reserves.

Regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:48 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: STOP BOTTOM TRAWLING EVERYWHERE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Please stop bottom trawling everywhere in New Zealand. It's too destructive and not what most of us want.

PLEASE STOP

Vxvdq#K hp p lj vhg#
3537#39#39#
[vxvdqkhp 939C jp dbrp #](#)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:49 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I oppose the continuation of bottom trawling and sand mining in any of the Hauraki Gulf

s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:49 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Please stop bottom trawling and sand mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hi,

I'm a resident on the east coast of north Auckland and was surprised and concerned to hear that the Department of Conservation is proposing to allow the practices of bottom trawling and sand mining to continue.

Please stop these practices immediately. Both are unsustainable and do massive environmental damage. I am confused why you want it to continue.

Regards

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:50 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission : Hahei Marine Reserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I object to the proposed HPA extension of the reserve and in particular your intention to include more of the beach and to move the South Eastern boundary to take in the North Western side of Mahurangi Island.

The inclusion of more of the beach is unnecessary. It adds nothing to the reserve in terms of underwater habitat and would be confusing to all beach users.

The discussion documents refer to Beach access to the Reserve. This area is all sand bottom and the only access into the existing reserve would still be by swimming, as it is now, as the rocky bluffs at the end of the beach are impassable. To swim is often extremely dangerous as the wind funnels through here along the cliffs creating strong and dangerous tidal rips.

Your paper on Direct pressure on the Reserve is misleading it is not factual and is contradictory. You encourage visitors and then complain about the adverse effects .

Your previous record in regard to the creation of the reserve is not good and one must question your motives. Will you only be satisfied when you take the whole beach?
Your representative at the Community meeting spoke of needing buffer zones, a boundary is a boundary.

The proposal to extend the South Eastern boundary into the Bay would remove the last safe area we have for all fishing and boating activities in adverse Easterly/North Easterly conditions.
This area is also often used as a safe anchorage for passing vessels.

Traditional use of an area to be included in a reserve must be considered.
In Hahei this has always meant walking, swimming, surf casting, dog walking, family picnics, sandcastles, tourists, boating. This must also be preserved.
Our grandchildren should always be able to use the beach respectfully doing all these things as we have done.

The intention to extend the Northern boundary to include the South Sunk reef while having a lesser impact on recreational divers will severely impact boat fishing as this is a very popular fishing ground.

Have DOC considered creating a new reserve south of Tairua as an alternative rather than upsetting a community who have accepted the current status quo and who are generally supportive of the current reserve.

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Residents and recreational diver and fisherman for over 50 years.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:50 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Hauraki Gulf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded

I am totally opposed to bottom trawling and sand mining.
Please do not continue with this devastating practice.

Sincerely,
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:50 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Sea bed trawling and sand mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Good afternoon

We would like to express our disappointment that these practices are still occurring in NZ and in the Hauraki Gulf.

We would like to see these practices banned and a higher degree of protection afforded to our fragile marine ecosystems.

Please do the right thing and take action to stop sea bed trawling and sand mining in the Hauraki Gulf and throughout NZ.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:50 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Help revitalise the Hauraki Gulf by having your say on marine protection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia ora koutou

I support increasing protections.

I am also appalled by hearing that we still allow bottom trawling. As kaitiaki for future generations of this incredible taonga and ecosystem, we need to do everything we can to protect and not exploit and ban seabed trawling.

My comments are as an individual and not representing anyone else.

Noho ora mai

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:54 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf protection plan DOC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

As a marine scientist who researched the endangered Brydes whales in the Hauraki Gulf, I am in full support of increasing protected the zones. However I am shocked that we are allowing bottom trawling to continue outside of protected areas.

Benthic communities are foundational for a healthy system. Bottom trawling is short sighted and deeply damaging to this precarious balance. Please reconsider this aspect, and help bring NZ's fishing management back in line with contemporary ecosystem understanding.

Sincerely,

s 9 (2)(a)

MSc. Biology, PGDip Sci. Env Mgmt

Sent from my Galaxy

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 4:57 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf marine Protection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

My name is s 9 (2)(a)

I am making this submission to register my opposition to both sand mining and bottom trawling anywhere in the hauraki gulf.

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:01 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf please end trawling and dredging permanently PERMANENTLY

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

You already know all the reasons why

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:02 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalizing the Hauraki Gulf submission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Submitter – s 9 (2)(a)
Email s 9 (2)(a)
Mobile s 9 (2)(a)

1. I agree with the proposed 12 High Protection Areas (HPAs): 5 Seafloor Protection Areas: and 2 protected areas.
2. In my view the proposals still allow safe passage for marine users , although prohibiting anchoring in bad weather in HPA 1 (north Little Barrier) and HPA 8(A) part of the Mokohinau group, may cause a safety issue for vessels seeking Lee shelter in bad weather given the exposed nature of both locations.
3. I agree with the continued use of the Customary permit process, as it offers continued management of that process.
4. In my view, and in line with the original stated ministerial objectives of the QMA system when it was first introduced in the 1980s , recreational fishing rights should prevail over commercial catch. I would therefore prefer to see Crown settlement with commercial quota holders and the removal of commercial take from the Hauraki Gulf well ahead of the reduction on recreational access to the fishery.
5. I would not support wholesale expansion of additional (additional to the current proposals) HPA's or SPAs or protected areas without significant future consultation.

Kind regards

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:07 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Objection to bottom trawling and sand mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Kia Ora

I wish to object to the proposed bottom trawling and sand mining in the Hauraki Gulf. I often frequent Waipu and Mangawhai and am very conscious of the rarity of the fairy terns which would have their habitat interfered with. Also, bottom trawling catches many species which are needed to keep our ecosystem healthy.

Nga mihi

s 9 (2)(a)

Sent from my iPad

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:22 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission on 'Revitalising the Gulf'
Attachments: Submission Hauraki Gulf 26 Oct 2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Good afternoon.

Attached please find my submission on the document 'Revitalising the Gulf'.

Yours sincerely

s 9 (2)(a)

Submission on 'Revitalising the Gulf'

Date of submission: 26 October 2022

Name: s 9 (2)(a)

Submission on behalf of: Private individual

Contact details:

Postal address

Tel.

Email

s 9 (2)(a)

HPAs

The marine environment of Auckland's Hauraki Gulf needs as much protection as possible. Therefore, I am in favour of the establishment of High Protection Areas and Seafloor Protection Areas, and the extension of marine reserve areas as set out in the document, *Revitalising the Gulf – Marine Protection Proposals*.

Bottom trawling and sand mining

However, I am shocked to discover that bottom trawling and sand mining, both of which are notoriously detrimental to marine life, are still allowed in **any** area of the Hauraki Gulf.

Submission 1:

I submit that all bottom-trawling activities should be made illegal in the entire area of the Hauraki Gulf, with immediate effect.

Submission 2:

I submit that all sand-mining activities should be made illegal in the entire area of the Hauraki Gulf, with immediate effect.

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:40 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hahei Marine Reserve extension

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

Hello

My name is s 9 (2)(a) , my wife is s 9 (2)(a)

We both oppose part of the proposed extension of the marine reserve that takes in Hahei beach , we are happy for the reserve to extend out towards the Mercury Islands , but not increasing onto Hahei Beach

Our Address is s 9 (2)(a)

Regards

s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 5:42 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Hauraki Gulf Fisheries

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reply sent, Recorded

I support the complete ban of bottom trawling and sand mining in the Gulf area, further more we should be following the rest of the world and banning bottom trawling in our entire EEZ. Why is clean green NZ so far behind with protection of our fisheries and still plundering the pacific ? We should stop this immediately to enable our sea based ecosystems to rejuvenate.

Thankyou
s 9 (2)(a)

Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 6:07 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Revitalising the Gulf submission
Attachments: Revitalising the Gulf submission.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Recorded, Reply sent

Good evening,

Please see a submission regarding the High Protection Areas proposed under Revitalising the Gulf.

The submission has been made by a number of authors, as outlined in the document. We are not submitting on behalf of an organisation nor do we represent the views of an organisation. We are Master of Science students specialising in marine conservation.

Please use my contact email here as the main point of contact if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

s 9 (2)(a)
s 9 (2)(a)

Revitalising The Gulf (Fisheries) marine protection proposals submission

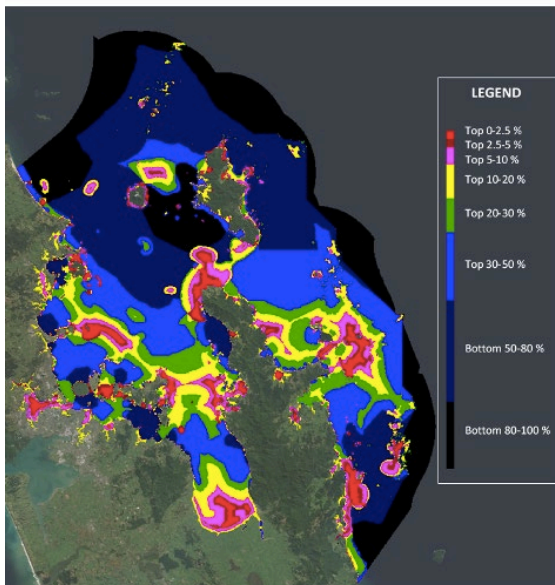
Contributing authors: s 9 (2)(a)

The authors of this submission in response to the New Zealand government's Revitalising the Gulf marine spatial plan proposal firstly would like to recognise the significance of this plan for the Hauraki Gulf. The gulf has long been exploited by commercial and recreational fisheries and it's nearly past the time where we're able to rectify the damage we've caused (Forum, 2020). Only six marine reserves currently exist protecting approximately 0.3% of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (Tablada et al., 2022). We support any further addition to these numbers. However, this submission challenges some proposed High Protection Areas (HPA/HPAs) in the justification by the Revitalising the Gulf (RTG) working group and makes reasoned suggestions as to why.

Purely from a biodiversity perspective the HPA proposals don't deliver the biodiversity protection needed for the region (Tablada et al., 2022). While other factors are important to consider when developing a marine spatial plan, underperforming on biodiversity protection is a key flaw. This is interesting given that information used to inform HPAs, Seafloor Protection Areas (SPA/SPAs) and Cable Protection Areas (CPA/CPAs) were largely based on biodiversity and ecology data sourced by scientific advisers. The working group hasn't undertaken a systematic conservation approach to ensure a cross-section of all marine environments found in the Gulf are being protected. Our revised proposed HPAs aim to cover a larger area of the Hauraki Gulf, from the proposed 1,587 km² to 10,696 km² and cover a broader range of marine habitats to create a more comprehensive system of protection.

Figure 1

Zonation map of areas in the Hauraki Gulf that require top attention



Caption: Warm colours indicate higher priority areas for biodiversity representation, and colder colours indicate lower priority areas (Lundquist et al., 2020).

Figure 1, originally from Lundquist et al. (2020) visualises the different habitats in the Gulf and which habitats in which locations should be prioritised. This Zonation study is the basis for a lot of this submission's justification, and we have included it here for reference alongside the HPAs and SPAs proposed by the authors.

The authors also find that RTG does not have a broad criterion for what constitutes an HPA. For example, some proposed HPAs include buffer zones while others do not, some HPAs include whole reef systems while others are chopped in half without justification. It would be beneficial to understand why the working group decided to include components, rather than justify why habitats have been excluded (such as the reef habitats).

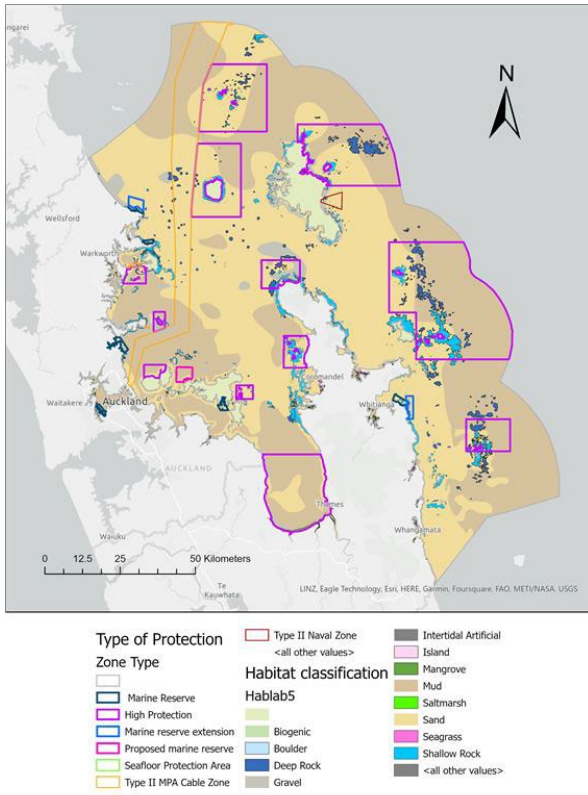
Our submission could be considered extreme, but the goal is to go hard in what we propose to allow for inevitable range reductions on all fronts. This was evident in the adjustments between the Sea Change proposal and RTG proposal. We have used available data on ArcGIS alongside available research and reports to analyse proposed HPAs and create our own version in response with relevant justification. Overall, we've found RTG isn't cohesive with other plans and proposals i.e., excluding Noises (which we acknowledge has now been included), Waiheke, and the Mercury Islands. We

have made suggestions, based on research, as to where these locations should be protected by HPAs.

We would like to recognise that these revisions were done without consultation from Mana Whenua and communities who regularly use these areas. It's important to acknowledge we're not trying to restrict the use of areas for customary practices or suggest these extensions without prior consultation with local iwi.

Figure 2

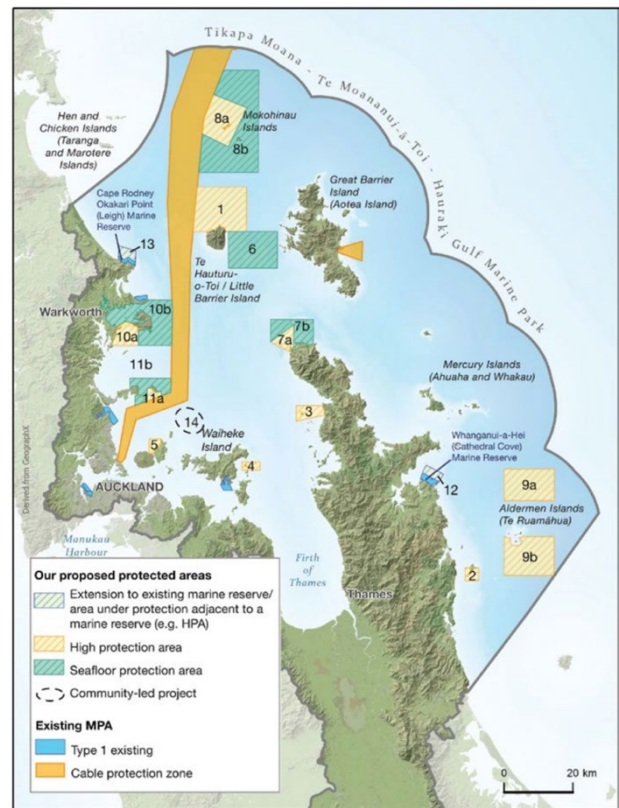
The authors' proposed HPA suggestions in response to RTG proposal



Caption: Proposed extensions and additions to HPAs proposed in RTG, created using ArcGIS.

Figure 3

RTG's proposed HPAs and SPAs in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park



Caption: The HPA and SPA areas as outlined in Revitalising The Gulf. Retrieved from <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/sea-change/revitalising-the-gulf.pdf>

The revised HPAs in our submission can be found alongside the current proposed HPAs by location in Revitalising the Gulf in Appendix 1. Figure 2 represents the authors' proposed revisions to Revitalising the Gulf's proposal across the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, while Figure 3 is Revitalising the Gulf's current marine reserve proposal.

The revised HPAs in our submission can be found alongside the current proposed HPAs by location in Revitalising the Gulf in Appendix 1. Figure 2 represents the authors' proposed revisions to Revitalising the Gulf's proposal across the entire Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, while Figure 3 is Revitalising the Gulf's current marine reserve proposal.

Three Islands: approx. 24km²

We propose a novel HPA around three islands: Pakatoa, Rotoroa, and Shag, within the inner Hauraki Gulf. From here on, referred to as Three Islands. Our main objective when we establish an HPA is the protection of biogenic areas – both soft and hard substrates and the species associated with the habitat (Forum, 2020). Also, natural environments provide more diverse ecosystem services that would build habitat resilience to future perturbations (Aguilera et al., 2020). Weighed by factors like heterogenous biogenic areas with distributions of both endemic and exotic demersal fish species, Three Islands falls within the top 10% of priority areas in the spatial prioritisation models shown in figures 1 and 4 (Lundquist et al., 2020; Tablata et al., 2022). By

establishing Three Islands HPA, we are incorporating more diverse and biogenic coastal and offshore habitats and protecting the associated animals too. For example, Three Islands hosts five permanent breeding populations of seabirds, including two species within order Charadriiformes and members from Sphenisciformes, Procellariiformes and Pelecaniformes (Gaskin & Rayner, 2017). Thus, this biodiverse region requires top priority in marine protection. Thus, the expansion of HPA to include more heterogeneous habitats over larger scales is advantageous and efficient long term. Small populations of vulnerable species would benefit from the stability of larger environments, as smaller habitats – and the associated organisms – are more vulnerable to stochastic disturbances (Aguilera et al., 2020).

Motukawao Group: approx. 79km²

We propose expanding the HPA range for the Motukawao Island group off the west coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. One of the main objectives when we establish an HPA is the protection of biogenic areas – both soft and hard substrates like sponges, soft corals and species associated with them (Forum, 2020). Furthermore, Motukawao falls within the top 10% of priority areas in the latest spatial prioritisation plans (Lundquist et al., 2020). Weighed by the heterogeneous biogenic areas and overlapping distribution of both endemic and exotic demersal fish species (Lundquist et al., 2020; Tablada et al., 2022). By expanding the Motukawao Island group, we are incorporating more diverse, biogenic coastal and offshore habitats and protecting the associated animals too (Forum, 2020). The species and rare habitats that would be benefited are *Carpophyllum flexuosum* forests (absent in many other locations) to 3m depth. Coastal reef fishes and occasional sub-tropical fishes like silver drummers also utilise these shallow water habitats around the islands (Forum, 2020). Another example of uncommon habitats is macroalgal *Ecklonia radiata* occurring at exposed locations along intertidal zones, with dog cockles occurring below reefs and the occurrence of horse mussel beds. In areas south of the proposed area, there are the first records of tube-building worms *Galeolaria hystrix* with possible occurrence to the west of the islands. Studies found breeding grounds for white-faced storm petrels off the west coast of the Coromandel (Gaskin & Rayner, 2017). Thus, we are supporting the nesting site and the natural resources necessary for the seabird populations in the area and the biodiverse range of flora and fauna.

Firth of Thames: approx. 475km²

We propose a novel HPA in the inner gulf of the Firth of Thames that will protect biogenic habitats and the associated organisms, in turn increasing the health of the Thames (Tablada et al., 2022). Based on Zonation spatial planning, a recent study highlighted the inner gulf of the Thames as a high-prioritisation area (Lundquist et al., 2020; Tablada et al., 2022). The area consists of diverse biogenic substrates like shallow tidal flats of approximately 85 km² and includes shallow estuarine, shell banks, grass flats, mangrove forest, salt marsh, and limited freshwater swamp margins (DOC). Shell banks or Chenier plains are beaches full of fossilised bivalves (cockles) that not only provide nesting habitats for shorebirds but add great historical value with their rarity. RAMSAR convention of wetlands has assigned international importance to an estimated 8.5 km² of intertidal grounds of the Thames (RAMSAR). The inner gulf is the high tide roost and important foraging ground for dense populations of birds (RAMSAR). Approximately 74 species of seabirds, of which many are rare, are sighted in the Thames (RAMSAR). Specifically, this HPA will protect the breeding sites for black stilts, dotterels, pied shags, black-billed gulls, and Caspian terns (Gaskin & Rayner, 2017). Other rare species that utilise the mudflats of the Thames as over-wintering grounds are transequatorial migratory birds like Sharp-tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) and eastern bar-tailed godwits (*Limosa lapponica baueri*), where as many as 10,000 individuals can be present in summer (RAMSAR).

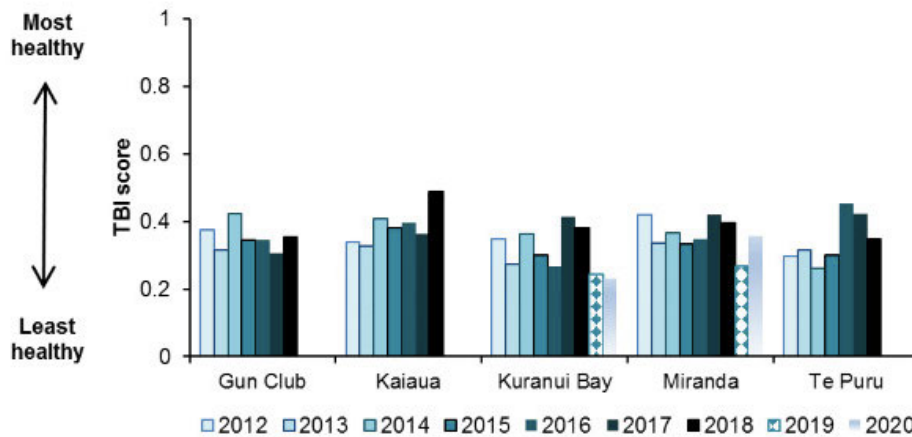
Waikato biodiversity forum has specified that the inner Firth of Thames is a “productive habitat for infauna like bivalves – pipis and cockles- and fish, particularly benthic soft-sediment feeders such as yellow belly flounder, dab flounder and short-finned eel”. Demersal species like snapper, yellow-eyed mullet, pilchard, Ahuru, and grey mullet are also found within the inner Firth of Thames. Shark species are also known to feed in the area. In spring, the females of several species, including rig, hammerhead, bronze whalers, and schools of shark,

utilise the upper Firth of Thames for birthing (Waikato biodiversity forum). It is known the area can be fished for snapper and flounder, with sand sharks being bycatch. By protecting riverine and estuarine environments, we protect the specific habitats necessary for commercially important juvenile snappers (Parsons et al., 2011).

Figure 4

Traits-based score of 5 sites within the Firth of Thames between 2012 to 2020.

Firth of Thames



Caption: sourced from Waikato Regional Council (2020).

A nine-year survey conducted by the Waikato regional council on the estuarine health of the Thames revealed that most sites sit in the moderately healthy zone of 0.3 - 0.5 (figure 4). The traits-based index (TBI) measures the number of organisms and their associated traits (feeding mode, body size) as a proxy for their ecological performance in the environment (Waikato Regional Council, 2020). The final score can range from one, the healthiest, to zero, the least healthy. The latest survey across all sites demonstrated that no area is above 0.5 (figure 4). Hence by including the inner Thames as an HPA, we are not only protecting the species that utilise the area but also restoring the mauri of degraded habitats like Miranda and Kaiaua. This new HPA would benefit from leadership and restoration works led by Mana Whenua, who have utilised the area for traditional and customary harvesting (RAMSAR). Therefore, consultation with iwi is compulsory. By adding this HPA, we also need to consider the connectivity of land and sea. Strict regulations should be applied to terrestrial activities like mining, farming, land, and housing development beside the major rivers like Piako and Waihou, which are large contributors to catchment run-off into the Thames (RAMSAR).

References

Aguilera, M. A., Tapia, J., Gallardo, C., Núñez, P., & Varas-Belemmi, K. (2020). Loss of coastal ecosystem spatial connectivity and services by urbanization: Natural-to-urban integration for bay management. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 276, 111297.

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Parsons, Morrison, M. A., McKenzie, J. R., Hartill, B. W., Bian, R., & Francis, R. I. C. C. (2011). A fisheries perspective of behavioural variability: Differences in movement behaviour and extraction rate of an exploited sparid, snapper

(*Pagrus auratus*). *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 68(4), 632–642.
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RAMSAR. *RAMSAR Wetlands*. https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/NZ459RISformer1991_EN.pdf

Tablada, J., Geange, S., & Lundquist, C. J. (2022). Evaluation of biodiversity benefits of proposed marine protected areas from the Sea Change-Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 4(10), 1-14s. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12803>

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Waikato regional council. (2020) *Regional Estuary Monitoring Programme*.
<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/coast/ecosystem-health/regional-estuary-monitoring-programme/reports/firth-of-thames/>

Noises: approx. 57km²

We appreciate that RTG has reinstated and affirmed the need for protection at The Noises and surrounding islands. This was a serious hole in the marine spatial plan for the Gulf, and it's great to see such a significant High Protection Area proposed, encompassing all islands and reef habitats in that zone. It makes sense to include the Noises as part of the wider spatial plan, rather than a separate proposal and we support this. It's well-known by those in the boating community that this area has been pillaged and only has a fraction of the biodiversity it once had (Forum, 2020). An HPA in this area which restricts recreational and commercial fishing, outside of customary fishing practices, will be hugely beneficial for the area and allow for key species to replenish such as crayfish, scallops, and snapper (Forum, 2020).

Tiritiri Matangi: approx. 21km²

RTG recognises the unique, high biodiversity value of Tiritiri Matangi's marine environment in its HPA justification (Department of Conservation et al., 2021). It's rich in a range of reef habitats and is a breeding ground for many juvenile fish species. It's also acknowledged that sea grass has previously been in the area north of the wharf of the western side of the island (Anderson et al., 2019). Our proposed HPA extension builds on this concept by incorporating the marine environment and some surrounding waters of the entire island, including Shag Rock. It will allow the extensive biogenic habitats, seagrass, reefs, sponges, and fish to thrive. This will accompany the surrounding SPA by creating a spill over effect over time for recreational fishing since juvenile fish in protected habitats will have time to grow without the impact of recreational and commercial fishing (Taylor & Buckenham, 2003). RTG also recognises the value of protected land-sea linkages and our proposed HPA revision allows for this connection between the Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary and the corresponding protected marine environment. While not entirely similar given people cannot visit without a permit, Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier is a somewhat comparable example in this proposal, where whenua and moana are equally protected to restore biodiversity. Our extended proposal will facilitate a tourist-friendly version of this area of the Gulf.

Kawau: approx. 53 km² (with SPA area of 215km²)

It's great to see an HPA recommended off the Mahurangi coast and near Kawau Island. As stated in RTG, this area is a relatively pristine and highly diverse ecosystem (Department of Conservation et al., 2021). Data analysis by Anderson et al. (2019) shows the presence of once dense scallop beds on the southern end of Kawau island, some of the most dense in the gulf. Data also shows seagrass present in the area which is an important habitat for juvenile fish species (Morrison, 2021). However, this area is unprotected by RTG's proposed HPA and is instead covered by a proposed SPA. Justification for the SPA by RTG is to allow for commercial fisheries to continue in the area south of the island. We propose extending the area to cover the southern end of Kawau Island, as seen by our revised HPA map in Appendix 1. While the SPA restricts bottom trawling methods, it still allows for non-invasive commercial fishing and recreational fishing and diving

practices. An HPA will allow this area to replenish and bring back the unique diversity of the area. There is a goal to phase out harmful fishing practices from the Gulf, such as Danish seining and bottom trawling (Tablada et al., 2022). When better a time than through implementing a strong Revitalising the Gulf strategy that truly sets out to do what it says and starting this process now at Kawau?

Rangitoto and Motutapu: approx. 26km²

RTG itself discloses the uncertainty about the effectiveness of the current Rangitoto and Motutapu HPA proposal. It questions the relatively small boundaries and their ability to adequately protect marine species from fishing outside of the area, given that species may have a much larger home range than the proposed HPA. Therefore, our proposal shifts this HPA to encompass the Western side facing Auckland's coast. It will help to protect the coastal areas of high biodiversity priority along Rangitoto and Motutapu as shown in figure 1. There are many fish species present in this area and an HPA will allow for the likes of juvenile snapper on sheltered reefs to grow. Furthermore, it's known that kina barrens are present in the area (which RTG acknowledges), indicating the removal of keystone species such as kōura over time has degraded the marine environment (Navarrete & Menge, 1996). An extension of the Rangitoto and Motutapu HPA will reduce the doubts of the effectiveness of a smaller HPA and undeniably benefit the habitats and species that call this abundant ecosystem home.

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Mercury Islands: approx. 1207km²

The Mercury group of islands, including Ahuahū (Great Mercury), Whakau (Red Mercury), Moturehu (Double Island), Kawhitu (Stanley Island), and Aitu (Middle Island) were originally included in the Sea Change proposal, and then later excluded from RTG. According to the Sea Change Plan's document, this area is rich in biodiversity and unique habitat. The original proposal included 5km² of marine area, with a width of 2km and covering around 13km of coastline. This would have covered some shallow water rocky reef, only one of many interesting ecosystems and habitats surrounding the Mercury group. It was excluded from RTG with the reasoning that the proposed area of Type II MPA on the Mercury group wouldn't provide sufficient protection for biodiversity in the area. RTG explains that the gap in protection will be reviewed and will perhaps be addressed later. There has been no timeline included as to when or how this gap will be addressed, which we think should be remedied as soon as possible. It's the least that should be done if our proposal for new HPA is ignored.

The Sea Change document specifies what ecological features this location sports. In terms of habitat, the area is host to reefs, both shallow and deep, sand, caves, pinnacles, and drop offs. This area is rich in biodiversity and is a high priority to conserve, according to the zonation map in Figure 1. Deep reefs, denominated by dark blue on our proposed map, are home to rare sponges, and black and gorgonian corals. Shallow reefs house red and packhorse rock lobster and brown seaweed, mainly *E. radiata*, which is important for habitat building (Nelson et al., 2018). Both species of rock lobster are fished, and the red lobster, kōura, are one of the most economically valuable fisheries in New Zealand (Shaffer & Rovellini, 2020). Hopefully, through the spill over effect, protecting their habitat here could help reinvigorate their populations outside of the HPA, on the untouched Ahauhu, which did happen at Leigh Marine Reserve (Kelly et al., 2002). Also, it is abundant in many diverse coastal fishes (Sea Change, 2021).

Where RTG proposes no HPA in this location, we see ample space, opportunity, and reason, to propose the largest one in the Gulf. We do miss Ahuahu Bay, which is unfortunate as it has some of the last remaining seagrass beds in New Zealand, that have already declined by 85% (Clark & Crossett, 2019). Our proposed area covers sandy bottom, the muddy seafloor of the outer shelf, as well as shallow and deep-water rocky reef. The idea that none of this huge area would be covered under RTG is appalling and should be fixed. We skipped over Ahauhu, understanding both that this is privately owned, and stakeholders can be difficult to deal with, and that the Mercury islands are a big hotspot for recreation. This way, recreational activities can still occur off the coast of Ahauhu.

Cape Colville and Channel Island: approx. 106km²

Here, we are combining Cape Colville and Channel Island (7a and 7b) into one proposal. Cape Colville and Channel Island have been afforded a generous amount of protection by RTG. We only have a few issues with the proposed space. One key problem is that there is a great expanse of deep and shallow rocky reef, sandy bottom, gravel, and even mud. This is an incredibly diverse spot and is one of the biggest priority areas in Figure 1, so it's good that RTG gave it so much attention. However, under the parameters of an SPA, there are few benefits for reef ecosystems. Benthic organisms, including cockle beds that promote biodiversity, live in the soft substrate that would be protected by the SPA, but not reef systems.

There is also no buffer zone in between the proposed HPA and SPA, which can and will initiate the well-researched edge effect. With no buffer between the two, the size of effective HPA would be much smaller than the designated area, due to outside disturbance being too close to the edge of the HPA (Ohayon et al., 2021). Also, because some singular reefs sit across multiple zones, it would be very difficult to enforce boundaries for recreational activities. Using a triangular shape as the border of the area does nothing to help enforce it either, what is to stop someone from drifting straight through the 'point' while fishing?

One good thing about how much space this covers, is that it would allow for interconnected protection between intertidal shallow reef, deep reef, and soft-sediment benthic habitats. However, with the problems posed by the lack of buffer zone and awkward shape leading to a reduced area of effect, our proposal is more inclusive. We propose making the whole area from 7a and 7b combined from RTG into an HPA, thereby protecting this unique and biodiversity rich spot.

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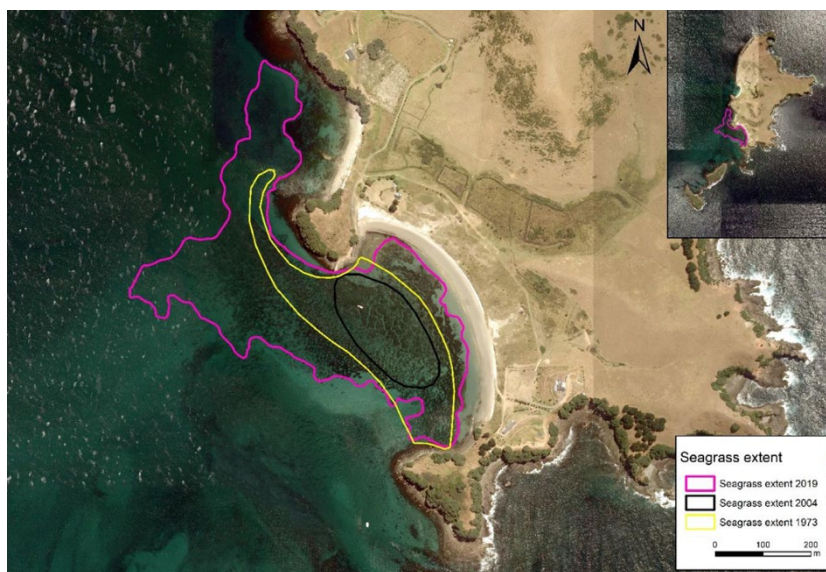
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Whakahau (Slipper Island): approx. 14 km²

This native seagrass (*Zostera muelleri*) meadow at Whakahau is one of the few subtidal seagrass meadows documented in Aotearoa and is a vital support for biodiversity in this area (Schwarz et al., 2006) (Figure 5). Seagrass beds are an essential nursery environment for juvenile fish (Parsons et al., 2014, 2016, 2020), and seagrass are vulnerable to erosion (Guilini et al., 2017). Erosion could lead to decreased physical density, which is what provides the shelter that juvenile fish are drawn to. Loss of seagrass meadows creates feedback mechanisms that no longer maintain the specific environmental conditions needed for seagrass meadows (Turner & Schwarz, 2006). Therefore, protecting existing seagrass is critical and regular monitoring to quantify trends in distribution, extent, and condition must be undertaken every 3-5 years (Morrison et al., 2014; Turner & Schwarz, 2006).

Figure 5

Seagrass presence at Slipper Island.



Caption: Extent of the seagrass meadow at South Bay (south) and Stingray Bay (north), Slipper Island, estimated in 2019, 2004 and 1973. Aerial imagery was taken in 2017 (supplied by Waikato Regional Council). Image and caption taken from Clark and Crossett (2019).

Clark and Crossett (2019) suggest further protection should include restricting further damage from anchoring, swing moorings, propellers, and dredging, (Figure 6) some of which may be protected by this HPA, but more extensive protection may stem from a combined HPA and SPA.

Overall, we are happy with the Slipper Island proposal. The proposed HPA will help continue the excellent water clarity at Whakahau by decreasing anthropogenic impacts such as substance discharge and physical

disturbance. Additionally, because HPAs allow monitoring and research, the seagrass can be continually monitored and surveyed by GIS and through a potential citizen science initiative (accomplishable due to the likely increase of tourism experienced within the future HPA). It will also allow research into the susceptibility of seagrass meadows to *Labyrinthula* disease (which does infect some seagrass at Whakahau).

It is critical to recognise the uniqueness and importance of the *Z. muelleri* seagrass meadows by having additional benthic protection. This will be reflected in adjustments to the regulations of the HPA. These will include (alongside everything that the HPA restricts) restrictions on anchors, swing moorings, and dredging to protect this irreplaceable habitat.

Figure 6

Swing moorings scouring seagrass



Caption: Swing moorings pictured in South Bay, Slipper Island. Image from Clark and Crossett (2019).

Ruamaahu (Alderman Islands): approx. 155km²

RTG proposed that the southern and northern areas of Ruamaahu be designated as an HPA. This is considered to increase ecological benefits and minimise the displacement of fisheries, the most prevalent being the the kōura fishery. We know that there is an abundance of kōura at Ruamaahu, forming an integral part of the commercial and recreational fishery, providing essential ecosystem services, and are a taonga species. Knowing this, it is important to not focus on creating a protected area that minimises revenue loss. Instead, we should look at the big picture. How can we provide the most protection for valuable species that will cause biomass spillover into fishable areas?

The Southern area of our proposed HPA specifically carries very high biodiversity and ecological values that would benefit from protection. A black coral reef is located southwest of the islands (Skipworth, 2020), which needs benthic protection.

It makes more sense to have a singular, large HPA with a southern SPA dedicated to the black coral reef rather than two small HPAs that exclude the main islands, as per the current proposal. Smaller MPAs often only work in specific circumstances, e.g., if they have complete no-take protection, are in sheltered locations with complex habitats, and have positive community involvement to generate kaitiakitanga (Turnbull et al., 2018). The current Ruamaahu HPA proposal doesn't fulfil this. Our modified HPA/SPA gives high-level protection to key habits and species in Ruamaahu, such as extensive rocky reefs, volcanic formations, caves, and pinnacles,

as well as black coral, anthozoans, fish, elasmobranchs, and marine mammals. This is necessary because in 1933, the Crown proclaimed Rumaahu a wildlife sanctuary, to which Māori responded in 1969 by gifting them to the Crown to endorse that purpose (Monin, 2010). They have incredible environmental and cultural value, which should be reflected in the protection they receive.

Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve combined area of 24km²

The current proposal is a seaward extension of the Whanganui-a-Hei marine reserve. Our proposal involves a modification that improves the protection of the rocky reef ecosystems around and to the south of Mahurangi Island. These reefs are more extensive than what is displayed in the original proposal and possibly support more biodiversity. This new extension accounts for offshore kōura movements, improving the ecological integrity of ecosystems protected within the marine reserve. We have included a keyhole in the area off Hahei beach to allow for recreational activities that don't overlay any important habitats.

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Te Hauturu-o-Toi (Little Barrier): approx. 349km²

The current plan to protect the marine habitats around Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island have the HPA only protecting the northern half of the island and reefs. Our plan involves extending the HPA south to encompass the whole reef habitat of the island. This area is of specific and considerable economic value as a location in the Gulf with one of the highest levels of commercial fishing in recent years by green weight (Leung-Wa & Kulwant, 2021). The reef habitats surrounding Te Hauturu-o-Toi are the traditional habitat of

Chrysophrys auratus, one of the top 3 fished species in the Gulf (Leung-Wa & Kulwant, 2021), and thus are worthy of extra protections for the ongoing health and sustainability of fish stocks (Rees et al., 2021). The reef habitats are also home species of sponge, coral, and algae.

RTG’s proposed northern area HPA successfully covers the species rich reef section known as “the coral patch” but neglects other areas in which demersal fish congregate (Sea Change, 2021). Specifically, the south-eastern reef area as identified in figure 7 derived from underwater baited videos.

Our suggestion for an enlarged HPA might limit some access to commercial fishing and considering that this area contains the largest fish stocks in the Gulf (Revitalising the Gulf, 2021), adjustments will likely have to be made for the boundary locations to suit fisheries’ interests. However, this doesn’t mean that we can’t also take habitat locations into account in that process.

Craddock Channel: approx. SPA area of 133km²

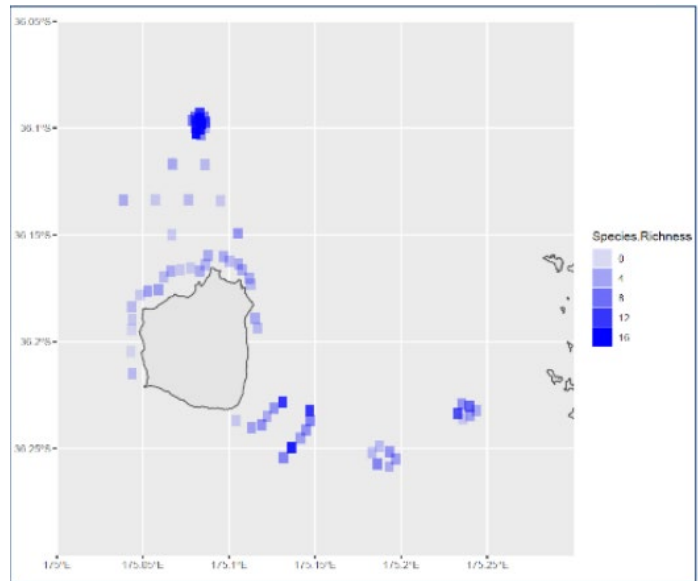
As noted in the RTG justification for the Seafloor Protection Area in Craddock Channel, reef areas within the SPA wouldn’t be adequately protected. Now that the HPA of Te Hauturu-o-Toi encompasses the reef areas, the channel SPA can focus on specific benthic protection. This area contains a variety of habitats for sponges, algal assemblages, and anemones, and is could also be an important thoroughfare for Bryde’s whales and Bottlenose dolphins (Dwyer et al., 2014). As such, the proposed SPA is appropriate for the ecological needs of the area and should provide continuing protection and benefit to the local benthic species and rare or endangered mammals.

Cape Rodney-Okakari Point (Leigh): combined area of 21km²

In an area of high ecological value to the cultural and scientific communities of New Zealand, the proposed extension of the Marine Reserve at Cape Rodney-Okakari Point is an appropriate measure to ensure the continued preservation of species in this area. Providing for understood movement of species with additional sea area protections will allow for more effective conservation and the limiting of habitat edge effects (Revitalising the gulf, 2021). The extension represents 71% increase in size of protected area which will be of considerable benefit to researchers and students at the nearby University of Auckland Marine Science Laboratory, allowing for new areas of study and the observation of biogenic habitat improvement after an area is protected.

Figure 7

Fish species presence around Little Barrier



Caption: Dermal fish species richness around Little Barrier/ Te Hauturu-o-toi (Howarth, O.; Smith, A.N.H. 2020)

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Aotea/Great Barrier Island: approx. 583km²

Currently there is no marine reserve around Great Barrier Island, apart from the Naval Base Zone which possesses the same restrictions as CPAs. The only marine reserve around is between Great Barrier Island and Little Barrier Island, and this is an SPA. Substrata around Aotea consists of some rocky reef and deep sand and mud areas. This habitat has the potential to support rich and biodiverse marine life. Sivguru, et al. (2004) conducted a study researching the habitat and biodiversity on a location within our proposed HPA. Conclusions found there was significantly rich marine life with 57 rocky bottom species, including unique black corals, sponges, and gorgonian corals. Alongside 76 benthic species including polychaetes, crustaceans, and molluscs. This research is important in presenting biodiversity and the range of substrate around Aotea, with emphasis on the area of the island opposite the current reserve (between east-coast of Aotea and Little Barrier Island). Providing data to support our proposed HPA, which expands slightly off the study location from Sivguru et al. (2004).

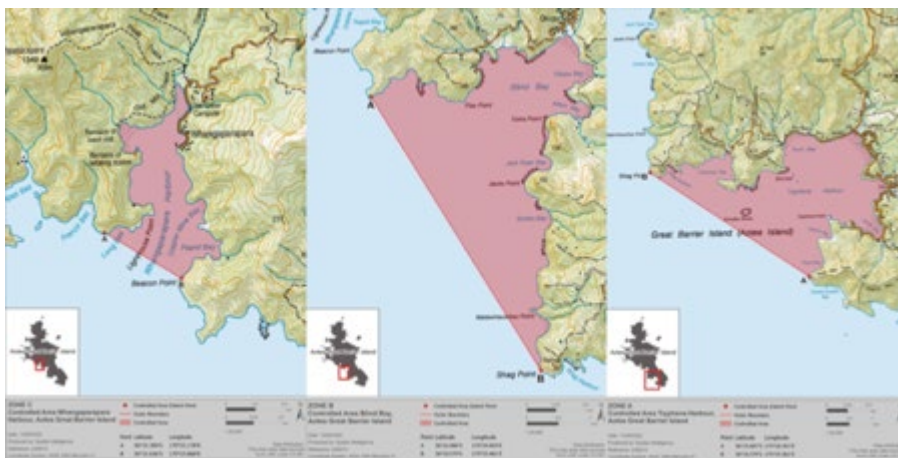
We are proposing an HPA on the north-west side of Aotea. Our intention stems from similar justification supporting the proposal submitted in 2008 by DOC for a Marine Reserve of 56,000ha. This reserve covers a substantial area of Aotea, and would cover a range of differing habitats, substrate, and ecosystems, supporting the spread of healthy ecosystems around the island and within the HPA.

This proposal area includes the Aiguilles Island, whereas DOC's proposal only included the eastern side of Aiguilles Island. This proposal was submitted in 2004 and was confirmed supported by The Ministry of Conservation and The Ministry of Transport in 2006, while The Ministry of Fisheries continued to not agree. Eventually, in 2008 The Ministry of Fisheries rejected the proposal for the marine reserve on the north-east coast of Aotea was never instated. One of the main factors contributing the rejection of DOC's marine reserve proposal around Aotea was the importance of the Hauraki Gulf and Great Barrier Island specifically, for recreational fishing. We agree on the importance of recreational fisheries for both Auckland and the local iwi of the island, though we believe implementing an HPA wouldn't significantly impact fishing activity around the island, as Aotea has extensive range to provide excellent fishing spots. We do expect the HPA to create positive impact to the fishing activity for local iwi and recreational fishing through a spill-over effect (Takashina, 2020).

Great Barrier Island currently has a rāhui and Controlled Area Notice (CAN) in place to combat the invasion of exotic *Caulerpa* species. Biosecurity New Zealand placed a CAN in Blind Bay, Tryphena Harbour, and Whangaparapara Harbour (figure 8). It was then extended for another 6 months from October 20th, 2022. The extension aims to continue limiting the spread of the *Caulerpa* species, and therefore the potential negative effects. This species is highly invasive, which raises concerns for the potential of Aotea’s marine life to degrade due to loss of native species and niche habitats being influenced (Parreira, et al., 2021). Rāhui locations are all harbours that often host boats, which is one way these species can spread. With the ongoing efforts to control *Caulerpa* on Great Barrier Island, the HPA is more important than ever. By having a HPA in our proposed location, it limits the frequency of boat traffic and doesn’t allow for fishing activities at all, which are both recognised as ways in which *Caulerpa* species are spread. It also protects biodiversity and ecosystems in this zone.

Figure 8

Map of CAN restrictions on Aotea



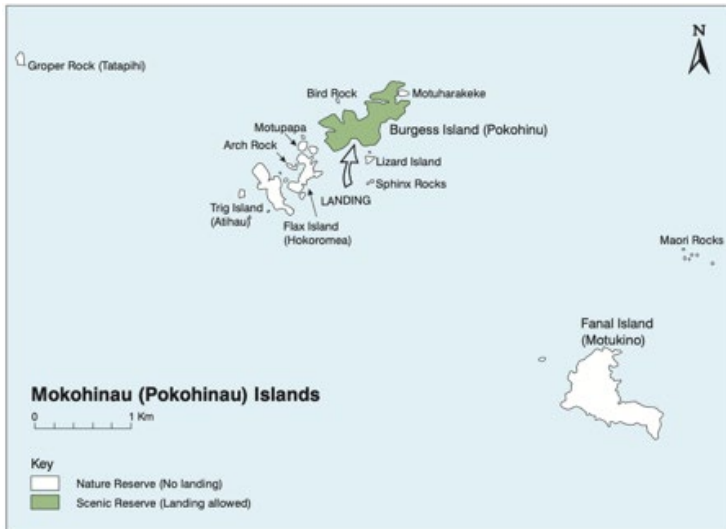
Caption: CAN restriction areas to combat and maintain the spread of *Caulerpa* species on Aotea. From Biosecurity New Zealand.

Mokohinau Islands

We are proposing to extend the current HPA proposal for the Mokohinau Islands. The current HPA proposal only covers Burgess Island, covering 16km of coastline, and the seafloor protection area extends over Fanal Island. The HPA we are proposing will cover both Burgess and Fanal Island, along with the surrounding islands and rocks. This HPA will continue to run along the easy edge of the CPZ. The Mokohinau Islands sit in the centre of the Hauraki Gulf entrance at 160ha of land, and are 100km from Auckland city, making it a location of interest for fishery activities. Smith (2004) identified Mokohinau Islands and Great Barrier Island to have relatively less biodiversity compared to the Poor Knights and Alderman Islands. This supports the importance of a larger HPA covering more variety and number of marine habitats, like the HPA we are proposing. Fanal, Flax, and Trig Islands are nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries, this means that public landing is prohibited (figure 9). Though this doesn’t stop fishing activity and boats around Fanal Island. We believe that by extending the HPA to include all the Mokohinau Islands, you would capture a greater range of biodiversity, as the diversity around this area is already relatively low. As well as restricting fishing activity around these wildlife sanctuaries as they are important for both terrestrial animals, as well as sea bird species. Due to the Mokohinau Islands being non-residential, there is no local iwi using the land for kai moana or cultural reasons. Therefore, placing a larger marine reserve would not affect local iwi and communities, and just limit the distance of recreational fisheries activities. An HPA of this size would also support recreational fishing activities by creating the potential for a greater spill over effect. As the Mokohinau Islands are already heavily fished, due to their proximity to mainland, these ecosystems require added support.

Figure 9

Mokohinau Islands nature and scenic reserves



Caption: from <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/auckland/mokohinau.pdf>

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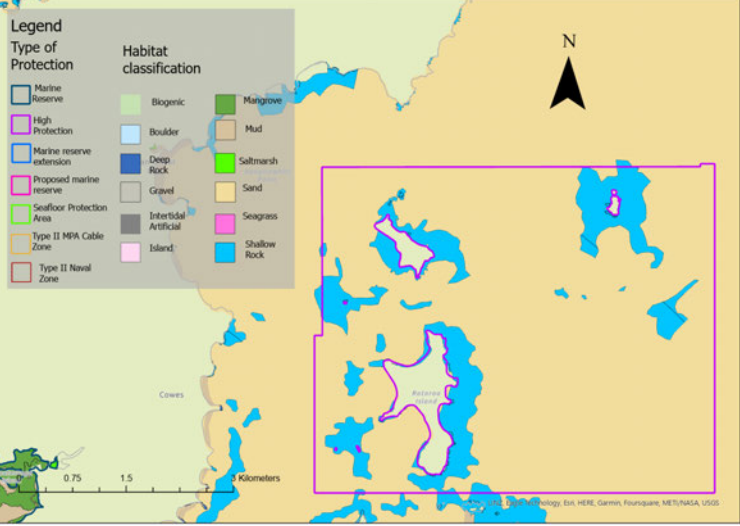
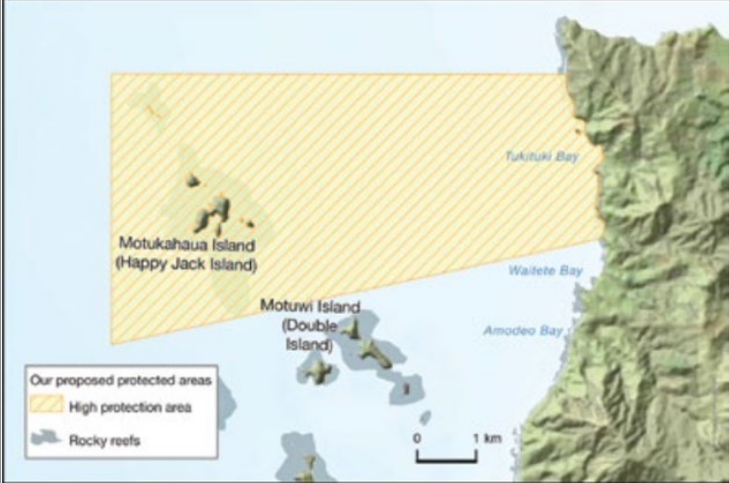
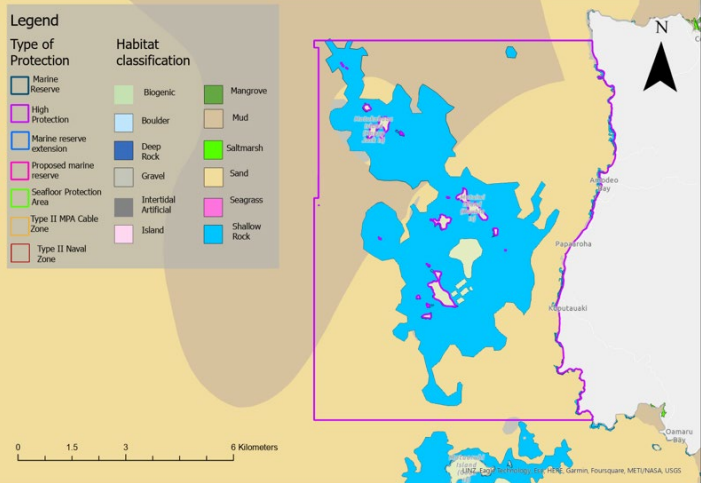
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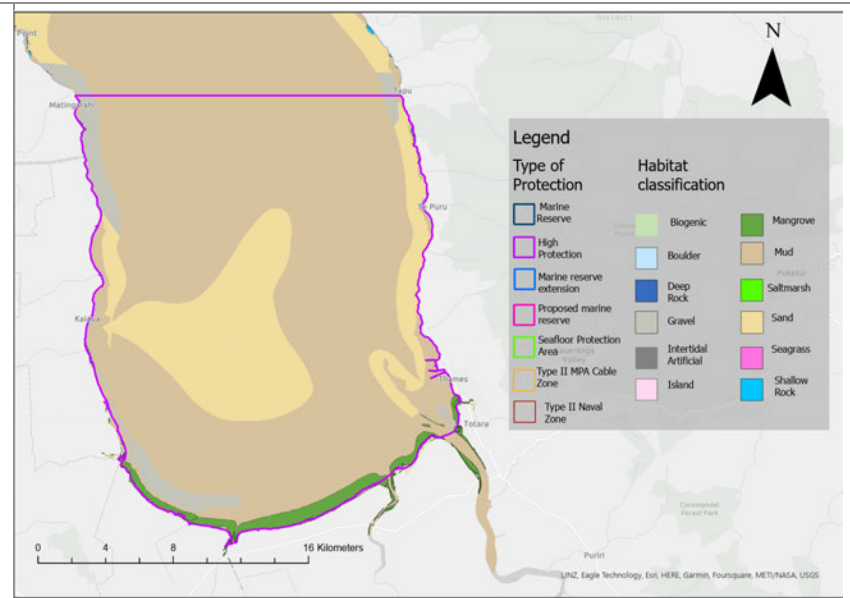
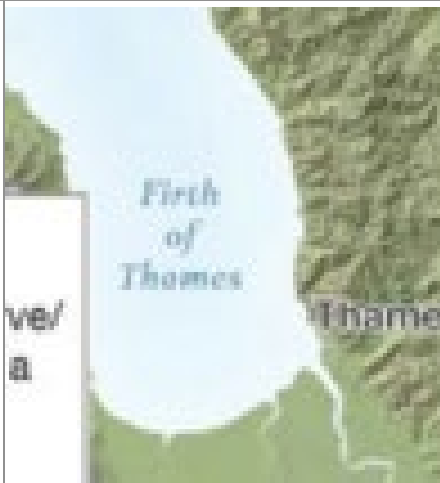
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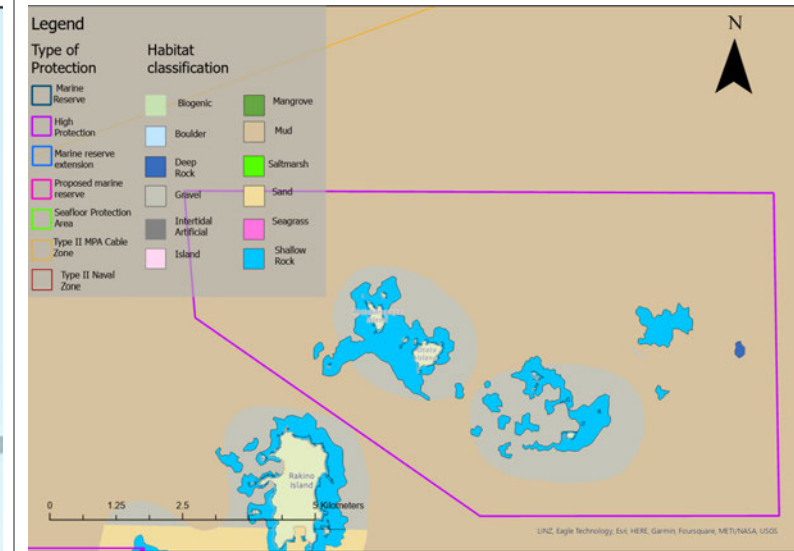
Appendix 1: table of proposed HPA revisions

Marine reserve location	RTG proposal	Our proposal
Rotoroa Island	 <p>Our proposed protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High protection area Rocky reefs 	 <p>Legend</p> <p>Type of Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Reserve High Protection Marine reserve extension Proposed marine reserve Seafloor Protection Area Type II MPA Cable Zone Type II Naval Zone <p>Habitat classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biogenic Boulder Deep Rock Gravel Intertidal Artificial Island Mangrove Mud Saltmarsh Sand Seagrass Shallow Rock
Motokawao Group	 <p>Our proposed protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High protection area Rocky reefs 	 <p>Legend</p> <p>Type of Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Reserve High Protection Marine reserve extension Proposed marine reserve Seafloor Protection Area Type II MPA Cable Zone Type II Naval Zone <p>Habitat classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biogenic Boulder Deep Rock Gravel Intertidal Artificial Island Mangrove Mud Saltmarsh Sand Seagrass Shallow Rock

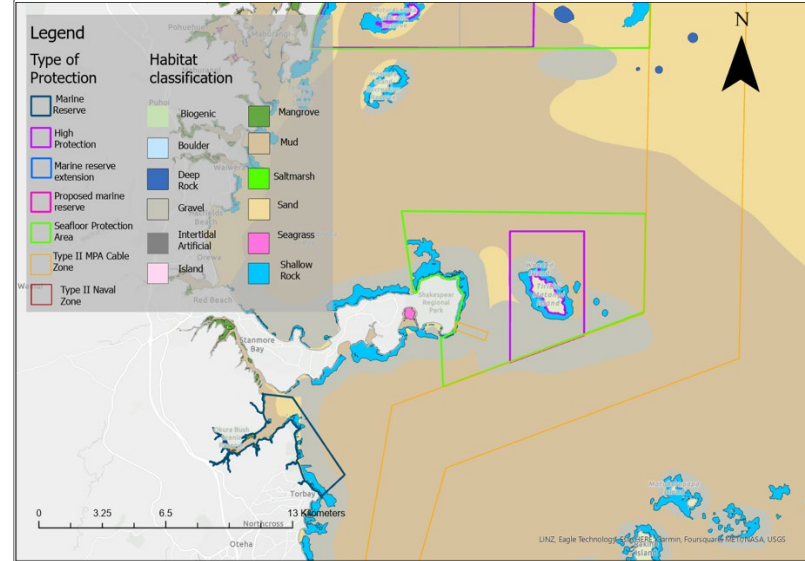
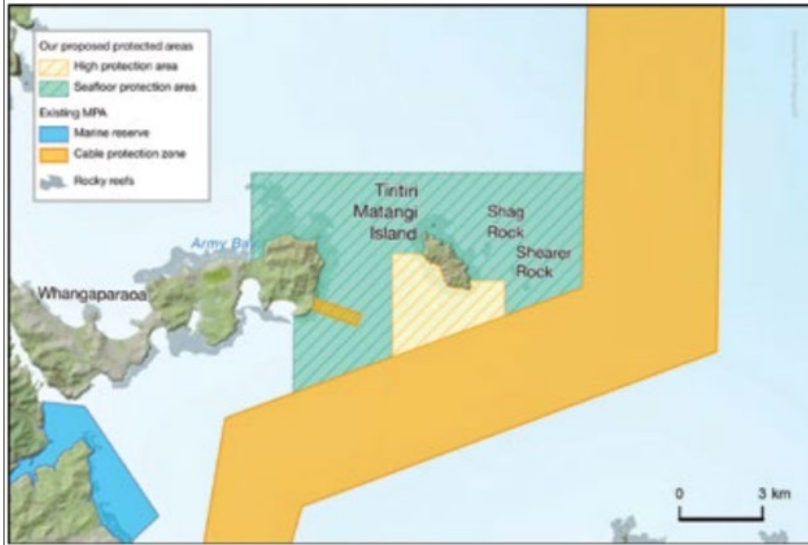
Firth of Thames



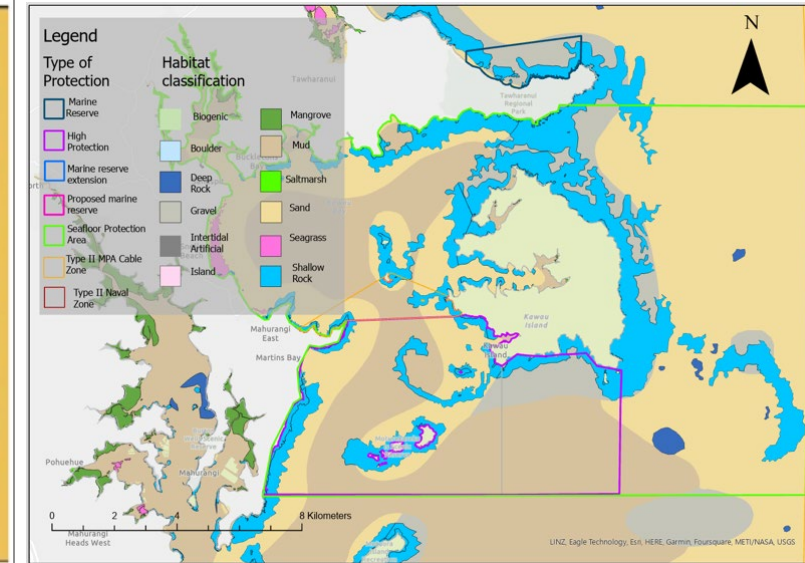
The Noises



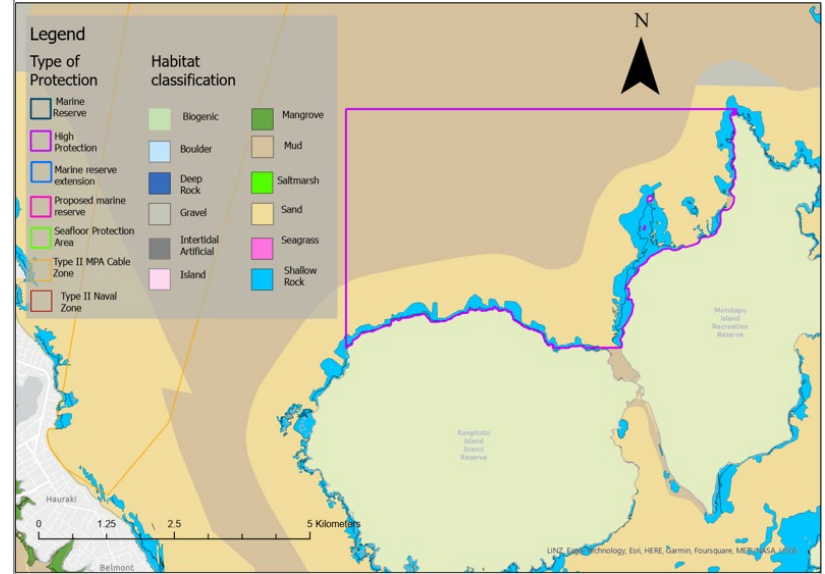
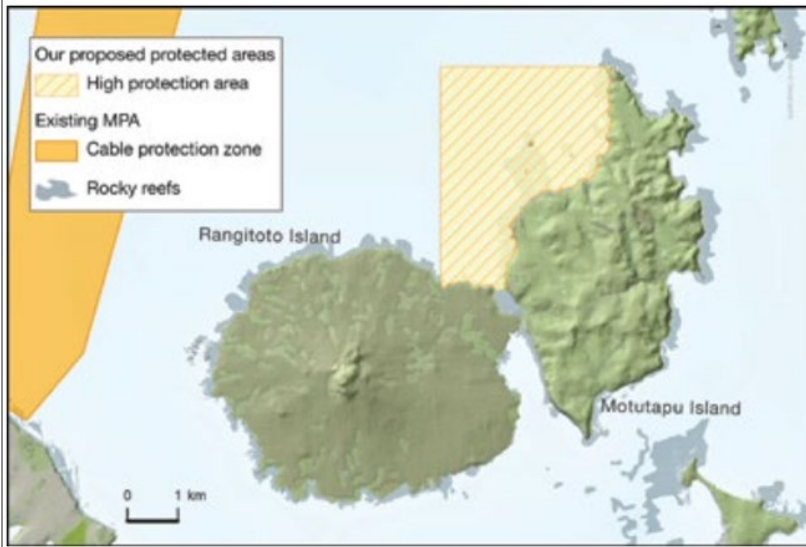
Tiritiri Matangi Island



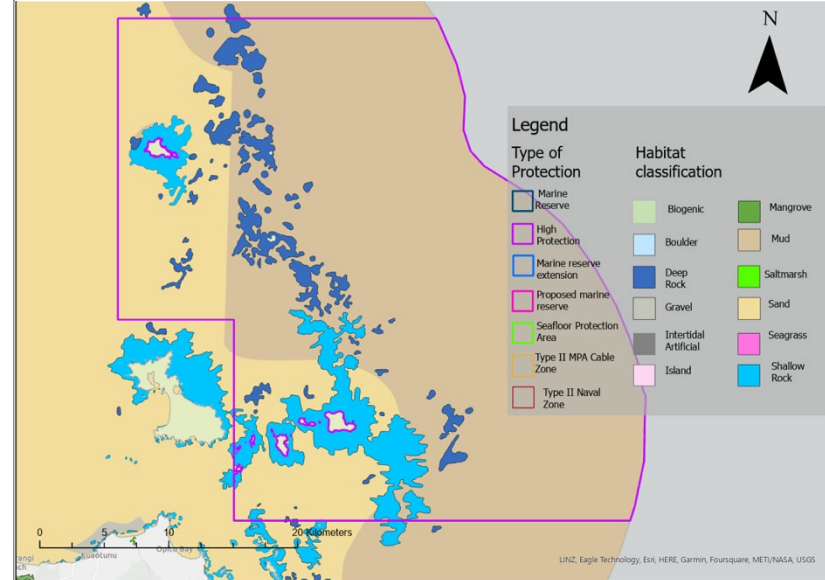
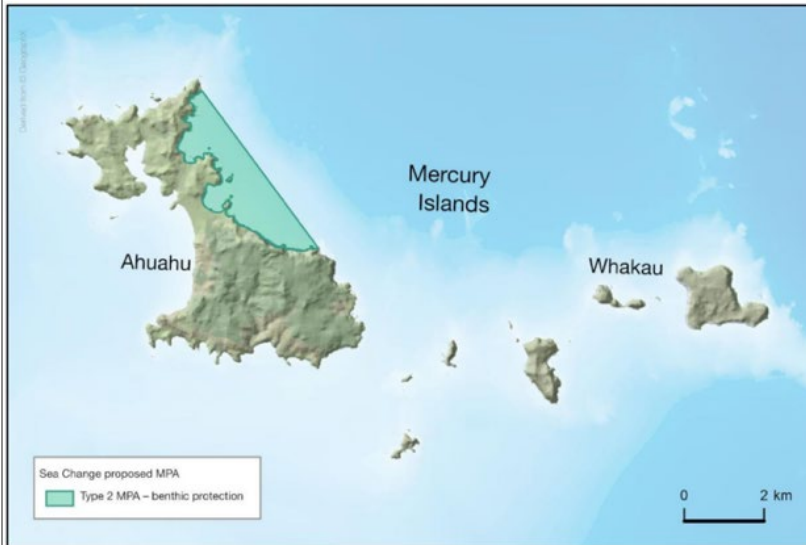
Kawau Bay



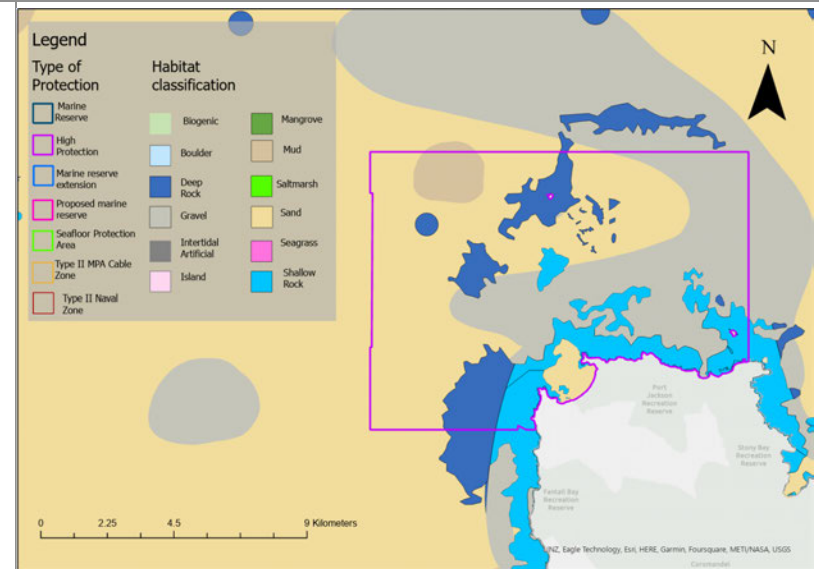
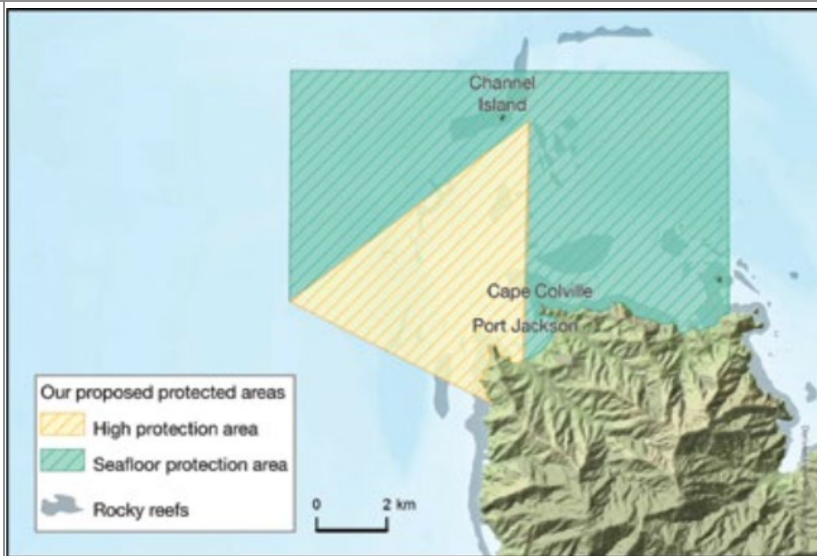
Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands



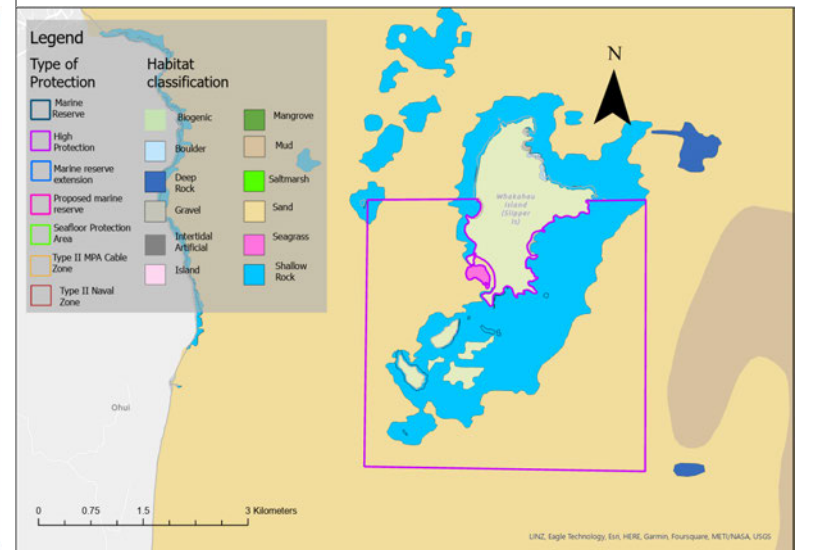
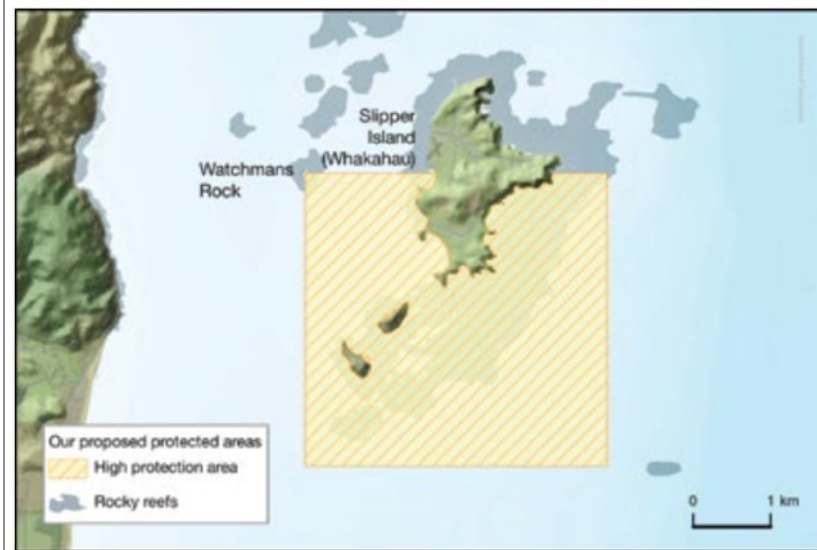
Mercury Island Group
(From Sea Change Proposals)



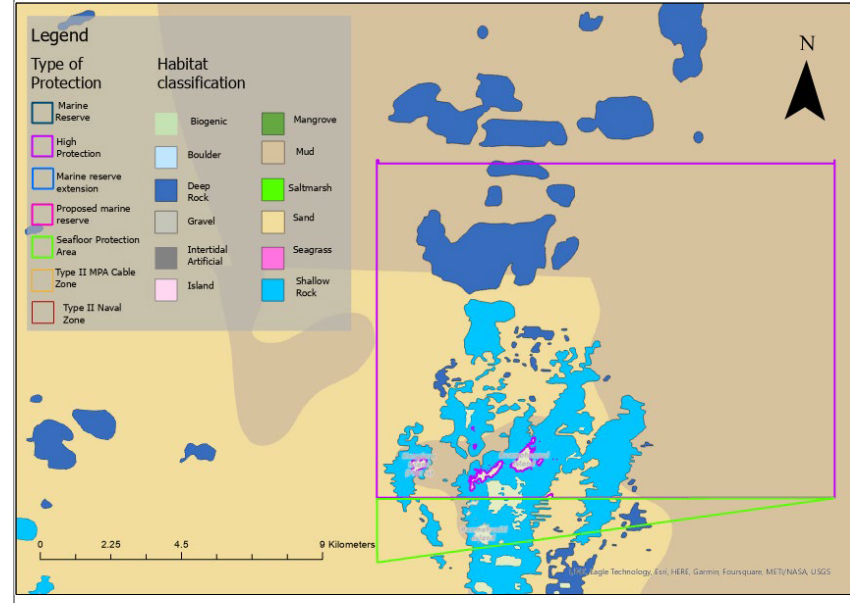
Cape Colville



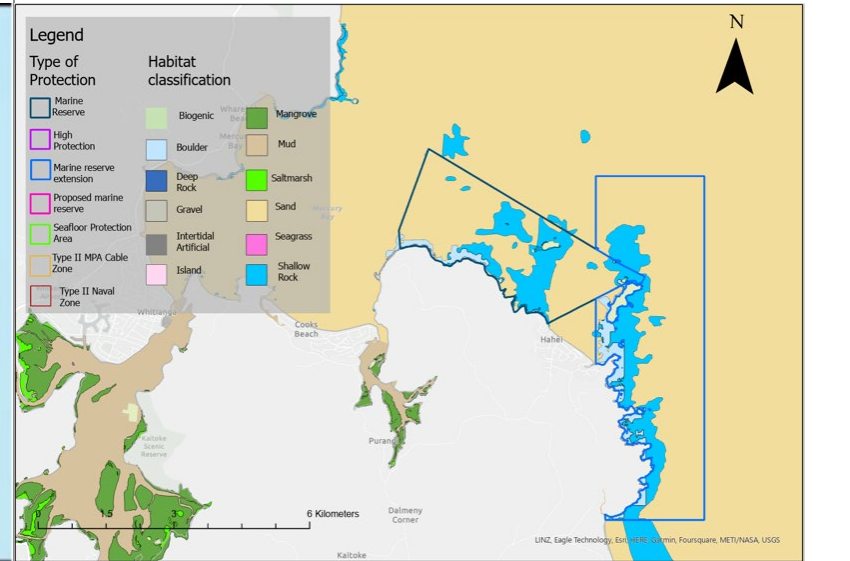
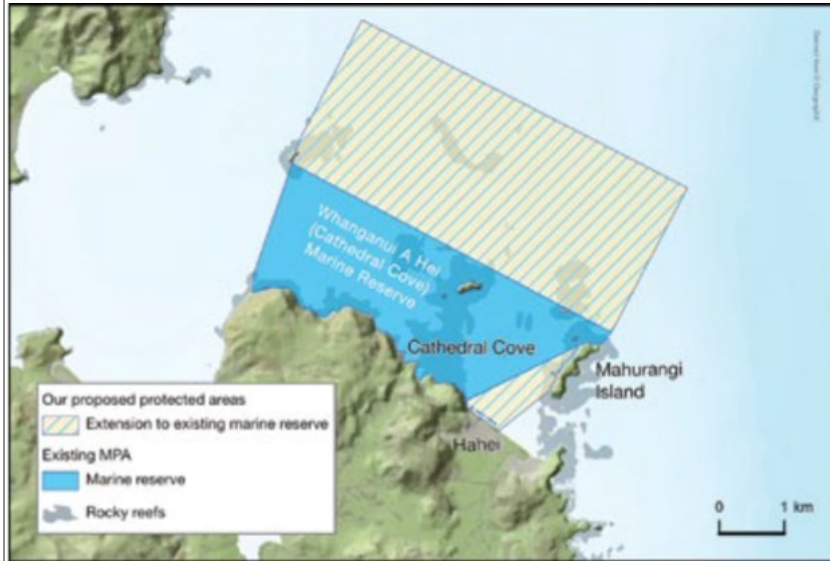
Slipper Island



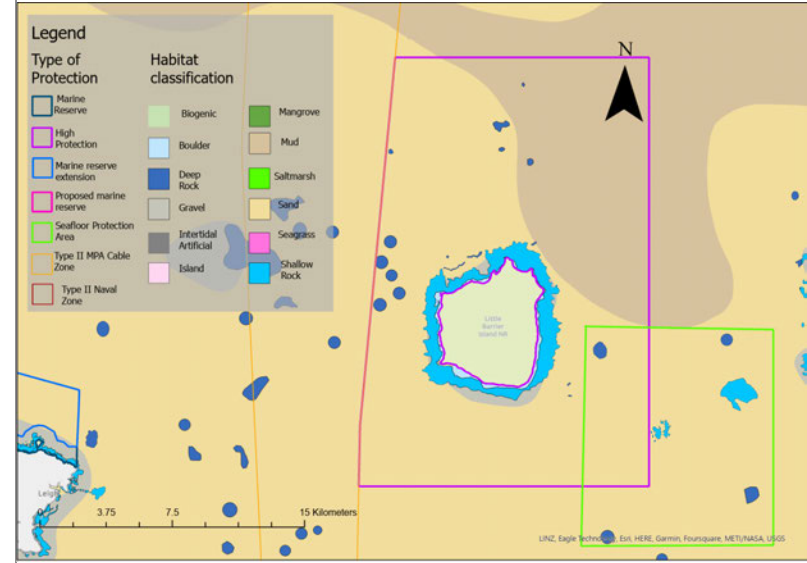
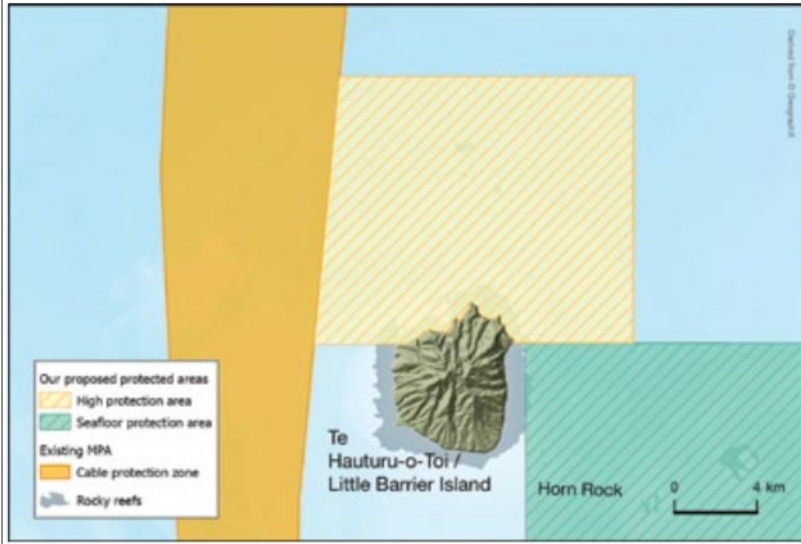
Alderman Islands



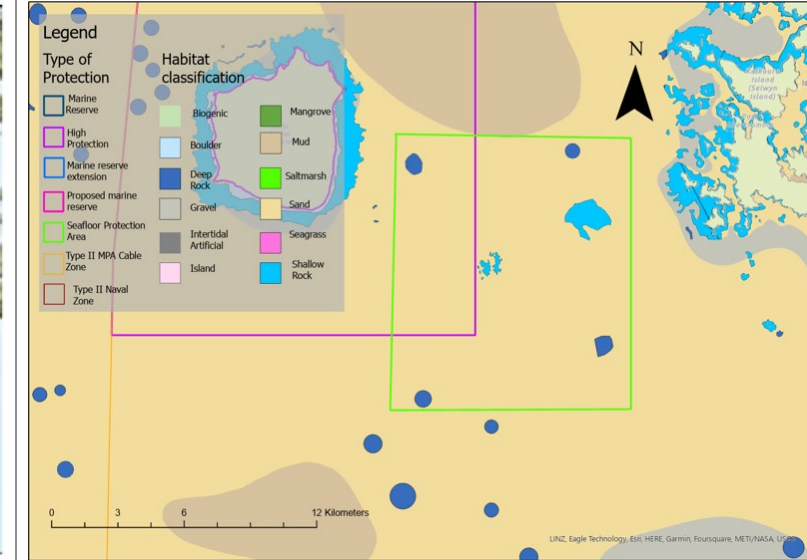
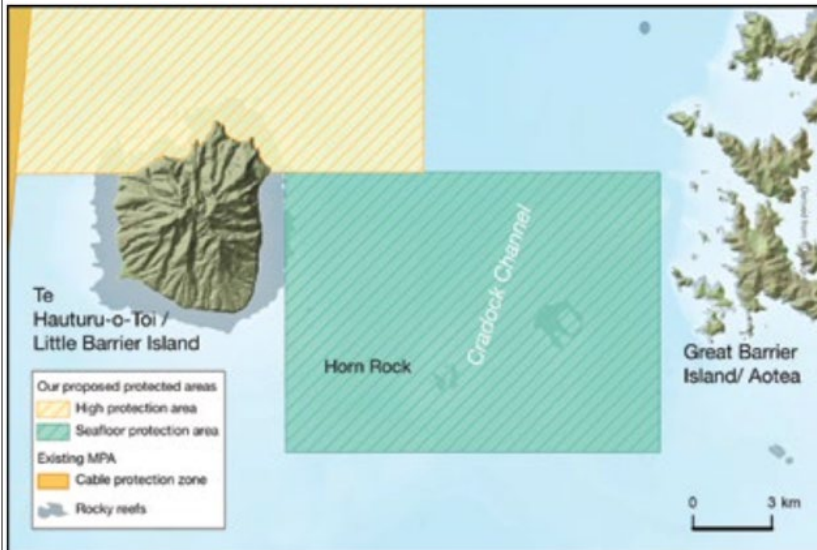
Whanganui-a-Hei (Cathedral Cove) marine reserve



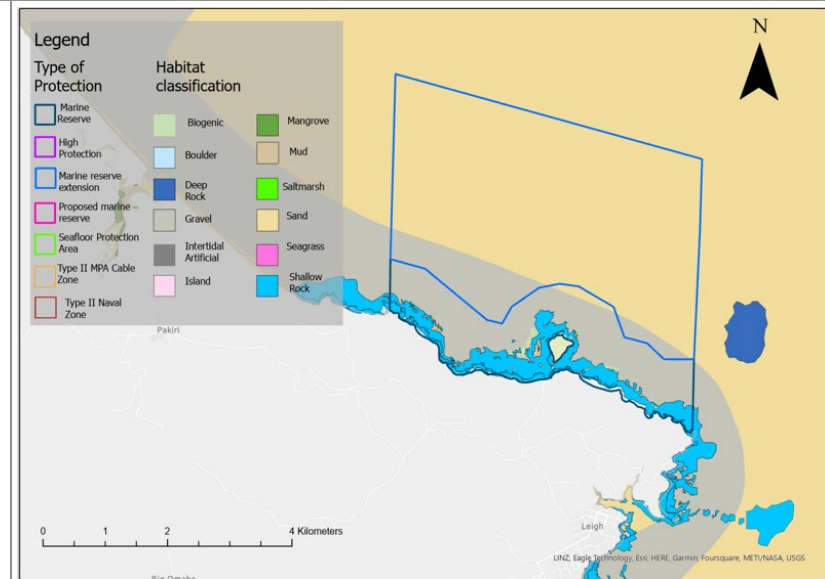
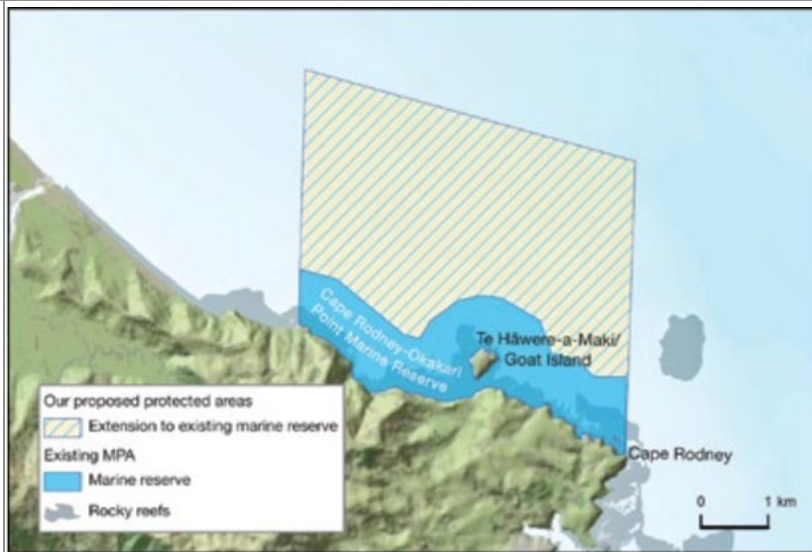
Little Barrier Island



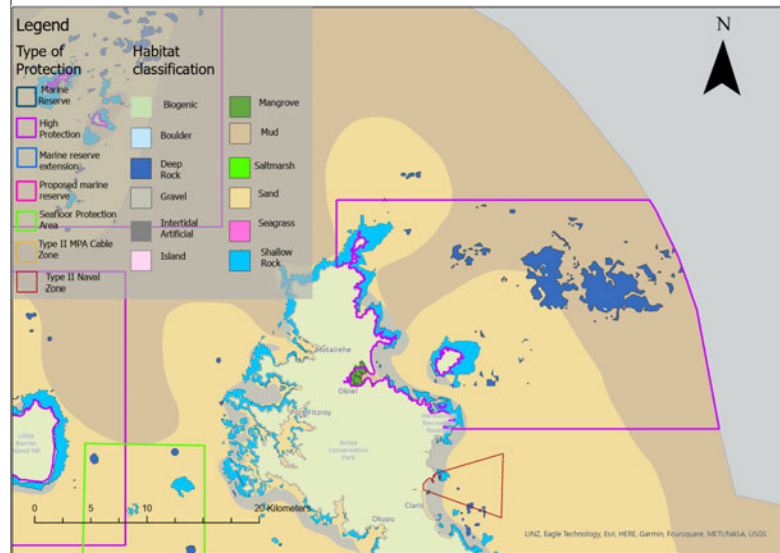
Craddock Channel



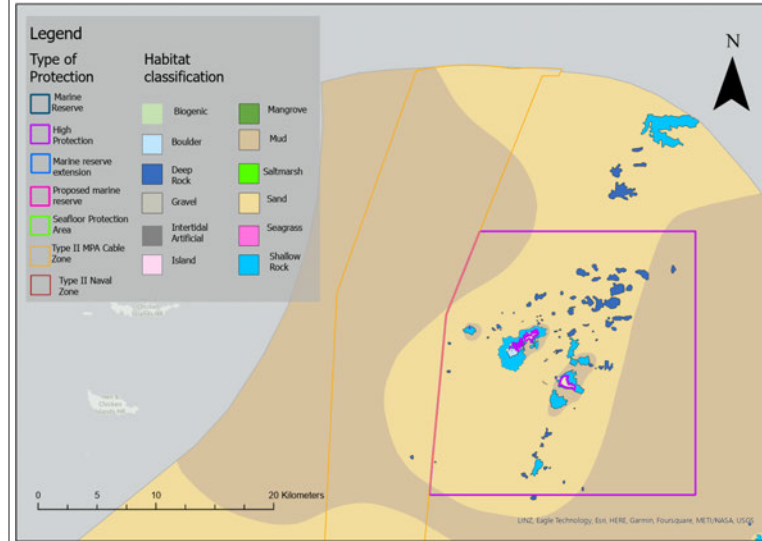
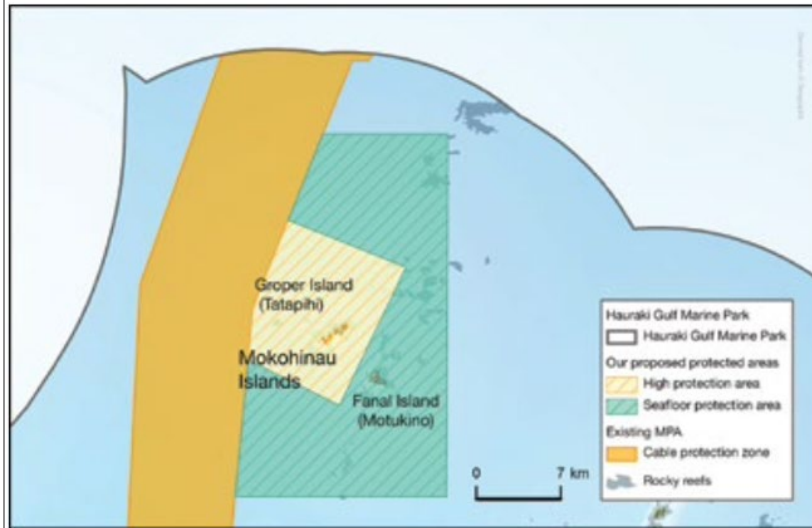
Cape Rodney-Okakari Point (Leigh) marine reserve



Great Barrier



Mokohinau Islands



Sea Change

From: s 9 (2)(a) s 9 (2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 6:14 pm
To: Sea Change
Subject: Submission: Help Revitalise the Gulf

:

seachange@doc.govt.nz

Your Name: s 9 (2)(a)

Your Email: s 9 (2)(a)

Address: s 9 (2)(a)

Subject: Submission Revitalising the Gulf

Message

We undoubtedly need to protect our marine environments, and more larger Marine Reserves is great idea. However, I absolutely do not support the continuation of such destructive and short-sighted practices, as bottom trawling and sand mining. Environment > profit.